The Pritzker Architecture Prize

2021 Laureates
Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal
France

Image Book

Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal

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The following pages contain images of and text about the architecture of Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal. On the pritzkerprize.com website, a selection of these photographs and drawings have been linked to high resolution images that may be used for printing or broadcast in relation to the announcement of Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal being named the 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureates. Photographs may not be reproduced for commercial or personal use without written consent from the photographers.

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Latapie House
1993

Floirac, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Latapie House was the architects' initial application of greenhouse technologies to design a larger, efficient residence, creating space for the clients' children to run and grow, on a modest budget. Through the use of retractable and transparent polycarbonate panels on the east-facing rear of the home, the communal areas of the residence gain significant space and flexibility of use, extending outdoors, and allowing natural light and air to circulate through the dwelling.

Latapie House
1993

Floirac, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Cap Ferret House
1998

Cap Ferret, France

Photo courtesy of Lacaton & Vassal

Built along Arcachon Bay on one of the last remaining undeveloped plots, this private residence demonstrates the architects' reverence for the pre-existing. It was built with the goal of minimal disruption to the natural environment. Rather than fell the 46 pine trees that comprised the site, the house was designed in and around the natural vegetation and raised on a grid of 12 micropiles. The elevated home features special openings that accommodate the movement and growth of the trees that intersect it, allowing its occupants to live among the vegetation and see through to the bay.

Cap Ferret House
1998

Cap Ferret, France

Photo courtesy of Lacaton & Vassal

Photo courtesy of Lacaton & Vassal

House in Bordeaux
1999

Bordeaux, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

This private residence takes the place of a former factory that operated without natural light. Portions of the roof were removed and replaced by transparent polycarbonate panels to create an indoor courtyard and distribute sunlight throughout the entire home. Transparency is echoed throughout thanks to retractable walls, generous windows and an open layout of the home, providing unrestricted views from the front through to the back of the residence.

École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes
2009

Nantes, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

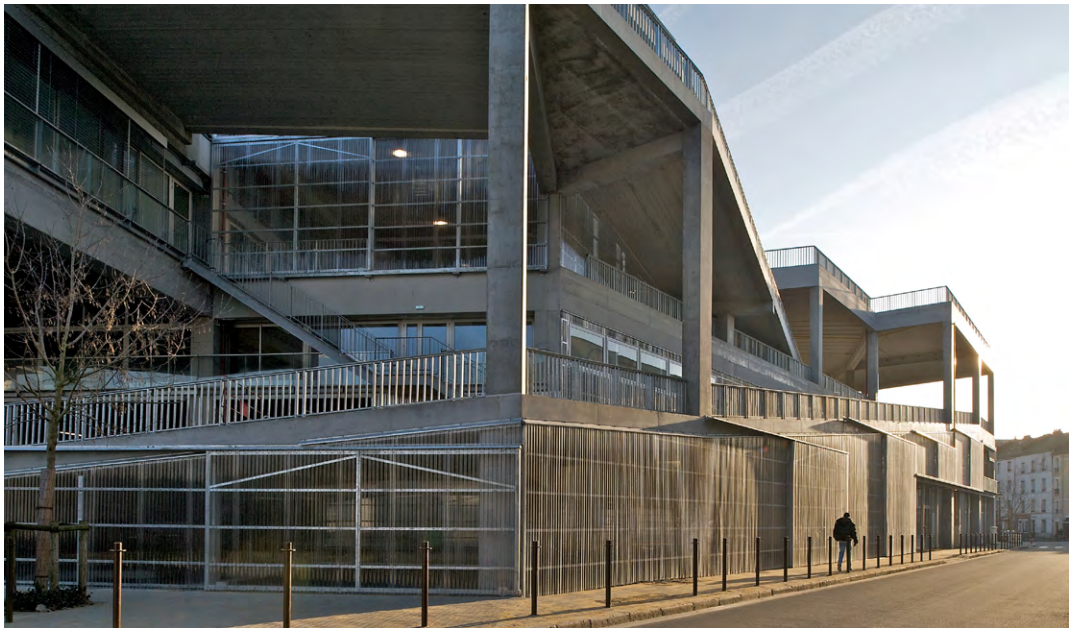

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

As with all of their projects, every nuance of this building and site was considered to accommodate the evolving teaching, learning and building needs of the growing student body. Located on the bank of the Loire River, this large-scale, double-height, three-story building features a concrete and steel frame, encased in retractable polycarbonate walls and sliding doors. Areas of various sizes exist throughout, and all spaces are deliberately unprescribed and adaptable. An auditorium can open to extend into the street and high ceilings create generous spaces necessary for construction workshops. Even the wide, sloping ramp that connects the ground to the 2,000 square meter functional rooftop is intended as a flexible learning and gathering place. While the brief stipulated 15,150 square meters of space, the final result was significantly expanded by the architects through the addition of 4,430 square meters of internal space and 5,305 square meters of functional outdoor space, and for the same budget.

