

# Application procedures

Cité de l'Innovation  
Sorbonne University

2024





## **"An unparalleled ecosystem, where research and innovation shape the future of entrepreneurship."**

Dear candidate companies,

While many entrepreneurial structures have sprung up in recent years, the Sorbonne University ecosystem is particularly comprehensive and therefore exceptional.

Today, we proudly present the Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation. Right in the heart of Paris, on one of Europe's most prestigious science and engineering campuses, in a building designed by an internationally renowned architectural firm, more than 15,000 square meters will be dedicated to innovation, incubation and strengthening the connection between research and entrepreneurship.

It's a project of unparalleled scope that our university has diligently put together.

Start-ups from Sorbonne University's research laboratories have raised an impressive 1.5 billion euros over the past ten years. This success testifies to the effectiveness of our unique innovation ecosystem, which covers all activities from the pre-start-up phase to the creation and support of start-ups.

We wanted a place where fundamental research and innovation meet and stimulate each other. A place where new ideas take shape, and where fledgling companies flourish in an unprecedented collaborative ecosystem. This is precisely what we're proposing with the Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation.

Join us: companies, start-ups and project leaders, to take part in a unique dynamic, to collaborate with our research laboratories, our researchers, our experts linked to our world-renowned scientific platforms, our students and alumni, and to develop innovative solutions within our collaborative ecosystem.

We invite you to contact us and submit your application!

**Nathalie Drach-Temam**  
President of Sorbonne University

View of the building from  
the forecourt of the Arab  
World Institute (©BIG and  
OFF architects)



# The Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation

THE SORBONNE UNIVERSITY CITÉ DE L'INNOVATION, LOCATED IN THE HEART OF PARIS ON THE PIERRE ET MARIE CURIE CAMPUS, WILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER OF 2025. DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS BIG AND OXO, IT WILL HOST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES IN AN INCUBATOR, A BUSINESS INCUBATOR, AND RELATED BUSINESSES. THE CITÉ INCLUDES IN-HOUSE STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT INNOVATION AND STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP. OPEN 24/7, THE SORBONNE UNIVERSITY CITÉ DE L'INNOVATION WILL BRING TOGETHER THE ENTREPRENEURIAL, RESEARCH AND STUDENT COMMUNITIES. ITS COMMON SPACES WILL HOST EVENTS LINKED TO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION.

Sorbonne University is building an infrastructure that is unique in the French university landscape, in terms of its scale, geographical location and human investment as well as scientific ambition. While the number of incubators and business accelerators has multiplied in recent years, the Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation will be the only one on a campus to offer complete hosting to such a wide range of players, with the aim of creating fruitful collaborations in the field of innovation. It will be a place for vibrant activity and emulation, where innovation will be nourished by the meeting of a diversity of talents.



# Shared spaces & services

The Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation represents almost 15,000m<sup>2</sup> (offices, laboratories, meeting rooms, and shared spaces and services) for researchers, students and alumni of Sorbonne University and its partners in the Sorbonne University Alliance. These spaces are spread across five levels, designed to encourage interaction and synergies between the various members.

- 1 750 m<sup>2</sup> for the incubator
- 2 150 m<sup>2</sup> for invention maturing
- 5 800 m<sup>2</sup> 5,800 m<sup>2</sup> for hosting more mature companies and Sorbonne University entities specialized in innovation, student entrepreneurship and the promotion of research.

## Common areas will cover 4,500 m<sup>2</sup>:

- A reception area to guide and inform users, and secure access for visitors at the business incubator 24/7; and hosting companies
- A convivial space (café and light catering) open to the student, entrepreneurial and research community
- A demonstrator to showcase the achievements of companies hosted at the Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation and Sorbonne University laboratories
- An interior street reserved for hosting major events
- A catering area, with a roof terrace offering a panoramic view for professional lunches and receptions
- An events hub for hosting international conferences and seminars, with two amphitheatres for 200-seat and 110-seat groups and seven seminar rooms on the first floor



Cafeteria (©BIG et OFF architects)



Amphitheater (©BIG and OFF architects)



Demonstrator area (©BIG and OFF architects)



Rue intérieure (©BIG et OFF architectes)

STARTING IN THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER OF 2025, THE SORBONNE UNIVERSITY CITÉ DE L'INNOVATION BUSINESS PARK WILL HOST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES WISHING TO COOPERATE WITH SORBONNE UNIVERSITY'S SCIENTIFIC AND STUDENT COMMUNITY.

