



CHRISTIAN DE PORTZAMPARC

urban architect

Christian de Portzamparc was born in Casablanca in 1944, was awarded the Pritzker Prize in 1994, and won the French town planning award, the Grand prix de l'urbanisme, in 2004. He started his own company in 1980, and today the team comprises of 80 people. Based in Paris, he carries out building work worldwide, with offices in New York and Rio de Janeiro, as well as temporary offices on building sites.

From iconic buildings to urban planning, his prime environment is the town, and his work focuses on three major themes:

Symbolic buildings which harmonise and attractively link aspects of urban landscapes, notably major public facilities exemplified by the following two projects being realised in Lyon: The Croix-Rousse hospital (1998-2010) and the headquarters of the Rhône-Alpes Regional Council (2006-2010). Much of Christian de Portzamparc's work involves cultural facilities for music such as the Cité de la musique Parc de la Villette in Paris (1984-1995); the Philharmonie de Luxembourg (1997-2005); the Cidade da Musica built in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2002-2009); and museums such as the Hergé Museum in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium (2001- 2009) and the Cinema Museum which is being planned in Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Sculptured towers such as the LVMH tower in Manhattan, New York, USA (1995-1999); La Tour Granite de la Défense for the Société Générale, the first ever high building certified HQE (2001-2008); and a tower housing accommodation on Park Avenue South in Manhattan, New York.

Small districts and urban areas: Christian de Portzamparc works either purely as a general designer, as is the case with the Masséna Seine left bank *quartier* in Paris (1995 – construction still underway) or he may design part of a district, for example in his work as part of a team of 20 architects working on Les Jardins de la Lironde in Montpellier (1991 – construction still underway), for which he conceived the general plans. He also manages entire projects himself, for example the ground plans and the full architectural plans for the 4-block Riverside Center project being developed in Manhattan, New York.

NEWS

The Hergé Museum in Louvain la Neuve was inaugurated in May 2009.

The project *Le Grand Pari de l'agglomération parisienne*, in which Mr de Portzamparc is involved in the role of international research consultant, is being exhibited at the Cité de l'Architecture in Paris.

The Hotel Marriott Renaissance Arc de triomphe, located on the avenue de Wagram in Paris, opened its doors in May 2009.

In March 2009, Christian de Portzamparc won the international town planning award for redesigning the Rue de la Loi, at the heart of the European institute district in Brussels.

La Tour Granite de la Défense for the Société Générale, the first high building to be certified HQE, was inaugurated in December 2008.

In November 2008, the Rennes Multiplex opened its doors to the public: 13 cinema screens managed by Pathé-Gaumont, located near Champs Libres, the great public centre of culture which had been finished two years earlier. This project set up a relationship between the two buildings created by Christian de Portzamparc, and completed the development of the Charles de Gaulle esplanade.

The exhibition (presented by the catalogue titled *In the City*) in Almère, Holland, of 10 recent works by Christian de Portzamparc, closed in May 2009. The event was held to mark the award of the prize for best architecture for his project De Citadel (2000-2006), which was part of the town planning developed by Rem Koolhaas for Almère.

De Citadel also won the 2008 Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Award, as did the Philharmonie du Luxembourg (1997-2005) and the Cidade da Musica in Rio.

SOME NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

2008 *Portzamparc, In the City* exhibition held in Almère, Holland

2008 Winner of the Créateurs sans frontières prize

2007 The exhibition *Rêver la Ville*, and the opening of the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine in Paris

2006 Becomes the first person to hold the position of chair of artistic creation at the Collège de France in Paris

- 2004 *Pluriel et Singulier* exhibition at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille
- 2004 Receives the Grand Prix de l'Urbanisme
- 1996 *Scènes d'atelier* exhibition at the Pompidou centre in Paris
- 1994 Awarded the Pritzker Prize
- 1985 President of the Ecole Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris for 6 years
- 1970 Diplômé des Beaux-Arts in Paris

FURTHER READING

- 2008 *Portzamparc, In the City* exhibition catalogue, Hans van Dijk, Jong Hong
- 2008 *Writing and seeing architecture*, Christian de Portzamparc & Philippe Solers, University of Minnesota Press, USA
- 2007 *Rêver la ville* exhibition catalogue, Sophie Trelcat, Paris, Le Moniteur
- 2006 *Architecture : figures du monde, figures du temps, Leçons inaugurale au Collège de France*, Paris, Fayard
- 2005 *Voir écrire*, Christian de Portzamparc & Philippe Solers, Paris, Folio Gallimard
- 2003 *Christian de Portzamparc*, Gilles de Bure, Paris, Terrail