École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes
2009

Nantes, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

53 Units, Low-Rise Apartments, Social Housing
2011

Saint-Nazaire, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

This low-income development consists of 53 units organized in a series of three-story buildings, each with six apartments. The units include private gardens for each ground-floor residence and balconies or winter gardens on those of the upper floors. The architects' use of transparent, retractable polycarbonate panels and insulating thermal curtains throughout the interior rooms create comfortable environments full of light that are also ecologically and economically responsible.

53 Units, Low-Rise Apartments, Social Housing
2011

Saint-Nazaire, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, 53 Units, Low-Rise Apartments, Social Housing, 2011, Saint-Nazaire, France

Transformation of 100 Units, Tour Bois le Prêtre, Social Housing (with Frédéric Druot)
2011

Paris, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Originally built in the 1960s, during an era of large-scale social housing construction, the Tour Bois le Prêtre was in dire need of infrastructure, plumbing, ventilation and electrical upgrades. Lacaton and Vassal rejected the city's plans to demolish the 17-story, 96-unit building, and instead modified it. The architects increased the interior square footage of every unit by removing the original facade, extending the footprint of the building, and enclosing it with a new self-supporting facade. As a result, previously constrained living rooms now extend into terraces and flexible space featuring large windows for unrestricted views of the city. Residents were not displaced during the construction and a fixed rent was negotiated by the architects, thus reimagining not only the aesthetic of social housing, but also the intention and possibilities of such communities.

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, Transformation of 100 Units, Tour Bois le Prêtre, Social Housing (with Frédéric Druot), 2011, Paris, France

Site for Contemporary Creation, Phase 2, Palais de Tokyo
2012

Paris, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

The architects' second phase of development for Palais de Tokyo took place one decade after their initial restoration of the space in 2002. Drawing inspiration from the idea that this is a museum that "visitors can make their own", they increased the interior by 20,000 square meters, in part by creating new underground space, and assured that every area of the building was reserved for the user experience. Retreating from white cube galleries and guided pathways that are characteristic of many contemporary art museums, the architects instead created voluminous unfinished spaces. These spaces allow artists and curators to create free-flowing exhibitions for all mediums of art within a range of physical environments, from dark and cavernous to transparent and sunlit, that encourage visitors to linger late into the evening.

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, Site for Contemporary Creation, Phase 2, Palais de Tokyo, 2012, Paris, France

Site for Contemporary Creation, Phase 2, Palais de Tokyo
2012

Paris, France

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The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, Site for Contemporary Creation, Phase 2, Palais de Tokyo, 2012, Paris, France

129 Units, Ourcq-Juarès Student and Social Housing
2013

Paris, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Situated on the outskirts of Paris along the Canal de l'Ourcq and next to La Petite Ceinture, an obsolete railway, this mixed-use building includes 98 student apartments, 30 residences, an assisted-living facility, and three commercial spaces. Each residential unit features a balcony or winter garden and the assisted-care residents share a ground-floor outdoor garden space. While the occupants range in family composition and demographics, the overall goals of resource and energy conservation are achieved through the careful siting and layout of the buildings along with design features in harmony with the climate and light.

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, 129 Units, Ourcq-Juarès Student and Social Housing, 2013, Paris, France

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The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, 129 Units, Ourcq-Juarès Student and Social Housing, 2013, Paris, France

FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais
2013

Dunkerque, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

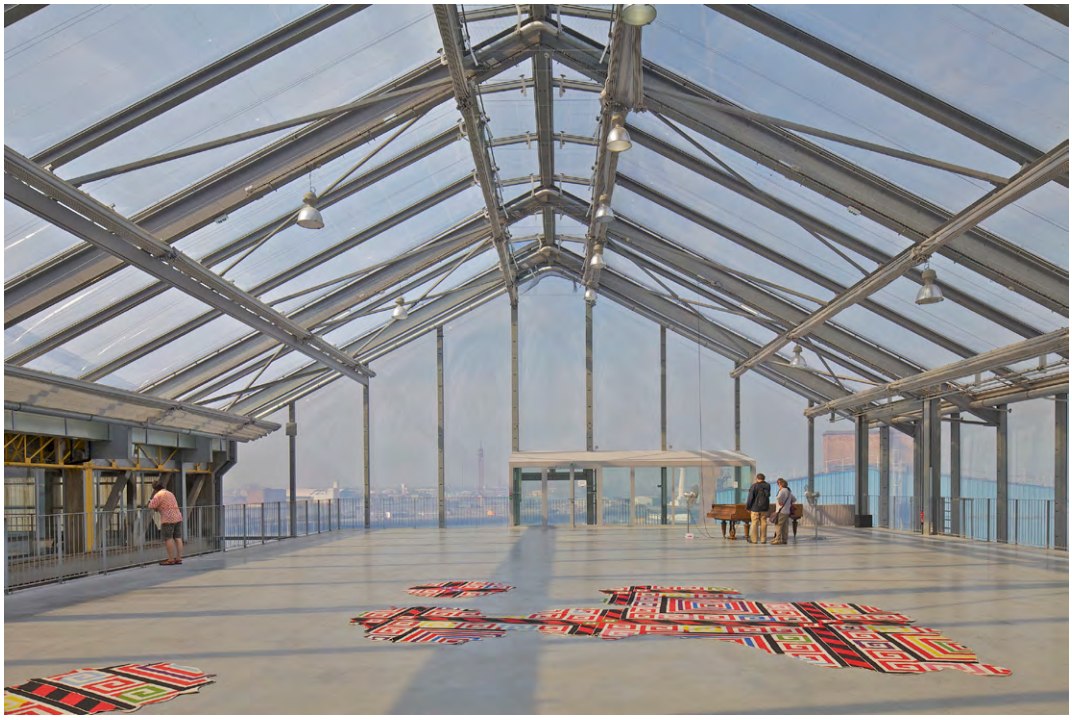

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Rather than demolishing Atelier de Préfabrication no. 2 (AP2), a postwar shipbuilding facility at the shoreline of a waterfront redevelopment project, the architects chose to erect a second building, identical in shape and size to the first. With transparent, prefabricated materials, it provides unhindered views through the new to the old. The original landmark, designated for flexible and changing public programming, and the newer structure, which houses galleries, offices and storage for the regional collections of contemporary art, can function independently or together. An internal street is located in the void between the old and new structures, and there are plans to connect this space to an exterior elevated walkway in the future.

FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais
2013

Dunkerque, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Multipurpose Theater
2013

Lille, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Built as part of the renewal of Parc Arras Europe in Lille, the theater serves as a multipurpose municipal hall that can accommodate an extensive range of programming. The flexible floor plan, through the use of sliding doors and windows, modular and reconfigurable seating, and a facade that can retract in its entirety to extend the space outdoors onto a sloping public garden, opens up numerous possibilities for space and functions.

