

NTN-SNR

Construction of the new European headquarters, including office spaces and laboratories.

CLIENT

NTN-SNR ROULEMENTS

TEAM

Patriarche (Architecture, Interior Architecture, Space planning, MEP Engineering, EBQ, Cost, BIM, Urban Planning, Landscape, Graphic Design)
Myah | Patriarche (Main interior fit-out contractor)
Credits: ©Patriarche

KEYPOINTS

Phasing.
Masterplan.
Rehabilitation on occupied site.
Flow management.

SUSTAINABILITY

BREEAM label: VERY GOOD.
BBCA label.
RE 2025.
Bioclimatic building.
Energy and rainwater management.
Acoustic comfort.
Air quality.
Low-nuisance construction site.
Photovoltaic panels.

NTN-SNR, a global leader in bearings, transmission seals, and linear modules, designs, develops, and industrializes its products. Our teams were commissioned to design their new European headquarters, located at the entrance to Annecy on their historic site. This project reinforces the group's modernization strategy by enhancing performance, entrepreneurial spirit, and interdepartmental collaboration.

The project unfolded in several phases. First, it required a reconfiguration of the industrial site, including the integration of collective housing on part of the land. A meticulous master plan was developed to reconnect the site with the surrounding urban fabric and ensure a harmonious landscape continuity with the adjacent green corridor.

The headquarters, co-designed with NTN's teams to best reflect new ways of working, features a simple, compact, and durable volume, addressing the challenges of efficiency and resilience.

The interior design concept was primarily driven by the desire to improve communication, encourage serendipity and knowledge sharing, provide optimal quality of work life for users, and foster innovation in a “start-up” spirit—connecting teams while maintaining a strong customer-centric culture.



Typology	Construction cost	Status
R&D Laboratories, Offices, Industry, Refurbishment	28,5 M€	On going
GFA	Location	Attribution mode
10 000 m²	Annecy, France	Project management (MOE)

Architectural intentions

The project aims to transform the site into a welcoming innovation building, a center that fosters collaborative intelligence at every stage of the production process. A genuine showcase site for the brand, it embodies proximity and cohesion, just like NTN Europe's DNA.

With its imposing size, the building is a strong landmark in the surrounding urban fabric. Visible from on the boulevard de la rocade, at Annecy's southwestern gateway, the new head office acts as a real signal at the entrance to the city.

A simple and unique object

Throughout the project, simplicity guided the architectural intention. Half the surface area of the complex is dedicated to workspaces, and the other half is made up of exchange areas designed to encourage co-activity, and the circulation of people, information and projects.

The main functions are organized by floor, making them simple, fluid and clear:

