



Bercy Charenton

Paris





Place
Paris, France

Date
2009 - 2019

Area
63 hectares

Client
Ville de Paris,
Direction de l'urbanisme

Co-Architect
Ateliers Jean Nouvel

Co-Architect
TVK

Rail Consultant
AREP

Consulting Engineer
Ingérop

Landscape Architect
Michel Desvignes

Sustainability Consultant
Franck Boutté
Consultants

Structural Engineer
RFR

The challenge of the site is to create a new mixed, connected and sustainable urban neighbourhood, navigating difficult infrastructure to create a dynamic public space network, ecological corridors that bridge across administrative and physical barriers.

Starting in 2009, following a public competition and bid, RSHP was selected by the City of Paris as master planners for the 63 hectare Bercy Charenton site in Paris.

This difficult zone, situated to the east of central Paris, is currently occupied by a major mainline rail corridor, rail maintenance, logistics and support functions, as well as being bounded to the east and south by two large motorways and Europe's largest interchange. Fractured by these major infrastructural barriers, as well as significant level changes, the site was once described by Richard Rogers as "impossible".

For almost 10 years RSHP led a large multi-disciplinary team in this endeavour, aiming not only to deliver 1 million square metres of development on the site (the original client brief) but also to evolve an exemplary sustainable masterplan structured by a new open space network, new pedestrian and cycling links. One of the principal challenges of the masterplan was to define the development potential of the site within a balanced strategic and economic framework.

Existing and new urban connections were traced through the complex infrastructural and level changes that characterise the site, linking the communities of Bercy and Charenton, currently cut off from each other by the Périphérique. This gentle "new natural ground plane" served to smooth out important level differences and to connect existing parks with each other and with the river Seine to create green corridors developed in close collaboration with Michel Desvigne, designed to encourage biodiversity.

This important project served to capitalise on some of the lessons drawn from of the practice's involvement with the Grand Pari(s) metropolitan study. In addition to addressing questions of social and economic rebalancing, the masterplan sought to explore how one might create great places to live and work in close proximity in so-called "difficult" sites and integrate local services and amenities within a diverse and dynamic urban fabric. The project also integrate a number of new crèches, three new schools, a college and a variety of new sports facilities.

The team steered the project through an extensive (and exemplary) public consultation process, the environmental impact studies and regulatory approval. The project was signed off by the council of the City of Paris on the 2nd July 2018.