

ALTA

ARCHITECTES | URBANISTES

Maxime LE TRIONNAIRE and Gwénaél LE CHAPELAIN
for ALTA architects - urbanists are winners of the 40 UNDER 40 award 2014.



This prize distinguishes
the emerging generation
of European architects
and designers
under 40 years old.

It is organized by the EUROPEAN CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE, ART, DESIGN AND URBAN STUDIES
and by the CHICAGO ATHENAUM / MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN.

ALTA architectes urbanistes
Le Trionnaire - Le Chapelain

***We keep the value
of the human being
as the guideline
of our reflection.***

The architectures of ALTA between freedom, diversity and mastery

Jean-Louis Violeau, sociologist

If the architects want to avoid parading around in a flowery universe, they must take charge of the resistance of reality. To do this, Maxime Le Trionnaire and Gwenaël Le Chapelain combine contradictory properties within ALTA, between freedom, diversity and mastery in the wake of their reassuring elders Jean-Luc Le Trionnaire and Alain Tassot.

There is in them this inexhaustible quest for the mastery of an impalpable thing: how to imagine the social relationships that can be woven within a space that one inhabits? Even if everything is planned, life and its avatars will inevitably interfere with it, on a daily basis. Along the way, they seek to « defatalize » the question of housing - today in crisis, as we all know, but has housing ever been seen to emerge on its own without its usual double, the crisis, since the large housing estates, the Loucheur pavilions, the Winter of '54 and the Abbé Pierre?

We have to give them credit for tackling this housing «issue» from its steepest and therefore riskiest side: the tower. In Nantes first, on the Pré-Gauchet, with the Tour Amazonie, where the differentiated qualities of the housing units have made it possible to design the diversity of the façade.

The second floors are still urban. Then the signal takes shape, very clearly, thanks to the extensions. The relative modesty of the size of the apartments is largely compensated for by the generosity of the outdoor spaces, particularly the two-bedroom apartments with their vast loggias. Some of them even express an atypical ratio of surfaces between the interior and the exterior, with the latter sometimes providing more than twice the surface area of the living room. In the background, the architects were of course thinking of the veranda, this qualitative extension of the pavilion that has become the desired horizon for many French people. Not to mention the garden... with the city at its feet. It is remarkable that some of the apartments in the coronation have two vast extensions: a terrace and a winter garden, in other words, a front garden and a back garden.

Spatial change versus social change: this is a belligerent and therefore inseparable couple when it comes to innovation in architecture. The speed of space, and of the projects that come from the imaginations of architects, frequently collides with the slowness of social change and formatted imaginations. By proposing a Semaphore called to rise soon to 55 meters in the sensitive horizon of the gates of the historic city of Saint-Malo, ALTA has wisely calculated the risk that

Each project is an opportunity to work specifically on the context. Our architecture wants to be situated, in direct link with the sites and the situations which are proposed to us.

We look for the specificities of the place to draw from its urban, natural, historical or sociological environment.

These data feed and assemble to form an architecture.

As the contexts in which we evolve are rarely homogeneous, our writing tends to be hybrid. Indeed, by a combinatorial approach of signs (borrowed from close and distant environments), we seek a re-reading of the universes in which we intervene (urban, rural, peripheral).

This approach can be defined as a research of writing without pastiche but anchored in a region, a place.

consisted in building a new contemporary building near a city entirely rebuilt after the bombings of the Second World War - to realize this, one only has to turn one's gaze to an aerial photo of the heart of the corsair city before the air raids and after the work of Louis Arretche, the chief architect of the Reconstruction. It was like the Marais in Paris, it is by rebuilding «modern» that Saint-Malo had, again, the future ahead. Saint-Malo is modern turned classic, as Roland Barthes would have said. The city is insolent, it allows itself tricks. And this Semaphore to come is a great breath of fresh air that crosses a fifty-year-old closed city where we sometimes had a tendency to suffocate: compressing history into a project. The future belongs to those who stand up.

But how exactly can we define ALTA's style? Style is a word of dissensus, a word on which we are not, we will never all agree. Because it's a word where values fight, and which brings out convictions about what we value. There is an obvious freedom, but also something clear-cut and unambiguous in ALTA's projects, which most of the time do not compromise on the issues at the basis of the transformation. Never wavering and playing with the large and the small, whether it is a question of grouped houses or high-rise buildings, the question is most of the time treated in an unabashed mode... in Eurorennes as in Charleville-Mézières.