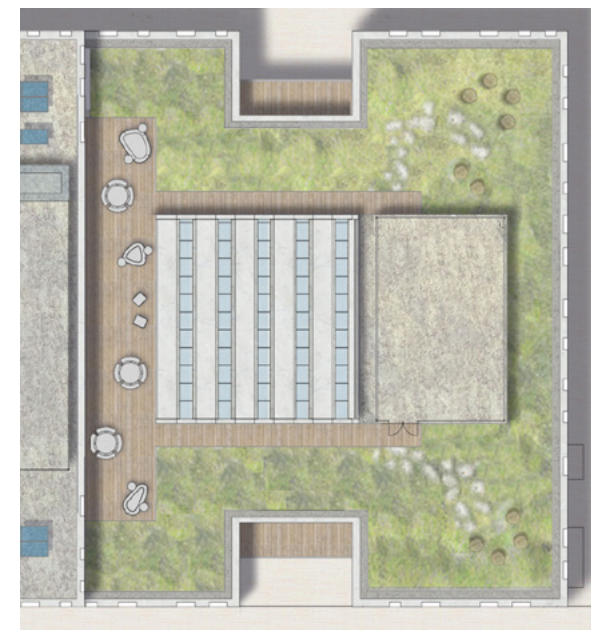
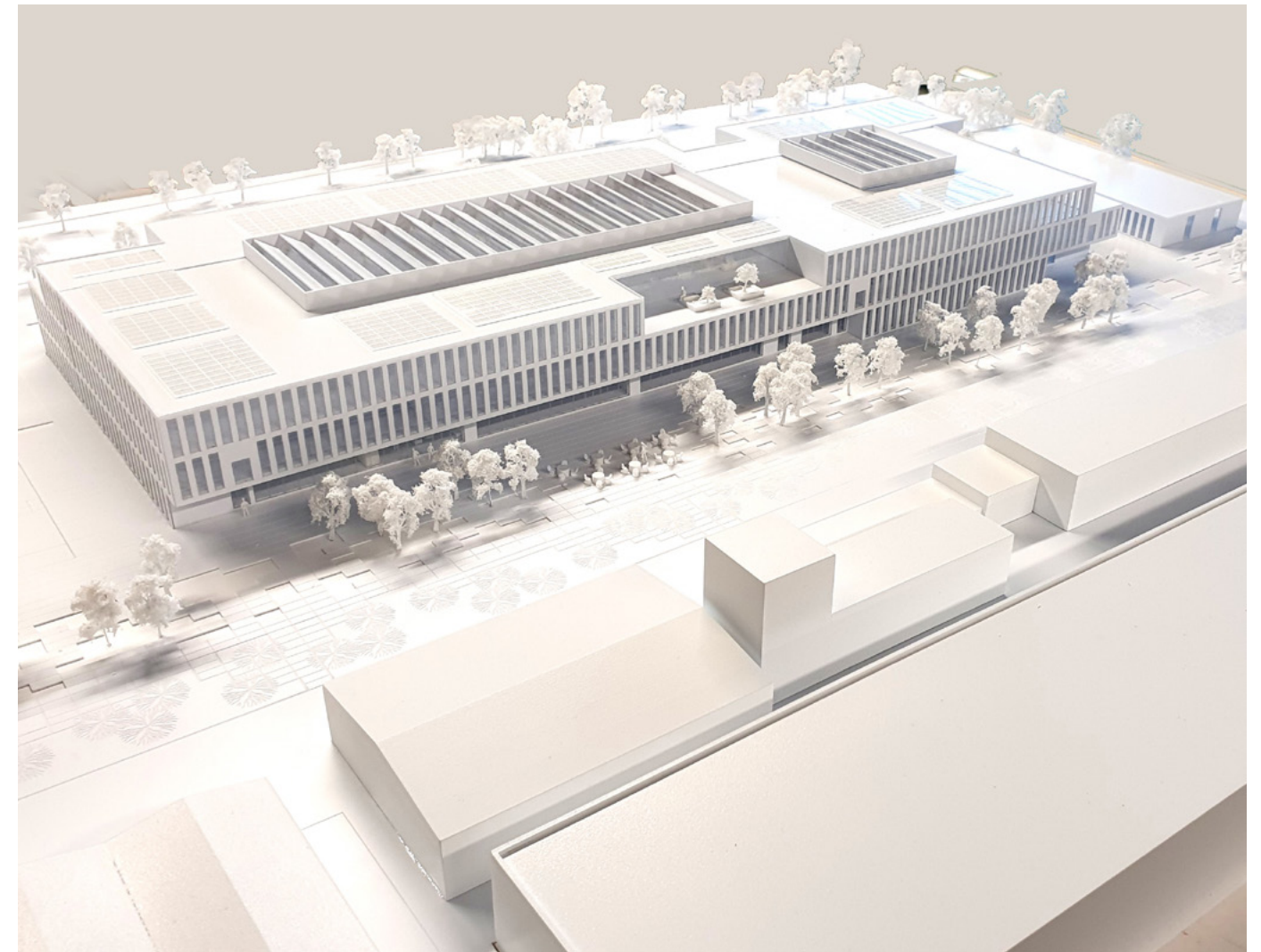
- The ground floor houses many of the common functions of the site's employees and forms the interface between the public space and the interior spaces. The main entrance is immediately identifiable from the new entrance to the site. The second floor is dedicated to the Business Units, while the second houses the entire Headquarter.

A bioclimatic and responsible design

In keeping with the Group's identity and values, the new head office was designed to be bioclimatic.

As part of our drive to use our products more efficiently energy-efficient, it features an ensemble made largely of wood, thanks to its many advantages: excellent thermal insulation, warm aesthetic appeal...

The shed roof, effective in maximizing natural light and ventilation, also underscores this ambition, reinforced by the installation of photovoltaic panels on the roof.



A peaceful, sustainable place

Particular attention has also been paid to outdoor spaces, with the deployment of a parking lot in favour of for soft mobility, designed to accommodate, among other things, bicycles and electric vehicles, and planted extensively to blend harmoniously into the environment. The floors will allow full rainwater recovery.

To help make the site a calmer environment, the building is also complemented by extensively planted outdoor spaces: on the top level of the collaborative hall, wide terraces offer privileged views over the city and beyond to the surrounding Bauges and Aravis massifs. These are complemented by a rooftop whose landscaping also helps to maintain biodiversity and reduce the heat island.

The central mall is planted with evergreen perennials, of grasses in the lower stratum, and trees in upright and stemmed vines, which will preserve a high degree of transparency for the pedestrian's eye while evoking the ambience of the landscape undergrowth.

