

# PRATICAL INFORMATION

## CURATORS

**Dominique Perrault**  
Architect, urbanist

**Francis Rambert**  
Director of Architectural Creation,  
Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine

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Assistant to the curator of the Galerie des moulages,  
Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine

## PRESS VISIT TO THE EXHIBITION IN PARIS

**7 November 2023, 9:00 am**  
**Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine**  
1, place du Trocadéro, Paris, 16<sup>e</sup>

## PRESS CONTACTS

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## CITÉ DE L'ARCHITECTURE ET DU PATRIMOINE

Inaugurated in 2007 in the Palais de Chaillot and heir to a long history of promoting heritage and architecture, the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine aims to raise awareness, disseminate and teach architecture and urban planning in its contemporary and heritage dimensions.

Both a museum, an observatory of architectural creation, an archive centre, the largest library in Europe dedicated to contemporary architecture and a training centre for urban planners and heritage architects, the Cité bases its project on the encounter between all dimensions of architecture, understood in a broad and generous definition, in history as well as in the present.

Every year, the Cité designs a programme that is aimed at both the general public and professionals: temporary exhibitions, educational workshops, debates, symposia, editions, screenings, etc. It thus asserts itself as a plural cultural centre, a place of sharing dedicated to an ever-changing reflection, the balance between past and present, between heritage and architecture.

## Société du Grand Paris

Société du Grand Paris is the government-created public company tasked with managing the rollout and financing of the Grand Paris Express. It is responsible for constructing the infrastructures required for the new metro system and purchasing the required rolling stock. It also carries out development operations in areas impacted by the Grand Paris Express. Since it was created in 2010, the company has been supported by a team of specialists in engineering and transport and development project management to build this extensive strategic network.



8 NOVEMBER 2023  
02 JUNE 2024



## Press release

# METRO! GRAND PARIS IN MOTION



Making the issues of architecture and the city accessible to a general public is at the heart of the mission of the Cité de l'architecture. Openness and forward planning are at the center of the reinvention of our metropolises: 15 years after the international consultation presented to the Cité in "Le Grand Pari(s)" (2009), the idea was obvious: our citizens had to be able to have a window on the largest project on infrastructure, urbanism and collective life carried out in Europe since Baron Haussmann.

Through this enormous undertaking, the responses to certain societal mutations that we have all experienced were sought and constructed: the urgent need for new

transportation models as opposed to the omnipresence of cars; new technologies modifying in-depth our relationship to work, the habitat and transportation; the arrival of a multipolar network that makes it possible to overcome the opposition between the center and the outskirts.

There is thus certainly a question of technicity, feats and innovation; but also of linking together, connecting universes that once again makes sense; of collectively mending a fabric often threatened with tears. In short, to recreate the city.

Catherine Chevillot  
President of the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine



In 2009, the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine held, in its Casts Gallery, the exhibition "Le Grand Pari(s)," which asked 10 international agencies to present their vision of the metropolis. What was only a challenge at the time is, 15 years later, becoming a reality. The construction of the 68 stations of the Grand Paris Express has begun, service will start on some sections of the new metro next year. It was, at the time, legitimate for the Société du Grand Paris, this founding project's initiator, and the Cité de l'architecture to join forces to propose the story of a "Grand Paris in motion."

At their invitation, Francis Rambert and I, with the input of Jean-Marc Hofman, designed the exhibition "Metro!" as a space of discovery, from the origins of the metro to the birth of the future network, but also as a place for information and debates on the development of the metropolis.

The Grand Paris Express is redrawing the map and the territory by creating new proximities that modify our perception of the city. Also appearing are other networks of schools and universities, cultural and sports facilities, treatment centers and economic hubs that open opportunities for new districts or those being rehabilitated.

The exhibition opens on the story, through the history of its metro, of the construction of the Grand Paris metropolis. It recalls how much these infrastructures and the mutations

## 5 STAGES OF THE EXHIBITION

The enormous worksite in progress of the Grand Paris Express offers an exceptional opportunity to reconsider mobility on the scale of a territory – that of a metropolis of 12 million inhabitants. Through the double loop of its trajectory, and its four new metro lines, this new infrastructure gives substance to a Grand Paris whose contours have constantly been redrawn over the last century. Sixty-eight new stations in total, where architects and artists have drawn up, together, a project that serves inhabitants and commuters. Taking an interest in mobility as well as the urban landscape that crosses the history of technology, visionary projects and the fictional universe linked to the metro, is the challenge of this exhibition, projecting the visitor into a new mental map of Grand Paris.

### 1 - An urban adventure on the tracks between the imaginary and reality

The imaginary and reality are experienced in this sequence focused on the genesis and development of the Paris metro, linked to the evolution of the capital, its permeability with the suburbs and the birth of Grand Paris. It shows the shift of an enclosed capital to a moving, irrigating and rhizomatic metropolis. The metro is presented in its multiple forms: aesthetic, with Guimard's work, technological, through the spectacular geotechnical feats that were carried out to order the underground world and organize the surface network.

### 2 - The imaginary dimension of the metro in the cinema

A tipping point in the visitor's itinerary, a cinema vestibule juxtaposes a series of cult scenes that transformed places in the metro into a drama space, acknowledging at the same time the urban life that is deployed in them. The art of the silver screen, which emerged at the same time as the metro, created the first popular representations of a city. This whirlwind of images announced the role of fiction in the creation of a future mental map of Grand Paris.

that they have created, have inspired utopias and nourished imaginations, in particular in the cinema.

