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# ARCHITECTURE

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# FASCINATING FACADES

Take a look at two international projects that are showcasing brilliant design with their bold facade solutions



LUMINOUS HOUSES - Kerimov Architects





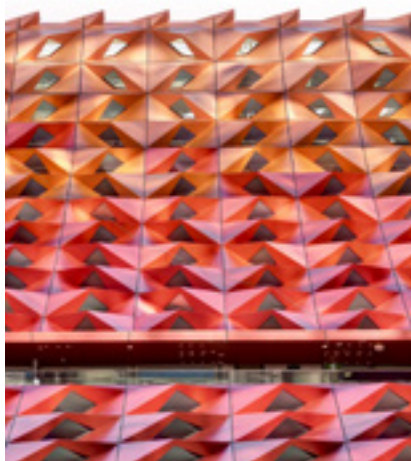
PHIVE by Manuelle Gautrand Architecture | Photography by Sara Vita

## LUMINOUS HOUSES BY KERIMOV ARCHITECTS

Russian architectural practice Kerimov Architects has designed a new residential complex. Located on the west side of the Moscow region, it consists of seven low-rise houses placed in a checkerboard-like pattern. The three and four storey houses are smoothly integrated into the existing natural context. The shape-forming concept drew inspiration from the traditional suburban development; the trapezoidal volumes and semi-pitched roofs are a slight hint at the village houses that people previously self-built.

However, the key element of this project is unique façade solutions. The houses have been created with two types of façade finishes. First is a profiled sheet that gives the houses the appearance of dissolving into the natural context; the buildings become semi-transparent.

The second material is a structural glass with built-in lighting; this is a quite an unusual solution for residential buildings. This structural glass enables the houses to - literally - shine, like a night-light. They can also light up fragmentally or glow completely. These luminous houses display a spectacular yet harmonious contrast between elegantly integrated urban architecture and nature.



PHIVE by Manuelle Gautrand Architecture |  
Photography by Sara Vita



LUMINOUS HOUSES - Kerimov Architects

## PHIVE BY MANUELLE GAUTRAND ARCHITECTURE

Parramatta city is located on the west side of Sydney, being part of the Great Sydney as an important business district. Located in Parramatta square, the Phive building is an exceptional public and cultural facility filled with community and exhibition spaces all around the main library, as well as the City of Parramatta's Council Chamber. Phive is a new city landmark and a place where locals and visitors can meet, discover, learn and share. The city's main central esplanade runs alongside the site and the Townhall on the south facade. Parisian-based firm Manuelle Gautrand Architecture, who designed the building, wanted to accentuate the luminosity of the square and its openness to the sky and the sun, all over the year.

The envelop, which is both a roof and a facade, is made of hundreds of folded panels that open views successively to the west and the east, to the square and the sky, expressing the uniqueness of this public and cultural building. It is also a very sustainable skin, protecting from heat while filtering light and views, creating a poetic atmosphere internally and to the exterior of the project. The colors are inspired by the soil and the local flora, such as native waratah, bottle brush and grevillea.

The sloped envelop is also precisely drawn and sculpted itself to act as a passive thermal design. Phive is an holistic project, which is sculpted to encourage hot air to move up until the spire.

W: [kerimovarchitects.com](http://kerimovarchitects.com)  
IG: [@kerimovarchitects](https://www.instagram.com/kerimovarchitects)

W: [manuelle-gautrand.com](http://manuelle-gautrand.com)  
IG: [@manuellegautrand](https://www.instagram.com/manuellegautrand)