Detail in Contemporary Glass Architecture

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Free CD-ROM with all drawings 28 Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

Citroën Flagship Showroom Paris, France

Client Citroën

Project Team Manuelle Gautrand, Anne Feldman

Structural Engineer Khephren

Mechanical Engineer ALTO

The new Citroën showroom on the Champs Elysées in Paris features a dramatic glass facade that incorporates the iconic Citroën chevron motif built into the design. The higher up the building one looks, the more three-dimensional the facade becomes with the introduction of prisms that bring new depths to the design. Finally, the top section of the building resembles a great glass sculpture, recalling origami in its complexity. The brand's signature colour red was originally proposed for the entire facade but this was considered to be too bold given the historic context of the Champs Elysées. Instead, a filter that on first sight masks the red colour from the exterior, is cleverly constructed inside the finished glass. The filter also minimizes heat gain and creates a diaphanous pearly white atmosphere inside the building.

The main function of the building is as a car showroom and the shape of the building itself is inspired by the shape of a car. As such, the building does not appear as an object with a front, a roof and a rear, but something that has been sculpted with curves and fluidity, creating unity between the place and the product. The interior features eight circular platforms each of which is a car display area. The six metre (19.5 feet) diameter platforms revolve to display the cars in the round and have mirrored bases to reflect the car below. Visitors are led by a series of staircases and walkways that spiral past the cars, more in the manner of a museum or a cultural building, a space which encourages people to spend time enjoying both the cars and exceptional views of Paris.

