

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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Master of Science in Architecture for Sustainability
Honors theses

Requalification of Grenoble university campus through a new plot of ways and the architectural project for the Maison de l'Université

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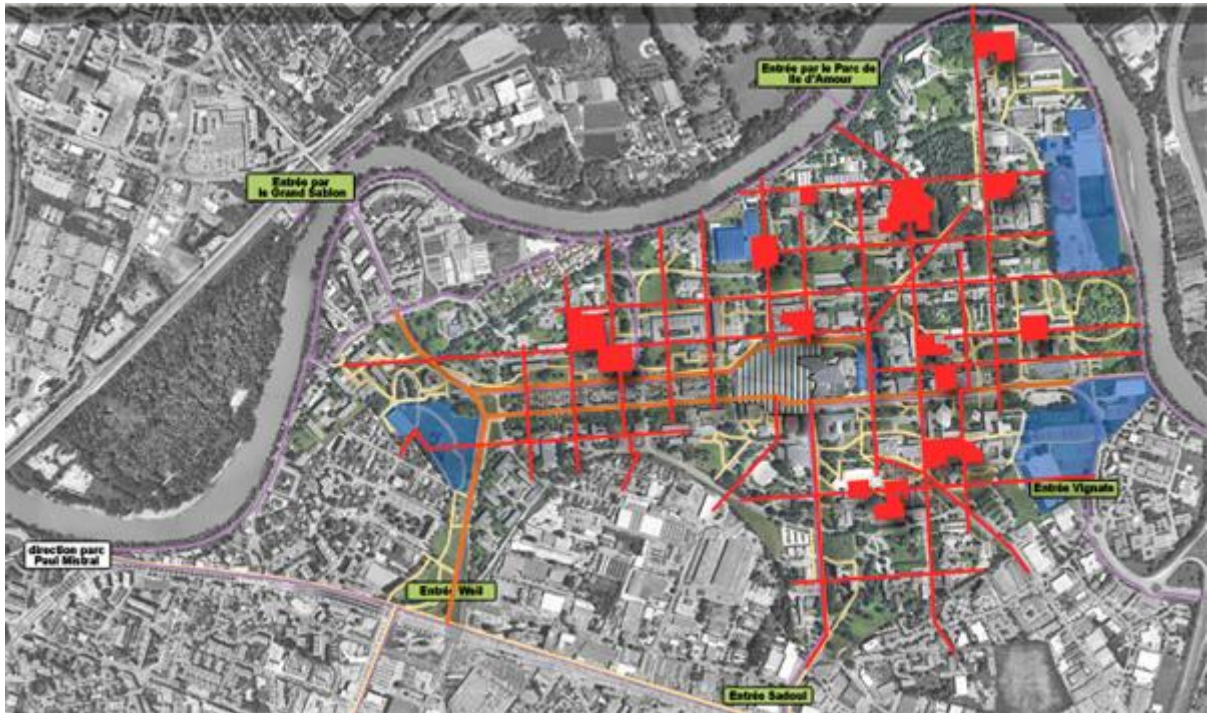
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The university campus of Grenoble was born in the sixties, in order to resolve the dislocation of university and research sites, which were strewn at that time in Grenoble city. The areas of Saint-Martin-d'Hères and Gières were chosen to create an "American style" campus as an urban park, used by students and university staff but also by outdoor users.

Georges Bovet was the architect chosen by the State; he organized the buildings around a pedestrian space that became the physical and symbolic center of the campus. In 2011 the INterland urban planning studio developed a new Schéma directeur d'aménagement (Opération Campus) to improve the connections with the surrounding areas and to search, after 50 years, to open up the campus to outdoor users. The project would have been aimed to expand the central axis designed by the architect Peter Ahrends in 1990, when a planning competition was organized to integrate the campus into the city. Within 2016 new buildings will be realized along the central axis (today used as parking). At the beginning of the axis, right by the main entry of the campus, is planned an architectural project for the Maison de l'Université, a building that will welcome offices and relationship spaces.

As it could be noticed after a careful analysis of the site, on the whole there aren't connections among the university buildings, even if each one works on its own. Until now the buildings are physically in the same site but they are very far from each other. While the buildings are organized according to an orthogonal plot, the pedestrian ways are often curvilinear and convoluted; this difference, with the density and homogeneity of vegetation, are the greatest causes of disorientation on the campus. Designing a new plot of ways according to that of buildings allow to reduce duration of transfer and to connect ways better than today, because they are irregular.



The way analyzed connects the banks of Isère to the traffic route that delimits the south side of the campus. In some points it becomes larger and it allows to realize some rest stops imagined as five gardens characterized by different materials, vegetation and atmosphere.

If we imagined to make the same for each part of the new plot, campus could really be considered as an urban park; you should move by bike or on foot but also stay and relax in a place where the vegetal component remains predominant. It has been designed a lighting project in order to live the campus also by night: artificial light completes the design of spaces.

The new plot has limits in the west area where there aren't interesting activities; a project to the Maison de l'Université has been designed in order to increase the main entry of the campus and to balance the differences between this area and the main square.



A lighting concept has been developed to organize it: if each lighting variation corresponds to a different perception of space, designing several ambiances brings people to new and changeable feelings. The three designed lighting ambiances (bain de lumière, bandes lumineuses, taches de lumière) remind those already existing on the campus. By several daylighting analysis it has been possible to verify that the interior space natural lighting level is sufficient to carry out occupants normal duties. At the same time the building energy requirements for the artificial light have been calculated.

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