

# Croix Nivert

**Architect** : Architect Henri Gueydan & Ass.

**Project Status** : Built

**Completion Date** : 2014

**Type** : Residential

**Location** : Paris, France

**Photographs** : Juanjerez Croixnivert, Stephane Aboudaram,  
Architect Henri Gueydan & Ass.

This project of environmental housing in Paris has been ordered through an international comp tition in 2009 from RIVP: r gie immobili re de la ville de Paris. The building has been completed in 2014.

The purpose was, in the center part of Paris city, 15Tth district, on a 5000 m<sup>2</sup> land, to build around 130 dwellings, a kinder garten, a commercial zone a big underground parking 200 places, and a common terrace for the inhabitants. 13500 M<sup>2</sup> for apartments, 1000M<sup>2</sup> for kindergarten, 500M<sup>2</sup> for commerces, and 200 underground parkings places. Budget: 25 millions euros. This land is surrounded by Croix Nivert street and city housing on the north side and northe east side and by a subway parking with low buildings on the south and south west side.

On that piece of land, the building is formed into the strict aloud volume with 8 floors high and two underground floors for 200 parkings. The sunlight consideration are main ones and find the right geometry to improve the right plan for the flats. There are many types of apartments T2 : 50M<sup>2</sup>, T3: 75m<sup>2</sup>, T4: 85M<sup>2</sup> to T5: 105M<sup>2</sup>. as the volume tries to reach the light on every orientation of the building and every corner.

As the project is in the center part of Paris in a high density part, the space for environmental purposes, sunlight mainly, is limited. Nevertheless, the environmental performances are good and the building is one of the most ecological performing building in the city. The performances are through the insulation quality, the ventilation, the rainwater use for toilets, the photovoltaique and thermic solar panels use, even the canopy of the kinder garten is made of solar





panels , and through the use of green façades as a natural refreshing system. The energy consumption is under the 50KWH/year/m<sup>2</sup> which is the limit for to call "environmental architecture".

And the kinder garden is totally positive energy space. The idea is to brake from the apartment house principle and to mix them with végétation so that the main buildings seems to be more like a inhabited landscape than a common building, a green landscape which gives new perspective for the future of the city. Those green facades are composed by green columns, made of earth gabions one over the others supported by a steel structure with water irrigation inside, so that real plants, even small trees can grow on those vertical faces. The purpose was also to complete this very mineral city part with a contemporary green architecture matching with the traditional one. As if it is in the center of the city, the green purposes are very important to make the street more welcoming as it was no trees there. We can consider that this project is an landscape, urbanism and architecture project at the same time There are different parts in this project.

On the street of Croix Nivert, the main façade prolonge the old street line by a new green one giving suddenly to the city, a new image of this part a futuristic one. One part is reddish, from the brick of the old building near by and one part is white grey on the other part. So that the main façade is purposely a mix between those two colors. On the ground floor of this façade, In the middle, a big opening until the inner courtyard is full of sun.

In the inner court yard the building is undulating in the south west sunlight with différent angles views and green columns, toward the city and the subway depot with low buildings and quiet peaceful one.

On the ground floor of courtyard, a 1000 m<sup>2</sup> kinder garten on a one big floor in front of an outside garden with trees and a vegetable garden. All classes are in front of the garden in different colors and soft material, with a lot of wood. So the Kinder garten seems an ideal one at the foot of those gigantic green sculptures overwhelming an ideal courtyard in the middle of urban density.





