

ACI Excellence Awards – 2021

MÉCA, Bordeaux, France

Project Information

Category for your project [Mid-rise Buildings]

Name of the project [MÉCA Maison de l'Économie Créative et de la Culture en Aquitaine (*Center for Culture, Arts and Design in Aquitaine*) - Bordeaux – France]

Project quantities [Built surface: 18,000 m², Concrete quantities : , 4,800 precast façade panels]

Address: PARVIS CORTO MALTESE, Quai de Paludate, 33800 Bordeaux, FRANCE

Duration of the concrete works:

Completion of the structural works: June 28, 2019

Construction Team Members

Owner:

Name of the firm [Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine]

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Phone number [05 57 57 84 09]

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Architectural Firm:

Name of the firm [**BIG** - BJARKE INGELS GROUP – Lead architects]

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Name of the firm [**FREAKS ARCHITECTURE** - Associated Architects]

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Contact name [Paule ROUQUETTE]

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Engineering Firm:

Name of the firm [**KHEPHREN Ingénierie**]

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Contact name [Loïc ANDORIN]

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General Contracting Joint Venture:

Name of the firm [**GTM Bâtiment Aquitaine** mandataire du Lot Gros-oeuvre Clos-couvert]

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Phone number [0616629453]

Contact name [Fabrice de Lassus]

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Name of the firm [**Dr. Lüchinger+Meyer Bauingenieure AG** - Facade Specialists]

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Contact name [Philippe Willareth]

Email [pwi@luechingermeyer.ch]

Name of the firm [Precast products supplier]

Postal address []

Phone number []

Contact name []

Email []

Concrete Supplier:

Name of the firm []

Postal address []

Phone number []

Contact name []

Email []

Project description (300 words)

Centrally located in Bordeaux (France) between the River Garonne, Saint-Jean railway station and the UNESCO heritage city center, the new 18,000 m² Maison de l'Économie Créative et de la Culture en Aquitaine (MÉCA – Center for Culture, Arts and Design in Aquitaine) houses together three agencies for contemporary art, cinema, literature and audiovisuals, and performing arts.

The building is conceived as a single loop of cultural institutions and public space for creative hybridization, by extruding the pavement of the promenade to become the ramp that leads into the urban living room, the façade with glimpses into stage towers

and offices, and the rooftop enclosing the sky-lit galleries. Each space has been thought as a living place for artistic public experimentation.

A series of steps and ramps lead the public directly into the 1,100 m² outdoor urban room at the core of MÉCA, creating a porous institution for visitors to roam freely between the Quai de Paludate street to the river promenade. These outdoor spaces can be transformed into a stage for concerts and drama performances or an extended gallery for sculptures and other art installations.

A giant periscope by the restaurant and elevators provides an indoor-outdoor dialogue. On the same ground floor, performances can be enjoyed in a 250-seat theatre featuring flexible seating configurations and acoustic systems optimized by an all-black checkerboard panel of concrete, wood and perforated metal.

Upstairs, filmgoers can view screenings at the red-accented 80-seat cinema or visit the two production offices and project incubation area.

Upper floors include 7m high exhibition spaces, production studios for artists, storage facilities, 90-seat auditorium and café.

The 850 m² public roof terrace serves as a flexible extension to the exhibition spaces, allowing future large-scale art installations and performances to be placed outdoors amid views of the city and St. Michael's Basilica.

Concrete in the project (500 words)

MÉCA is a robust, concrete building complementing the monumental Bordeaux riverfront in a continuity with the ochre-golden minerality of the city heritage. The concrete is made of aggregate from the local Bordeaux area. The long-lasting durability of the material makes the building a sustainable addition to the cultural life in the city.

The façade is composed almost entirely of 4,800 prefabricated concrete panels interspersed with windows of various sizes to control the amount of light entering inside and to create a sense of transparency.

The concrete slabs, which weigh up to 1.6 tons, have been sandblasted to expose the material raw qualities and to texture the surface with the local sandstone. Yellow granules for brightness and warmth radiate the building in the sun and integrates MÉCA as a familiar yet new vernacular sight to the city.

The building can be seen as a large thermal mass, where the need for cooling is minimized. Designed to self-insulate from the warm climate, taking benefit of concrete thermal inertia, MÉCA only opens towards its surroundings where it is programmatically necessary.

The building follows high environmental quality (HQE) certification standards:

- partial use of bio-based insulation
- site with low environmental impact
- energy performance maintained according to regulation (RT 2012)
- connection to the heating network of the surrounding district, having obtained a V label (innovation validated by the Ministry of Energy)
- limitation of energy consumption and compliance with conditions of hygrothermal conservation of works
- advanced study on air diffusion in order to ensure the comfort of occupants.

Technical / aesthetical aspects of concrete inside:

- Floors
- Benches of the inner amphitheater
- Checkerboard panel of concrete, metal and wood for the acoustic performance of OARA's theater
- ...

