

# Le champ des possibles, micro-architectures à expérimenter

Exhibition

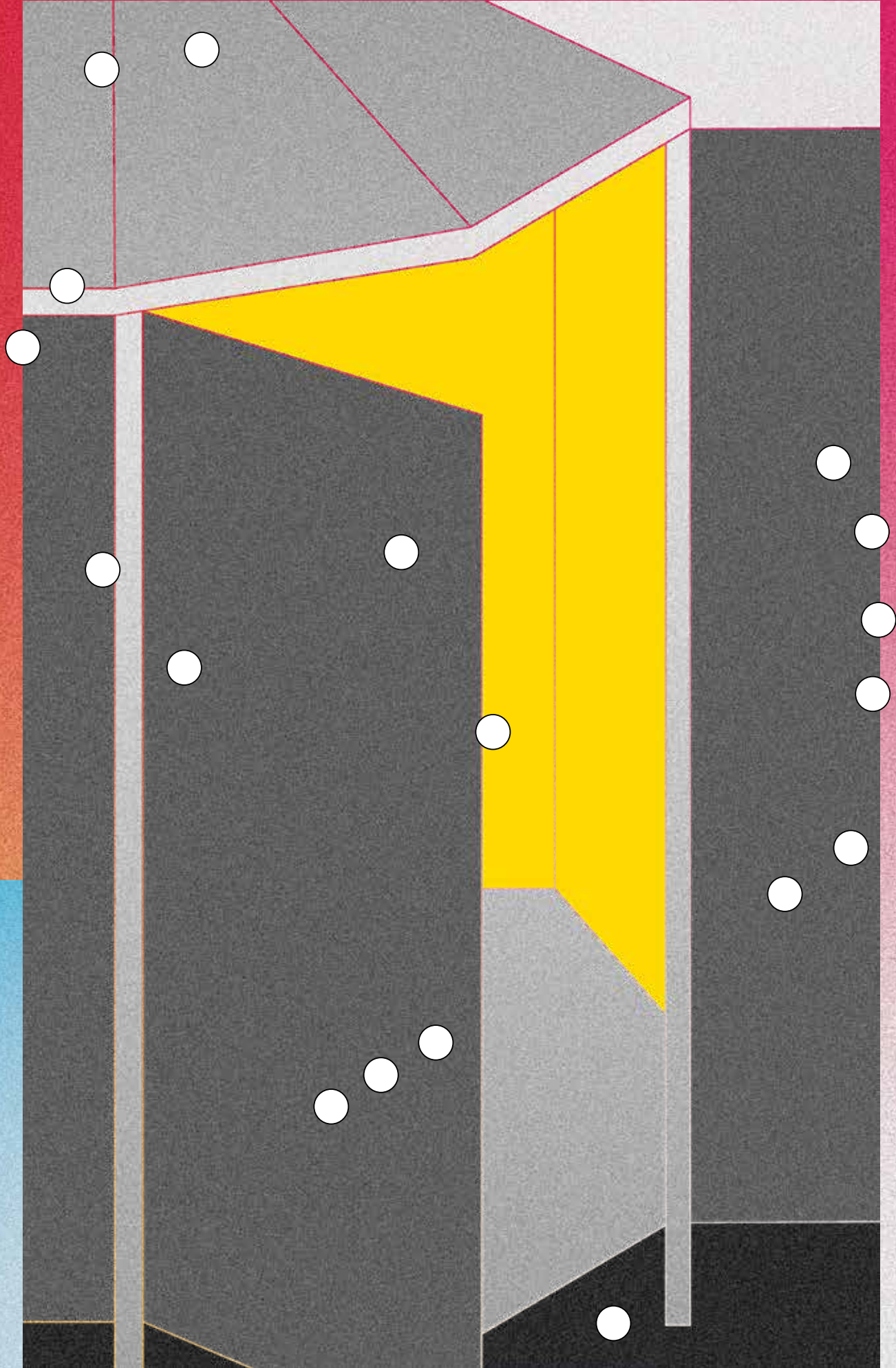
Église Saint-Pierre, Firminy  
[www.sitelecorbusier.com](http://www.sitelecorbusier.com)