Multipurpose Theater
2013

Lille, France

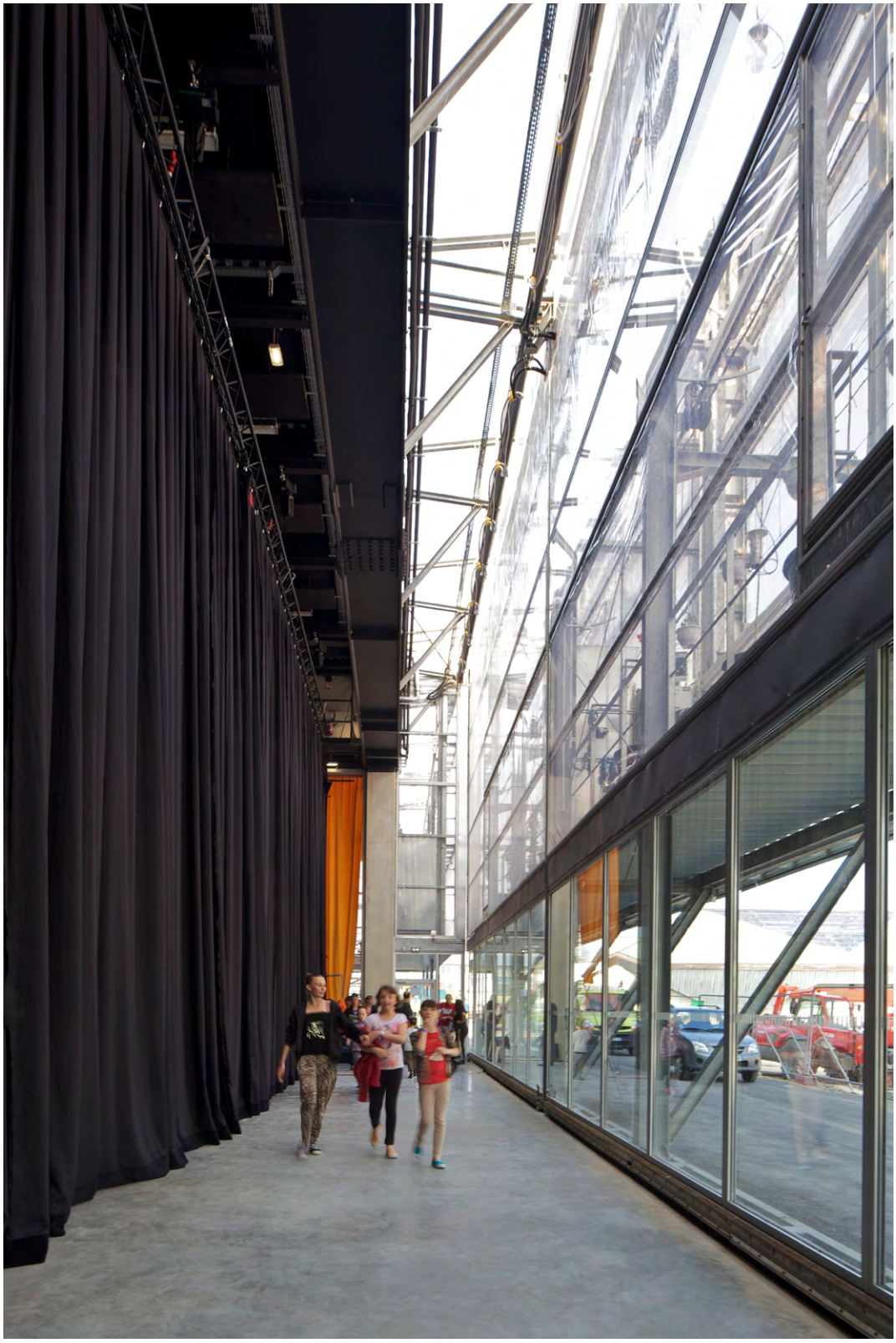

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Multipurpose Theater
2013

Lille, France

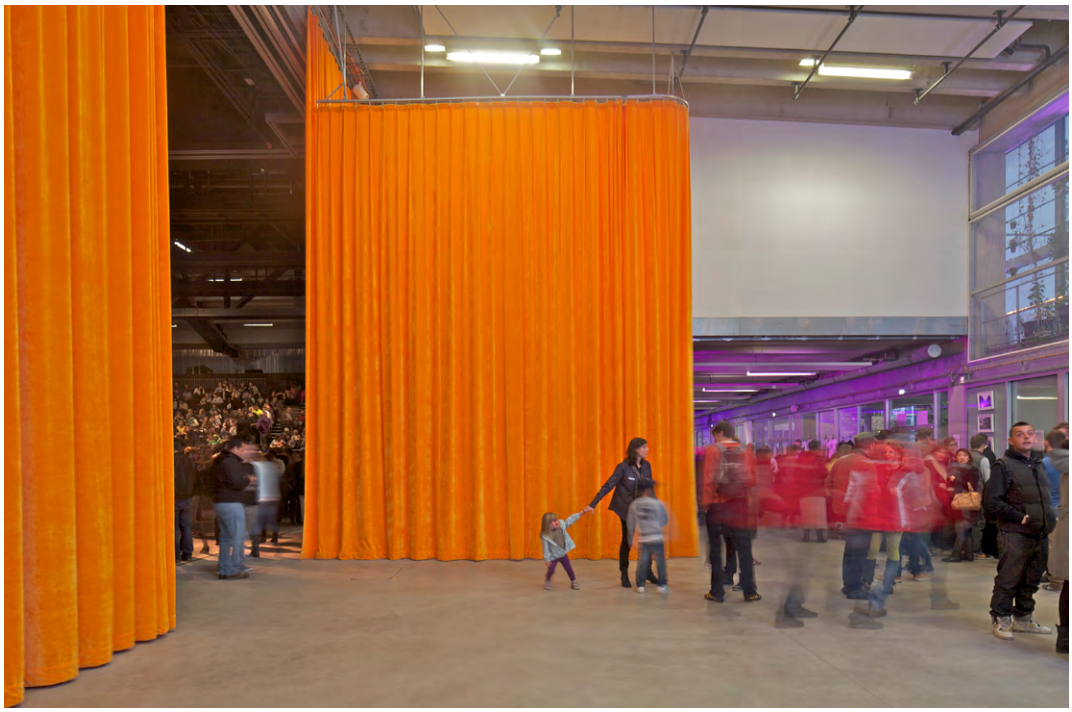

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Transformation of G, H, I Buildings, Grand Parc, 530 Units, Social Housing (with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin)
2017

