

Project of the Week: Hipark Hotel, Paris, France



Boutique hotel architecture is a category that contains some of the world's most refreshing, vibrant and intriguing buildings. Indeed, it seems architects are allowed to run riot by experimenting with form, shapes, and in the case of Paris' Hipark Hotel, colour.



Image: © Luc Boegly

Manuelle Gautrand Architecture is the studio behind this prow-like, multi-hued hotel complex. Sat astride a 10,000 square metre triangular site along Paris' northern edge, the Hipark Hotel presents an idiosyncratic vision given the context of the surrounding buildings.



Image: © Luc Boegly

An urban environment, characterised by brick, low cost developments designed and built between the two World Wars, surrounds Hipark Hotel, which makes its spirited, ascendant colour scheme all the more attention grabbing. Slivers of green, first invoking forest shades of the nearby trees, through to citrusy-lime shades, fades into sky blue and eventually snowy white, lending Hipark Hotel a multi-tangential aesthetic.



Image: © Luc Boegly

But what of the building itself? Manuelle Gautrand sought continuity with the pre-existing structures, namely Jacques Moussafir's student residence, along the same street, which is why the hotel partly resembles an impressive, jutting prow of some vast, multi-coloured ship. The overall development points towards another notable landmark – Jean Nouvel's Philharmonie de Paris.



Image: © Luc Boegly

Gautrand's design was further informed by creating a dialogue between two different environments. To the west lies Boulevard d'Indochine, which mostly comprises inter-war houses and tramway landscaping. Heading eastward is the Périphérique, a much less human environment, with streams of traffic and all their associated pollutants.



Image: © Luc Boegly

According to the architects: "The building, which fills every inch of the site right up to its edges, moulds itself around urban constraints, requirements in the programme, and land restrictions, notably the buttresses of the acoustic barrier on the Périphérique side and the related access routes."



Image: © Luc Boegly

A restrained yet charismatic taper is present in Hipark Hotel's volumes; a practical consideration given the limited space available on-site. Different inclining planes allow for fire access along the eastern façade. Lost space is cleverly clawed back along the western frontage too. Where the hotel and neighbouring student residences meet, the same crisp, well defined angles carry through ensuring each building is powerfully related.

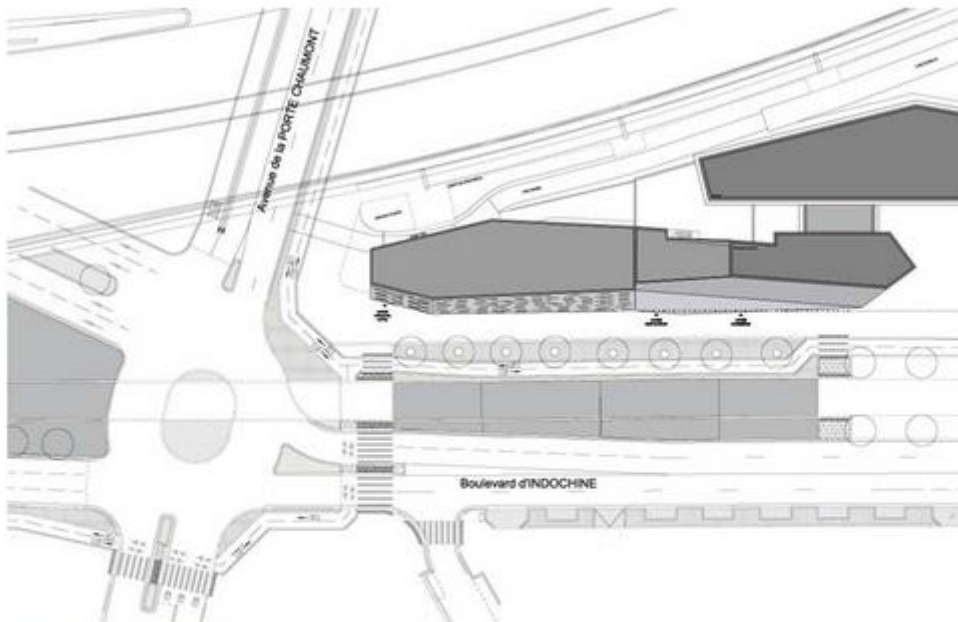


Image: © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

Varying the angles was a deliberate choice by Gautrand, in order to confer a feeling of progressivism to an otherwise static structure: "According to the viewpoint, surfaces appear brighter or darker, more or less cambered, conferring a powerful dynamism to the entire building."

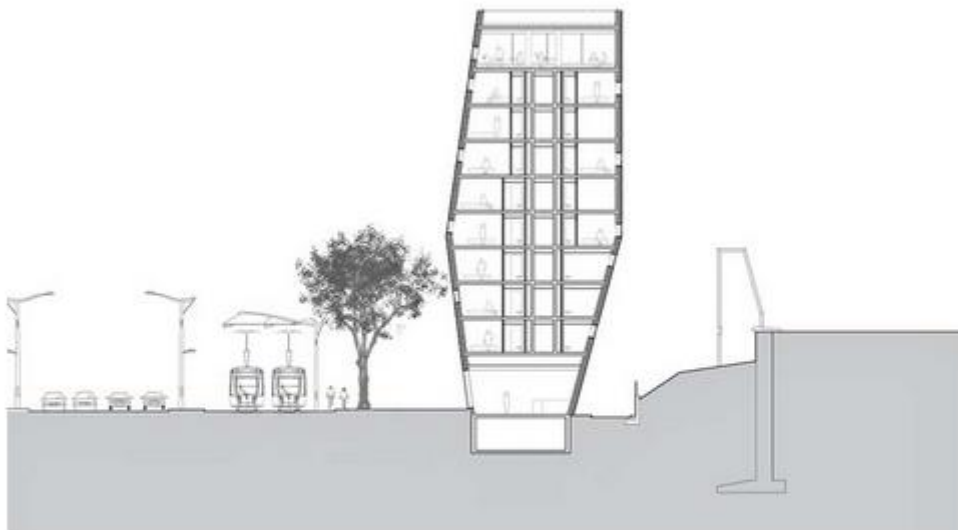


Image: © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

Hipark Hotel reinforces an exploratory nature often seen in the very best hotel architecture. A future iconic Parisian-landmark, this 2016 development is more than worthy of entering the hallowed halls of Project of the Week. Vivid; striking; dynamic; Manuelle Gautrand has crafted a beautiful hotel featuring all these highly desirable attributes, which will enthrall architects, guests and passers-by for years to come.