

studioMilou **architecture**

studioMilou documents



Jean François Milou and the studioMilou architecture team, Paris, June 2013

Jean François Milou

Principal Architect, Managing Director

Jean François Milou, the founder of studioMilou architecture, is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts of Paris. He has been a member of the French Order of Architects since 1979 and of the Singapore Board of Architects since 2008. An international team of architects and designers work under his direction for the company's two branches, studioMilou architecture (Paris) and studioMilou singapore, along with a network of consultants including landscape architects, museologists, historians, lighting, multimedia, graphic and exhibition designers, engineers, acoustic specialists etc, and project economists.

Since its creation in 1997, the studio has been developing under Jean François Milou's direction as one of the leading French firms with a recognized competence in wide-ranging large-scale public and private projects, from the new to the rehabilitation of existing buildings, be they heritage listed structures, monuments or industrial sites. For over ten years, Jean François Milou has also carried out international heritage and cultural expert missions relating to the conservation of monuments, the creation of museums, and the presentation and refurbishment of collections and archaeological sites. This work has included missions on behalf of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to India, Nepal, Indonesia and Georgia.

Throughout his career, Jean François Milou's signature sensibility to contexts has consistently privileged simple, legible but innovative design using appropriate materials and respecting the fabric of existing buildings within their architectural, urban, natural and cultural settings. This clear and disciplined, yet highly sensitive approach to his architectural work has allowed Jean François Milou to direct the design and the realisation of major projects both in France and abroad.



Experience of major cultural projects

The work of studioMilou developed considerably between 2005 and 2013 with the firm's work in larger-scale projects in Europe and Asia.

Two major projects

In directing the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Carreau du Temple, a 19th-century metal-frame building, studioMilou carried out exemplary restoration work on one of the last-surviving examples of civic metal-frame architecture in Paris, while at the same time, transforming it through an ambitious project into a contemporary cultural and civic institution.

For the National Art Gallery of Singapore, studioMilou carried out the restoration and rehabilitation of two major colonial-period buildings, the City Hall and the Former Supreme Court, which lie at the heart of the Singapore civic district. Owing to its size (60,000m²) and to the project's budget (500 million Singapore dollars), the National Art Gallery of Singapore is one of the most ambitious cultural projects to be undertaken in a protected historic district anywhere in the world.

In meeting the demands of the gallery, studioMilou has expanded and cemented its competencies and professional networks in Europe and Asia, reinforcing the company's international standing and ability to carry out large-scale and complex projects in both regions.

National Art Gallery of Singapore
2015

Place de la Brèche in Niort
2013

Quy Nhon Conference Centre (ICISE)
2013

Nouvelle Comédie in Saint Etienne
2014

Salle de théâtre in Rambouillet
2014

National Art Gallery of Singapore
2015

Carreau du Temple in Paris
2013

Place de la Brèche in Niort
2013

Projects 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

For over 15 years, studioMilou has been developing as an architectural firm specializing in the construction of large-scale cultural projects and museums and in the conversion of historical monuments and industrial buildings. The major projects underway and due for completion between April 2013 and June 2016 include:

April 2013 **Place de la Brèche in Niort**

A major landscape and infrastructure project within an 18th-century square that is listed as a French historic monument.

August 2013 **Quy Nhon Conference Centre (ICISE)**

A centre for professional meetings for physicists and astrophysicists located next to the sea in the city of Quy Nhon in Vietnam.

December 2013 **Carreau du Temple in Paris**

Conversion of a large metal-framed hall dating from the 19th century into a cultural and leisure centre in the heart of the historic Marais district in Paris. The structure is listed in its entirety on the supplementary inventory of French historic monuments.

June 2014 **Salle de théâtre in Rambouillet**

A new centre for the dramatic arts organized around an open space and connected to an existing municipal library.

Beginning 2015 **National Art Gallery of Singapore**

Conversion of two major historic monuments in the city of Singapore and the creation of a major gallery dedicated to positioning Southeast Asian arts on the world stage.

Mid 2016 **Nouvelle Comédie in Saint Etienne**

A theatre school and performing arts space in a former industrial area dating from the beginning of the 20th century.



Thomas Rouyrre and Jean François Milou, studioMilou architecture in Paris, June 2013

Organization of studioMilou

Working under the direction of architect Jean François Milou, studioMilou brings together teams made up of architects, landscape architects, graphic and exhibition designers and heritage specialists. The experience and vast networks of professional competences shared by the two main branches of studioMilou in Paris and Singapore allow the company's teams to collaborate seamlessly on projects in Europe and in Asia.

studioMilou architecture in Paris and studioMilou singapore in Asia work in-house on all design activities relating to architecture, including urban planning, landscaping, interior architecture and both exhibition and graphic design. The daily use of video-conferencing, and frequent trips by staff to meet in person, as required, ensure the efficiency and close nature of collaboration.

studioMilou architecture (Paris)

Jean François Milou founded studioMilou architecture in 1997. In 2005, the reorganisation of the company led to the association of architect Thomas Rouyrre and landscape architect Florence Soulier who, along with Jean François Milou, are responsible for the supervision of projects in France and Europe. At the same time, Agueda de Urruela was associated to head the company's international development and communications from Europe, and its liaison with projects in Asia.