Photographs



Photo 1: la Méca

Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu



Photo 2: banks of the Garonne
Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu

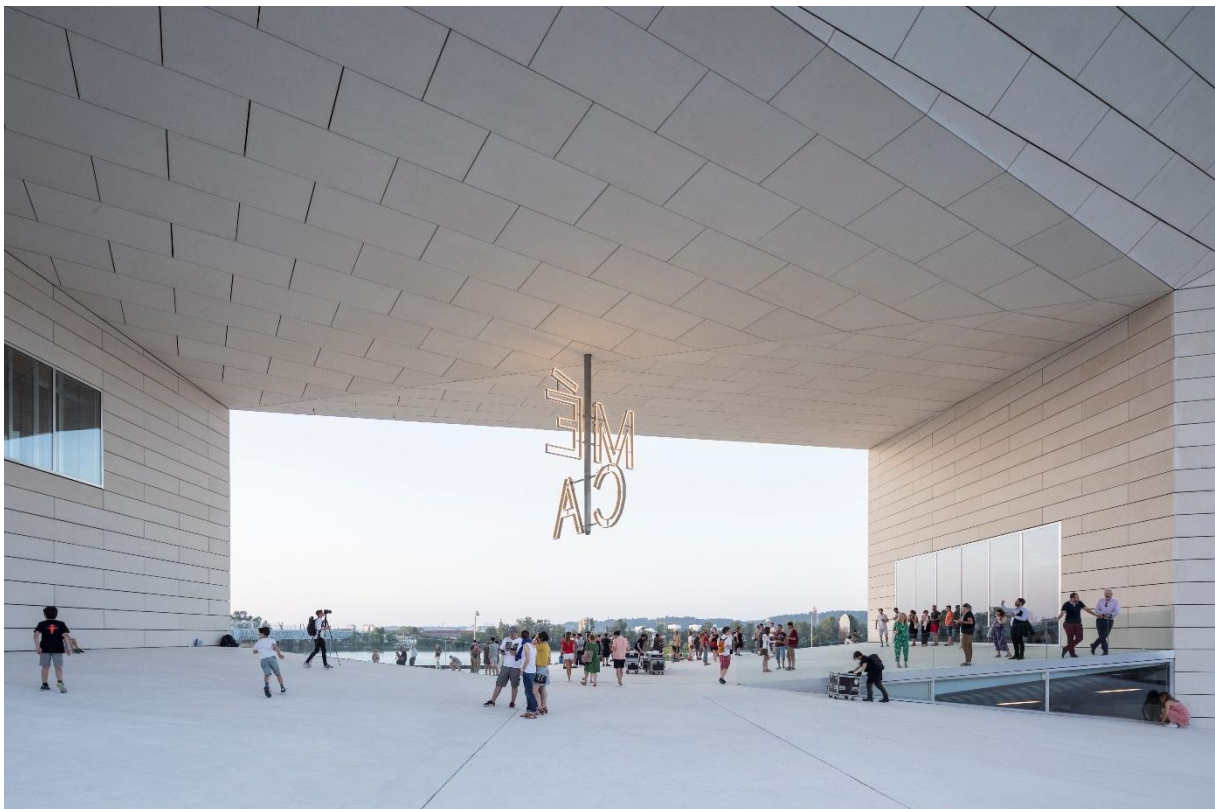


Photo 3: the urban room
Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu



Photo 4: the lobby / spiral pit

Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu

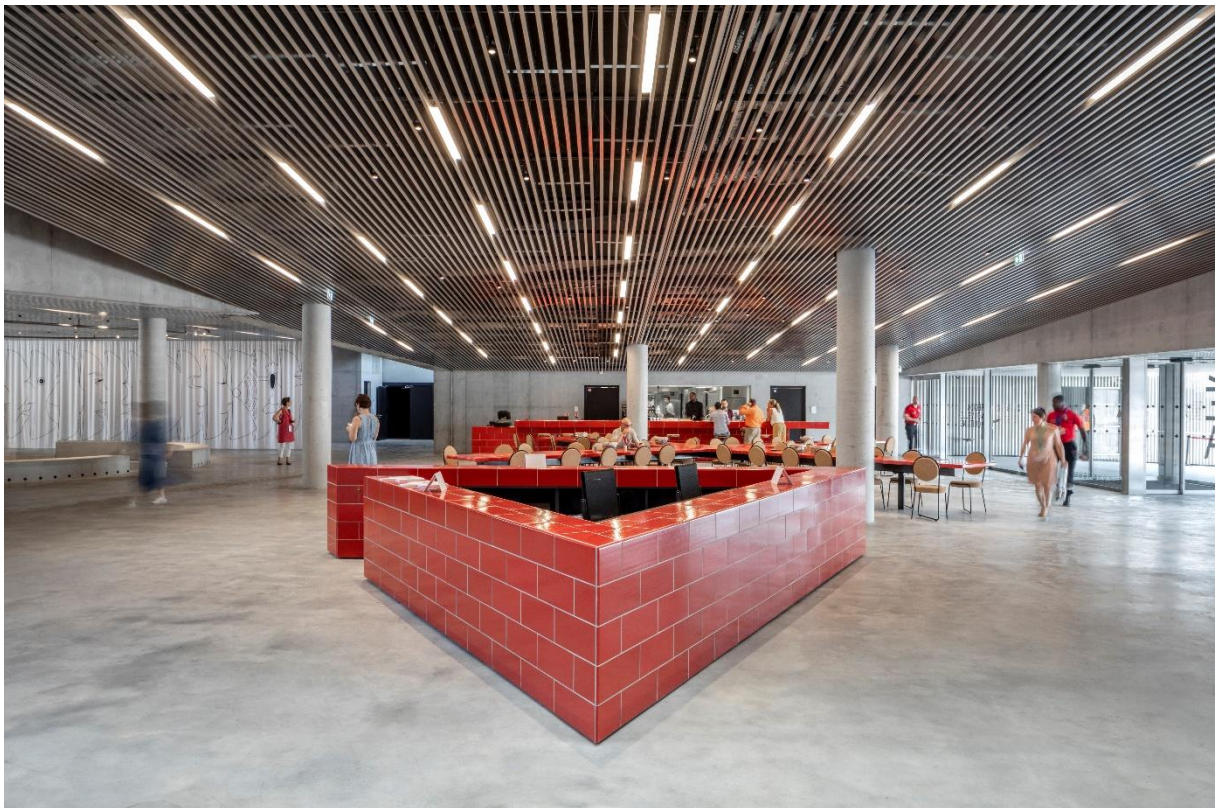


Photo 5: the lobby / the restaurant Le CREM

Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu

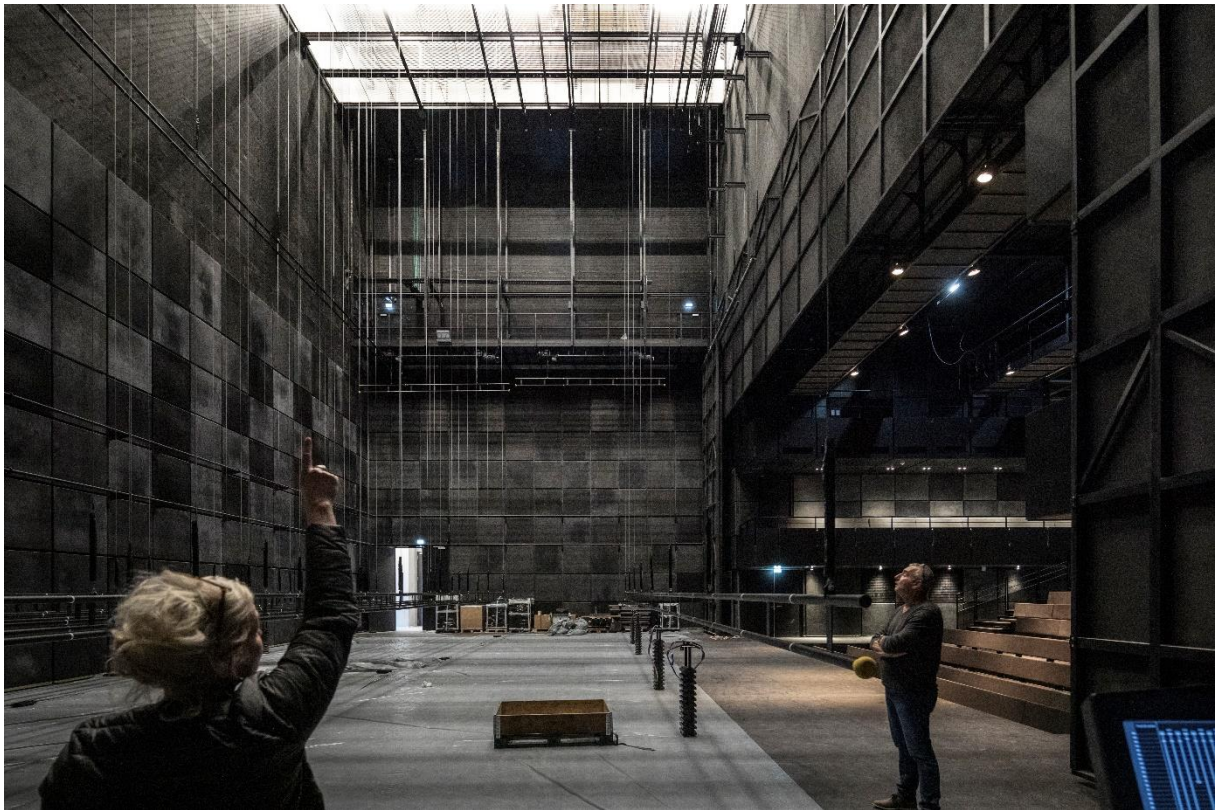


Photo 6: OARA / acoustic systems optimized by an all-black checkerboard panel of concrete, wood and perforated metal
 Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu



Photo 7: FRAC
 Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu



Photo 8: terrace with Unesco City View

Photo by Laurian Ghinitoiu

90-second time lapse video **PHILIPPE CAUMES**

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