

THE 1996 PRIZES FOR ARCHITECTURE FROM LE MONITEUR

Selected by Le Moniteur Architecture-AMC from among more than 400 dossiers, twenty-three nominated projects this year contested the distinction of the Equerre d'Argent awarded by Le Moniteur.

Smaller construction templates than in previous years, documents that shrinking orders seem to have chastened or at least clarified, both typify this year's selection, though programmes and contracting authorities remain varied. The international jury which met on 14 October 1996 (see *opposite*) chose to reward four significant works: the Musée de la Civilisation Celtique in Mont-Beuvray, a large project sponsored by François Mitterrand and designed by Pierre-Louis Faloci on the historic slopes of Bibracte, received the Equerre d'Argent prize. In a free, inspired mode it echoes modern architecture and symbolises the cutting of the cord of

archaeological excavations in a vast wooded territory.

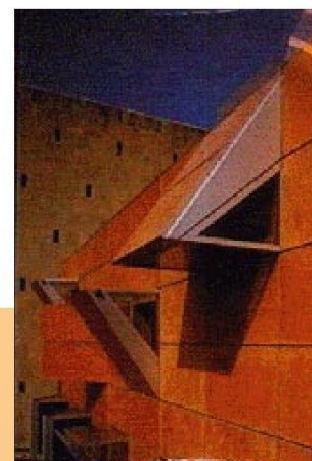
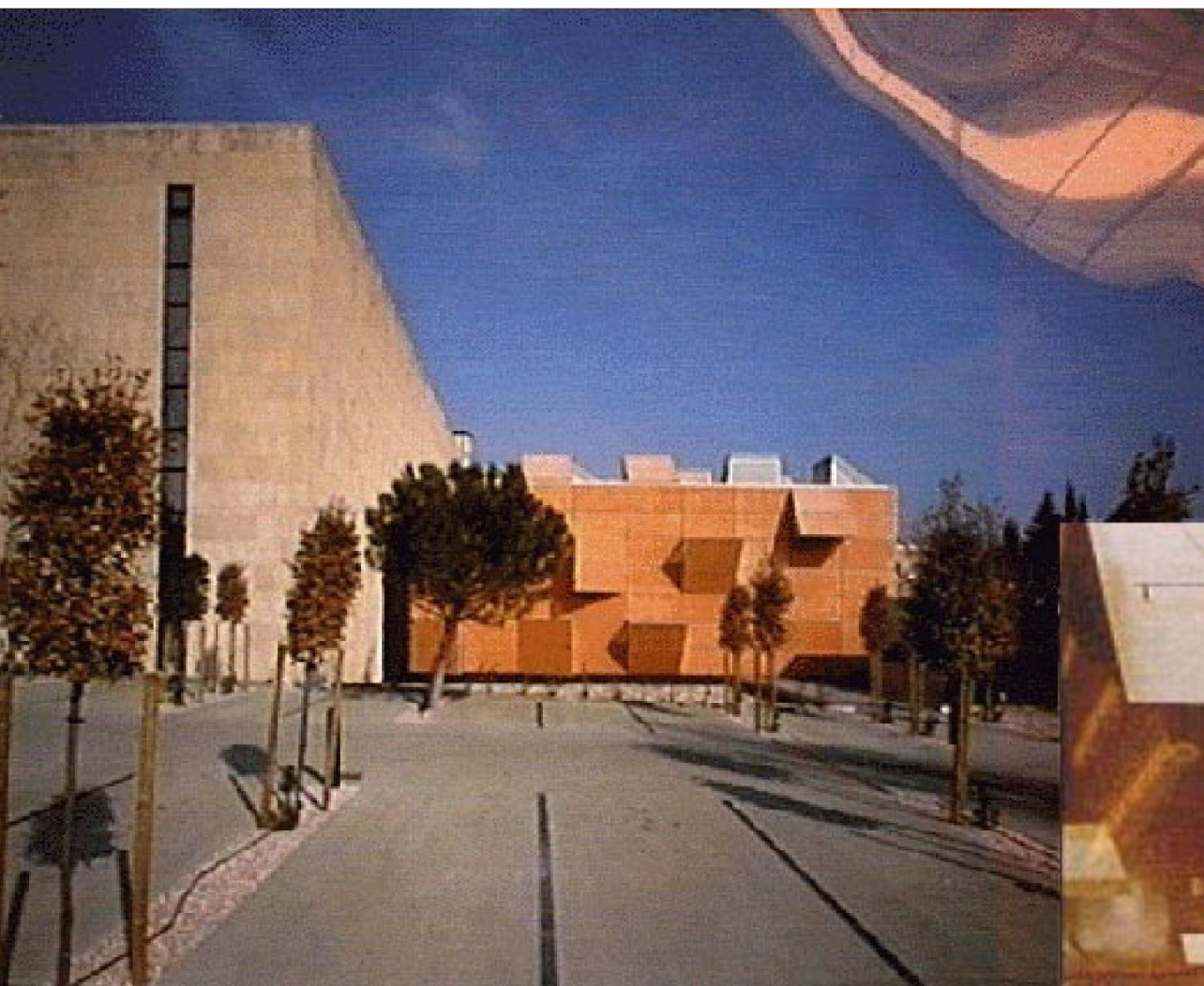
Another cultural building, the extension to the Archives d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence, designed by the trio of young architects, Antoinette Robain, Thierry Lacoste and Claire Guieysse, was awarded the prize for a first work.

