



## Gallery



## Description

The main goal of this intervention was to restructure and extend the *Musée d'Art Moderne of Lille*, which stands in a magnificent park at Villeneuve d'Ascq. Designed by Roland Simounet and inaugurated in 1983, the existing buildings have already acquired historic landmark status. The main aim of this intervention, besides a thorough restructuring of the existing buildings, was to reconstitute a continuous and fluid museum space, while adding new galleries to the existing structure, to house a superb collection of *Art brut works*.

The architecture of the extension involves the existing building's north and east sides in a fan-like arrangement of long, fluid, organic volumes. On one side, the fan "ribs" stretch in close folds to shelter a café-restaurant that opens to the central patio; on the other, the "ribs" are more widely spaced to form the five galleries for the *Art brut* collection. The intention behind this project was never to compete with Simounet's design, but to attempt to extend, while achieving the programmatic objectives with a new and individual sensitivity, keeping with the same volumetric scales of the pre-existing building. On the café-restaurant side, the close folds of the extension enabled a redefinition of the patio, creating links from the entrance hall towards the restructured spaces: café-restaurant, bookshop and auditorium.

The *Art brut* galleries maintain a strong link with the surrounding scenery, being at the same time custom designed to hold the atypical and powerful art pieces that they house. These spaces present a partially introverted architecture, more suited to protect art works that are often fragile and demand a strict light control. At the extremity of the galleries, a large bay opens to the magnificent views of the surrounding parkland, adding breathing space to the visit itinerary, compensating the half-light in the galleries. Carved screens in front of the bays mediate between the galleries and the strong light of the parkland scenery. The building's exterior treatment is sober, based on smooth untreated concrete, with mouldings and carved out screens. The concrete surface has a slight colour tint that varies according to the intensity of light.

## Biography

Manuelle Gautrand was born in 1961 and qualified as an architect in 1985. In 1991 she established her own Paris based practice, the *Manuelle Gautrand Architecture office*. Since then she has handled all kinds of projects, ranging from housing and offices to cultural buildings and leisure facilities. Her clients are public contracting authorities as well as private firms, both in France and abroad. Between her most significant

projects are the *Business Centre in Saint-Etienne*, the *Origami office building* in Paris, the restructuring of the old Parisian *theatre Gaîté Lyrique* and the development of the project *City of Europa*, a huge mix used retail complex, for Auchan Group

Manuelle Gautrand had teaching activities at the *Ecole Spéciale d'Architecture de Paris*, from 1999 to 2000, at the *Ecole d'Architecture Paris-Val-de-Seine* from 2000 to 2003 and in 2009 at the *Technische Universität* in Vienna. Having also lectured at several workshops and European schools of architecture, she is often invited to conferences and seminars, both in France and abroad.

The works of *Manuelle Gautrand Architecture office* have been present at several exhibitions, including the 2001 and 2002 edition of *ARCHILAB - Rencontres Internationales d'Architecture* at Orléans, in 2002, 2004 and 2008 editions of the *Venice International Biennale of Architecture*, in June 2003 a exhibition at the *Galerie d'Architecture* in Paris, and several other events in Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands. Monographs on Manuelle Gautrand works have been published in France and abroad, and reports on her projects appear regularly in the press. Two films on her work - *l'Art & la Manière and Chic* - were shown on *ARTE Television* in 2008 and 2009.