At the heart of the itinerary, the Grand Paris Express is revealed through the different typologies of the stations, that are deployed in depth, bring onboard pieces of nature and landscape, create new public spaces and above all weave new social links. If the double loop will make it possible for 68 places to be defined vis-à-vis each other, and no longer in terms of the center on which they were previously dependent, how can we imagine all the trajectories and experiences made possible by this new constellation of mobilities? Wouldn't feeling that we exist in a place that goes beyond us be the new definition of our collective urban condition?

Giving pride of place to the creators, the exhibition "Metro!" illustrates French know-how offering the first synthetic image of a project on the scale of the largest European metropolis. It provides a glimpse of the spectacular nature of its worksites that are, moreover, places of experimentation for a more virtuous construction from the environmental viewpoint. Thanks to a schedule of conferences and thematic encounters, the exhibition "Metro!" is, finally, a space for debate and reflection in which I hope to find many of you.

**Dominique Perrault**

Architect, urbanist, co-curator of the exhibition and designer of the Villejuif - Gustave Roussy station of the Grand Paris Express.

### 3 - From the subsoil to the public space

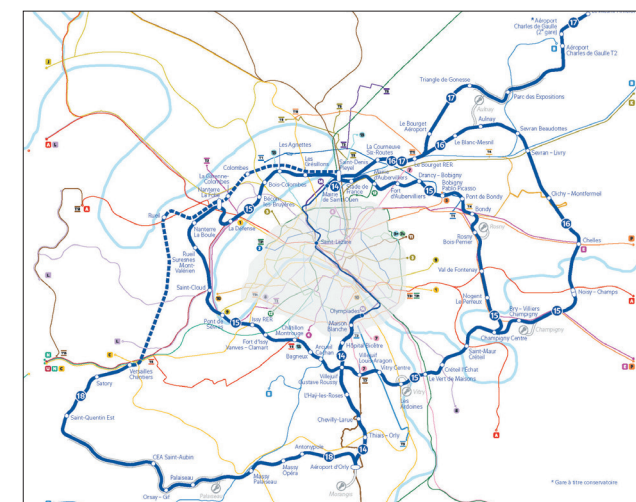
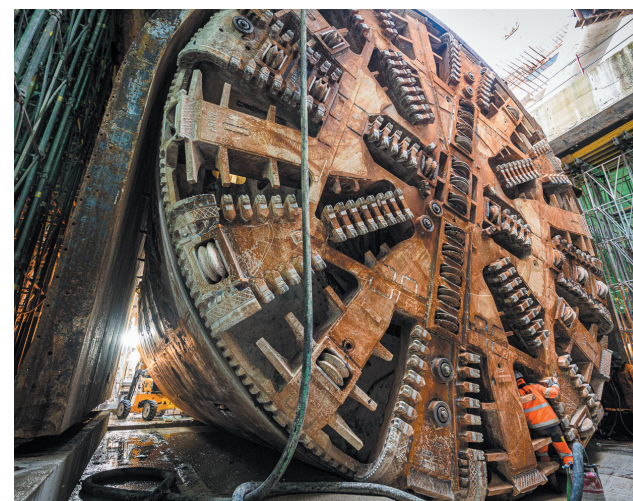
Technology is at the heart of the social and environmental issues that the 20 tunnel-boring machines at work, in their wake, brought up to the surface of Grand Paris, notably with the reuse of earth and rubble. Faced with the mass of data that the orchestration of a worksite of this nature represents, this sequence offers a synthetic image of an extraordinary project, allowing the visitor to understand why the infrastructure is not just a tunnel, but a complex of public spaces that extend from the metro platform to the plaza of the stations. In this emergence work, it is the question of the territory's habitability that is forcefully asserted.

### 4 - The Archipelago of the Grand Paris

The city of Paris only represents 5% of the urbanized territory in Grand Paris. Faced with the difficulties in apprehending this reality, the archipelago will permit the visitor to physically and mentally experience the diversity of the metropolitan places and the uniqueness of the network that will link them by 2030. Models of the stations and works in the stations are the object of architect-artist pairs, samples of materials: the visitor strolls among a variety of artefacts, whose links resonate with a digital creation that will permit each of them, at the end of the itinerary, to recompose his or her own mental image of Grand Paris.

### 5 - Voices and faces of Grand Paris

The voices of Grand Paris comprise a full-fledged part of the exhibition. Dedicated alcoves will open the space of a private face-to-face, within the major debate on metropolitan mobilities. By mixing viewpoints, a shared map emerges, with its potentials and frictions, though the personal accounts of artists, architects, engineers, landscape designers, philosophers and writers. These words will echo the work of renowned illustrators who, after an immersion in the territories of the stations, will see their works exhibited for the first time at the Cité.



Legends from left to right, from bottom to top:

Place de l'Opéra, construction site for the superposition of three metro lines, Paris 9th, 1903

© Paris Musées / Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris

Tunnel of the Châtillon- Montrouge station © Yves Benoit / Société du Grand Paris

Tunnel "Florence" © Gérard Rollando / Société du Grand Paris

Saint Denis- Pleyel station © Kengo Kuma & Associates/ Société du Grand Paris

Tandem work of the Châtillon - Montrouge station © Laurent Grasso / Périphériques

Marin + Trotin Architects / Société du Grand Paris

Map of the Grand Paris Express © Société du Grand Paris