

Judicial Court of Nanterre

Energy renovation of the Judicial Court of Nanterre.

CLIENT

Ministry of Justice

TEAM

Léon Grosse (Lead contractor)
Patriarche (Architecture, Urban, Environmental management, BIM, Engineering, MEP, Cost assessment)
Partners:
Les Eclaireurs (lighting design, illumination)

Credits:
Photos ©Nicolas Grosmond

KEYPOINTS

Wogenscky Architecture.
Respect for the original design lines.
Renovation.
User comfort.
Landscaped patio.
Construction work on a occupied site.

SUSTAINABILITY

Thermal insulation of façades and roofs.
Improved summer comfort.
Daylight autonomy.
Acoustic performance improvement.

Designed around fifty years ago by André Wogenscky, a long-time collaborator and disciple of Le Corbusier, the Nanterre High Court is a landmark of emblematic architecture, characterized by clean lines and a strong identity. In light of recent regulatory changes, environmental challenges, and the growing needs of users, this architectural work required an update as part of the national **France Relance** program, which supports the renovation of public buildings to meet contemporary standards.

The goal of this project is to position the Nanterre High Court within a sustainable trajectory for the next 20 years, while preserving Wogenscky's original architectural intent and meeting today's technical and functional expectations.

For the exterior façades, our approach is discreet and respectful, aiming to preserve the visual coherence of the building and its integration within the administrative complex, which together form a unified whole. Every design choice has been guided by the desire to maintain a faithful reading of the building, while delivering significant improvements in energy efficiency, environmental performance, user comfort, and the overall quality of interior spaces.



Typology Equipment, Renovation	Construction cost 22.5 M€	Status Delivered in 2025
GFA 16,000 m² of GFA (20,000 m² including LTS levels and basements)	Location Nanterre, France	Project delivery Design and build