Press kit

6 April 2022 - 15 January 2023

# LE CORBUSIER

Firminy-Vert / Saint-Étienne Métropole



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## Editorial

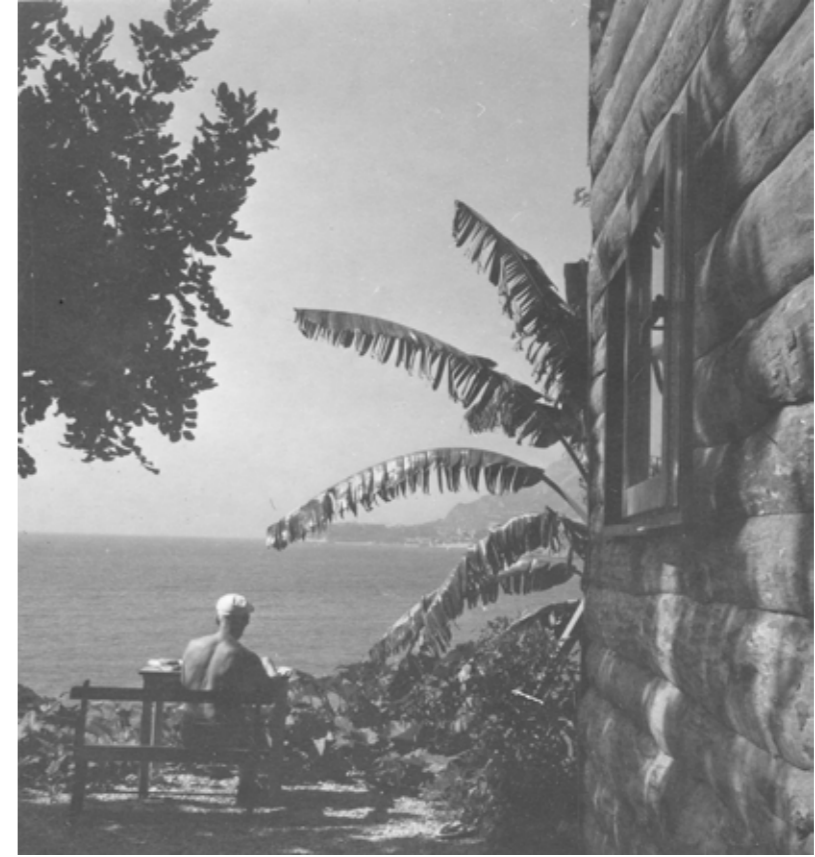
In 2022, echoing the theme *Bifurcations* of the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne and in continuation with *Manuelle Gautrand's* exhibition in 2021, the Site Le Corbusier continues to question our way of inhabiting the world and how architecture translates it into our urban or rural living spaces.

We are invited to enjoy a late-summer experience in a space-saving micro-architecture, conceived to meet our primary needs and the new aspirations of a more sober and balanced society. Thus freed from the superfluous, we can focus on the essential and invent new forms in adequation with other potential lifestyles, as individuals and as a collective. Le Corbusier's Cabanon and its interpretation by Döppel Studio in a cereal field are the starting points of this initiatory journey which will provide a better understanding of minimal space and its uses.

The exhibition then displays six micro-architectures, that the visitor will experiment in order to apprehend our habits and needs and to question the main issues of today's architecture and design : circular and solidarity-based economy, environment, inclusivity, cohabitation and the maintaining of savoir-faire.

This exhibition suggests new living space alternatives, at the end of summer when wheat has been harvested and the soil is recovering.

Géraldine Dabrigeon  
Curator of the Site Le Corbusier  
Director of the heritage sites  
of Saint-Étienne Tourisme et Congrès



Le Corbusier, Cabanon, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, 1951, Lucien Hervé photographe  
© FLC/ADAGP / J. Paul Getty Trust

“Our house is our corner of the world. As has often been said, it is our first universe, a real cosmos in every sense of the word. If we look at it intimately, the humblest dwelling has beauty”

Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*, PUF, 1974 [1957].