SELECTED COMPANIES WILL BE HOSTED FOR THREE YEARS, WITH A POSSIBLE TWO-YEAR EXTENSION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

#### CONDITIONS AND RATES

- A maximum surface area of 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> for each company selected
- A three-year hosting period, with a possible two-year extension, subject to conditions
- Rates based on market prices, indexed annually to the ILAT (index of rents for tertiary activities)

## Company selection & hosting conditions

#### Requested criteria (not cumulative)

- Proven research and development (R&D) activity, with links to Sorbonne University or its academic partners (such as patents, contracts with laboratories, CIFRE)
- A willingness to cooperate with Sorbonne University throughout the duration of their stay at the Cité de l'Innovation
- Interaction with students (via hiring, company presentations, internships). Both students and employees will be in touch with other companies through various schemes such as PEPITE. Companies are also expected to be involved in the Cité de l'Innovation activities, participating in community life, programming and recommending the hosting of professional events. Particular attention will be paid to this criterion, and it will be included in the commitments of the hosting agreement.

#### Selection and hosting of companies

- An audition will be organized by the selection committee in late June - early July 2024. It will be made up of personalities from the university as well as experts from the business world. Candidates will be notified of their decision in October 2024.
- A hosting and services agreement will then be offered to the selected companies. They will then have around three months in which to sign. After this period, the space will be allocated to other applicant companies.
- Once the agreement has been signed, a session will be organized by Sorbonne University to collect specific needs and organize the installation, with a view to setting up between the 4th quarter of 2025 and the 1st quarter of 2026.



# How to apply for hosting as a business

JOIN THE ADVENTURE, WHERE CREATIVITY, EXPERIMENTATION AND COLLABORATION WILL TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE SORBONNE UNIVERSITY CITÉ DE L'INNOVATION. SEVERAL PIECES OF INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION FILE. CANDIDATES ARE ASKED TO DETAIL SEVERAL POINTS LISTED BELOW.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2024,  
TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

[cite-innovation@sorbonne-universite.fr](mailto:cite-innovation@sorbonne-universite.fr)

## INFORMATION LIST

COMPANY NAME AND ADDRESS:

CURRENT WORKFORCE (MANDATORY):

PROJECTED WORKFORCE ON OCTOBER 1, 2025:

ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS IN M<sup>2</sup> INCLUDING LABORATORIES, OFFICES, MEETING ROOMS:

DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY:

PREFERRED START-UP DATE:

PREFERRED LOCATION ON PLANS:

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

## TO ENSURE THAT YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE:

(THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF A SINGLE TECHNICAL BRIEF).

- Presentation of the company: description of technology, management bodies and internal boards, governance**
- Multi-year economic model (business plan)**
- Social and environmental criteria taken into account in the company's project**
- Overall cooperation project with Sorbonne University (the following elements provide guidelines and do not constitute a mandatory framework, as the candidate is free to propose ideas not included in the list):**
  - Motivation for choosing the Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation
  - Links that are existing or to be developed with laboratories: current lines of research, prospects for new cooperation, current contracts or patents
  - Existing relations or relations to be developed with the Sorbonne University student community and the Paris and Ile-de-France school community: hiring, internships, post-docs, raising awareness of entrepreneurship
  - Involvement in education (specific masters, entrepreneurship)
  - Use (if applicable) of Sorbonne University's scientific platforms, a list of which is available at: [www.sorbonne-universite.fr/en/technical-platforms-list](http://www.sorbonne-universite.fr/en/technical-platforms-list)
- Specific wishes and needs:**
  - Specify the desired surface areas
  - Specify the specific services expected

## CALENDAR

- June 1, 2024:** deadline for receipt of application
- End of June 2024:** interview with the Sorbonne University Cité de l'Innovation committee
- October 2024:** notification of acceptance
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2025:** desired installation date



# Services

## 1. Logistical support 24h/7

Reception, security, guarding and operating services, as well as furniture for common areas, network and IT access and maintenance, will be provided 24/7. Tailor-made support will be provided for events organized by companies and their partners.

