

## PURE GEOMETRY

The Ambroise Paré hospital in Marseilles, France, is a clear example of the most exquisite geometry. It is a project by Carta Associés, a French architecture studio headed by Stéphan Bernard and Roland Carta, who chose materials from the **Porcelanosa Group** to cover the exterior façade of the building.



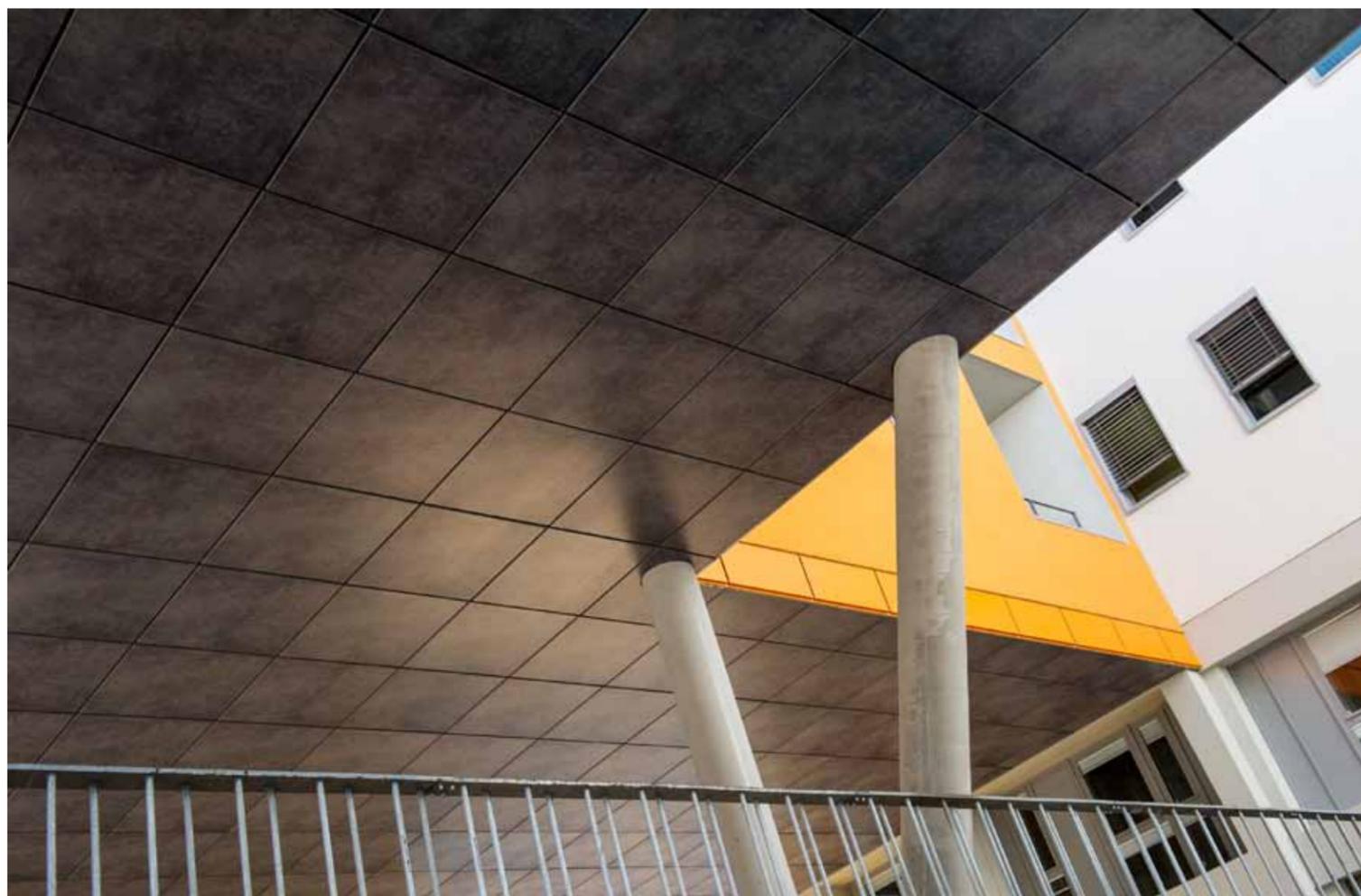
Photos: François Moura.

The play of volumes in the architecture of this hospital built in the French city of Marseilles makes a strong impact. Also striking are the contrasting colours that were chosen – thus, the yellow stands out from the neutral white and the reddish colour – which add a distinctive and contemporary touch to this health centre. Solid volumes supported by circular columns enjoy the same refreshing feel and provide the construction with a singular image, for it looks as if part of it were suspended in the air.

This is a sustainable project by Carta Associés, an architecture studio that is well-known and highly esteemed by the French architecture scene and which has substantial

experience regarding these kinds of projects. With a team of 30 professionals, the studio's major objectives are to understand and satisfy clients' requirements. Therefore, the practice is a place where a continuous dialogue is maintained and exchanged with the client. Apart from constant discussion, project follow-ups are carried out, with a view to achieve the coexistence of several functions within a single space. A search for spatial flow, rational construction and the ethics of architecture are recurring topics in Carta Associés's daily work.

The studio tackles projects not just in France but also in countries like Italy and Morocco. Under the direction of architects Roland Carta and Stéphan Bernard, they work on



The plot for this new hospital has a total surface area of 120,000 square metres. It can therefore accommodate a hospital complex with 470 beds and underground parking for 630 cars. The work involved bringing together two private health institutions into a single place: the 'Ambroise Paré' Hospital Foundation and the 'Paul Desbief' Hospital Association located nearby and where they were originally built.

To design the Butech façade, the **Porcelanosa Group** collaborated with architect Ludovic Bisi right from the start. Steel Factory, 596 x 1200 mm, and Marseilles Factory, 596 x 1200 mm tiles were used for this project (the latter were specially created for this project).



buildings – both public and private – in the educational and residential fields, for commercial and leisure spaces, health and sport-related centres.

Their work always involves overcoming the challenges and limitations posed by cities and, more specifically, neighbourhoods, and these constitute the focus of each and every one of their projects. The identity of each building is achieved by providing it with a context within its environs, something considered essential for any project. "The history of places is still a common thread that we should interact with, learn from and abide by. Our studio is prepared to fully face all types of complex programmes, always within budget and the plans," explain the architects. 