Planning and NWOW

Efficiency

Ongoing developments in the service and technology sectors are numerous, and programs are evolving too: a logistics building needs to be able to be transformed into a production plant, a factory into offices, etc. The design of spaces needs to integrate these future developments as far as possible, so that those who require them can easily make the change.

The quest for flexibility, reconfigurability and even transformation of spaces is now an architectural prerequisite, imposing new construction templates.

Ambience and materials

In line with the architectural concept, the interior ambience is bright, sober and welcoming. Each space is designed to encourage collaboration, comfort and concentration.

The main materials used throughout the project are wood (oak look), light shades and touches of blue in meeting rooms and furniture, for example.

The idea is to define a fluid interior layout that promotes positive team mobility through dynamic, harmonious spaces.



New Ways of Working

NWOW involves a new way of organizing work, combining flexibility in time and space, a multitude of work organisation methods (team-based, semi-autonomous, virtual) and management (project-based, goal-based). Its implementation is facilitated by the deployment of information and communication technologies and is at the heart of a particular vision of the company.

In response to these changes, the physical space we are proposing for this project stimulates work practices flexibility and the ability to deploy all of today's to deploy all current and future technologies, communication technologies. This attention to detail is underpinned by the choice of appropriate, tailor-made furniture.

Space planning

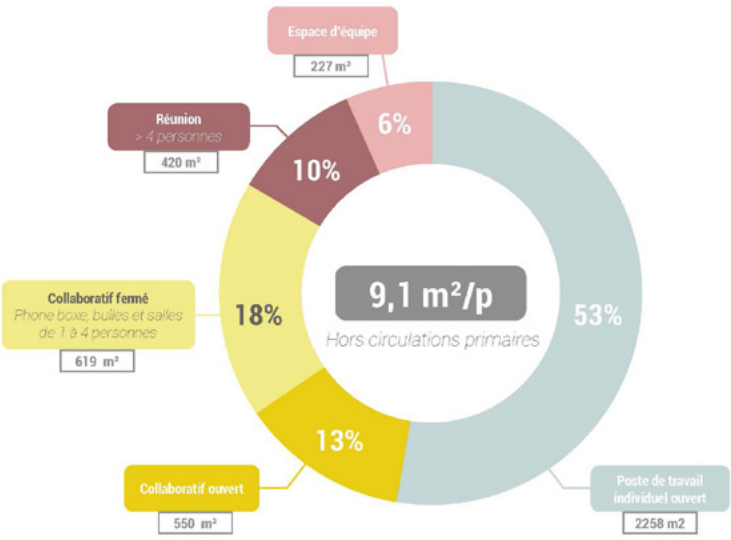
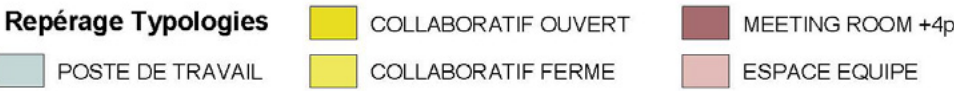
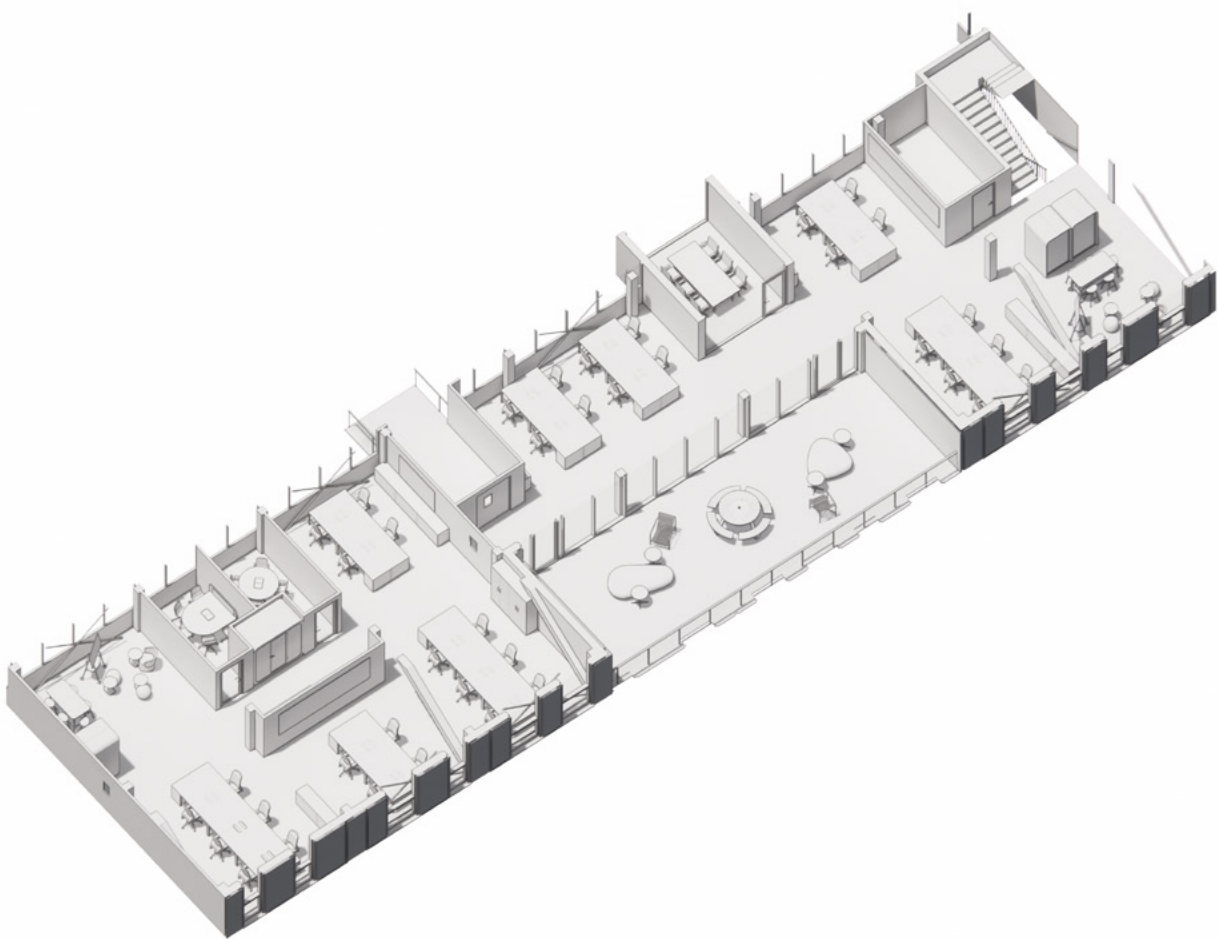
A methodology promoting co-design

