

Pilot training center

Construction of an air force pilot training center for A330-MRTT aircraft.

CLIENT

Esid

TEAM

Patriarche (Architecture, MEP Engineering, EBQ, Cost)
Partners:
Gamba
Credits:
Photos: ©Romuald Nicolas

KEYPOINTS

Air base.
Patio.
Shade canopy.
Mediterranean garden.

To support the transformation and modernisation of Base Aérienne 125 Istres Charles Monier, our teams were commissioned to design the new training centre, which will house MRTT* flight simulators. A strategic pillar of air transit, this large-scale base is a unique site steeped in history, at the heart of the Army's operational activities.

The challenges of the sector, the climatic conditions and the needs of the teams had a decisive influence on the way in which the project was conceived. The project houses simulator rooms, school-type training rooms and administrative offices, and is in keeping with the industrial and technical language of the buildings already on the base.

This infrastructure marks an important step in the development of the base, bringing together in a single location all the training resources designed to meet the needs of our customers. all the training resources of 31 Strategic Airlift and Refuelling Squadron (EARTS) in a single location.

*Multi Role Tanker Transport



Typology	Construction cost	Status
Education	6.5 M€	Delivery 2022
GFA	Location	Project delivery
3 377 m²	Istres, France	Design and production

Intentions

The project is built around a large patio planted with local Mediterranean species, sheltered under a vast shade canopy.

Overhung by a large canopy to protect it from the sun's rays, the project features a simple, easy-to-understand layout centred around a bright blue patio that serves the main functions. This structure also allows for a fluid flow of traffic that is conducive to exchanges and concentration.

Summer comfort

Light, which contrasts greatly in this region, was also an essential element in the design and use of the building. The relationship between the inside and outside is modulated by different volumes and openings. In contrast to the exterior façades, those of the patio are largely glazed and open onto the interior garden. Taking advantage of the north-westerly wind blowing through the shade, the windows provide natural cooling for the training centre premises. The patio's vegetation also provides a welcome microclimate, and the air circulating from facade to facade is naturally charged with refreshing humidity.

The reinforced concrete structure and honeycomb slabs left untouched contribute to the building's good inertia and night-time cooling. A system of inaccessible windows at the top of the building provides natural ventilation from façade to façade. This bioclimatic system is a source of energy savings and contributes to the comfort felt by occupants.

The garden

The interior garden is sober and features Mediterranean species such as pine, cypress and olive, as well as numerous aromatic plants. This dry garden allows for rational management of water resources.

Interior spaces

The layout is simple and easy to understand at a glance; the building's main functions are organized around the patio. The wide corridors provide a clear, fluid flow of movement, conducive to exchanges and concentration for the pilots who come to train.





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