



Marseille Provence Airport

Marseille

The scheme proposes a radical re-design of traditional airport layouts, resulting in clear orientation through well-lit, generous spaces which impart a real sense of place



Place
Marseille, France

Date
1992

Client
Aéroport Marseille
Provence

Cost
FF 142.5 million

Area
16,000 m²

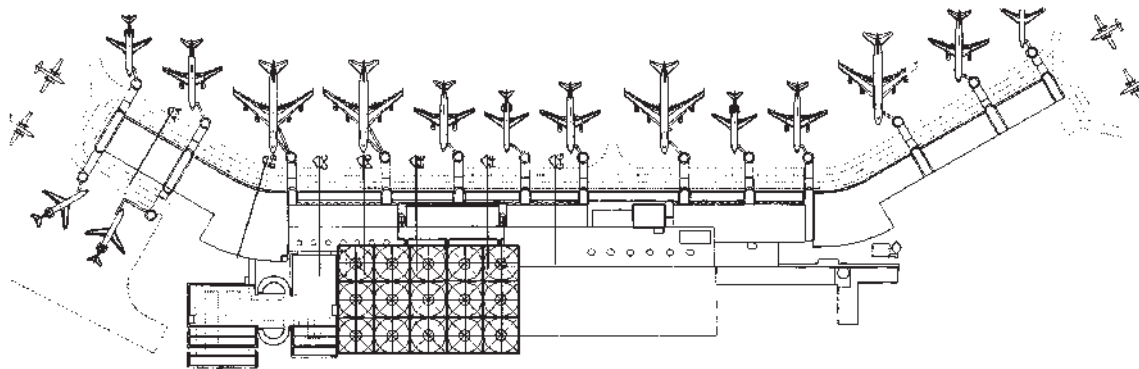
Structural Engineer
Waterman Partnership

Services Engineer
Hulley & Kirkwood
Consulting Engineers

Acoustic Consultant
Sandy Brown Associates

Specification Consultant
Schumann Smith

Construction Manager
Bovis Construction Ltd.



Marseille Provence airport is located between Marseille and Aix-en-Provence on an inland lake which was the site of the first flight by a flying boat. For over 30 years, the airport has been progressively developed on a piecemeal basis to meet short-term requirements. By 1988, with 4 million passengers a year, the projected rate of expansion in air traffic was such that a long-term strategy was necessary.

Richard Rogers Partnership (RRP), in conjunction with Atelier 9/ETA, undertook a study to provide a development plan for an area of 16,000 m² that would permit expansion to accommodate up to 15 million passengers a year. The first phase of this scheme was completed in 1992. RRP co-located with Atelier 9/ETA, setting up a joint office in Marseille for the duration of the project.

The brief required that all arriving and departing passengers should be separated whilst airside, and that security checks on hold baggage could be provided for in the future.

The architects created a strong new image by which the airport could be identified. The individual functions of the airport have clarity and visibility, whilst at the same time permitting a flexibility for future development and creating minimum disruption to the airport during all phases of development.

Upon arrival, passengers have a chance to orientate themselves with views over the airport and surrounding hills as they walk along the 'tube', before descending to reclaim their baggage at ground level.

At the centre of the development is a proposed heart to the airport, covered by large lightweight parasol structures that appear to float over the surrounding building.