

DIPLOMA PROJECT

Hôtel Industriel in Montbrillant, Geneva

«a belvedere over the rails»



The project tries to reintroduce industry inside the city while answering the short and long term needs of the owner of the parcel: the Swiss Federal Railways. Those needs are first to provide an up to date train maintenance shelter that would replace the obsolete and underused existing buildings. The second is the need to preserve a large outdoor train storage area. The whole infrastructure is set to leave for a much bigger, state-of-the-art railway complex outside the city (probably Colovrex) around 2030, which would enable for a parc in relation with the projected public programs to later develop. This evolutivity from an industrial site and building to a still industrial -yet public- building is a key element of the design.

Located in a place of choice within the city, in the dynamic and service- dominated area of Sécheron-Cornavin. just between the national organizations district and the main train station, the parcel has the potential to provide excellent visibility and easy access for both projected programs.

The position of the industrial building creates a rear facade that enables access by truck and train and concentrate noise disturbances on the railway side.

L'industrie n'occupe plus une place centrale dans nos villes, bien qu'elle ait depuis toujours joué un rôle structurant pour l'urbanisme et le développement socio-économique du pays. Son retour est aujourd'hui souhaitable à plus d'un titre. Le projet se caractérise par la volonté de favoriser la mixité entre le secteur secondaire et tertiaire et de répondre aux besoins de l'infrastructure ferroviaire présente sur le site, tout en créant deux espaces publics distincts: un belvédère et un parc.

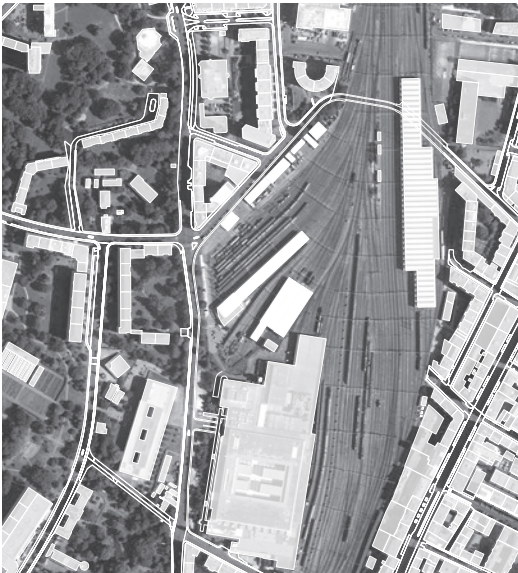
Véritable porte d'entrée de Genève, la zone située entre Sécheron et la gare Cornavin attire les projets d'architecture d'envergure représentatifs du dynamisme de la ville toute entière.

Ainsi, immeubles de bureaux et de logements se regroupent le long du rail, tandis que la présence au sol des infrastructures ferroviaires (dépôt de train, bâtiment de maintenance) devient de plus en plus problématique, bien que nécessaire.

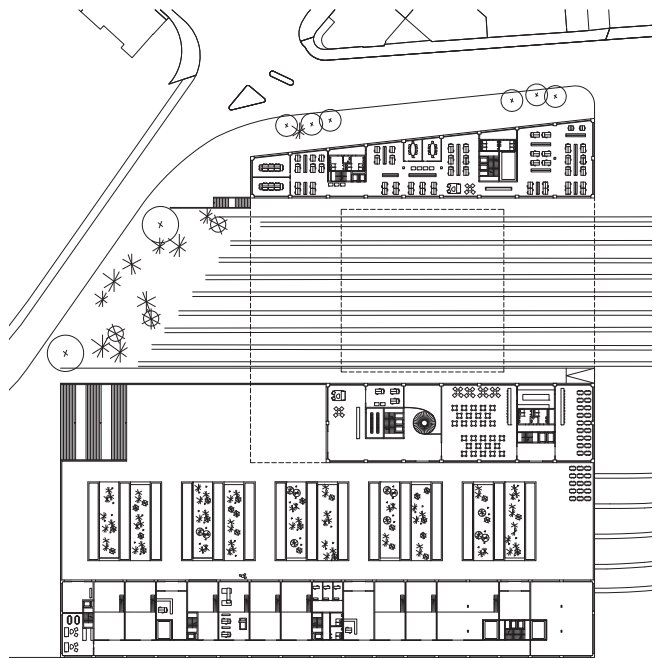
The building is designed to host several different smaller companies in divisible spaces. Facilities such as lifts and loading areas are shared. In close visual relation to those production spaces, the project proposes a public, translucent layer that would host industry-related exhibitions, meetings and conferences, which also includes design, jewelery and art exhibitions. This way both production, administration exhibition and public amenities could meet in the same urban complex.

