

Maison de Rodolphe

A homeless shelter for families and individuals with dogs.

CLIENT

Maison de Rodolphe (Rodolphe's House)
endowment fund

TEAM

Patriarche Group:
Patriarche (architecture, Environmental Building
Quality [EBQ], and BIM)
Patriarche Ingénierie (general construction and
cost assessment)
Patriarche Creative (signage)

KEYPOINTS

Modular construction
Wood construction
Design concept can be replicated
Socially engaged project

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Low carbon building.

AWARDS

Lauréat des BOBAT WOOD Awards
Awarded the Trophée Bref Rhône-Alpes for Social
and Civic Innovation

The association Le Foyer Notre Dame des Sans-Abris helps socially isolated people - both men and women - and families who find themselves in great difficulty. Brainchild of Alain Mérieux (founder of BioMérieux), this architectural project represented a major commitment to social engagement for the firm. The aim was to put in place an architecture and appropriate measures that would enable each person being accommodated, and passing through the shelter, to rebuild their lives and find their place in our society.

The concept design of the sustainably designed and aesthetically pleasing looking buildings can be replicated easily in other cities. The buildings are built using a wooden post-and-beam structure, into which factory-assembled, 13-square-metre sided boxes are inserted and fixed in place. It offers emergency accommodation as well as reintegration, care, hygiene, and social support services, and vocational assistance.



Typology	Construction cost	Status
Housing and graphic design	3.3 M€	Delivered 2014
Surface area	Location	Allocation mode
1,942 m² of floorspace	Lyon, France	Private project management

Intentions

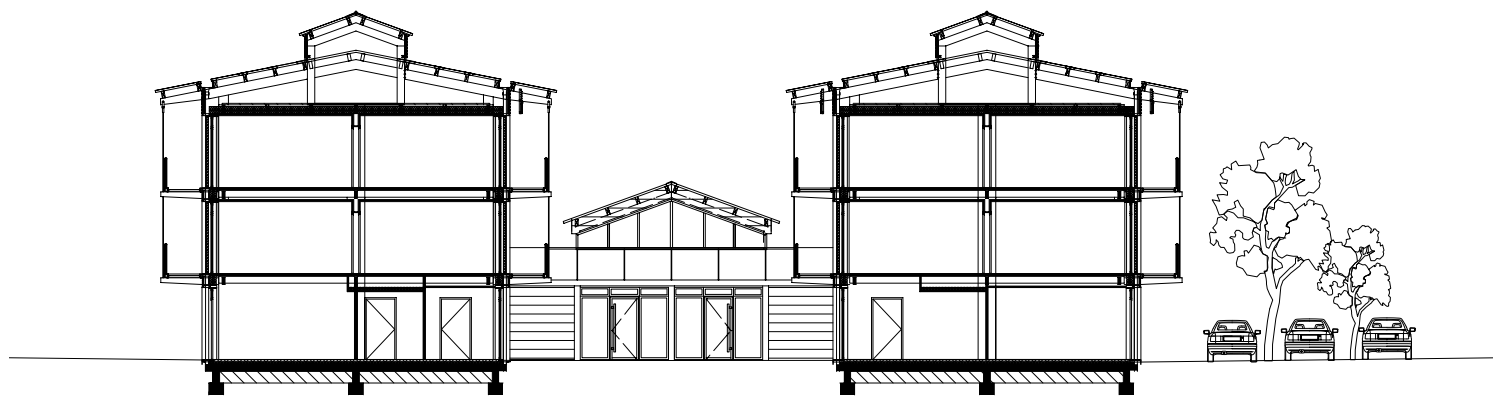
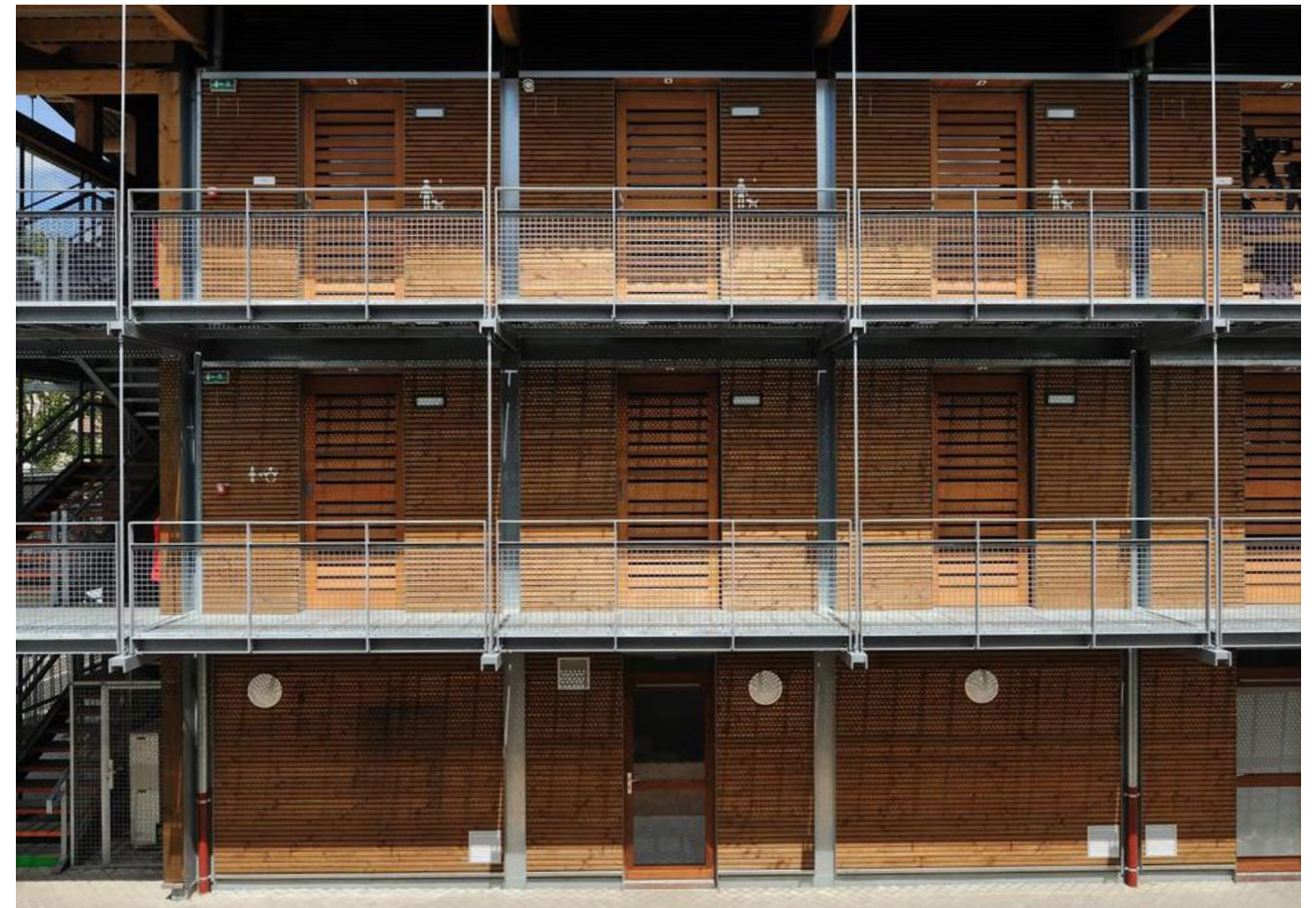
Architecturally, the idea behind the construction of the Maison de Rodolphe was to design a building which, while in line with sustainable development, was aesthetically pleasing and could be reproduced in different cities, taking into account the urban and social environment of the area in which it is located