“A house is not made for decor, it is made for human happiness.”

Le Corbusier

The Site Le Corbusier in Firminy is quite imposing. Singular also. It is an outstanding ensemble, result of the avant-garde vision of an architect in love with shapes and light, nature and functionality. This architectural site was open to tourism in 2008, not long after the completion of the Saint-Pierre church in 2006. It has since been able to develop its fame, which was immensely increased in 2016, as the Cultural Centre was listed by UNESCO along with 16 other Le Corbusier sites, as an “outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement”. Schools, design and architecture lovers, families... 20 000 visitors come to the Site Le Corbusier of Firminy each year.

## EMOTION, A KEY OF KNOWLEDGE

The Site Le Corbusier invites all kinds of public to experiment with architecture - local families, transient visitors... - with emotion as a key of knowledge. Our touristic experience is thus reinvented based on amazement, emotions and pleasure. We invite you to look beyond the concrete facade and discover a light and space design open to nature and to unusual and bold inventions and innovations.

## CUSTOM-MADE VISITS

New visits and events are constantly being developed for the public to imagine new possibilities. They show the Site ambition : to create a true travel destination dedicated to Le Corbusier's universe.

## AN EXCEPTIONAL EXHIBITION

Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne

6 Apr. 2022 - 31 Jan. 2023

To branch off is to react and take a step aside by experimenting, paths, here and now. To branch off is to explore other possible avenues, collective, sober, respectful of life and adapted to each context. The challenge of the International Design Biennale Saint-Étienne 2022 is to encourage design to go on an adventure: what is it already doing? What more can he do otherwise?

## A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: The Site Le Corbusier is a committed destination for an eco-design transition

Since 2021, the Site Le Corbusier, as part of Saint-Étienne Tourisme & Congrès, has been committed into the transition towards sustainable tourism. The everyday functioning as well as the temporary events and activities take part into a general eco-friendly approach. Short-term and long-term initiatives are taken everyday in the most common actions as well as the more ambitious renovations. The whole team is committed to this unavoidable transition for a better future.

**BIFUR-  
CATIONS** 6 Avril  
-31 juillet  
2022  
CHOISIR L'ESSENTIEL



Église Saint-Pierre - Yohann Merlevede © FLC/ADAGP. Conception, Le Corbusier architecte, José Oubrière assistant (1960-65)  
Réalisation, José Oubrière architecte (1970-2006)

# Le Corbusier's Cabanon

Le Corbusier discovered Roquebrune-Cap-Martin during his summer holidays between 1920 and 1930. He knew Eileen Gray's E-1027 Villa which was conceived between 1926 and 1929 by the designer and her friend, the architect Jean Badovici. Le Corbusier and his wife were invited by the latter to stay there in 1938. The next year Le Corbusier painted seven murals in the Villa. After the War Le Corbusier met Thomas Rebutato, who in 1948 had opened a snack-bar called L'Étoile de mer. Le Corbusier asked him to prepare lunch for his collaborators and himself. It was a success and the beginning of their friendship.

Le Corbusier was 64 years old when he drew the plans of the Cabanon. What is described as quite simple - the "45 minutes" of conception mentioned by Le Corbusier - actually synthesized more than 40 years of work. In 1951 Thomas Rebutato gave Le Corbusier a part of his land so he could build "his ideal castle". In exchange Le Corbusier conceived and financed five "camping units" inspired by the Cabanon. The cabin was built in Ajaccio (Corsica) by Charles Barberis' company. It was then dismantled and transported to be reassembled on site. The plan is a practical application of the Modulor. Its inside follows a spiral structure that divides the room into four parts: a dining and working space, a sleeping space, a washing space and a storing space. In 1954 he added a few meters away a prefab cabin which he used as a studio. Le Corbusier prophetically declared in 1962: "I so enjoy this cabin that I will probably die here".



