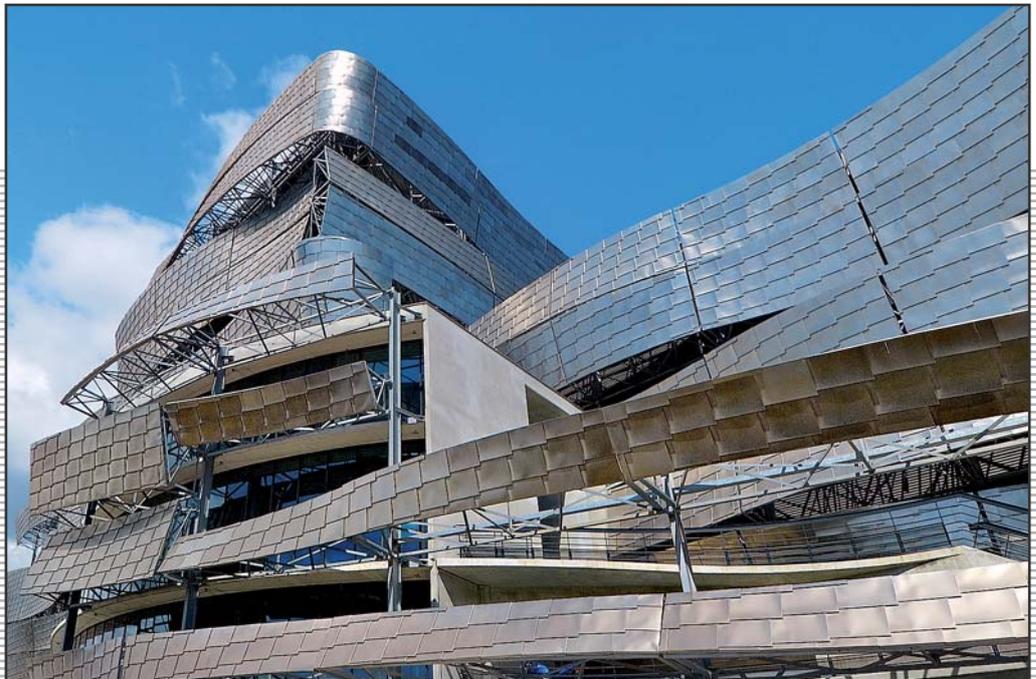


The Calce incineration plant



THE CALCE INCINERATION PLANT



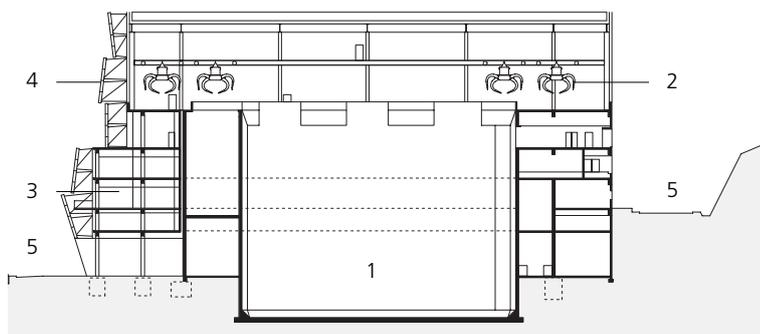
Located amongst the vines, the plant is dressed with glass and a glinting stainless steel skin of an overall surface area amounting to 2.47 acres.

Although domestic-refuse incineration plants have been re-baptised more reassuringly as “energy recovery facilities”, they still attract increasing local-community opposition. Their architectural quality could well play a role in making them more acceptable. In fact, there is a real risk of obstruction of the NIMBY (“not in my back yard”) variety. This originally American syndrome, now well-rooted in France, would have refuse treatment always carried out elsewhere, far from ones own doorstep.

Exactly this phenomenon had to be confronted when planning the construction of a 22 tonnes/hour Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Calce, near Perpignan, in southern

France. Winners of a design and construction competition, entered in association with Cydel (TIRU Group), architects Luc Arsène-Henry Jr. and Alain Triaud proposed clothing the already undulating facades of the building with metal “bands” of even more flowing lines. “The plant must be beautiful, because it represents a proof that society is looking after you. It’s no longer necessary that it declare its industrial purpose, since its advanced technical nature can nowadays be assumed. A sports car shows its styling, not its engine.”

