



Saint-Denis is a town just on the North of Paris, and has the densest Romanian immigrant population of France.

The COUP DE MAIN association accompanies Romanian immigrant families, to find a way out of the vicious circle of unemployment, lack of education and exclusion. One of the elements of a global contract proposed by CDM is temporary lodgings with both private spaces and shared ones, such as kitchens and playrooms. These dwellings are situated in a temporary building on a pointed piece of land between a wide railway track and an extremely noisy road. This piece of land is let by the local authorities with renewable five-year agreements.

When we were asked to be involved, the structure of recycled stackable site huts had already been built.

It was decided to use them for the modifiable private and common spaces, meanwhile kitchens and shower rooms are situated as extensions. Collaborating with some of the Rumanian immigrants, as well as other workers with socially integrative contracts, a complete envelope was built with mainly recycled materials like old windows or outdated advertising canvas from the Centre Pompidou.

An alternative heating system and a common garden are the following steps of the project.

Client and Operator:

COUP DE MAIN association, Pantin

Total cost (without personal contributions):
70 000 EURO

Project Start Date: Autumn 2010

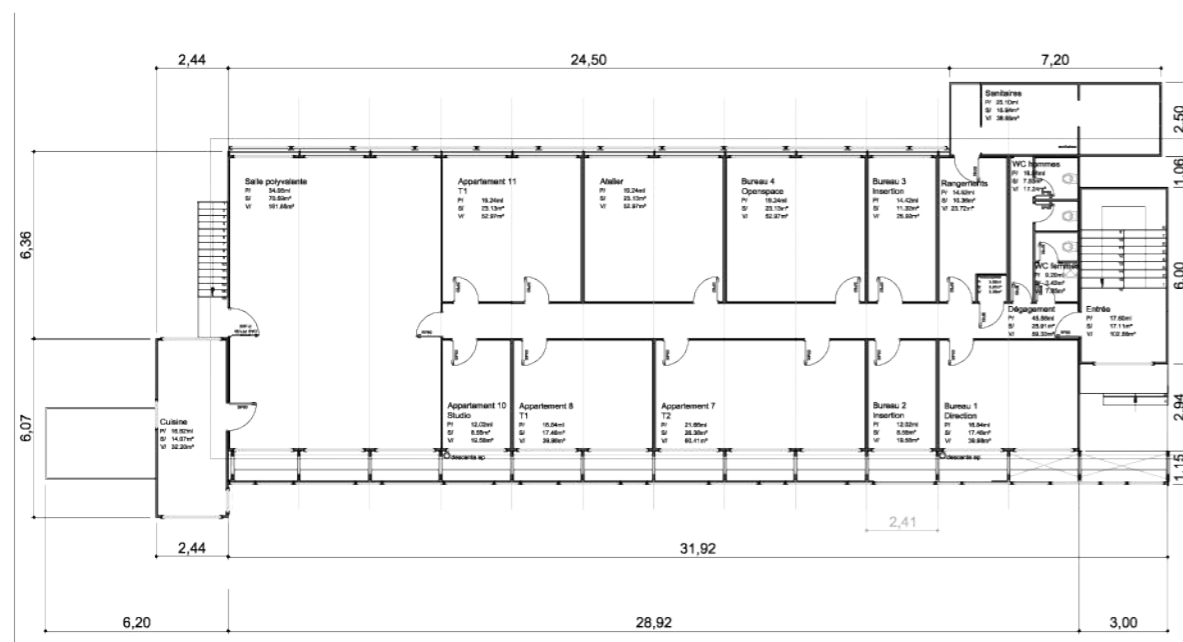
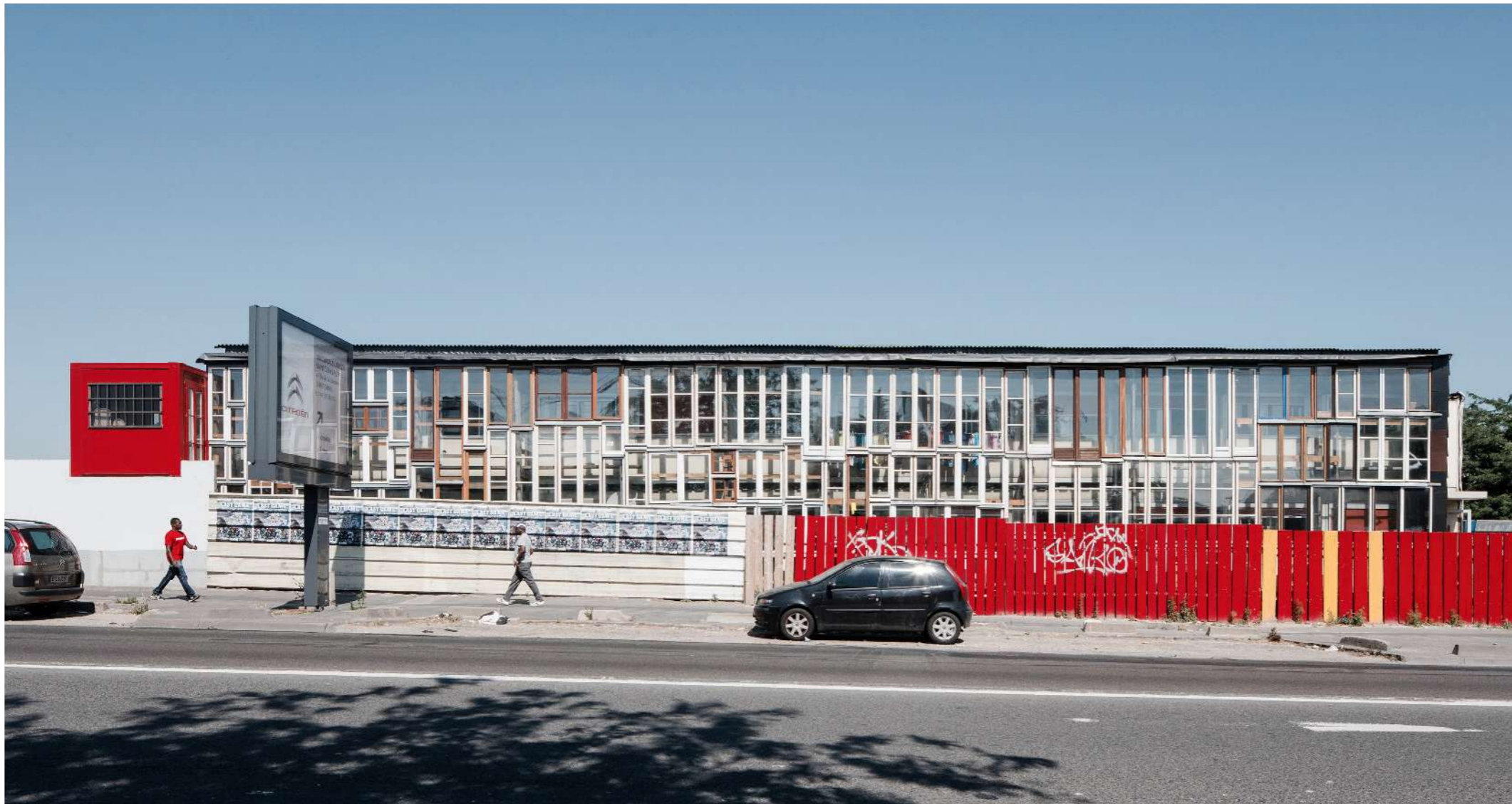
Site Start Date: June 2011

