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Dominique Coulon, Théodore Gouvy Theatre in Freyming-Merlebach (France)



The Strasbourg firm of Dominique Coulon has built this theater for the old mining town of Freyming-Merlebach, in the Lorraine region of France. Located on the Place des Alliés, the stacked volumes of white concrete are a symbol of the town's renewal which, due to its position, also creates a new public space in the urban center. In the upper part, the foyer is offset to indicate the entrance, while in the lower part, transparent elements invite the visitor to enter. Inside, the foyer expands vertically and sets a route through an apparent intertwining of staircases leading to the auditorium. Oblique lines reiterating the complex geometry of the site create a feeling of breadth. Finally, the auditorium seating 700 strikes quite a contrast with the immaculate white surfaces of the outer envelope. Red, pink, and orange lend density to the space, affirming it as the main feature of the project.



Dominique Coulon & Associés, Simone Veil group of schools in Colombes



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