

THE GREAT INDOORS : ISSUE 81 : JUL/AUG 2011

€19.95 EU - CHF 30 SWITZERLAND - \$19.95 USA - \$29.50 CANADA  
£14 UK - \$28.95 AUSTRALIA - ¥3,570 JAPAN - ₩40,000 KOREA

# FRAME



**WHO'S  
AFRAID OF  
COLOUR?**

**WHY NEW INTERIORS  
BRAVE THE BRIGHTS**





MANUELLE GAUTRAND INTRODUCED MULTI-PURPOSE MOBILE UNITS – CALLED *ÉCLAIREUSES*, OR 'GIRL GUIDES' – AIMED AT HELPING VISITORS TO 'FIND A PLACE OF THEIR OWN AMIDST THE ACTIVITY' AT GAÎTÉ LYRIQUE.



## GAÎTÉ LYRIQUE

BY MANUELLE GAUTRAND



La Gaîté Lyrique, one of the oldest theatres in Paris, recently underwent a major renovation at the hands of Manuelle Gautrand Architects. The building's listed façade, however, gives little clue as to what waits inside: a pulsating buzz and nonstop action in one of the several areas – or 'breathing spaces' – that make up this contemporary venue for the arts.

Gautrand, who insisted that visitors be able to 'find a place of their own amidst all the noise and activity', introduced multi-purpose mobile units, aptly called *éclaireuses*, or 'girl guides', which have the ability, as the architect points out, to 'move throughout the open spaces'. Seventy *éclaireuses* are, in fact, already finding their way around the building. Occupying the metal-framed structures, which are clad in brushed and varnished metal, are desks and shelves made from white or orange Corian, depending on their function. Programmable LEDs supply the necessary lighting. The pink multimedia version – equipped with lounge chairs, screens, speakers and headphones – immerses the user in a private world of sound and images.

Further isolation from the surrounding stir is created by metallic mesh that works like a curtain to separate but not entirely close off an individual section of the booth. Visitors take note: nothing in this unconventional 'theatre' can be counted on to remain static. It's all on the move.

[manuelle-gautrand.com](http://manuelle-gautrand.com)

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