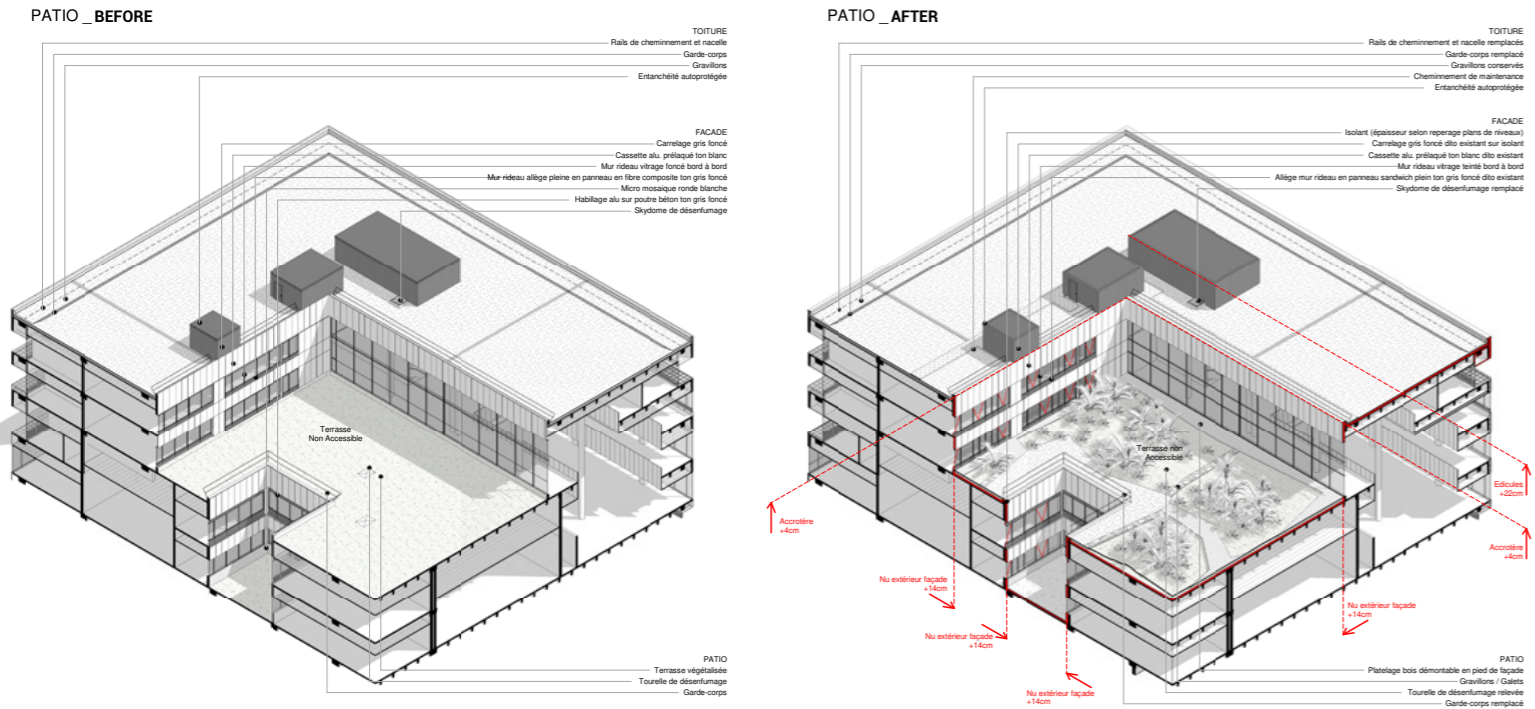
A lush landscape patio

The landscape design of the patio draws inspiration from the distinctive style of Roberto Burle Marx, the Brazilian painter and landscape architect renowned for introducing abstract art into garden design. His signature organic plant forms are reinterpreted here using straight lines, in harmony with the architecture of the courthouse.

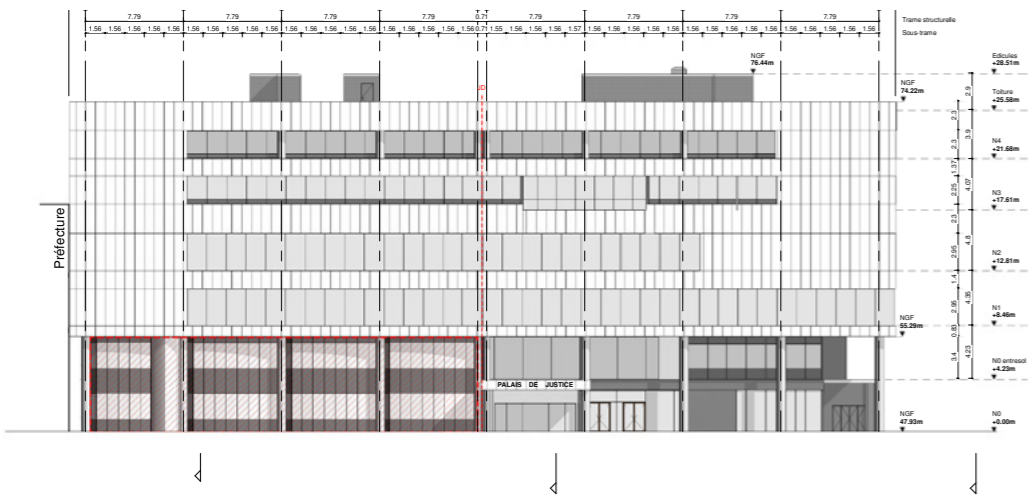
The tropical vegetation arranged in islands—a hallmark of his work—has been replaced with a plant palette adapted to the local climate, emphasizing simplicity and sustainability. The planted areas, framed by contemporary lines, are bordered by wooden walkways designed to facilitate maintenance.

Visible from offices, workspaces, and the main hall, this garden offers a soothing and ever-changing landscape, enriching the daily experience of both occupants and visitors.

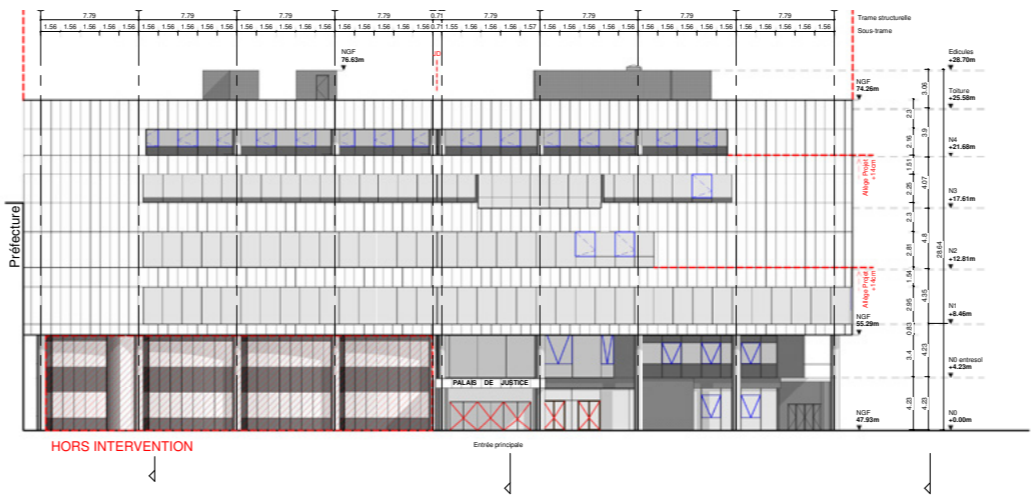
A true contemporary oasis, nestled in a smooth white setting, designed to offer a pleasant environment and blend harmoniously into the overall architecture of the building.



