

PROJECT

[Home](#) > [Projects](#) > [Inter-Generation Center](#)

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Inter-Generation Center

[Dominique Coulon & Associés](#)


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PROJECT NAME
Inter-Generation Center

LOCATION
[Venarey-Les Laumes,](#)
[France](#)

PROJECT STATUS
[Built](#)

YEAR COMPLETED
2015

SIZE
23,681 sq. feet

CONSTRUCTION COST
\$3,445,808

CLIENT/OWNER
Ville de Venarey-Les
Laumes

CONSULTANTS
Structural Engineer:
Batiserf
Electrical Engineer: BET
G. Jost

TYPE
[Mixed-Use](#)
[Community](#)

SCOPE
[New Construction](#)


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PROJECT DESCRIPTION FROM THE ARCHITECTS:

The project stretches alongside the railway line in the small village of Venarey-Les Laumes, in Burgundy. The building, designated a centre for rural excellence, contains a number of different initiatives, including a tourist office, a conference and culture hall, a day nursery, and areas for older people. Our task was to bring all these very different initiatives together in a single dynamic unit. The upper volume seems to float above an almost transparent plinth. Cantilevers accentuate the dissociation of the various folds, each fold producing a face which captures the low-angled light produced by the orientation of the building. The lightly perforated opaque skin is divided into a number of triangles – some are matte while others are shiny, thereby breaking down the structure of the basic volumes. The building often has a different appearance at different times of day. The day nursery is located upstairs, while the other initiatives are at ground level. A bright yellow courtyard continues the line of the areas used by the nursery, the purpose being to shield them from the substantial nuisance caused by the goods trains and high-speed passenger trains which pass at speed here. The transparent features of the ground floor are arranged in such a way that the relationship with the railway line is constant, and perceived as a dynamic event. The volumes of the project express its strong identity in the landscape; it stands like a marker of ambitious political determination.

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