## A unique location at the heart of the campus

Each company will benefit from cutting-edge technological and engineering expertise. Sorbonne University will put companies in touch with 124 platforms, spread over 13 campuses and 3 marine stations. They will also benefit from the scientific environment of the laboratories and research units. Last but not least, they will have a link with Sorbonne University students through visits, participation in educational courses, or through future internships and hirings.

## ABOUT SORBONNE UNIVERSITY

A world-class, multidisciplinary university with 55,000 students, 7,300 teaching and research staff and over a hundred laboratories, Sorbonne University covers the humanities, health, science and engineering. For further information: [www.sorbonne-universite.fr/en](http://www.sorbonne-universite.fr/en)

Green roof (©BIG and OFF architects)

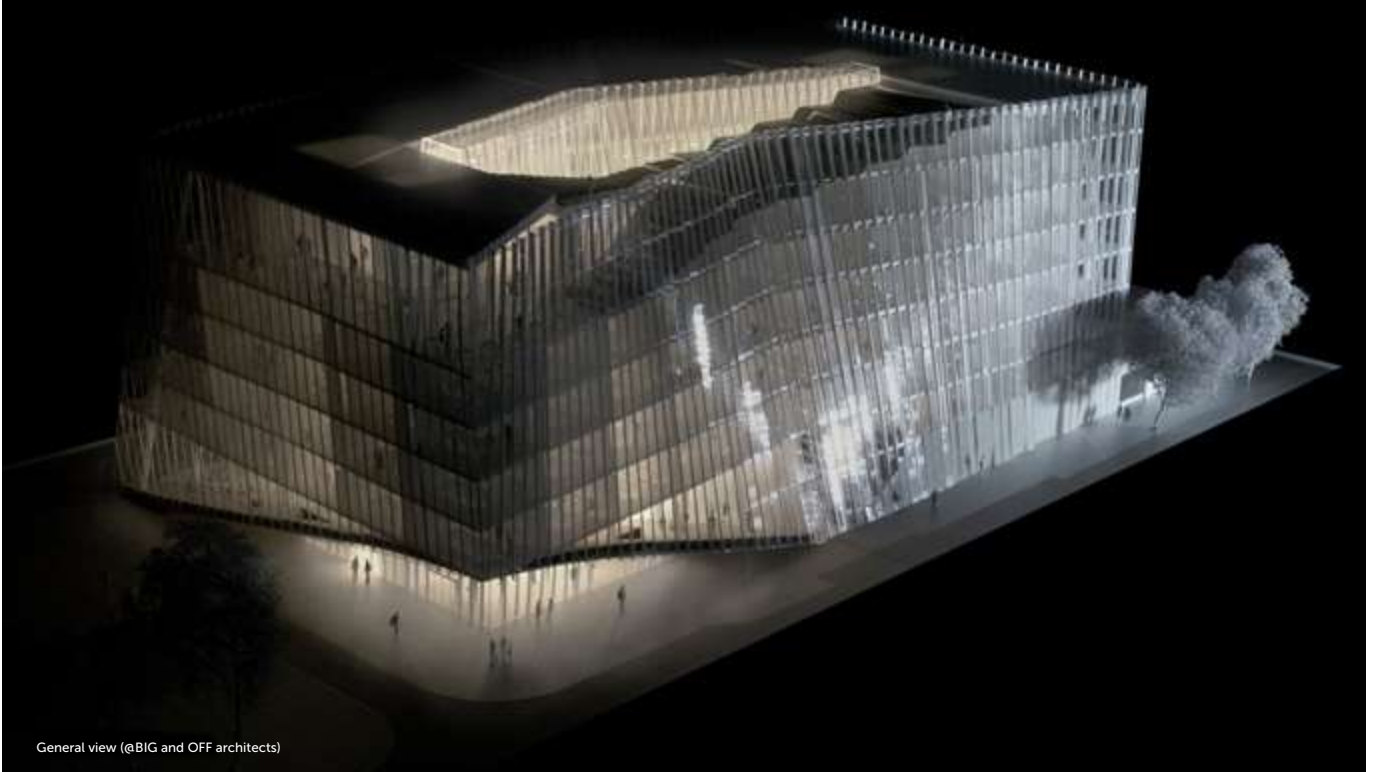




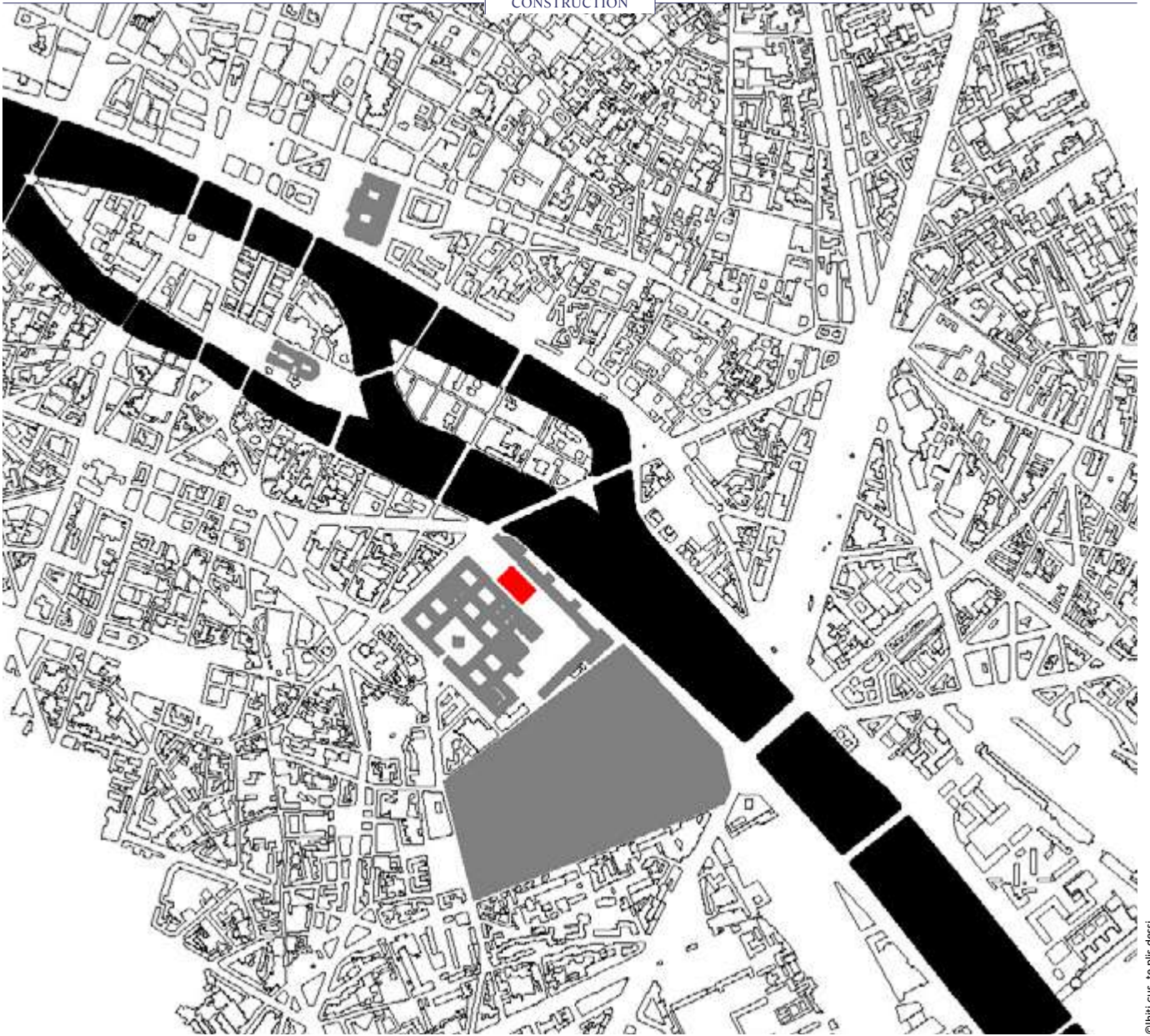
Main facade facing Notre-Dame de Paris (@BIG and OFF architects)



