

Flowing Form of Water

Frenchman Eric Tabarly (1931 - 1998) was an outstanding sailor of the high seas and one of the most innovative builders of 20th century sailing ships. A mere decade after his tragic accidental death while sailing the Irish Sea, the city of Lorient is inaugurating a special memorial in his honour. In his home port town, where three of his ships were built, a modern museum under the name “Cité de la voile Eric Tabarly” is being created both to perpetuate the adventure of the famous sailor and also to make his sport a bit more accessible to the public.

The monumental structure is a showpiece for modern yet simple architecture. It is located directly near Lorient’s old submarine bunkers, which have been preserved to bear witnesses to the Second World War. Architect Jacques Ferrier designed a building with its neighbours in mind, using cutting-edge materials, shapes and contouring to present a modern counterpart to the historical buildings nearby.

His design carves out space for the exhibition of three grand themes: man, the sea and sailing ships. The facility’s 6,700 square meters of floor space across three floors contain halls and rooms for conferences and colloquia as well as a media centre. The entire setup is enhanced through a bridge on metal struts leading to a tower that both catches the eye magnificently and also connects to a dock for sailboats.

The building’s exterior is characterized by nautical, flowing transitions. Toward the water, the sweeping upper area is concluded through a lightly receded glass front. The roof has a characteristic wave form which transitions seamlessly into the side walls. This design juts out over a facade whose exterior walls are largely made of glass. Visitors are presented with a museum-like impression that stands out for its openness, even from afar.

This cultural centre achieves a striking effect through exterior cladding of coil coated aluminium whose colour effects vary based on the angle of viewing. The Reynobond[®] Architecture Chameleon Colour in “Pearlescent Blue” colour was selected. The vast range of colour nuances with iridescent gradients is based on the principles of nature. Effect pigments here simulate the different surface layers of the skin and vary in their brilliance, gradients and depth of colour. 10,000 square meters in all were clad in aluminium composite panels from Reynobond[®] Architecture. Reynobond[®] Architecture by Alcoa Architectural Products and its large selection of coatings and colours continue to grow into a universal product of choice for more and more architects when time comes to design their buildings.

Facts & Figures:

Project:	Cité de la voile Eric Tabarly
Address:	Lorient, France
Firm of architects:	Jacques Ferrier Architecte, Paris
Size:	10,000 square meters roof made of aluminium composite panels, Chameleon Colours from Reynobond [®] Architecture, 4 mm thick
Fastening:	Riveted

Alcoa Architectural Products in Merxheim/France is a subsidiary of the aluminium world leader ALCOA. 123,000 employees in 44 countries produce and distribute products from composite panels to household foils.

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