Le Cabanon, window view,  
Le Corbusier Photo © SLC © FLC/ADAGP



Le Cabanon, inside view, Le Corbusier Photo © Olivier Martin Gambier © FLC/ADAGP



Le Cabanon, inside view 2, Le Corbusier Photo © Olivier Martin Gambier © FLC/ADAGP

## THE EXHIBITION PROJECT

The Site Le Corbusier develops a positioning based on the idea that emotions are keys to the discovery of the arts of architecture and urban-planning. Our whole exhibition programme follows the same principle.

In July 2021, the Site Le Corbusier launched a call for projects on small-scale architecture. It was aimed at architects, designers, urban and landscape planners. It was broadcasted on social media and amongst our partners.

At the end of September 2021, about fifty applications were received, of which many were of high quality. The jury composed of tourism, heritage, press and architecture professionals chose and auditioned five candidates. Only one was chosen: Döppel Studio and their project called "Essence".

The conception started in October 2021 and was finalised in March 2022 under the name "The Field of possibilities, experimenting micro-architectures".

With this exhibition, the Site Le Corbusier wishes the visitors to be actors of their own discovery of the "vivre ensemble" (living together). Therefore they will be able to test and experiment with each exhibited micro-architecture.

### Temporary exhibition, a transition challenge for museums

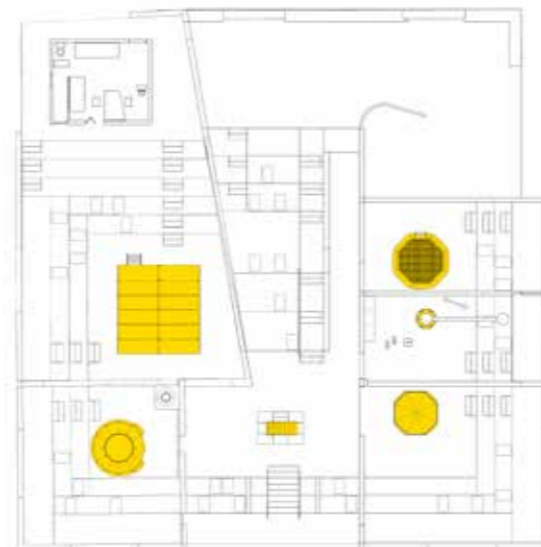
Temporary exhibitions are now central parts of cultural and historical sites. They are a great way to promote your site and to keep the visitors coming back. They are a place for knowledge and emotions for a large-scale audience. As such they play a bigger and bigger part in the cultural scene, mobilising important human, technical and financial needs, often for a quite short period of time. Their environmental impact thus cannot be denied or minimised. That is why they became a major challenge for an eco-friendly and inclusive transition.

Some of the topics developed in the exhibition *The Field of possibilities, experimenting micro-architectures*:

- An exhibition discourse addressing environmental issues
- A scenography that can be reused, for instance for a future exhibition.
- Furniture that can be adapted to different uses thanks to a non-damaging dismantling and easy storage
- Local raw material that can be recycled or reused
- An exhibit set up entirely made and built by local companies
- A reasonable use of the different communication mediums (reduced print, limited and smart numeric design)
- Development of an inclusive mediation for young people and visitors with disabilities. Creation of activities (model building) made only with waste material

## THE EXHIBITION ROUTE

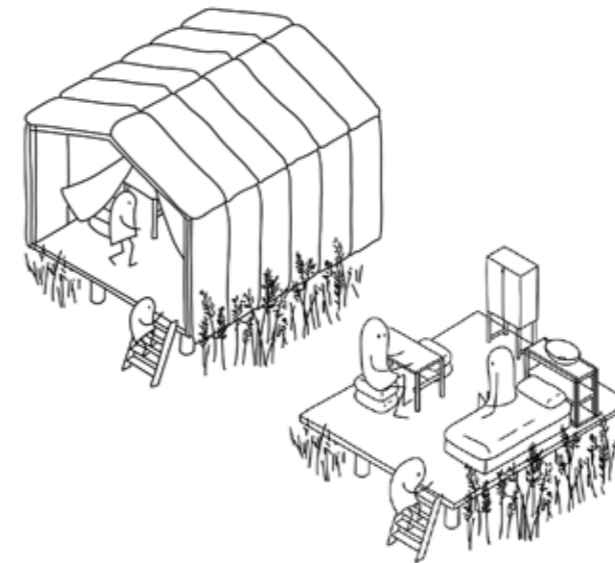
After the discovery of Le Corbusier's Cabanon the visitor is invited to test six micro-architectures conceived by Döppel Studio. These installations question the concept of housing and how it meets our essential needs like getting healthy air, being sheltered and nourished, or getting access to freshwater. The exhibition also questions the connection between body and mind.