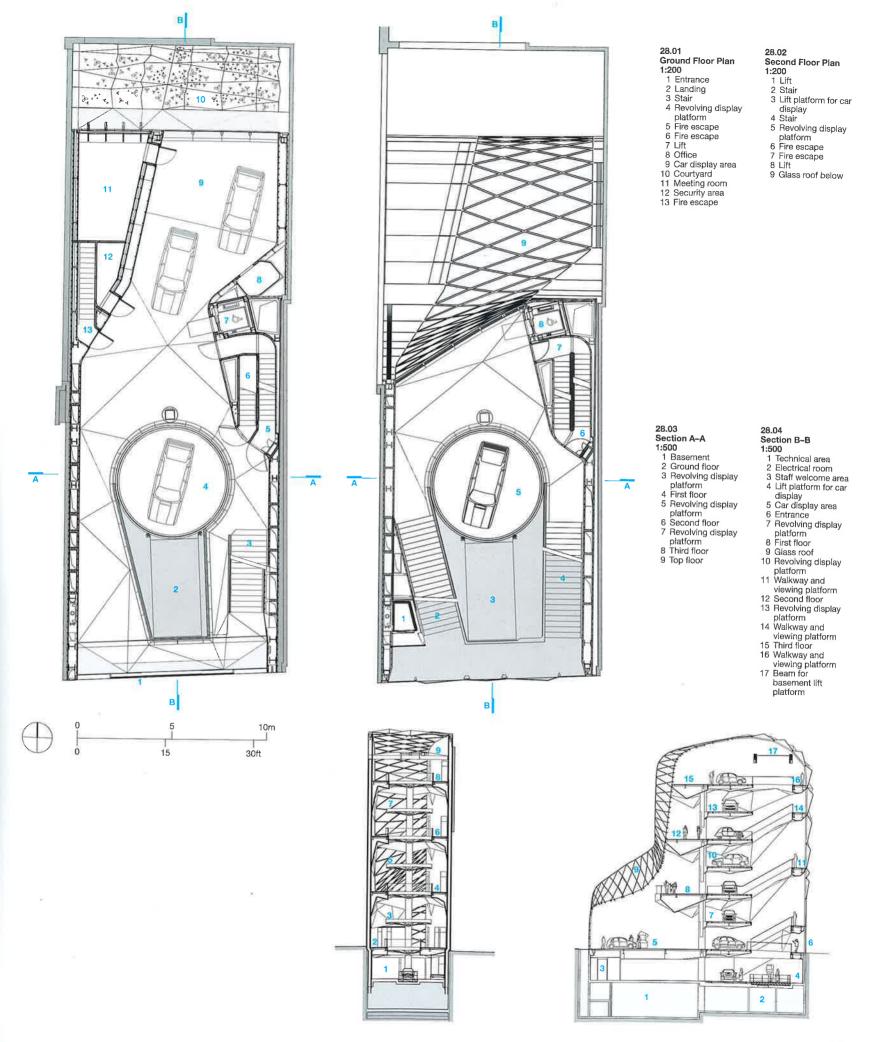


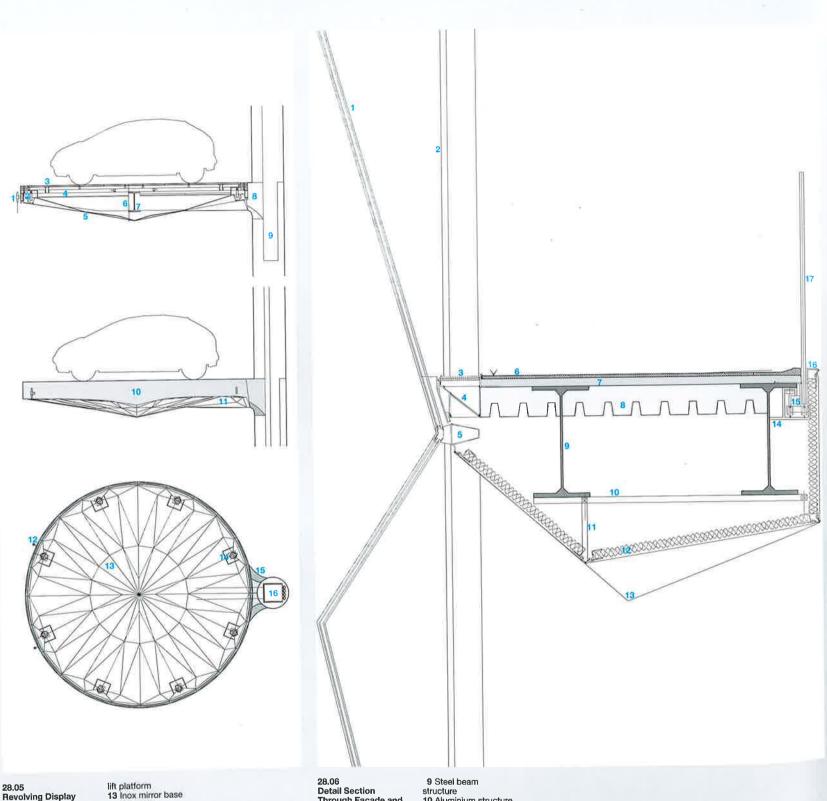
1 By day, the specially filtered glass lends the sculptural facade a dignity that respects its neighbours on the Champs Elysées. 2 At night, the iconic red Citroën chevron logo is apparent as the interior lighting overrides the effects of the filters. 3 Bridges and ramps that travel the height of the building afford breathtaking views across the city. 4 Eight revolving platforms with mirrored bases display the cars to great dramatic effect.











- Revolving Display Platform Section, Elevation and Plan 1:100 1 Guide for lift platform 2 Fixing rail 3 Resin mortar flooring flooring 4 Aluminium structure 4 Auriminium Structure
 flooring
 5 Inox mirror base
 6 Aluminium structure
 7 Steel beam
 8 Resin beam
 9 Steel beam

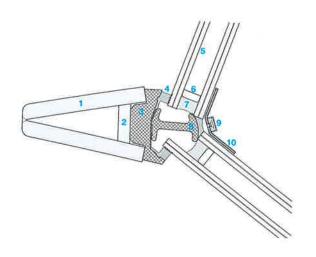
- 9 Steel pole 10 Resin floor 11 Inox mirror base
- 12 Guide for basement

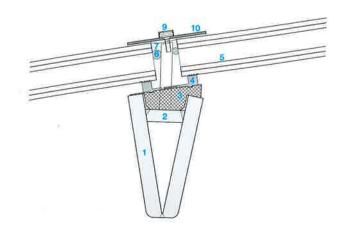
14 Spotlight 15 Steel support frame 16 Beam pole junction

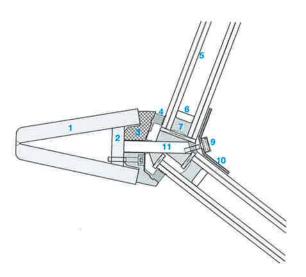
Through Facade and Mezzanine Walkway 1:20 1 Continuous glazed facade 2 Mortar structure 3 Stainless steel grille to floor edge 4 Ceilling edge panel 5 Steel frame supporting glazed facade 6 Resin floor 7 Upper part of aluminium and plastic floor profile system 8 Lower part of aluminium and plastic floor profile system 1:20

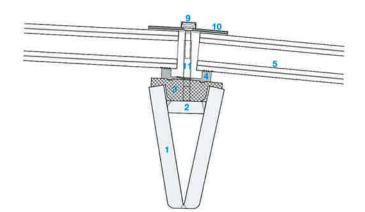
10 Aluminium structure 11 Aluminium structure 12 Acoustic insulation board 13 Aluminium structure 14 Steel beam structure 15 System of bearing and guides for maintenance 16 Aluminium and plastic floor profile system 17 Laminated glass balustrade

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28.07 Typical Glazing Junction Details 1:5 1 Door sill profile 2 Sill profile element 3 Grooved aluminium section 4 Sillicone joint 5 Double glazing 6 Glazing profile 6 Glazing profile 10 Glazing profile 10 Glazing profile 10 Glazing profile 10 Glazing profile 11 Flubber seal