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SITE VERRIER DE MEISENTHAL: DIALOGUE WITH INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

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Tags: Concrete, Cultural identity, France,
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Hidden in the bucolic landscape of Northern Vosges Natural Park, Site Verrier de Meisenthal is a publicly funded active cultural center in a historic glass factory dating back to the 18th century.



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An undulating poured-in-place concrete surface alludes to glass production while it merges the buildings. The surface functions as roof, ceiling and wall, connecting the buildings' ground floors to shape a public plaza. New functions are sensitively introduced under and over this surface, including offices, workshop areas, a cafe and a restaurant.

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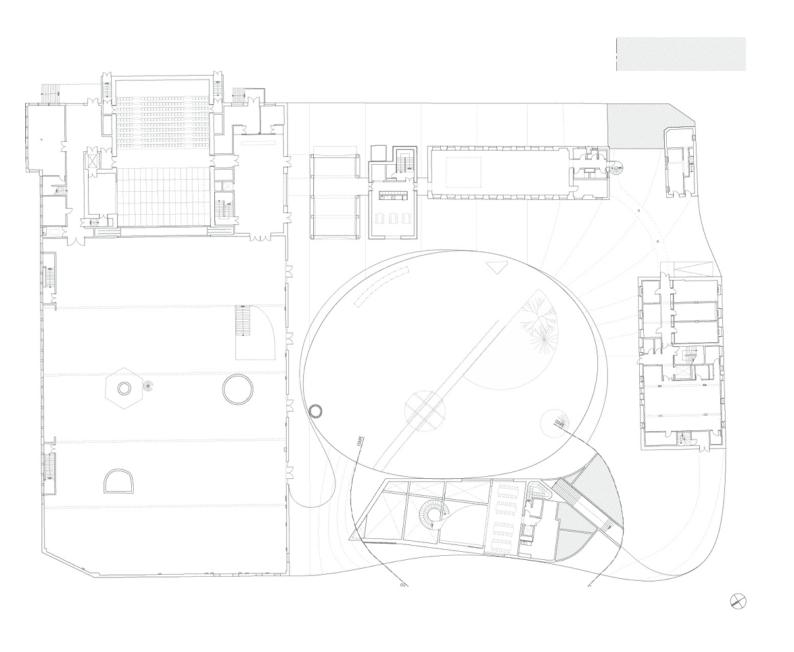


Existing building functions are reimaged and extended: the factory hall is given a new entrance on a previously unused basement floor and a 500-seat black box theater that can be reconfigured as a theater with standing room for 700 or opened into a concert hall for 3,000. The new public space heightens civic awareness of the historical site and also introduces a highly flexible venue for outdoor theater performances, concerts, and seasonal festivities.

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