## MICRO-ARCHITECTURE O1:

### An updated Cabanon

Created with an ergonomical and functionalist perspective, the Cabanon is now considered as an icon of modern architecture. Many architects and designers see it as a universal invariant that crystallises an idea that impacts the whole world. It is therefore quite uneasy to confront it and even more to try and give a new interpretation of this micro-architecture that is now elevated to the rank of a work of art. Studio Döppel gives here a new version, personal and innovative, matching our modern lifestyles and societal challenges. What firstly defines the Cabanon is its unique and exceptional location, as it was built in a natural site over the Mediterranean Sea, surrounded by lush vegetation. Studio Döppel made a radical choice as they implanted their updated Cabanon in the countryside, far away from the touristic places, in an unoccupied landscape planted with ephemeral straw castles. The chosen function remains the same as this cabin also is meant as a temporary and seasonal housing: it encourages its user to nomadism and questions the notion of comfort. This leisure micro-architecture can meet our needs for shelter, sleep and work as evidenced by the present furniture.



## MICRO-ARCHITECTURE O2:

### The Hut, a convivial space for interaction

The hut and the campfire are spaces for interaction where people gather to get warm, to eat and to listen to stories. The micro-architecture "the hut" conceived by Studio Döppel questions these practices. It was inspired by native american huts used as sweat lodges: these wooden dome-shaped constructions are structured around a central pit with heated stones that are sprayed with water. The huts are covered with blankets that are sprayed with water. The huts are covered with blankets to keep them dark and hot. The designers here associated the traditional circular plan to an elevated bench that reminds us of the norwegian saunas. The central hearth can be moved. At daytime it is to be placed outside. The stones are heated by the sun and thus can be used to cook food; whereas during the night the hearth is placed back at the centre of the hut and the accumulated warmth of the stones is used as a heating system. By evoking these practices they question our housing autonomy and the needs for energy and resources.



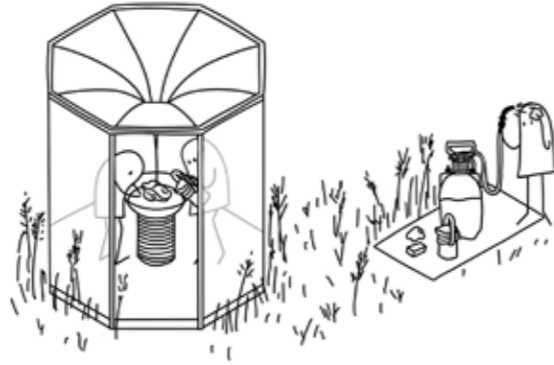
**MICRO-ARCHITECTURE O3:  
LC4 O<sub>2</sub> farlands for tomorrow**

The LC4 O<sub>2</sub> installation is meant to be set up on a fallow land and invites its user to lay down, breathe and enjoy this pollution-free environment away from intensive construction. It questions land consumption and the issue of pollution in rural areas. In 1988, the scientific journal *Études rurales* (Rural Researches) was devoted to "Land, succession and heritage" and a considerable part was dedicated to the abandonment of agricultural land. Nowadays this preoccupation has been replaced by the issue of "land waste". The "building politicians" were incited by the seemingly abundant free space to overurbanise in order to avoid urban decay. In France the equivalent of a 170 000 people feeding land is lost each year. Regarding the food, energy, climate and economics challenges that France will have to face in the forthcoming years, such a waste seems completely unreasonable. Agriculture obviously assures our food security, but it also plays an essential role in carbon storage, biomass production and biodiversity preservation.