The difference between road and rail levels is used to facilitate access to the roof of the train shelter, and thus transforming it into a very special public space: a belvedere over the rails, that would offer access to the public and industrial programs. The repetitive concrete grid and the large span structures and skylights would add a strong industrial theme to the parc and the exhibition spaces that would perfectly fit with the original nature of the site. By its size, location and mixed programs, the building could become an icon of the industrial renouveau of the city of Geneva.

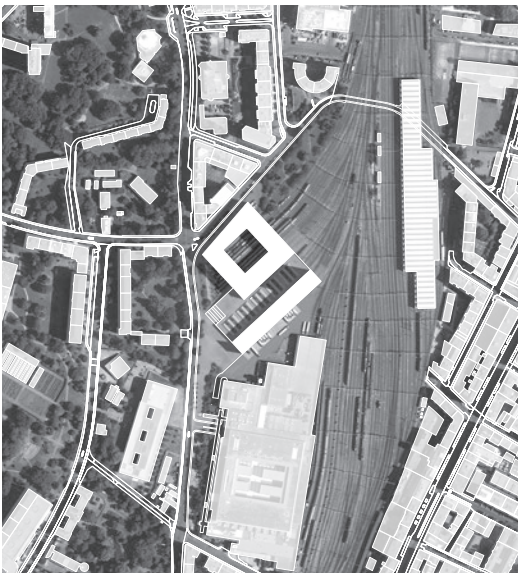
C'est dans ce contexte que s'inscrit le projet. Celui-ci vise à répondre à deux besoins: conserver dans un premier temps un large faisceau de rails, dédié au dépôt plein air de wagons, destiné à devenir un parc une fois son démantèlement accompli; et bâtir à court terme un nouvel atelier d'entretien qui remplacerait les bâtiments existants obsolètes. Au-dessus de ce premier niveau d'infrastructure formant un belvédère, un hôtel industriel et divers programmes publics et administratifs sont projetés. Le bâtiment a le potentiel de devenir l'emblème du renouveau de l'industrie genevoise de par sa visibilité accrue.



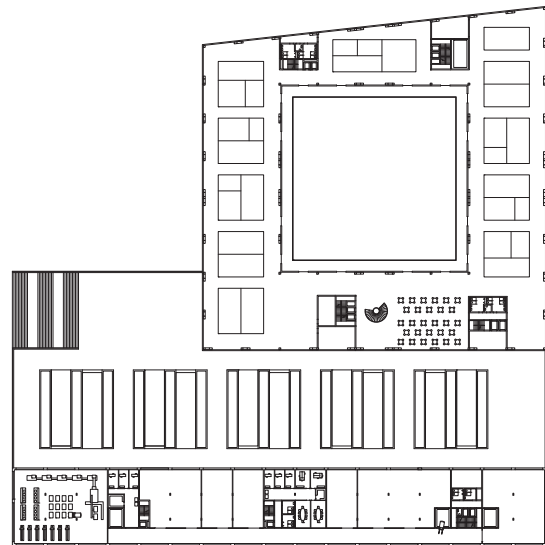
Mass plan - Existing situation



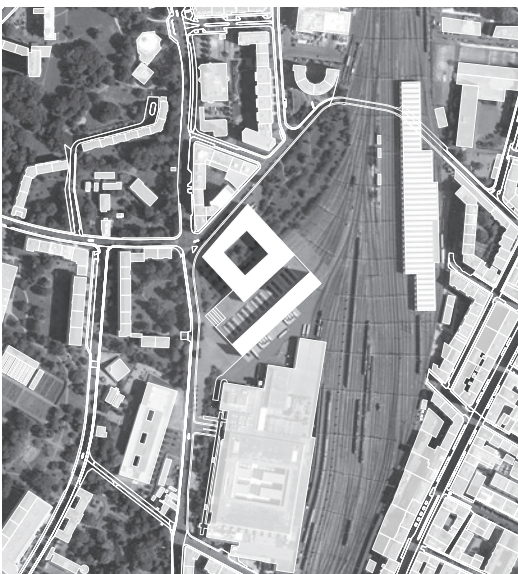
Level +1 Belvedere



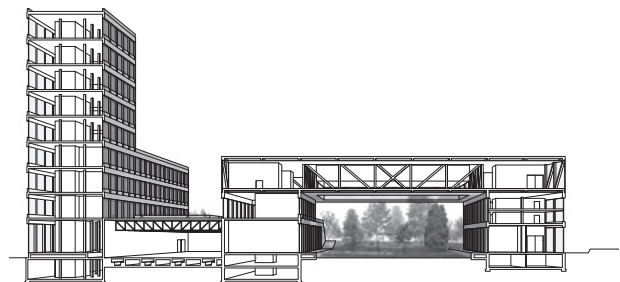
Mass plan - Short term intervention (2015-2030)



Level +2 / Level +4 to +8



Mass plan - Long term Intervention (2030 and later)



Perspective section (2030 and later)