General view (@BIG and OFF architects)



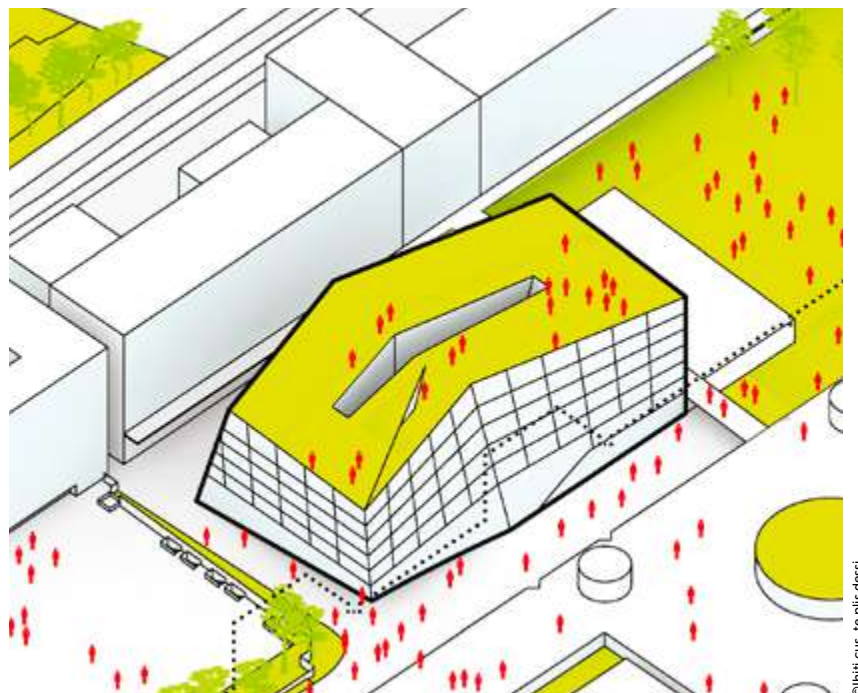




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## Construction in progress

SINCE AUTUMN 2022, THE SORBONNE UNIVERSITY CITÉ DE L'INNOVATION PROJECT HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER THE EXPERTISE OF FRENCH AND EUROPEAN COMPANIES TO CREATE AN EXCEPTIONAL ARCHITECTURAL ACHIEVEMENT. TRUE TO ITS VALUES, SORBONNE UNIVERSITY HAS CHOSEN A PROJECT THAT MOBILIZES TALENT AT EVERY LEVEL.



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View of the construction site (©Potion Média/ Léon Grosse)

Divided into some twenty lots, the companies (SMEs and major groups), aided by their numerous suppliers and subcontractors, take up the daily challenge of completing an ambitious project.

Depending on the phase of the work, between 40 and 120 workers, technicians and engineers are expected to be on site, along with equivalent numbers for administrative and financial management, as well as for execution and synthesis studies. In addition to the high quality of the results expected, the project will also have to take into account a dense and active neighborhood, which represents a daily challenge in terms of logistics, noise management and safety for all concerned.