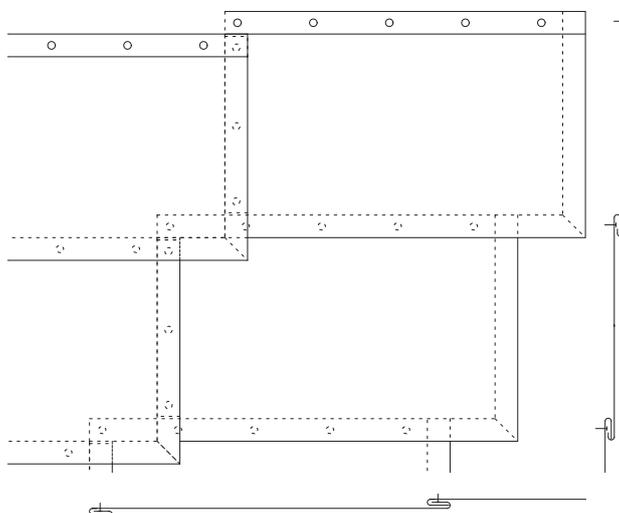
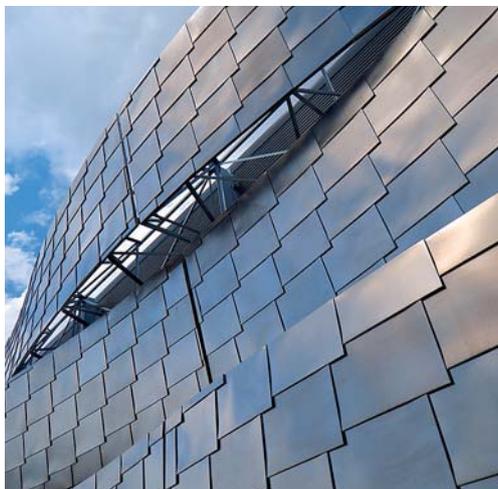
Point taken. With its back against the rock, combining bold artistic gesture and suggested traces of the past, the new centre



Cutaway of the plant

Scale: 1:1000

- 1 Waste pits
- 2 Grabs
- 3 Offices
- 4 Façade dressed with stainless steel panels
- 5 Exterior access road



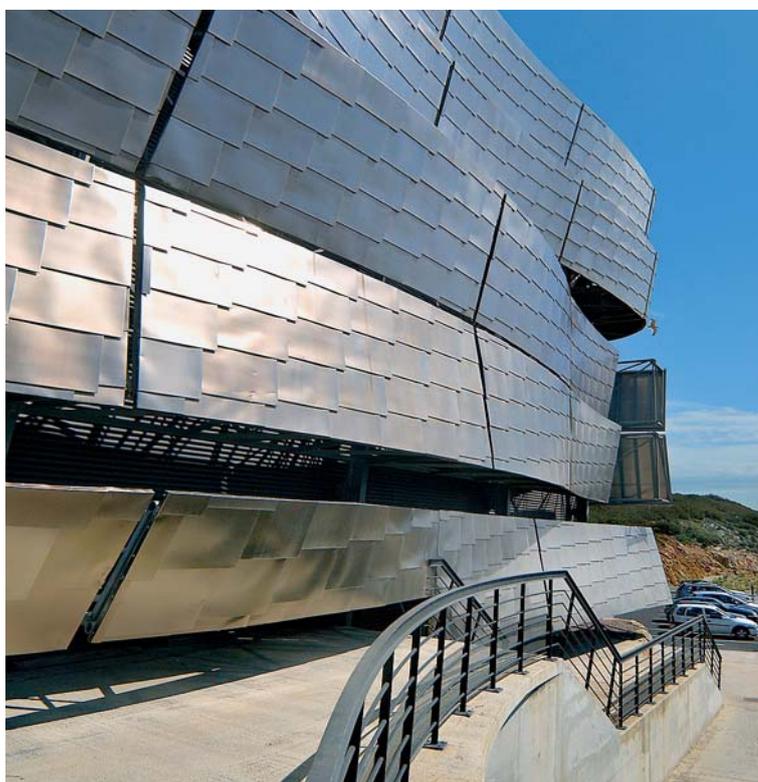
Detail of the façade-panel fixation. Scale 1:10.

The panels of stainless steel sheet (0.5 mm, 950 x 600 mm, grade 1.4404) are mounted from bottom to top and right to left. On two of its sides, each panel is mechanically screwed to an aluminium sheet that aligns with the secondary framing members (the fixing holes are never perfectly aligned). The other two sides are fitted together and fixed at the corner by a metal bracket.

stretches over 1,500 metres. The champagne-coloured stainless steel helps the building blend with the ochre-coloured scrubland soil, making its presence more acceptable. To echo the local geology, the site has been laid out with landscaped embankments and a *béton brut* (rough, exposed concrete) base. The effect is complemented by appropriate planting.

