



Henning Larsen’s hybrid timber design for NEOMA Business School Campus reaches structural completion

Overlooking the canal in Reims, the new 35,000 m² campus – opening in 2026 - will welcome 4,700 students into a space that combines timber, daylight, and greenery to promote well-being, learning, and contribute to the regeneration of the surrounding neighborhood.

Every space is a learning space

Henning Larsen’s design for NEOMA Business School’s new campus has reached a major milestone with the completion of its structural works. The project embodies a human-centered approach to higher education, blending indoor and outdoor spaces, social and private areas, and biophilic design principles to support the health and well-being of students and staff.

The project team includes Patriarche, Egis, Elioth, Etamine, Acoustb and Creafactory, reflecting NEOMA’s commitment to collaboration and interdisciplinary expertise.

Reviving Port Colbert: a campus rooted in history

Located west of central Reims, the campus sits in Port Colbert, a former industrial neighborhood undergoing transformation. Once home to breweries, aluminum workshops, and foundries, the area has recently attracted small businesses and pop-up events, reactivating its streets and public spaces.

“The campus design draws inspiration from the local entrepreneurial energy in Port Colbert,” explains Søren Øllgaard, Design Director, Henning Larsen. “It conveys the sense that learning can happen anywhere, inviting students and the community to take ownership of their environment.”

The project aims to revitalize the district while preserving its industrial heritage, creating a campus that is contemporary yet respectful of its history.

Promoting well-being through nature and light

Designed with a mix of scales, social and private spaces, comfortable microclimates, generous daylight, and access to nature, the campus supports an optimal learning environment.

The exposed central timber structure forms a stepped green landscape connecting indoor and outdoor spaces, linking the building to the nearby canal and surrounding parks. Green courtyards, planted alleys, and landscaped terraces create outdoor settings where campus life can flourish.

“This project offers a strong visual identity, making the campus immediately recognizable,” says Delphine Manceau, Dean of NEOMA Business School. “The large central hall places students at the heart of the building, while timber and glass create a welcoming atmosphere flooded with natural light. Easy-access green spaces are integrated throughout the campus.”

The campus’s exterior spaces — including the forest patio, planted terraces, yards, and bridges — total 7,900 m², or 22% of the built area, and are accessible from all levels of the building.

Timber construction and sustainability

The campus will house 105 classrooms, two amphitheatres, and a 750-seat modular auditorium. Timber is used for the structural frame, cladding and façades — reducing embodied carbon and improving the learning environment for students.

Aligned with NEOMA’s environmental commitments, the campus aims to achieve LEED, WELL, and E+C certifications. Beyond energy efficiency, the design emphasizes daylight, biophilic connections, comfort, and healthy spaces for students and staff.

A milestone in construction

Structural work is now complete, with timber assemblies and concrete slabs showcasing craftsmanship and precision.

“It is a real pleasure to collaborate with Henning Larsen, for a client as ambitious as NEOMA. Architecture arises from the connection of many professions and stakeholders. It is through openness to others and to the world that the best projects are born. A strong design serving the environment and intensive use. A symbol for the students of tomorrow.” explains Damien Patriarche, Architect and CEO at Patriarche.

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Facts

Project name: NEOMA Business School

Client: NEOMA Business School

Location: Reims, France

Typology: Higher education

Construction Start: 2024

Expected Completion: 2026

Size: 35,000 sqm SDP

Certifications: LEED, WELL, E+C

Architect Lead: Henning Larsen

Local Architect: Patriarche

Landscape: Henning Larsen

General Engineer: Egis

Façade and sustainability: Elioth

Acoustics: Acoustb

Stage design: Creafactory

Ecologue: Etamine

About Henning Larsen. Founded in 1959 by Danish architect Henning Larsen, whose legacy of creativity and learning continues to shape the design approach today.

Working across architecture, landscape, urban design, and interiors, the international studio maintains acute attention to detail while never losing sight of the bigger picture. This holistic approach enables Henning Larsen to manifest lasting change by co-creating, innovating, and cultivating desirable futures through design.

With over 650 employees, the growing design community spans studios in eight countries including Denmark, the United States, Singapore, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Australia and Hong Kong.

About Patriarche. Patriarche is an augmented architecture agency.