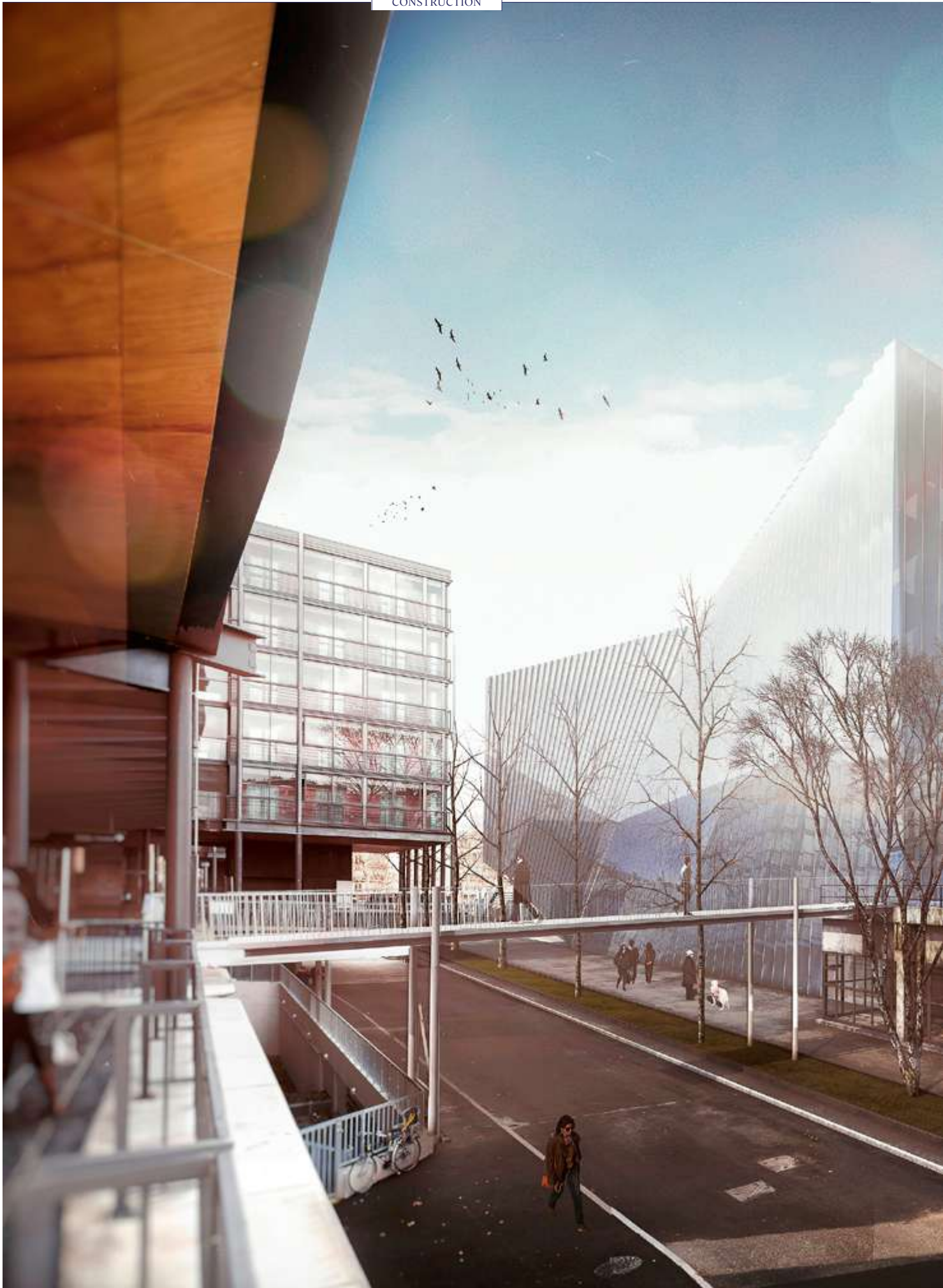


View of the construction site (Potion Média/ Léon Grosse)



View of the construction site (©Potion Média/ Léon Grosse)