Bordeaux, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

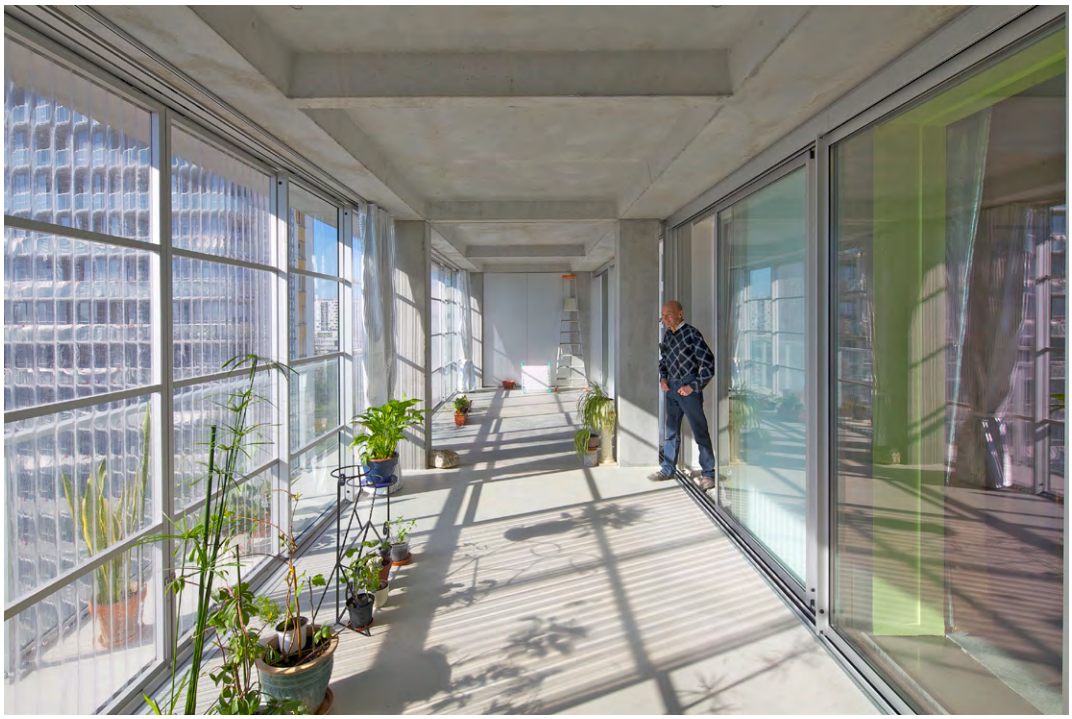

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

The three buildings within this 1960s social-housing development, range from ten to fifteen stories and include 530 apartments. Similarly to the transformation of Tour Bois le Prêtre (Paris, 2011), qualities of space and comfort were achieved by removing the building facade and extending the interiors outward to create new spaces, forming bioclimatic winter gardens or balconies. The result was the near doubling of size of some units and a dramatic visual reinvention that challenges the aesthetic conventions of social housing.

Transformation of G, H, I Buildings, Grand Parc, 530 Units, Social Housing (with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin)
2017

Bordeaux, France

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

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The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, Transformation of G, H, I Buildings, Grand Parc, 530 Units, Social Housing (with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin), 2017, Bordeaux, France

Residential and Office Building
2020

Chêne-Bourg, Geneva, Switzerland

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Located in the Chêne-Bourg municipality in the canton of Geneva, Switzerland, this mixed-use building houses 101 residences, 250 offices and ground-floor commercial space. The building gives its occupants direct connection to the city and its offerings, which is further enhanced by the nearby, new underground Chêne-Bourg CEVA train station. Signature to their residential work, each unit features a flexible winter garden or balcony extension, with floor-to-ceiling exposures and lined energy-efficient thermal curtains, resulting in maximum space, light and warmth. The professional spaces also allow for flexibility, through their modular offices and adaptable configurations. Furthermore, five floors operate as flexible levels that may be converted into housing or tertiary spaces.

Residential and Office Building
2020

Chêne-Bourg, Geneva, Switzerland

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

Photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, Residential and Office Building, 2020, Chêne-Bourg, Geneva, Switzerland