Space planning is above all the result of a process of exchange with NTN. The first step was to build a coherent whole on the scale of the building, by focusing on the articulation of services and interactions between different professions. Numerous workshops were then held to ensure that the needs and uses of each area were met as closely as possible.

All the commercial spaces, arranged along the facades, are organized in a ring around a collaborative hall bathed in zenithal light.

This is the living heart of the project, housing shared and common spaces that encourage informal cross-functional exchanges, the foundation of corporate cohesion.

Particular attention is paid to the interior layout of the spaces, to facilitate interaction and encourage cohesion.



Efficient workspaces...

All office spaces offer the same types of services and postures. Micro-architectures bring together local collaborative spaces, individual storage, photocopying... Complemented by a flex-of-fice organization and a large number of walk-through workstations, these devices, deployed in a homogeneous manner, help to blur the boundaries between areas and, like communicating vessels, to absorb the company's future developments.

... in the service of user well-being

Connected to a collaborative hall at the heart of the building, workspaces are complemented by a company restaurant, a cafeteria and a concierge service, with the aim of improving daily life and contributing to users' well-being at work. On the upper floor, an atrium reinforces these relaxation areas, with large seating areas designed for coffee breaks or informal presentations.

Smart building

The spatial and technical architecture is designed to be compatible with the integration of communicating and intelligent solutions. All this with the greatest possible flexibility and scalability.

The development of sensors and communicating systems, and their interconnections, now make it possible to have a better real-time view of a building's behavior and uses, and to improve its operation and energy consumption. They also make building use easier and more fluid. In our vision of architecture, these technological advances must first and foremost serve comfort and efficiency in the workplace, whether for NTN-SNR employees, internal or external, visitors, operations and maintenance personnel, etc. Human beings must remain at the heart of our concerns, all the more so when it comes to technological innovations.

Putting people first

Improve the quality of life at work and employee safety, reinforce the feeling of belonging, facilitate day-to-day use, thanks to a few simple systems:

- Visitor badge management (anticipation of visits, elimination of waiting times, security)
- Employee badge management (security and rights)
- Fire safety system implemented in all buildings
- Parking: installation of electric vehicle recharging stations and electrical outlets in bicycle rooms
- Information screens: communication on the life of the company

Building technical systems

- A wired and wireless computer network
- A multi-business BMS system managing the lighting and ventilation functions of the openspaces, offices and meeting rooms
- A communicating security system
- A building operating system : BOS Building Operating System
- Optimization of the building's energy consumption through the use of dimmable LED luminaires controlled by multi-business line sensors and BMS
- Communicating electricity and heat meter readings of the building's energy consumption to be forwarded to the client's energy management software (Cactus).





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