

School Center Wobrecken, Esch-sur-Alzette (LUX)

project **Construction of a new primary school consisting of 'Ecole', 'Maison Relais' and a sports facility**

awarding authority **Community of Esch-sur-Alzette (LUX) / public client**

award **3rd prize, restricted competition**

services **WW+, Esch-sur-Alzette (LUX) / Trier (GER)
architecture**

architecture in cooperation with
Auer Weber Architekten BDA, Stuttgart (GER)

facts

- nursery school with capacity of 36 children
- primary school with capacity of 360 children
- all-day area/ 'Maison Relais' reception center for 160 children
- three functional areas are grouped together in one building
- three clearly distinct units
- the facade design originates with the vegetation present in the adjacent stream
- functional areas can be recognized externally by their color design
- the three levels are linked by a 'waterfall stairway'

dates and numbers

gfa **8.400 m²**

ufa **5.700 m²**

gv **99.100 m³**

total area **1,8 ha**

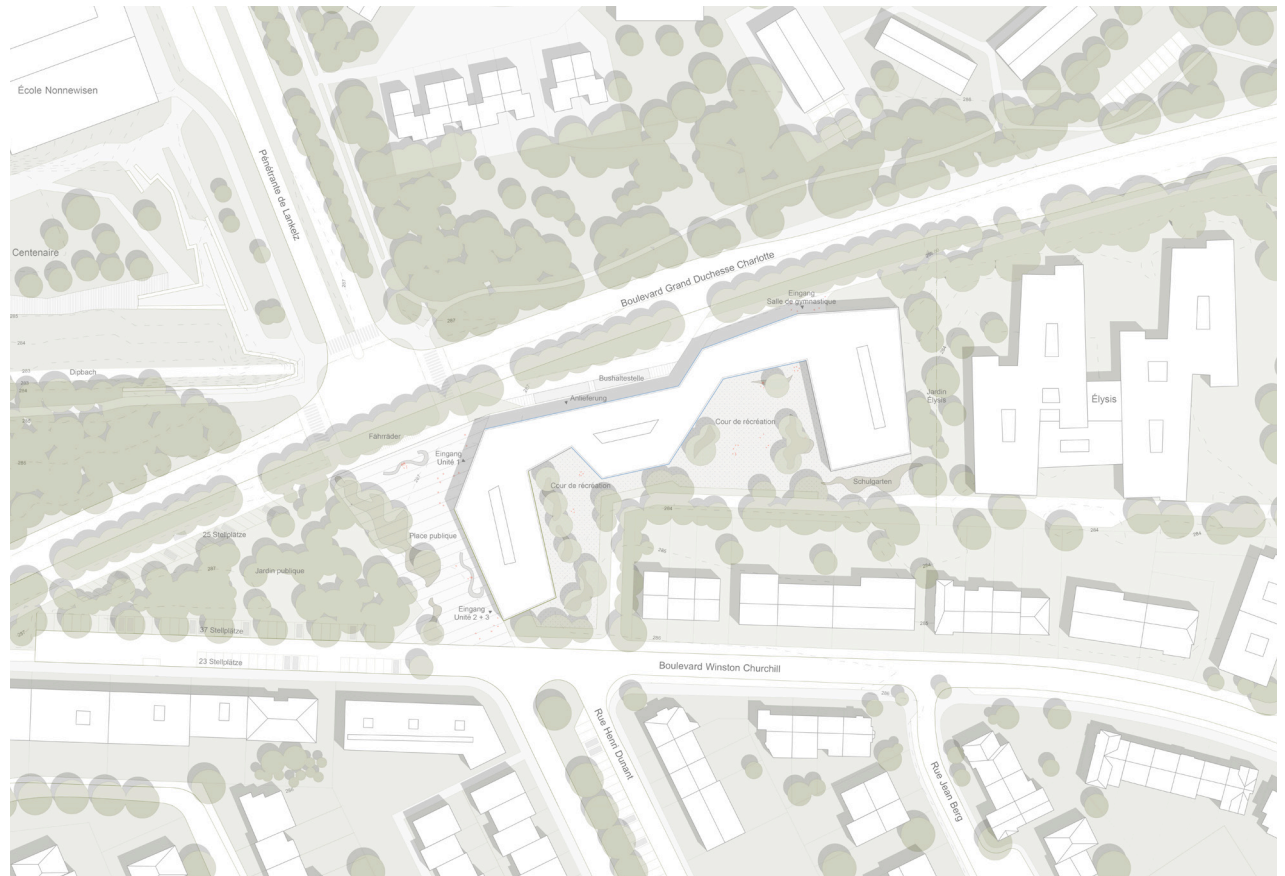
competition phase **11/2015 - 02/2016**

Guiding principle

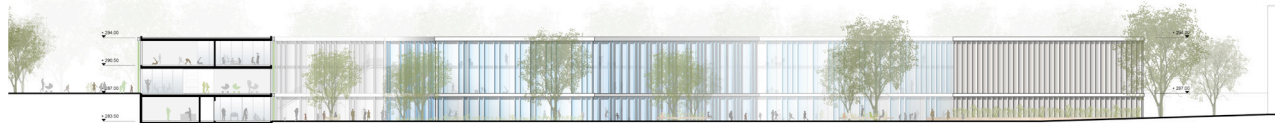
At École Wobrécken, innovative educational concepts are implemented in a new organisational form, with day-care facilities and classrooms being jointly used in immediate proximity to one another. The result is that, within one building, differentiated places of learning and recreational areas are created for the course of an entire day. The age range of pupils from 0 – 12 requires in each case age-appropriate spatial experiences and individually configured outdoor installations. This educational approach is reflected in the structure's organisation and its architecture: a unique school as a place of learning for young people, which awaits discovery, provides joy and is open to further development.

Urban development

The former school location between Boulevard Winston Churchill and Boulevard Grande-Duchesse Charlotte is characterised by its topography, the low ground of the built-over Dipbach stream, its vegetation on the northern bank, the transition from the suburb of Wobrécken to the Pénétrente de Lankelz as well as the public open space in the western part of the site. Urban space assessments have resulted in positioning the school and the 'Wobrécken' day-care area entirely to the east of the newly defined passage over Boulevard Grande-Duchesse Charlotte. This decision allows for the western open spaces in connection with the Parc du Centenaire in the north and the existing vegetation to be retained. The configuration of a coherent and differentiated building structure is of great advantage to the organisation of the school and enhances the flexibility of its various uses.