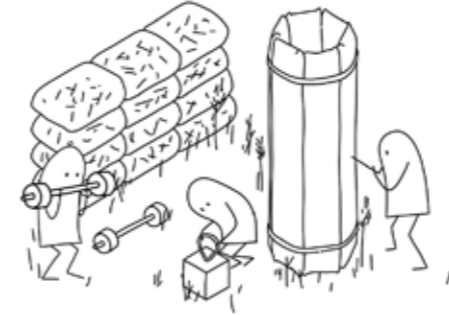
**MICRO-ARCHITECTURE O4:  
The spring, a water story**

Falsely abundant, water has become a scarce resource sometimes used all around the world in an irrational way. In the last fifty years freshwater consumption has tripled, mainly because of demographic pressure, extension of cultivated surfaces and the evolution of lifestyles. On the other hand, water resources decrease because of groundwater contamination and climate change. In 2030, big cities could be facing water shortage. This microarchitecture called 'the spring' enlightens this essential issue of human future. It is meant as a potential solution with a device that collects dew and fog in order to create a water supply meeting the fundamental needs of washing and drinking.



**MICRO-ARCHITECTURE O5:  
"The Défouloir", architecture and the body...**

The first goal of architecture is to shelter our human bodies. By giving them a living space, it gives them the possibility of protection and gathering. Humans and architecture affect each other. By questioning this relationship the microarchitecture called "the défouloir" (the fury room) uses architecture to get the body in movement. The user becomes the actor of their own space: they can explore it and play with it. They are not limited or restricted since they stand in the middle of a field. Whether inside or outside, sport defines a space-time where you can let off steam, overcome your frustrations and get a bit of freedom back. Sport practice helps for the development of proprioception. Humans test their bodies, and in order to improve their gestures, their attention is focused on their movements. Stress decreases, anxiety reduces and body and mind get oxygenated, releasing endorphins thus enhancing well-being. This microarchitecture gives a first approach on physical activity and invites the visitor to practice freeing movements.



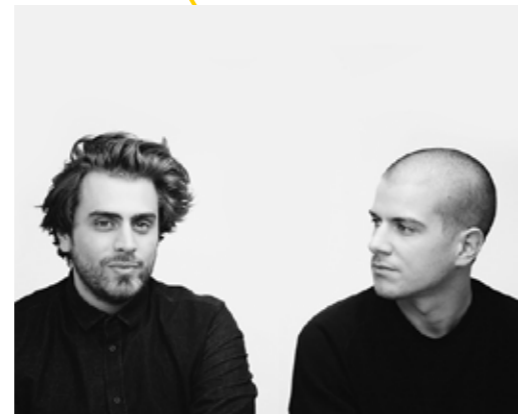
**MICRO-ARCHITECTURE O6:  
Contemplation**

Physiological needs set aside, human beings have always been guided by a search of meaning, of transcendence, manifesting itself in the development of beliefs and rituals, religious convictions and spiritual practices. In order to connect with one's personal journey many places have appeared where one can focus on nature and switch off their mind. Retreating has become a source of bliss, and minimalist constructions have emerged to the four corners of the world. This desire for calm and serenity is approached here in Döppel Studio's microarchitecture called "Contemplation". It offers the visitor a distance from the modern world. The mere contemplation of the Orion constellation provides this timeless moment in "praise of nothing".



Döppel Studio was born out of the meeting of two designers: Lionel Dinis-Salazar and Jonathan Omar. Their name is meant as a reference to their duo, but also to the duality of micro and macro scales on which they work in their studio. Settled in Paris, these two designers explore the boundaries between disciplines. Their work questions shapes and uses to create pragmatic and sensitive projects. The duo consider the confrontation of ideas and sketches as a mean to obtain an accurate and efficient project and they strive for a design using mind and body.

**Döppel Studio**  
 20 rue Primo Levi  
 75013 Paris  
[www.doppelstudio.fr/fr](http://www.doppelstudio.fr/fr)



Lionel Dinis Salazar and Jonathan Omar  
 © Döppel Studio

### LIONEL DINIS SALAZAR

Lionel Dinis-Salazar is a designer who graduated from the ENSAD, School of Decorative Arts in Paris. After researching in domestic space he now creates plastic installations, exhibit displays and objets.

