new European architecture

Brno’s rational abundance

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Environmentally friendly housing complex, Crissier

Bauart’s design strives to turn a brownfield site into a cohesive new urban quarter.

In 2011, the real estate fund Patrimonium bought the plot with the intention to turn it into an attractive area. Through a public-private collaboration with the municipality of Crissier, the Canton of Vaud and the Masterplan of West Lausanne (SDOL), the Zurich-based office Feddersen & Klostermann was commissioned to design a general plan, in which living and working come together, thereby reducing the environmental impact and infrastructural costs to a minimum. The plan dictated an optimal use of the sloping site and encouraged the search for a specific architectural language that will harmoniously and attractively integrate with the surrounding landscape. In 2012, this plan was followed up by a d'études parallèles, a competition accord-

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vited to submit a design for a housing complex, Crissier.

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Lentillères Nord is a disused area located between central Lausanne and its western suburb, Crissier. Im-

mediately to its south, wedged between the railway line, a motorway and an area of important commercial activity, lies a triangular plot – the designated site of multifunctional urban neighbourhood that intends to revitalize the wasteland between Lausanne and Crissier.

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The project, entitled Côté jardins (Garden side), consists of three housing blocks including some commercial spaces that are clustered around three semi-private gardens, a service block on the south and a centrally situated public park. The elevations adjoining the surrounding traffic routes are designed substantially differently from those facing the garden: in the former, perforated concrete panels align to the slabs’ surface, whereas those on the garden side can be read from the facade, with wooden panels covering them in a second layer. The constructive system is responsible for the creation of an acoustic shell. As a result, the buildings form an insulating barrier between the surrounding infrastructure and the inner world of the complex, within which only non-motorized traffic is allowed. This approach not only satisfies the stringent Swiss sustainability criteria by reducing environmental pollution, but also is meant to encourage social interaction among residents. Furthermore, the project proposes vegetable gardens on the roofs of three buildings to create meeting places that can increase community cohesion.

Created within the prescribed framework, the project has been conceived with a view to sustainable architecture. By keeping the buildings as compact as possible, designing the outer facade as a protective layer, and making use of local climatic resources, the project makes the most of natural insulation and minimizes non-renewable energy consumption. According to the architects, it will result in a dense neighbourhood that is environmentally friendly and will be able to hold its own against the surrounding agglomeration.

*CÔTÉ JARDINS* HOUSING COMPLEX, 2012

Architect: Bauart Architectes et Urbanistes SA (Hélène Friz, Peter C. Jakob, Stefan Graf, Emmanuel Rey, Yolica Ringelstein, Marco Ryter)

Client: Patrimonium

Address: Chemin des Lentillères 1, Crissier

Info: www.bauart.ch

The car-free inner courtyard helps meet stringent environmental requirements.

Site volume and geometry

Site permeability and fluidity

Public spaces and landscaping

Methods of mobility