

# Dominique Coulon & Associés presents a levitating ceiling and a floating concrete slab

DECEMBER 13, 2016    Text LAUREN TEAGUE    Photos EUGENI PONS

Tags ANGULAR, ARCHITECTURE, CONCRETE, DAYLIGHTING, DOMINIQUE COULON & ASSOCIÉS,  
FRANCE, GYMNASIUM, SPORT



**CLAMARKI** – Dominique Coulon & Associates has a self-confessed signature style of oblique, bold volumes that distort depending on the viewing angle. The newly completed gymnasium Les Closiaux, just outside Paris, is the epitome of the studio’s work in France. The raw concrete building includes units for staff accommodation and a pupil information and guidance centre – but it is the large sports hall, with two elevations exposed to the southwest, that is the project’s prominent feature. The angle of the sports hall’s placement in relation to the neighbouring road opens up a generous space and brings maximum light into the interior.



‘The hall benefits from natural lighting on all four sides,’ explains lead architect Dominique Coulon. A double translucent façade of Pilkington UGlass and Okapane – a light-diffusing insulated glass – creates the ‘glowing crown’ around the top half of the hall and delivers the desired opalescent effect of a uniformly soft light. ‘The ceiling appears to be in a state of levitation and the lower part of the hall comprises spaced vertical slats – one side grey, the other in black – which hide the technical services and feature an acoustic treatment.’