site plan



elevation

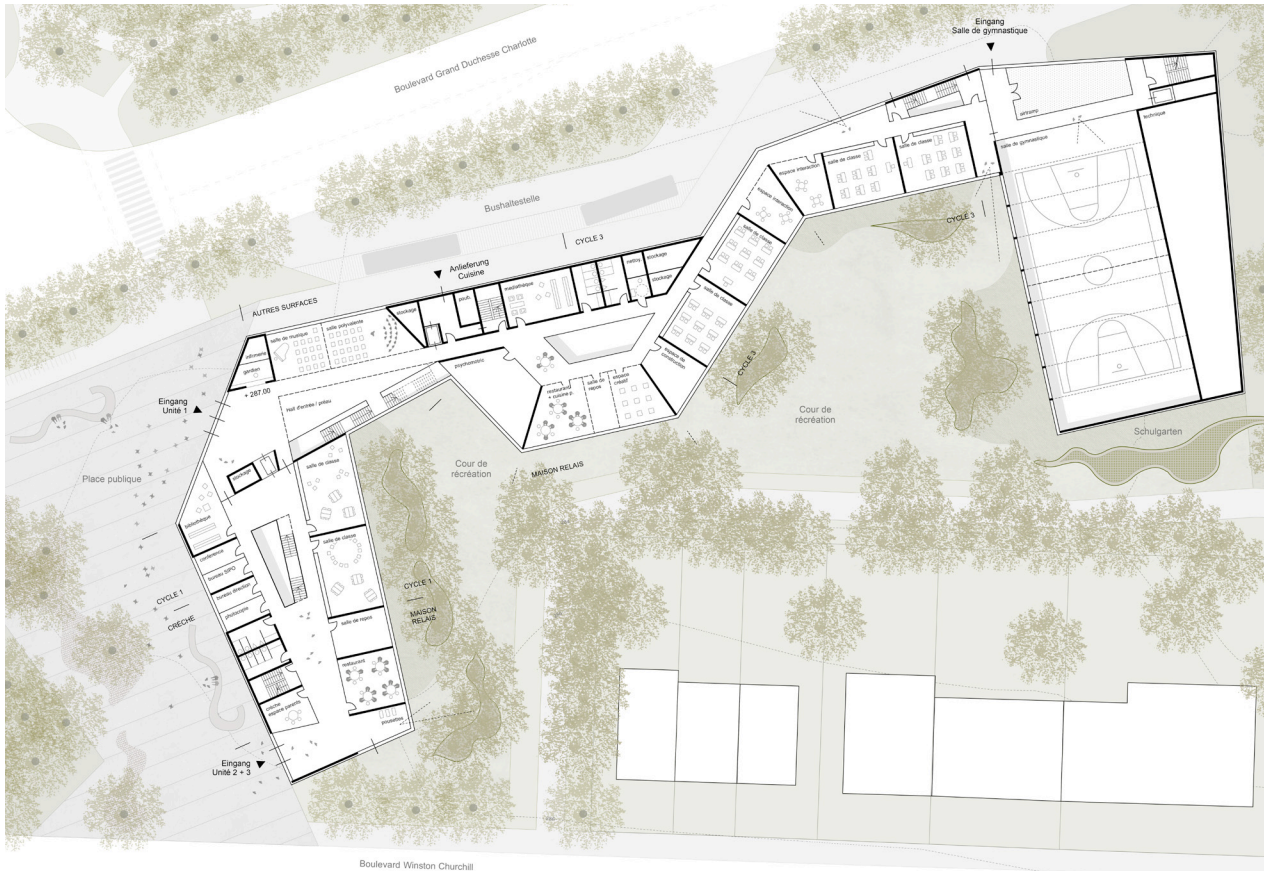


Building structure and open spaces

The building structure concludes the existing and planned development to the north and west and is oriented towards the suburb of Wobrécken. An effective noise protection is created to the northern Boulevard, as are generous open spaces, distinct for both kindergarten and school. The building structure's articulation into several clearly identifiable units emulates the educational concept. In the west is the kindergarten with its own outdoor space – with the day-care facilities and the classrooms of the school connecting further east. The conclusion of the structural development is embodied by the sports hall. The landmark building runs along a square that opens up to the outdoors from Boulevard Winston Churchill. This is where the entrance to the kindergarten is located with ground-level access options to the outdoor space, as is the entrance hall of the school, at the transition to the Boulevard in the north, conveniently located in terms of parking and bus stop. The separate entrance to the sports hall for use by local clubs and associations is via a small entrance area from the northern Boulevard.

Organisation and function

The entrance hall forms the 'heart of the school' and opens onto the courtyard at garden level. It can be used as a foyer, a covered break hall or as an extended auditorium for theatre performances. Next door, from the bus stop area, is where deliveries to the building are carried out, in particular to the kitchen, which occupies a central point at garden level, with a view onto the schoolyard. The upper floor houses the administration, making it easily accessible. A 'stairway to heaven' connects the three levels. Directly at the entrance hall is where the various school cycles are accommodated. The day-care facilities (Maison Relais) and classrooms can be found in direct proximity to one another and are organised on one level, allowing children to start their daily routines in the maison relais, before moving on to the classrooms throughout the morning and once again finishing up at the maison relais in the afternoon. Temporarily closed areas can easily be separated off if necessary, ensuring that attractive places of learning are at all times available. As areas of concentrated learning, the classrooms have wall units towards the