From a functional point of view, and in order to accommodate a mixed public, it was necessary to design buildings that could be organised in a modular and evolving way for accommodation, reception and support services as well as for living spaces.

The project is therefore composed of four buildings: two buildings for accommodation, a third for community life and a fourth for people accompanied by their dogs.

Wood, the predominant material of the building, was chosen for its warmth. It is complemented by bright colours in the boxes, which bring light and cheerfulness to the different spaces.

A sustainable,
aesthetic building that
can be replicated in
several cities.



Functional organisation

The two main buildings, perpendicular to the street, have two floors. Separated by a small square, they are dedicated to accommodation and offices (orientation services, infirmary, counselling area, veterinary dispensary, etc.).

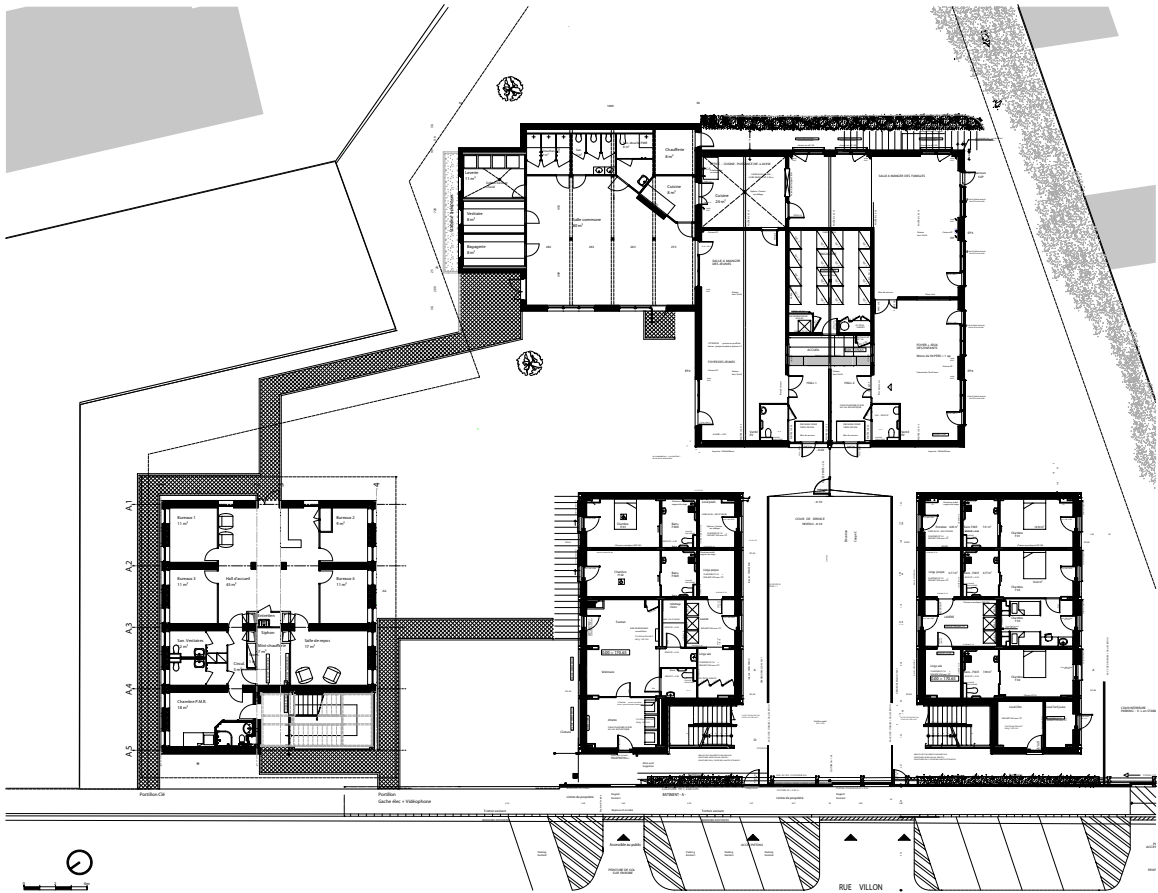
The building for people accompanied by their dogs has ten individual rooms of 13 m² each, fully furnished. The building dedicated to families is organised in rooms of two to three people which can communicate with each other, for couples and their children. The sanitary areas are grouped by living units and designed to be used also by families with children of all ages.

A building on the ground floor is to be used for reception and common areas. These convivial but distinct communal areas, depending on the population, were designed to animate and facilitate living conditions in la Maison de Rodolphe. There are separate entrances and reception areas, the kitchen, the dining rooms, the television rooms and the children's playroom...

The kennel, an important part of la Maison de Rodolphe, is a covered building with ten closed boxes fitted out to receive the dogs in the best conditions.

A garden has been laid out, as well as a vegetable garden for the residents.

The project consists of several buildings, each with different functions: accommodation for families, accommodation for people with their dogs, community life and administration.



Modular construction

La Maison de Rodolphe is made up of housing units built in 3D. These units are fully equipped and furnished before they arrive on site.

For this building, a wooden prototype was designed by the agency and produced by the company Sorec and Cobs Gipen. The concept is functional, aesthetic, meets environmental criteria (equivalent to the low-energy building standard) and, above all, can be reproduced in other cities.

For la Maison de Rodolphe, the buildings are constructed thanks to a wooden post and beam structure into which three-dimensional boxes of 15m², assembled in the factory, are then inserted and connected to the pre-arranged networks. These modules can also be connected to each other, thus increasing the living area. This construction process can be adapted to other accommodation functions (student accommodation, tourism) and to all types of sites.

The design is innovative in several ways. First of all, its construction method is made up of housing units built in 3D in a workshop. These units are fully equipped and furnished before arriving on site. They are then housed in a wooden docking station that is assembled on site.

This structure, like a huge shelf, supports the roof and contains all the technical equipment such as air handling units, heat pumps, etc.

The advantage of this construction method is its speed of assembly because, while the housing is being assembled and equipped in the workshop, the reception structure is prefabricated and the whole unit is assembled on site. All that remains to be done is to connect the fluid networks that supply the structure.

The second point is the industrial design process which is not usual in architecture. Here, we worked together with companies and manufacturers. This mode of design requires great anticipation and rigour in view of the speed of assembly. When orders are launched, it is difficult to go back and make changes.

In a traditional building site, the various trades intervene one after the other and the choices or details are settled throughout the building site. Here, everything has to be assembled in parallel on site.

The big difference for the client is the obligation to see what is going to be built on the plan and not on site. When everything arrives, it is difficult to add or change anything.





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