The facets of the great striated rock of Urban Quartz, designed with the Parisian couple Hamonic & Masson, have thus welcomed the new LGV without hesitating to show themselves as a reminiscence of crystal, while the modest 16 houses grouped in a loop of the Meuse at Arthur Rimbaud's in the Manchester district do not lie about their situation: an initiatory project in the ANRU zone that favors wood, confirms the presence of vegetation and marks with its presence a plot carved into a point. Stretching lines, pointing directions,

and configuring spaces that take shape: in the same way, on the banks of the Loire in the Nantes region, the indented facades and the split masses of the Rose-lières, as if cut into the thickness, stand guard over the pioneering front of the new district that has redrawn the west of Couéron, where the emerged lands come up against the wet estuary. On a former edge, the social housing units and those for sale have been generously pierced to play without complex on the contrast between the smoothness of the shiny metal cladding and the roughness of the dark concrete. They tell the story of an impalpable, unwritten network of named things that now weave a new landscape.

The smooth and the rough, this is perhaps what could characterize ALTA's architectures, reminiscent of the «striated spaces» dear to Gilles Deleuze and crossed by speeds and slowness. The city has always been a reflection of the world, the architectures have always reflected a moment of civilization. And the world exists all the more because it is a human world, streaked with conflicts and crossed by aspirations. We need to add raw places to smooth spaces, if we want to see contemporary individuals remain connected to the world.

Jean-Louis Violeau, sociologist

Associated architects



Maxime Le Trionnaire

Registered in the regional roll of the Order of Architects under No. 071802, on 30.05.06

2020 Regional Council of the Order of Architects of Brittany 2018'21 President of AMO Bretagne - Pays de Loire
2020 Vice-President of the MG Endowment Fund
2014'8 Elected to the board of the MAeB - referent 35
2012 Training Competition Jury / Order of Architects
2012 Associate Architect Co-manager Agency a/LTA architects
2010 Associate architect at Agence a/LTA architectes 2006 Setting up in his own name
2004'6 X-TU architects, A. Legendre, N. Demazières, Paris 2004 Diploma of Architect DPLG
school of architecture of Nantes Atlantique, Nantes
2003 Duncan Lewis Scape Architecture, Angers
2002 Architecture-Studio, Paris

Gwénaél Le Chapelain

Registered in the regional roll of the order of architects under the n° 072152, the 19.09.06

2020 President of the Club Qualité 35
2020 President of the MG Endowment Fund
2015 BIM training
2014 Project Manager Referent of the Qualitel H&E label 2012 Training Competition Jury / Order of Architects 2012 Associate Architect Co-manager Agency a/LTA architects
2010 Associate architect at Agence a/LTA architectes 2006 Expert for the law firm
Forestier & Hinfray, Paris Brussels 2006 Installation in own name
2005'6 Fantastic Agency
Stéphane Maupin Architect, Paris
2004 RH+ architecture (Naja 2006), Paris 2004 Diploma of Architect DPLG
Nantes Atlantique School of Architecture, Nantes
2003'4 Duncan Lewis Scape Architecture, Angers
2003'4 Block (Naja 2002), Nantes

Awards & distinctions

2020

The Silver Pyramids › FPI

Berkeley , Cesson-Sévigné,

Groupe Lamotte : Corporate real estate award

ADC Awards › finalist

Le Cours des Arts, Rennes, Néotoa. Multi-family housing category

2019

Les Pyramides d'Argent › FPI

Les Sénioraires, Saint Avé, Bouygues Immo. EDF Low Carbon Award

2017

The Silver Pyramids › FPI

Quai Cristal, Rennes, Bouygues Immobilier General Public Award

2016

Technal Awards › Winner

Collective housing, Zac Pré Gauchet, Nantes

Duo@Work Prize › 2nd Prize

151 housing units, Zac Pré Gauchet, Nantes

The Silver Pyramids › FPI

Urban Quartz, EuroRennes, Icade

+ Poste Immo: Corporate real estate prize

2014

40 UNDER 40 › Winner

40 emerging European teams under 40 years old

The Silver Pyramids › FPI

Tour Amazonie, Nantes, BATI NANTES + SAMO Jury's favorite (Pays de Loire)

Les Allées du Port, Saint-Malo, SACIB

EDF Prize (Brittany)

2012

EDF Bas Carbone competition › finalist

151 housing units, Zac Pré Gauchet, Nantes

2010

Brittany Architecture Award 2010 › selected

48 housing units, Saint-Malo

2008

Architecture Award Brittany 2008 › selected

M. Lebesque College, Mordelles

First work award 2008 › nominated

Le Moniteur / 2 houses, Rennes

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