Project End Date: October 2013

LA PASSERELLE Saint-Denis, France

NICLAS DUNNEBACKE ARCHITECT, WITH ANNEISE ARCHEN





Hasselt Charter issues:

2. Foster the socially responsible role of built environment professionals by stimulating social modes of practice before speculative economic profitability. The project is located in an area with various shantytowns. People living in those conditions are completely excluded from the access to standard social housing. LA PASSERELLE is an example of a non-profit and temporary architecture, built with the participation of some of the habitants, in the middle of one of those areas with strong urbanistic activity and economic pressure. Even as a temporary project, it helps to work against the violent aspects of segregation and migration.

4. Identify, disseminate and work alongside public institutions, multilateral organisations and private sector's policies, programmes and sustainable socio-economic systems fostering social equity and urban inclusion within the built environment. The project would not have been possible without the agreements between COUP DE MAIN association and the local authorities. Another aspect is the use of recycled elements, like site huts and windows. Those materials had been recuperated for free. This way to build demands a high grade of transversal improvisation, which brings together far distanced stakeholders.

7. Promote the facilitation of trans-national dialogues and long-term partnerships with and within the less affluent countries. This project can be seen as an element to help the families coming from Romania to settle down, send their children to school, to learn simple common skills of rights and communication, in order to be better accepted within the local society.

LA PASSERELLE

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