

Philharmonie de Paris: sounds in flight



The nest couldn't have been made in a more auspicious setting. The Parc de la Villette, where one can also find the Géode and the Cité de la Musique, was the chosen grounds for the imposing Jean Nouvel oeuvre, opened at January 14th of 2015. At that date, in remembrance of the victims of the Charlie Hebdo attack, the resident Orchestre de Paris interpreted Gabriel Fauré's Requiem.

The mourning notes of its opening were not to become an omen, however. In the short time it has been operating, this majestic edifice has housed the finest symphonic orchestras in the world, all of them testifying to the perfect acoustics. It has awed millions of people in its 3.600 seats where, following closely the layout of the Berlin Philharmonic, the most distant seat is a mere 38 meters from the stage. This building has expanded the horizons of youths and students with its Museum and 24 rooms for educational use.

The most immediate reference for this project will always be the birds that draw its façade and its paths. Totalling 340.000 pieces, these abstract birds are split between granite and aluminum shapes. Seven different, combining shapes were drawn for these birds, forming a tangram puzzle comprised of 14 pieces per square meter surface. Among the flock there are 81.144 pieces in Gris Limiano granite, of fine granulate and with great resistance to frosting and defrosting. For the facade, birds in the corresponding shapes were welded in aluminum alloy, and then screwed into the granite pieces.



This is one of many projects followed closely by ANIET – National Association of the Extractive and Manufacturing Industry – which was founded 42 years ago with the mission to propagate this typically

portuguese culture of mixing tradition and innovation in the rock industries, and promoting the demand for materials that already export 70% of its production. Within the extractive and manufacturing sector, the ornamental rock subsector represents half of the total export value.

The main advantages that helped earn this standing refer to the union between innovating technologies and a tradition in stonework mastery. On the other hand, the European manufacturing standards are rigorously achieved, ensuring quality and assurance for every material, all branded with the CE designation. The Philharmonie de Paris is covered in tens of thousands of symbols of this added value, but the message they carry has landed all over Europe.