- 2017** Teacher  
École de Condé
- 2016** Teacher  
Camille Claudel
- 2016** Freelance Designer
- 2014** Studio Mathieu Lehanneur - Assistant
- 2013** Studio Arik Levy - Assistant
- 2012** Studio Rodolphe Parente - Assistant
- 2011** Studio Joran Briand - Assistant
  
- 1988** Born in Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire
- 2017** Ateliers de Paris - Residency
- 2015** Researcher  
Design & Innovation ENSADLAB
- 2014** MS in Product Design  
with Honors ENSAD
- 2013** Diploma Thesis - "From clone to artefact"
- 2009** Design produit - ESAAB - Nevers

### JONATHAN OMAR

Jonathan Omar is a designer who graduated from the HEAR (art and music school) in Strasbourg. He creates object design, artistic installation and exhibit displays.

- 2017** Design Teacher  
École de Condé
- 2015** Studio Joran Briand - Assistant
- 2012** Artistic director assistant  
Publicis Events
- 2011** Freelance designer
- 2009** Modeling Assistant - Cinema4D
- 2009** UI/UX Design Assistant
  
- 1989** Born in Nevers
- 2017** Ateliers de Paris - Residency
- 2016** MS in Design  
with honors - HEAR - Strasbourg
- 2014** 2014 BS in Design  
with honors - HEAR - Strasbourg
- 2012** BTS - Product Design - ESAAB - Nevers
- 2009** Architect Assistant  
Professional training - Paris

# Exhibition-related

### EVENT PROGRAMME

#### Roundtable discussion

*Les enjeux de l'habitat minimal de demain*

A conversation about the three exhibitions that question minimal housing: *At Home, Maison soustraire, a posteriori* (Cité du design) and *A field of possibilities, experimenting micro-architectures* (Site Le Corbusier de Firminy).

Wednesday 13 April at 4.00 pm

Theatre, Cité du Design

Rate: free entrance

Duration: 1h30

Booking contact: 04 77 61 08 72

In partnership with la Cité du Design. With Géraldine Dabrigéon, Cédric Libert, Mathilde Pellé, Catharine Rossi, Jana Scholze and Penny Sparke.

#### Family discovery, from 6 years old

*Family fun days*

After experimenting with the micro-architectures in the exhibition, come and build, make, test, reinvent and model your field of possibilities in our workshop area.

Included in the admission fee.

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from April to October and every Wednesday in July and August. From 2pm to 5pm.

### THE EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Written under the direction of Géraldine Dabrigéon

Curator of the Site Le Corbusier,

Director of the heritage sites

of Saint-Étienne Tourisme et Congrès

Format: 20 x 25 cm.

Language: bilingual French/English

Limited edition: 200 copies

### THE SHOP

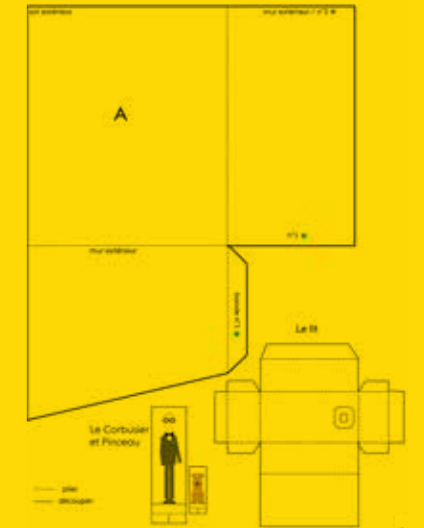
Different items will be displayed in our shops: tote-bags, notebooks, soaps and more...



### Model building — Tutorial for kids

Inspired by Le Corbusier's Cabanon, we created a model for kids. They will build their own little cabin and design and decorate it as they wish. A fun activity to understand what is essential - or not! - in everyday life. A tutorial video shows the construction step by step.