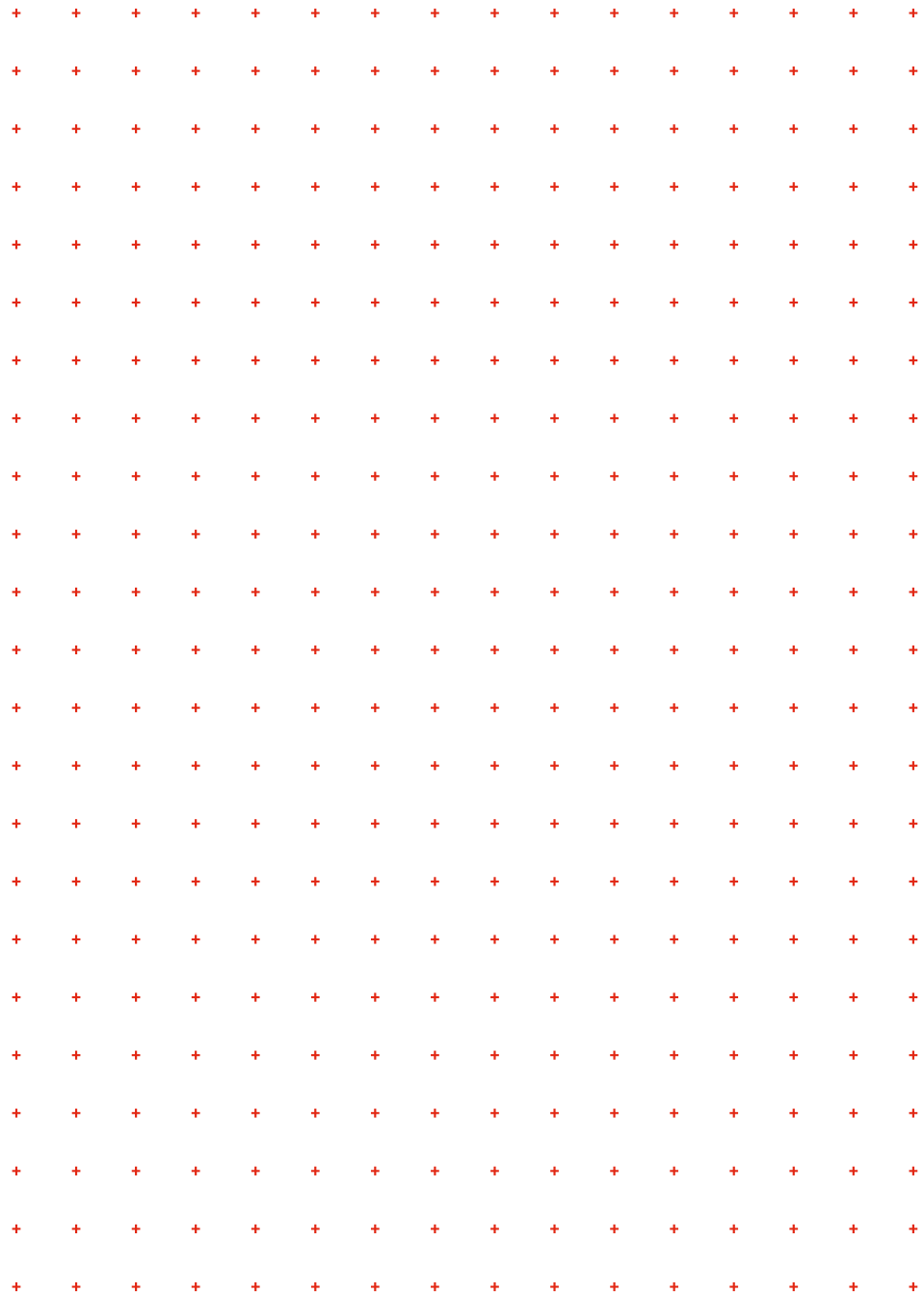








Photorealistic rendering of the project from the heart of the campus (@BIG and OFF architects)



**CONTACT**

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