Comedie de Bethune – National Drama Theater / Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

Architects: Manuelle Gautrand Architecture
Location: 138 Rue du 11 Novembre, 62400 Locon, France
Architect In Charge: Manuelle Gautrand
Area: 2082.0 sqm
Year: 2014
Photographs: Luc Boegly, Courtesy of Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

Stage Design: Bati-Scene
Structural Engineering: Khephren
Acoustics: Jean-Paul Lamourey
Fluids Engineering & Economy: Hoxa Ingenierie
Scheduling And Coordination: HD Project
Control Office: Preventec
Shell: Ramery
Facade: Diter
Partitions Ceilings: C4M
Woodwork: Bara Menuiserie
Painting Wall Coatings: Vandendriessche
Hinges And Blinds: Banbel
From the architect. The Existing Building (Theater delivered in 1999).

The building delivered by the agency in 1999 included most of the features, but compared to a conventional theater, there was still missing a rehearsal room for the artists (provided by the current extension). This first piece has been installed «around» the conserved house on what was available on the plot, adopting a “S” form complicated by this context. A big part of the plot was naturally dedicated to the room and its direct additional premises (dressing rooms, backstage, state control) while the narrowest part of the north was for the rest of the functions, with the lobby, the administration, and the accompanying facilities (toilets, technical rooms. ...).
The implementation of a slightly sloping ground at the ground floor has permitted to add at the very last moment a coffee bar under the slope of the flowerbed of the room, so as to create a friendly place, both to the artists and the public. In order to capture the best of this complex and narrow site, the architectural concept had been to create a very compact project with spaces close to each other, and facilitating the displacements from one space to another. The program was divided into two parts sharply juxtaposed: one intended for the artists, opening on the boulevard Victor Hugo, and the other one intended for the public facing the November 11th street.

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(EXTRAIT)