The important restructuring of a large part of Lorient, a city of 500 dwellings re-attached to the town by a wide panoply of architectural interventions, received a distinction (Roland Castro and Sophie Denissov were the architects). Finally François Leclercq and Fabrice Dusapin found themselves awarded a special prize from the jury for the offices of the Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance in Angers, representatives of a demanding tertiary order in both form and content. The official prizegiving ceremony took place on 29 January 1997 at the Musée des Monuments Français in Paris.

THE JURY

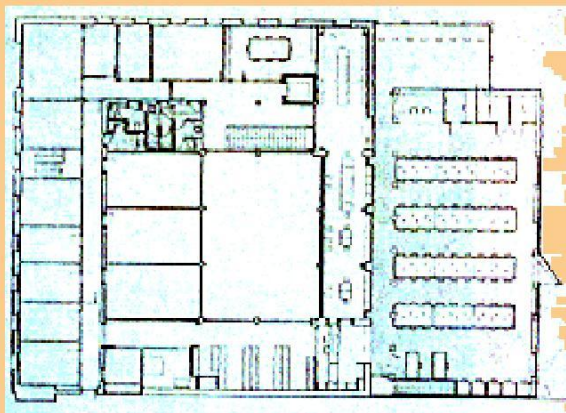
Chaired by Marc Noël Vigier, Chairman of the Board of Le Moniteur Publications, it included the architects Christian de Portzamparc (Equerre d'Argent 1995), Bernard Tschumi (Paris), Jeremy Dixon (London), and Bertrand Lemoine, Editor-in-Chief of Le Moniteur Architecture-AMC, and the critics, Manuel Gausa (Quaderns, Spain), Geert Bekaert (Archis, Belgium) and Jacques Lucan (France). Francis Ampe, Director of the Agence de Développement et d'Urbanisme in Lille was represented by Giuseppe Bonacorsi, architect and town planner, Director of Studies at the Agency.



PRIZE FOR A 1ST WORK

Aix-en-Provence Archives d'Outre-Mer

This extension nestles in a square made up of existing buildings. The main facade is made up of a layout of CTBX plywood panels covered with an ochre whitewash. Just like the roof terrace it is enlivened by louvers, i.e. a lighting device close to the shed which evokes the forward tipping of some panels. The consultation room, designed to accommodate a hundred researchers, thus has the advantage of very modulated light, as is required by the old documents that will be consulted there.



PHOTOS J.-M. MONTHIERS



TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Contracting authority: Ministère de la Culture et de la Francophonie, department of the Archives de France; Drac, Project Coordinator.

Project Management: Antoinette Robain, Thierry Lacoste and Claire Guieysse, Architects; David Besson-Girard, Landscaper; Domisis, OPC; Batiserf, Structural Engineering; Louis Choulet, Fluids Engineering; Capri acoustique, Acoustics Technician; Michel Forgeue, Economist; Veritas, Control.

Surface: 653 m² HON new, 1590 m² restructured.

Cost: 11 MF.

Main company: Poggia, Contractor.