With 10,000 m² of panelling, this use of coloured stainless steel constitutes a first in terms of sheer scale. The 0.5-mm-thick metal sheet is coloured by a chemical-immersion and electrolysis process. The subcontractor who manufactured the tiles developed the 100 necessary modules, of an

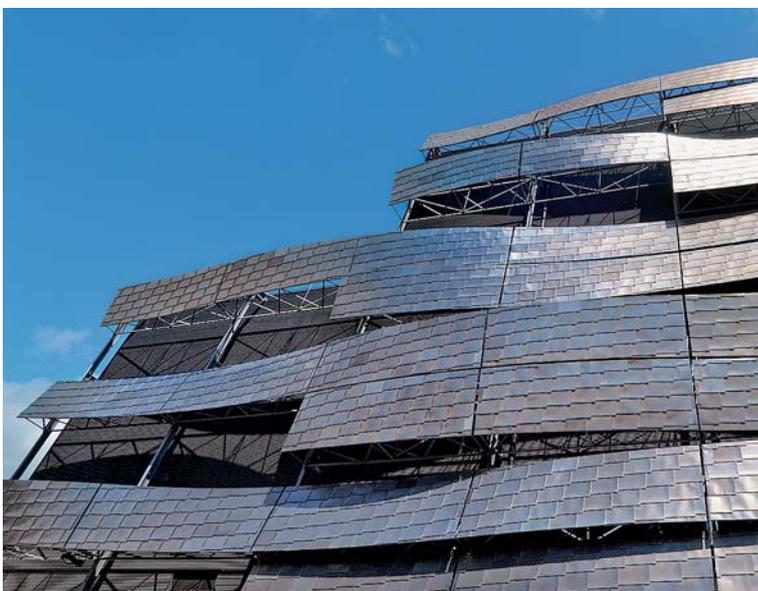
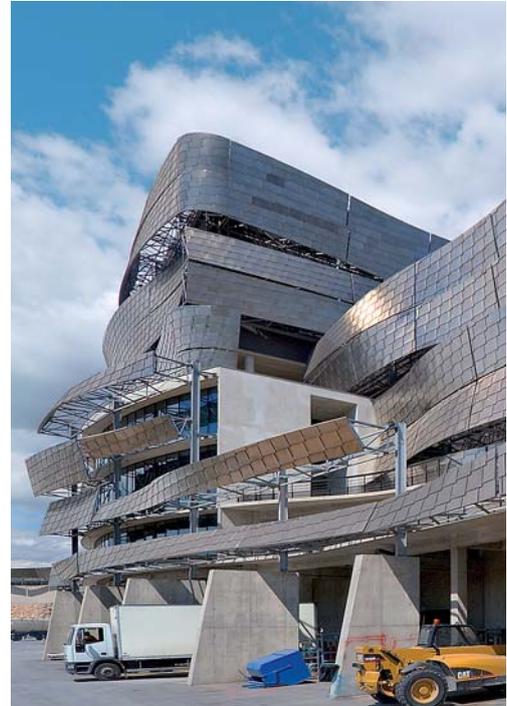
The use of “scales”, fixed according to wind direction, gives great freedom of shape to the building skin.



average size of 950 x 600 mm, in collaboration with the architect. These were factory-assembled, to avoid deformation.

On this project, this precision kit was attached to a galvanised-steel modular structure and the whole assembly mounted onto the façade's secondary framing members. The panels, attached using a concealed-fixing system, are oriented so as not to catch the wind. In fact, the southeast/northwest orientation of the building was chosen to minimise wind noise.

The cost of this covering is offset by a reduction of the centre's footprint, obtained by a careful spatial distribution of the EfW process. The way this process is physical arranged against the hills avoids having the factory that houses it exceed the line of the



Each strip of panels is attached to the building structure by a modular set of galvanised-steel frameworks.

ridge. Even the protrusion of the chimney has been reduced to 3 m above the building elevation, to avoid evoking, for local residents, the idea of "pollution" typically suggested by this industrial feature.

Euro Inox
Diamant Building, Bd. A. Reyers 80,
1030 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 706 82 67
Fax +32 2 706 82 69
E-mail info@euro-inox.org
Internet www.euro-inox.org

Contracting authority: Sydetom 66
Management contractor: Cydel (TIRU Group)
Architects: Luc Arsène-Henry Jr. and Alain Triaud;
Erik Teetsov (Project Manager), Bordeaux, France
Structural and civil-engineering design:
Nicholas Green & Ass.
Text: Frédéric Mialet, Paris, France
Layout: circa drei, Munich, Germany
Photos: Alex Mayans, Perpignan, France