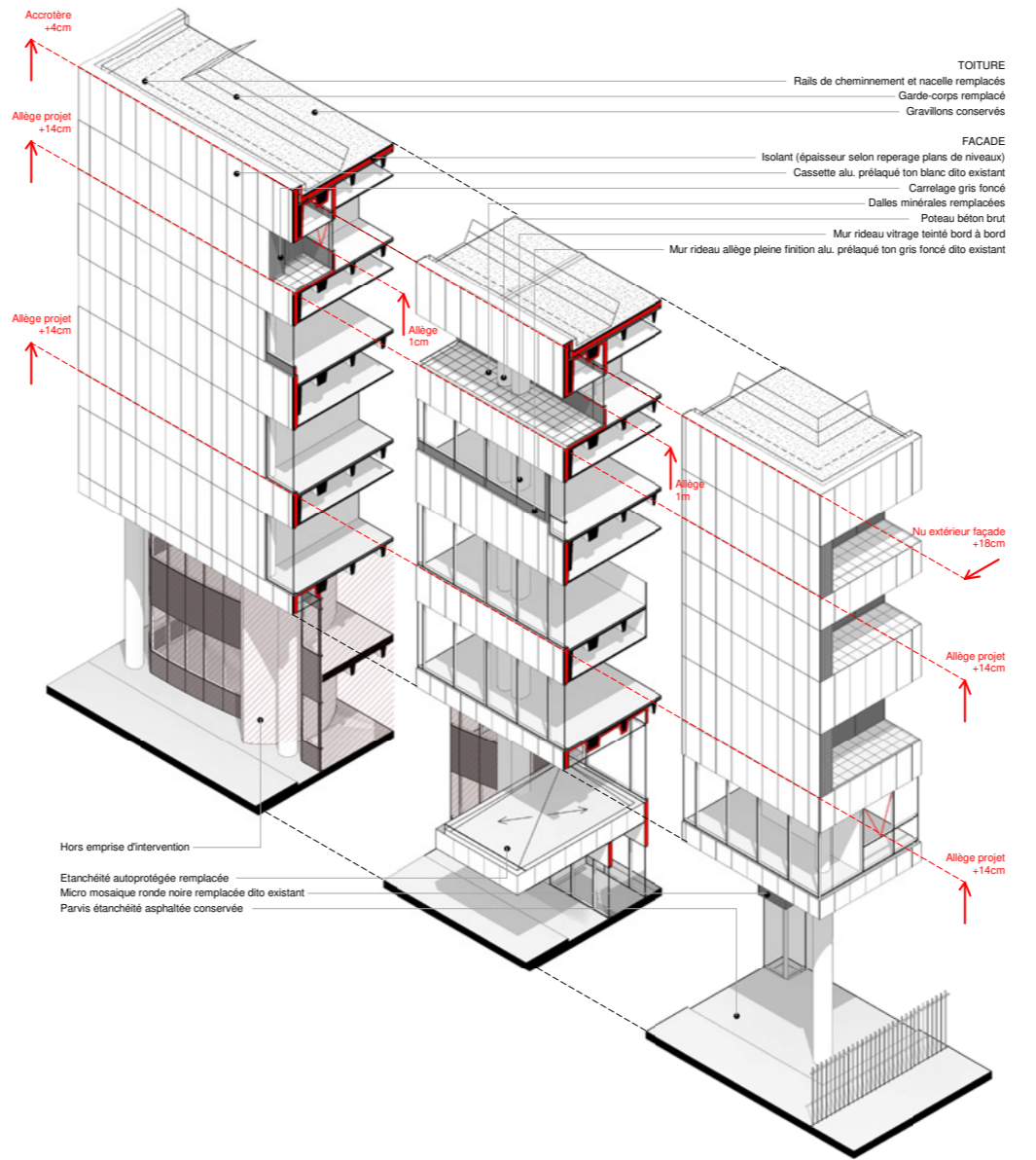
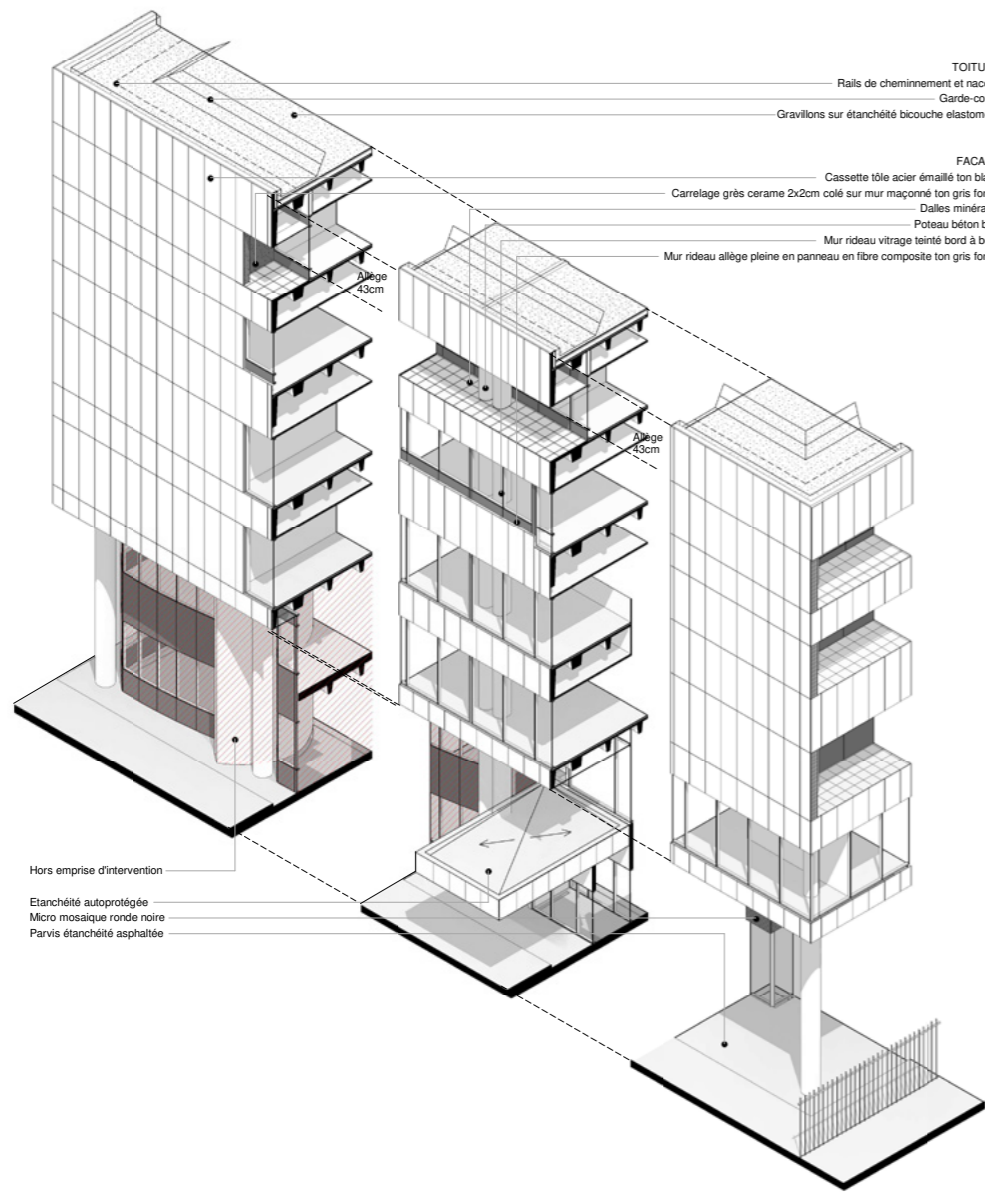
Façades renovation



