Fribourg, Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera/Svizra

theme

conurbation / site

programme / issues

screens 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

Population 32 000 conurbation 60 000

Nom du lieu

Montrevers

Surface de la zone d'étude 23 ha

Surface du site 2,8 ha

Theme

The challenge is that of reconciling neighbourhood life while harmonising the transition between a periphery, a historical centre, and a modern town.

Residential innovation must be centred on a wide range of housing that responds to a strong demand to live in the town.







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Conurbation

While Fribourg is undeniably attractive to tourists, the town must provide itself with a richer cultural infrastructure, and more varied housing. The town is battling against strong competition from Lausanne and Berne. Thinking on urban planning in the 1960s was essentially concentrated around development on greenfield sites and took almost no interest in redevelopment in the town centre. Today there is a new awareness, in professional, economic and political circles, that has placed it at the core of urban debate.

Site

The Montrevers site is close to one of the medieval entries into the towns and the remains of the ramparts. It is on the main road linking a motorway exit road and the heart of the town. The immediate environs are composed of housing blocks and various facilities separated from the parcel of land to be developed by the railway line. The link with the cultural town is cut by a small valley, at the end of which are several buildings housing a number of craft industries. The terrain is exceptionally well sited, on a south-facing hillside, overlooking the old town, dominated by its cathedral.







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Programme

A response must be found to the demand for different sorts of housing, and to the need to create innovative, transformable space, able to be easily adapted to needs, as well as to create a link between this new housing and the surrounding neighbourhood. The quality of the existing buildings should stimulate the construction of further housing all along this strip that overlooks the old town, with care being taken to incorporate this into the urban fabric.

Issues

functional : In its complex relationship with its illustrious past, faced with the prestige of its medieval heart, the town needs landmark projects that will assert its modernity, as much by the pertinence of their function as by their capacity to create an identity.

SOCial : The main issue here is to provide attractive housing that will retain the existing population as well as attracting new residents, particularly families.

perceptual: While the site itself unquestionably has great qualities, there is nonetheless a crucial lack of really attractive projects. An urban/architectural design concept must be found that leaves behind the "quiet, comfortable and on the edge of town" concept. A strong idea is required, one that can be held up as a symbol of a new lifestyle.













