



A seemingly haphazard composition of coloured blocks makes for an imaginative school building in Montpellier.

André Malraux School Complex *Montpellier–France* 2015

Part of an ambitious general development plan, this school complex unites a kindergarten and a primary school in playful, horizontal forms that contrast with the surrounding housing. Volumes, colours and materials are piled up on each other over three levels in a happy chaos reminiscent of children's stacking toys. The dynamic design avoids repetition and monotony, and the flamboyant exterior forms correspond to the different functional blocks of the nursery and primary schools that encounter each other at the heart of the project. The pivoting of these volumes animates the space and creates a rich, fun-filled experience. It also produces sequences that function as benchmarks for the child – the entrance is easily recognized by the 'gateway' created by the levitating volume of the primary school facilities.



Floating cantilevered forms add lightness and dynamism to the design.

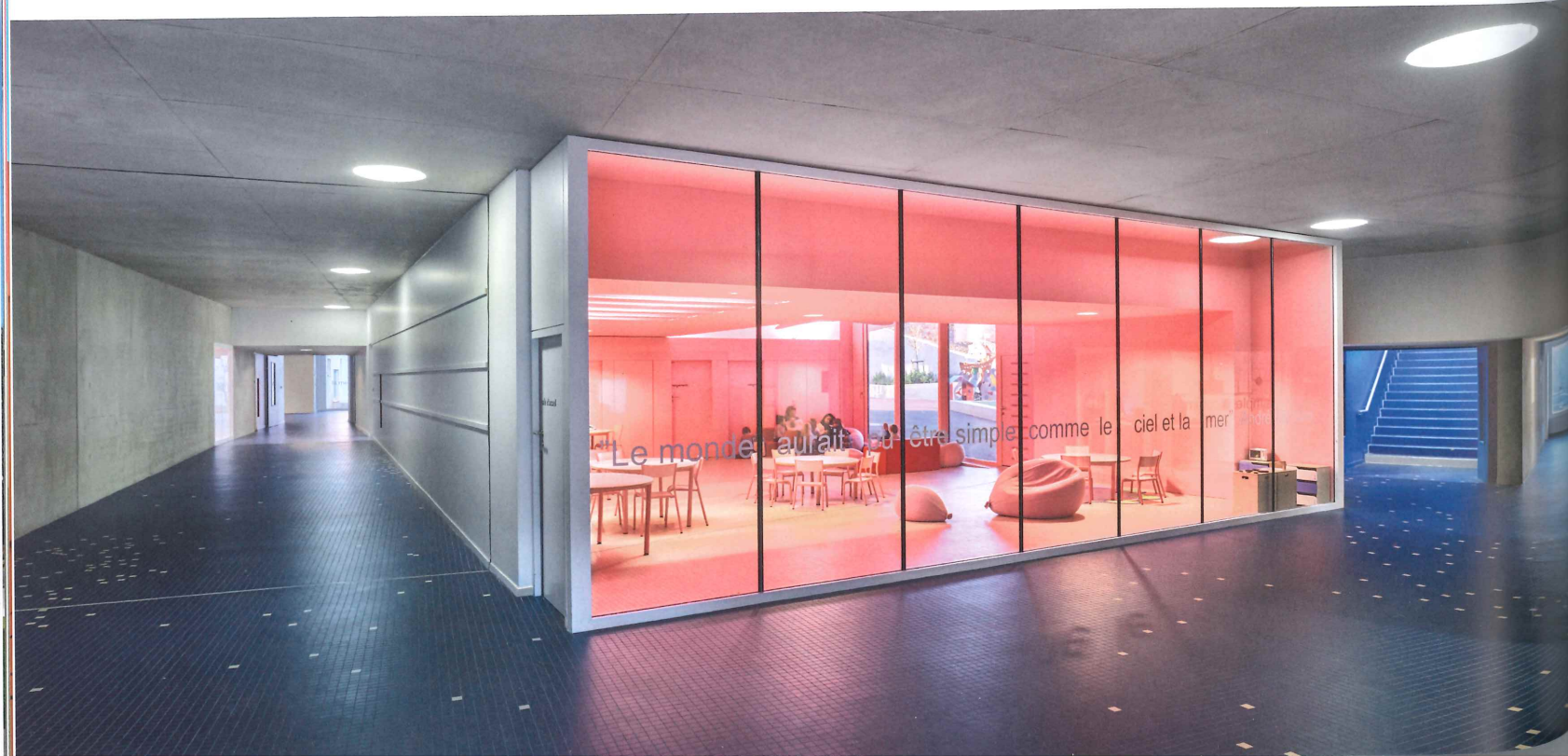
Swathes of immersive colour help define the function of different areas outside as well as inside.





