Edison Lite Apartment Building / Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

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EDISON LITE project proposes a new housing model, based on three main principles: the creation of ‘made-to-measure’ housing units, whereby the future residents were able to participate in establishing the brief as well as the design of their home; the provision of 20% extra surface area, defined and shared with the residents; this provides access to space and facilities that would not otherwise be available to individual residents; to welcome residents into an existing landscape largely planted during works, the architectural project includes 75 m³ of soil, divided between 290 planters and a large, 150 m² allotment on the roof.
These plants have had time to establish themselves and grow before the arrival of residents. Residents are thereby greeted by an established natural environment, for which they will have responsibility. The project thus proposes a sort of ‘permacultural’ way of life: residents will produce some of their own food, learning the pleasure of watching food grow, a means of encouraging them to participate in the collective effort that we must all undertake to reduce supply chains and move towards a landscape of edible permaculture as near as possible to home.
With regards to materials, the project set itself the principle of "the right material in the right place". The result is an optimised combination of concrete, timber, and metal.
The building includes two fitted-out commercial units on the ground floor; one is now occupied by the Babilou crèche and the other is a physiotherapy practice.