



SPIRE|project

From Paris, France

CURVE 127

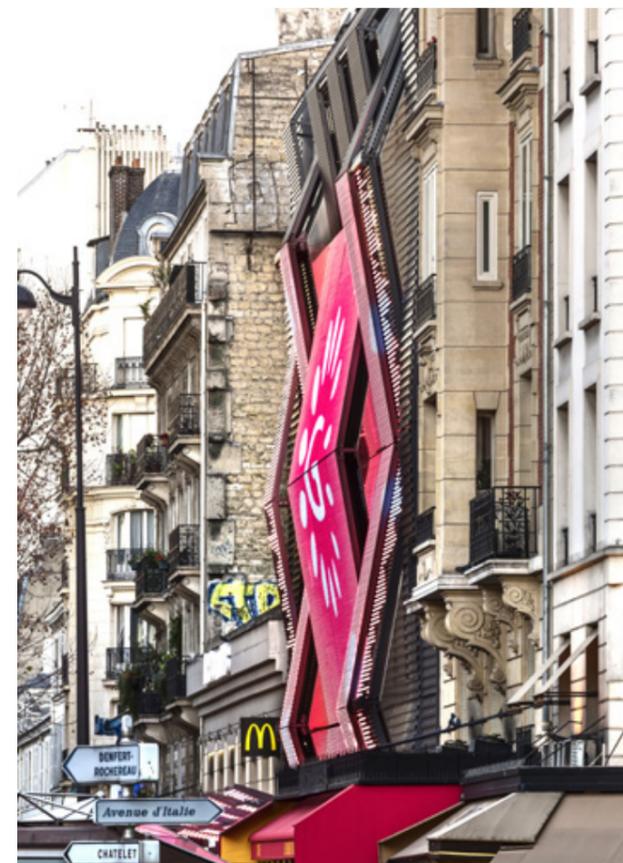
# MOVING PICTURES

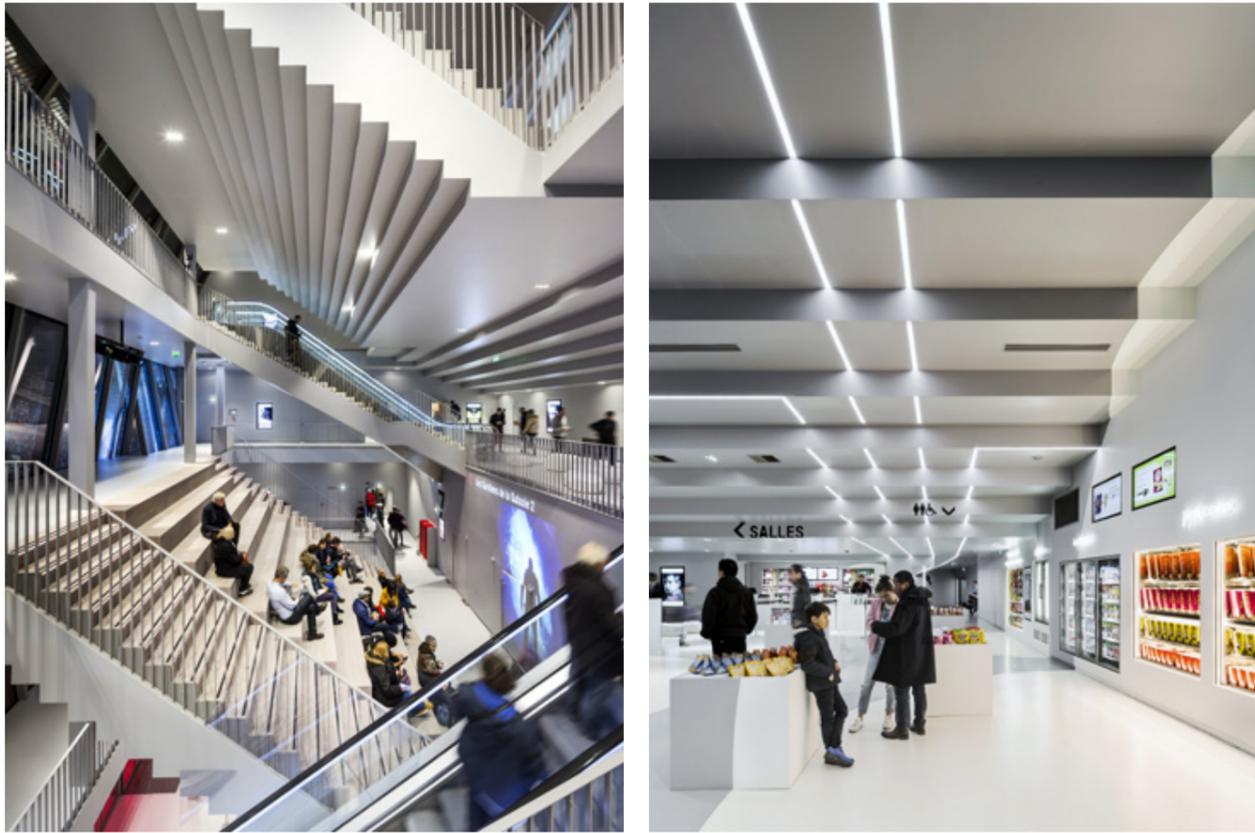
— Layers, Light and Film

Montrouge Palace is one of Paris' most famous cinema complexes and houses the Cinéma Gaumont Alésia. Owned by the giant Gaumont-Path group, the building went under renovations in 2011 in order to offer a world-class cinema experience. Manuelle Gautrand Architecture's vision for the building aimed at transforming the site into a venue for high-quality cultural events.



Photos © Luc Boegly and Guillaume Guerin





The complex contains a series of theaters which are arranged so that almost every volume is visible and identifiable, forming a sort of vertical sculpture, where the theaters look like interlocking sections of a puzzle. On the inside of each theater, the underside of the tiered seating is visible, forming stepped ceilings. The result of which is a series of layered lobby areas that form small amphitheatres that slope down towards the theater entrances. These create spaces for informal projections, supplementary spaces where films can be seen and discussed and seem to pass beyond the traditional cinema experience, as if films were leaking out into Paris itself.

The overall goal was to make the project more fluid and accessible to members of the public; as a result, you enter via a large hall, which runs the full length of the building and links the Boulevard de Général Leclerc directly to the Rue d'Alésia.

Within this vast space are reception services including ticket sales, an information point, automated ticket points, refreshment stalls, seating areas and a café. From the hall visitors can enter the theaters and other areas dedicated to the showing of films.

A, triple-height atrium forms the central point through which people move and a series of escalators and walkways behind the façade lead to the different mezzanine levels and upper-level theaters. Thanks to the see-through façade, visitors can look out and enjoy the views and be seen themselves.