hallway. The school has a generous courtyard. This is directly accessible from the hall and a short distance from the classrooms. The areas of the kindergarten are combined into their own building part with their own entrance. The garden level is reserved for small children with direct access to the outdoors, the ground floor and first upper floor is where Cycle 1 is organised. The rooms of the maison relais are housed in the southern building part. A break area with a transition to the garden level is located directly at the entrance area. The open access in the atrium as well as the individually designed outdoor areas allow for an easy orientation and reinforce the kindergarten's identity. The sports hall is integrated into the overall form of the building structure. In doing so, a direct connection to the school is ensured while simultaneously allowing its use by clubs and associations. The ground-level arrangement to the schoolyard allows the outdoor space to be incorporated into sporting activities.



ground floor entrance level

Visual appearance

The building's visual appearance is derived from the planting along the bank of the neighbouring stream: vertical reeds, bamboo and birch plantings are reflected in the colour-treated wooden slats of the building structure. The individual use areas are characterised by an individual colour treatment – the kindergarten is given a green colour scheme and the school a light blue one, while the wooden slats used for the communal areas and the sports hall receive no colour treatment and are given UV protection. Inside, wooden floors and colours matching the façade set the tone for the school. Partition walls towards the corridors are designed as wood-glass constructions, while the dividing walls and the furniture are designed to be sound absorbing.

Outdoor surfaces

The outdoor surfaces respond to the expressive building form with freely formed zoning of the schoolyards and unconstrained tree plantings. In consultation with the school, age-appropriate play equipment is provided in the schoolyards. A school garden provides the transition to a potential expansion of the Élysis project garden. Around the housing development gardens, the existing trees and the existing pathway are retained. The existing trees on the school's newly designed forecourt, which features polished concrete surfaces, will also be retained.



section