Free download on [sitelecorbusier.com](http://sitelecorbusier.com) or on our youtube channel "Site Le Corbusier Firminy". From 6 years old



## EXHIBITION DATES

From 6 April 2022 to 15 January 2023

## LOCATION OF THE EXHIBITION

Site Le Corbusier  
Église Saint-Pierre  
Rue des Noyers  
42700 Firminy

## OPENING HOURS

From 10 am to 12.30 pm and from 1.30 pm to 6 pm.  
From 6 April to 10 July, from 5 September to 10 November,  
from 17 December to 1<sup>st</sup> January: open every day except on Tuesdays.  
From 11 July to 4 September: open every day  
From 12 November to 16 December: open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.  
**Exceptional closing on 1st of May, 11 November, 25 December and 1st of January.**

## RATE

**Full rate:** 6,50 €

**Reduced rate:** 5,50 € ( - under 18, over 65, students, person with disability)

**Free under 8**

**Free entrance the first Sunday of the month**

**Pass Biennale:** 12 €/10 € (one entrance to each exhibition of the Biennale Design Saint-Etienne)

**Discover our special rates for combined guided tours**

Online booking [www.sitelecorbusier.com](http://www.sitelecorbusier.com)

**Twin ticket:** Site Le Corbusier / MAMC+

With one 10€ ticket you will discover Le Corbusier's largest ensemble in Europe and the masterpieces of the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne! Combined ticket valid for one month, for one site entrance in each structure.

## ACCÈS

**By train:** Firminy train station, then follow the 4-colour line on the pavement (About 10 minutes walk)

**By bus:** M1 line Firminy/Saint-Étienne, "Église Le Corbusier"

**By car:** N88, exit at Firminy-Centre, 2 parking lots. Free parking lots open from 10 am to 6 pm

**GPS address :** Boulevard Périphérique du Stade - 42700 Firminy

## Info/booking

Tél : +33 (0)4 77 61 08 72 - [www.sitelecorbusier.com](http://www.sitelecorbusier.com)  
[information@sitelecorbusier.com](mailto:information@sitelecorbusier.com)



Find the complete programme  
of the Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial

## Exhibition curation

Géraldine DABRIGEON, Site Le Corbusier Director and curator  
Louise PÉDEL, Exhibition manager

## Conception of the exhibited micro-architectures

Döppel Studio; Jonathan OMAR & Lionel DINIS-SALAZAR

## Coordination and production

Louise PÉDEL, exhibition manager  
Toufik ZOULFA and Laurent GIULIANA, Technicians

## Communication and PR

Floriane FONT, Communication and promotion manager

## Graphic Design and museography

Les formes associées; Héloïse DERLY & Alexandra RIO

## Exhibition Set up

Entreprise Solid

## Print

Version Originale

## Cultural development and mediation

Anne BERTHE, Cultural development manager  
Estelle CAHINGT, Noémie BOEGLIN, Emmanuelle BOTTURA, Cultural facilitators

## Shop and front desk

Frédérique ARCOS, Front desk manager

## Catalogue

Géraldine DABRIGEON, Director and Curator  
Louise PÉDEL, Exhibition manager

## PRESS CONTACT

### FLORIANE FONT

Communication and promotion manager  
[f.font@saint-etiennetourisme.com](mailto:f.font@saint-etiennetourisme.com)  
+33 (0)4 77 61 51 10 / +33 (0)7 48 10 97 04

**All the photographs present in this kit are available on demand:**  
[f.font@saint-etiennetourisme.com](mailto:f.font@saint-etiennetourisme.com)



Un événement

Biennale  
Internationale  
**Design**  
Saint-Étienne

## LE CORBUSIER

Site & Architecture  
Firminy-Vert  
Saint-Étienne  
Métropole

SÉM

SAINT-ÉTIENNE  
la métropole  
tourisme & congrès



PRÉFET  
DE LA RÉGION  
AUVERGNE-  
RHÔNE-ALPES  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



CENTRE DES  
MONUMENTS NATIONAUX



Une expérience ] Saint-Étienne Hors Cadre [