FACADE SUD-OUEST _ BEFORE



FACADE SUD-OUEST _ AFTER



The main objective is to preserve the schematic reading of the building while improving its comfort and performance.

An insulating envelope that respects the original architecture

The façade renovation project aims to preserve the fundamental elements of the original architectural concept while meeting current thermal and energy performance standards. Our intervention is intended to be discreet, maintaining the building's identity and its integration into the urban fabric.

Several key principles of the original architecture have been carefully preserved:

- Bichromy: the black-and-white contrast, reflecting the interplay of void and solid, remains true to the original spirit.
- Volume composition: the recessed base at ground and mezzanine levels continues to serve as a visual support for the upper parallelepiped volume.
- Façade rhythm: the alternating black and white bands, expressed through tinted glazing and recessed glass strips, remains unchanged.
- Façade flatness: the 8 cm offset between the enamelled cladding panels and the exterior glazing is preserved to maintain the building's smooth appearance.
- Modulor proportions: the proportions defined by Le Corbusier are respected as much as possible in the modifications made.
- Relationship with the Préfecture: the horizontal lines and color palette of the façades ensure continuity with the neighboring buildings.
- Façade materials: the detailing and arrangement of materials remain faithful to the original design.



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MARCH 2022 Beginning of the operations	JUNE 2022 Milestone: cleared building works declaration	2022 - 2024 Works carried out in 4 phases of 6 months each (one per façade).	2025 Delivery of the project
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