M6B2 Tower of Biodiversity

Paris, France

The relationship between building height and sustainability is a subject that currently occupies the minds of many city planners. This is because the city cannot expand infinitely into the landscape. In France, however, "village" urbanism seems to be adamantly resisting the vertical city, without truly considering its potential. One of the objectives of this project is to quell these hesitations.

Benefitting from an exemption to the 37-metre height restriction in Paris, the team created a 50-metre-high building that towers above its neighbours at River Gauche, on the southern bank of the river Seine.

This tower has a façade with a double skin for the 16-storey tower. The outer layer is made up of stainless steel netting that acts as a climbing frame for plants. Plants grow up the exterior of this green apartment tower spread seeds across the city.

It allows the wind to spread class one purebred seeds into the urban environment. Its height is a key element for its capacity to regenerate urban biodiversity. The landscaping strategy unfolds in three stages: first with rapidly climbing vines, later with conifer trees that develop in five to ten years, and lastly with slow-growth trees like oaks that develop in twenty years or more.

The green vegetal façade of the tower extends over the center of the block to the surrounding buildings. They are placed at the corners of the block, allowing for the pedestrian to stroll through a calm, protected garden filled with low vegetation, as if outside of the city.

Environment:	urban
Material:	stainless steel nets
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