Irregularly placed windows and a skylight fill the upper-floor primary-school facilities with daylight.

Inside the building are 15 different classrooms, including this ground-floor, glass-walled nursery space – etched with a philosophical quote by André Malraux.





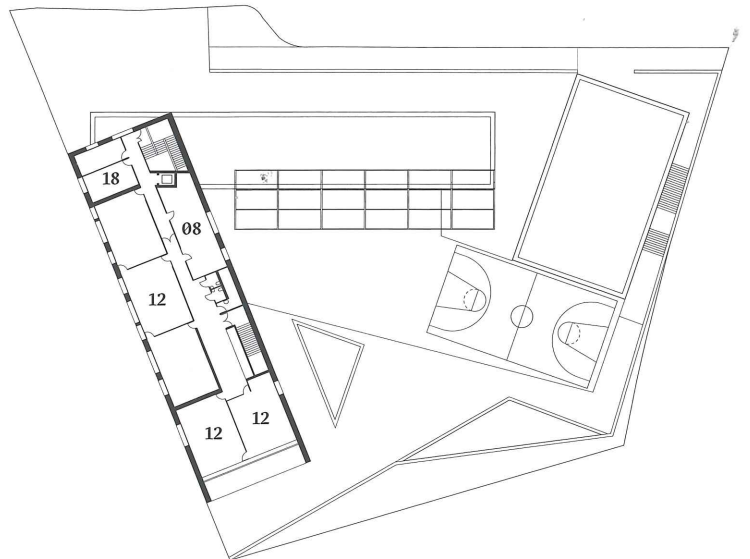
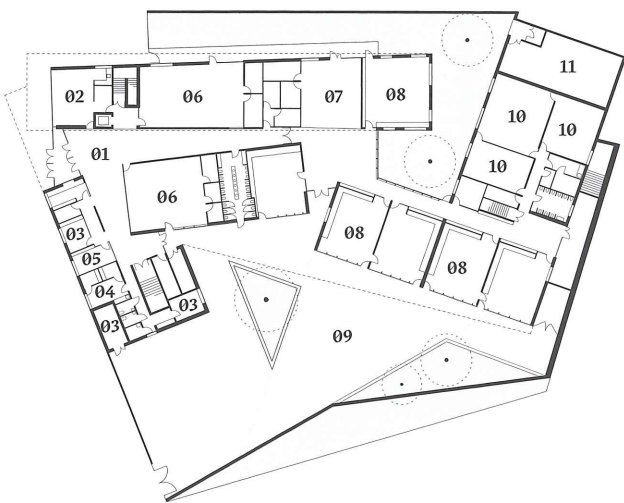
A classroom in shades of blue benefits from a lively view of the greenery outside.

- 01 Entrance hall
- 02 Meeting room
- 03 Office
- 04 Staffroom
- 05 Reception
- 06 Activity room
- 07 Nursery hall
- 08 Classroom
- 09 Kindergarten courtyard
- 10 Sleeping room
- 11 Heating room
- 12 Primary classroom
- 13 Primary upper schoolyard
- 14 Sports court
- 15 Kindergarten dining room
- 16 Primary dining room
- 17 Waste room
- 18 Educational practitioners' room

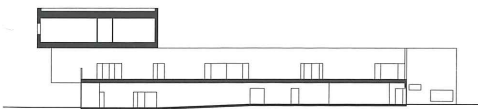
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Section



+1



'I believe in the strength of the plan'

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MARK

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+

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+

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