



Project description

Inserted in the ring of the former fortifications of Lille, between the historic center and the periphery, the Grand Palais is a hybrid building with a programmatic mixture of conference space, exhibition and a pop concert hall ("Zenith").

Each program has its own zone in the building, arranged so that the interfaces create new programmatic opportunities. In an east-west direction these zones are autonomous, while in the north-south direction they are connected. The large amphitheatre-like auditoria are placed back to back, to form a bridge, leaving a large reception space below.

The vertical layering of the building starts with a plinth for parking and deliveries. The edges of the plinth towards the city are animated with the reception and other daylight oriented programs. The edge towards the service road is on the same higher level as the road, allowing lorries to deliver straight into the exhibition halls.

The Zenith is meant for pop music events, shows, etc facilitating up to 6,000 people. The congress area contains a 1,500 seat place conference auditorium, 500 seat place auditorium, 3,500 m² congress exhibition space, 2x200 seat place conference/class rooms 12x80 place conference rooms and 2,500 m² administrative offices. The Expo contains a 20,000 m² exposition space sub divisible into 3 equal spaces.

Grand Palais

Lille, France

Client

SAEM Eurallile
Lille, France

Architect

OMA, Rotterdam
and
F.M. Delhaye Caille, Villeneuve d'Ascq

Acoustics

Personal reference: L.C.J. van Luxemburg

Realization

1994