



# GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING **LES MOULINS** HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS

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## STANZE DEL PROGETTO

*MBL Architectes*

18/10/2020 - 26/09/2021

In compliance with the measures for the containment of the contagion of Covid-19, reservation is recommended

### **From industry to the cultural industry**

The Moulin de Boissy testifies to industrial evolution since the Middle Ages. From the 14th century to 1789, what was then known as the Moulin de la Seigneurie was an ordinary windmill for grinding wheat. It was then a paper mill from 1833 to 1931. The 45 employees of the paper mill produced pulp that was then transported by barge down the Grand Morin to the Moulin de Sainte-Marie, where it was turned into paper. From 1947 to 1969, the company SOFOM made pattern plastic objects there, then from 1971 to 2001, it was the turn of the furniture making company MAZZOLENI. The tools and fragments of furniture collected during the renovation work and presented in the exhibition testify to the work of cabinetmakers, varnishers, sanders, and assemblers. These found objects, stripped of their use value, together occupy the common territory of a flat surface. Like a series of clues, they gesture to the activity that once filled the building. Since 2007, Galleria Continua, attentive to this history, has used the space to exhibit, produce, stock, and host works of art.

### **From one mill to the next**

Beginning in 2010, MBL Architects in collaboration with architect David Apeceix, landscape designer Camille Fréchou, and project manager Soraya Chaar, have been working with Galleria Continua to develop and rehabilitate the Moulin de Sainte-Marie. From among a number of feasibility studies, the renovation of the two buildings, the application of protected area classification to the whole site, and the construction of Skatepark Continua testify to the gallery's commitment to dynamising this piece of the countryside around Paris. The Moulin de Boissy is itself now being transformed, with work beginning on the building in 2019 and scheduled to continue into 2022.

### **A targeted renovation**

Before a renovation can begin, the existing qualities of the site and its history have to be first taken into consideration. This necessary stage of investigation and observation has made it possible to

understand the morphological evolution and the special characteristics of this group of industrial structures, in order to better bring them up to date. The buildings have been clustered together following changing economic conditions, the requirements of each new activity, and the different manners of construction throughout history.

The renovation of the site involves a range of targeted interventions in order to keep it dynamic. The mill will be reopened on the side of the river, and the volumes of the interior spaces will be diversified, with the special character of each room brought to the fore. The buildings will undergo both technical renovations (renovation of supporting structures, of the roofs) and a rearticulation of the existing spaces in order to make them more adapted to hosting artworks and visitors. Demolishing a roof, opening a perspective, adding stairs, connected spaces, making bay windows, are all part of multiplying the situations and uses that the building can support.

MBL Architects: studio founded by Sébastien Martinez-Barat and Benjamin Lafore, its members are Véranie Jeune, Fanny Vallin, and Robin Durand. MBL Architects were rewarded by the Ministry for the Arts in the category of young architects and landscape designers.

Denis Sarazin Charpentier: scientific advisor for the historical aspect. He is the author of *Boissy-Le-Châtel, histoire d'un village de la Brie dans la vallée du Grand Morin*, Editions Amatteis, 2000