The company stands for a unique model to program, design, build and operate innovative environment. Based on a renewed practice of architecture, this approach integrates all disciplines necessary for facilitating the emergence of increasingly conscious, responsible solutions within a long-term perspective. Through its diverse talent and international reach, the agency has the skills and services to imagine, design and animate spaces that foster engagement and cultivate enthusiasm.

About NEOMA Business School. NEOMA Business School proudly stakes its claim as an innovative 'Grande Ecole' institution of higher education. Guided by its strategic plan, NEOMA Business School is building the school of tomorrow and rethinking its practices in terms of the international scene, pedagogy, digital development and campus facilities. The school, with its three campuses in Reims, Rouen and Paris, offers a wide portfolio of programs from Bachelor and the master's in management to Executive Education, with over 9500 students. Its faculty has over 185 permanent members of the teaching staff, teachers and researchers, of whom more than 72% are international. NEOMA Business School has over 65,700 graduates based in 127 countries. Under its President, Michel-Edouard Leclerc, the School enjoys the status of Consular Higher Education Establishment (EESC in its French acronym).



Atrium, Sora



Forest patio, Sora



Terrace and timber pergola, Vivid Vision



Breakout spaces, Vivid Vision



Students' associations forum, Vivid Vision



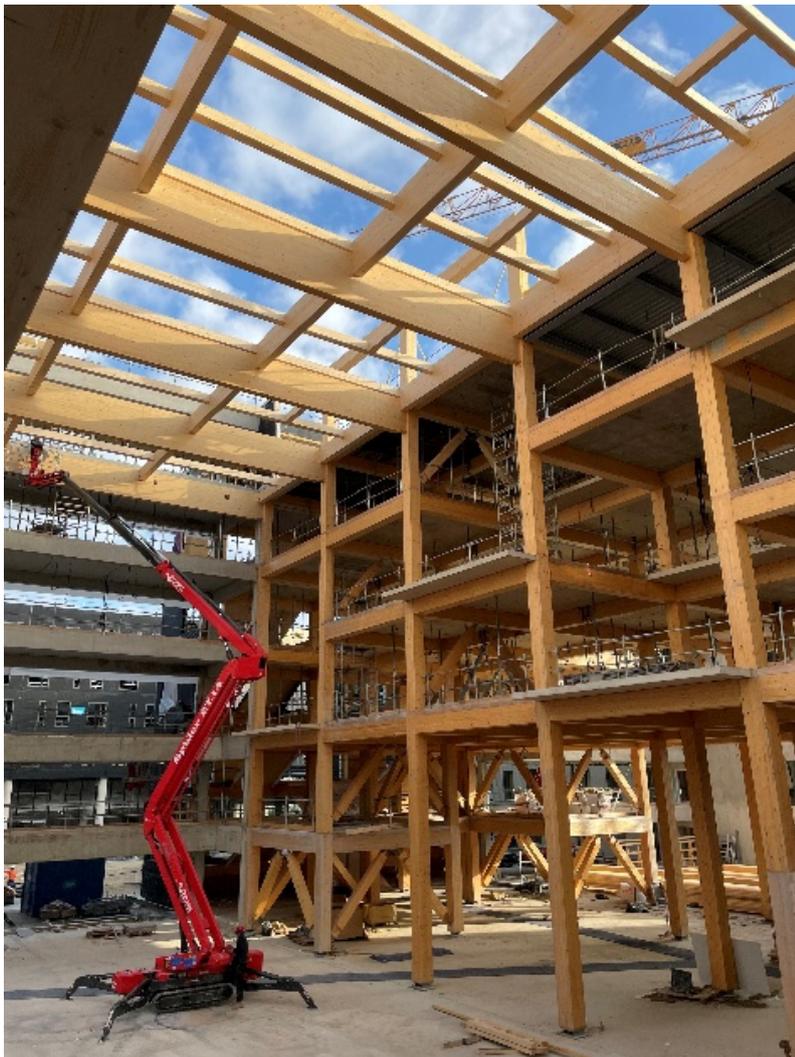
Vivid Vision



750-seat auditorium, Vivid Vision



Timber elements, Henning Larsen



Timber structure, NEOMA



International collaboration between Henning Larsen (Mihaela Munch-Andersen, Project Director, and Søren Ølgaard, Design Director) and NEOMA Business School (Sébastien Baillet, CEO of SASU Neoma) @NEOMA.