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Béthune, France

Comédie de Béthune

MANUELLE GAUTRAND



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Extension – restructuring of the National Drama Theater « Comédie de Béthune ».

A BUILDING WITH A PRECIOUS HISTORY

Firstly named "National Drama Center of the Nord Pas de Calais" then "Theater of the Northern Countries" and finally renamed "La Comédie De Bethune" by Agathe Alexis and Alain Barsacq who managed it from 1992, this theater distinguishes itself by its location in the heart of a territory marked by the crisis. Since the 1980s, culture has become a priority in the development of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais area; "La Comédie De Bethune" reflected the will of the elected representatives of the department to be equipped with a National Drama center. Place of reference and artistic excellence where the theater can express itself in all its forms and reach all audiences, the building contributes strongly to the attractiveness of the area and represents the most emblematic cultural equipment of the city. Installed in a marquee with three hundred seats in 1992, the theater moved in 1993 in an old powder magazine, built by Vauban and refurbished into a «Studio Theater» which is still used nowadays.

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Head Designer	Manuelle Gautrand	
Photo by	Luc Boeqlv	
Collaborator	Design Team	Control Office: Preventec
Consultants	Structural engineering	Khephren
	Acoustic	Jean-Paul Lamoureux
	Other consultants	Stage design: Bati-scene; Fluids engineering & economy: Hexa Ingenierie; Scheduling and coordination: HD Project;
Buildings	Client	Communaute d'Agglomeration de Bethune (Artois Comm) La Comedie de Bethune

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There was initially a movie theater called «The Palace» built in the 1930s on the present site of “La Comédie De Bethune”. The facade of the building maintained by girders, was all that was left when it was demolished in the 1990s. In 1994, the agency MANUELLE GAUTRAND ARCHITECTURE won the competition for the construction of the theater. From the beginning, the project anticipated what has now become an extension: it already was in the form of two functional sections, the first one containing most of the program, which was then carried out, the second one immediately unrealizable because it was positioned on the corner of the plot, involving the demolition of a house.



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Lien internet : <http://divisare.com/projects/282211-Manuelle-Gautrand-Come-die-de-Be-thune>