studioMilou singapore

studioMilou singapore was established in 2008 in order to supervise the design and construction of the National Art Gallery of Singapore. In May 2008, Jean François Milou became an official member of the Singapore Board of Architects, as well as of the Singapore Institute of Architecture (SIA). Since 2010, studioMilou's Singapore branch has concentrated on the development of new projects in Singapore and in Asia.

studioMilou **architecture**, Paris

The Paris-based team of architects, designers and managers are:

Head of Agency
Associate Architect
Paris



Thomas Rouyrre
born in Paris in 1966
Diplôme d'architecture à l'ENSAIS Strasbourg, UFR
— Géographie : DEA système spatiaux
Centre d'études supérieures d'histoire et de conservation
des monuments anciens, Ecole de Chaillot

Administrative and Financial Director
Associate Landscape Architect
Paris



Florence Soulier
born in Paris in 1966
Ecole Nationale Supérieure du paysage de Versailles
Formation d'Architecte d'intérieur — ESAM (Paris)

Head of Secretariat and International Projects
Paris



Agueda de Urruela
born in Barcelona in 1966
Diplôme en sciences politiques, Relations Internationales, UAB Barcelona

Heritage Architect
Paris



Maria Campos Piera
born in Barcelona in 1983
Diplôme d'architecture du Patrimoine, Ecole de Chaillot Paris
Diplôme d'architecture Ecole Technique Supérieure d'Architecture de Barcelone, ETSAB

Architect, Interior Designer
Paris



Shinobu Takaso Clin
born in Nagano (Japan) in 1971
Diplôme de l'Institut Supérieur des Arts Appliqués de Paris, LISAA
Diplôme d'architecture niveau II Japon, Waseda Université à Tokyo

Architect
Paris



Laurence Macheboeuf
born in Nancy in 1966
Diplôme d'architecture intérieure, Ecole Camondo Paris
Licence d'Arts Plastiques, Faculté de Lettres d'Aix en Provence

Architect
Paris



Ángel Menéndez
born in Madrid in 1986
Diplôme d'architecture Ecole Technique Supérieure d'Architecture de Madrid, ETSAM

Architect
Paris



Alexandre Lahyani
born in Paris in 1987
Diplôme d'architecture Ecole d'Architecture de Paris La Villette, ENSAPLV
HMOP Ecole d'Architecture de Paris La Villette, (ENSAPLV)



Jean François Milou and studioMilou singapore, June 2013.

studioMilou singapore

The Singapore-based team of architects, designers and managers are:

Architectural Team Manager
Senior Architectural Associate
Singapore



Wenmin Ho
born in Singapore in 1981
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, University of Melbourne

Senior Architectural Associate
Singapore



Janis Goh
born in Singapore in 1983
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, University of Melbourne
Bachelor of Arts (Planning and Design), University of Melbourne

Senior Architectural Associate
Singapore



Charmaine Boh
born in Singapore in 1981
Diploma in Architecture, Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Senior Architectural Associate
Singapore



Pamela Choo O'Neill
born in Singapore in 1982
Master of Architecture, University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Architectural Associate, 3D Visualiser
Singapore



Trung Thanh Nguyen
born in Hanoi in 1985
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture), National University of Civil Engineering, Vietnam

Architectural Associate, Exhibition Designer
Singapore



Jiarong Goh
born in Singapore in 1985
Master of Architecture, National University of Singapore
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Architectural Associate
Singapore



Jason Tan
born in Singapore in 1984
Master of Architecture, National University of Singapore
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Architectural Associate
Singapore



May Leong
born in Singapore in 1986
Master of Architecture, National University of Singapore
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Architectural Associate, Exhibition Designer
Singapore



Eudora Tan
born in Singapore in 1987
Master of Architecture, National University of Singapore
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Head of International Development & Heritage Projects
Singapore



Suzanne Ogge
born in Melbourne in 1971
Masters in Ethnology: Ecole des hautes Etudes en sciences sociales, Paris
Post-Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies, Deakin University, Melbourne
BA (Honours) in Social Anthropology and Fine Arts, University of Melbourne
1999-present Consultant for UNESCO Cultural Heritage Projects & Museum Development



Cast-iron and steel structure of Carreau du Temple in Paris during the restoration, May 2013.

Heritage Specialists

Working closely with Jean François Milou, this team of heritage architects and specialists work in Europe and Asia on complex architectural conservation projects in Europe and Asia which bear witness to this field.

Principal Architect
Paris, Singapore



Jean François Milou
born in Niort in 1953
Diplôme de l'Ecole Nationale des Beaux arts, Paris

Head of Agency
Associate Architect
Paris



Thomas Rouyrre
born in Paris in 1966
Diplôme d'architecture à l'ENSAIS Strasbourg,
UFR – Géographie : DEA système «panaux»
Centre d'études supérieures d'histoire et de conservation
des monuments anciens, Ecole de Chaillot

Heritage Architect
Paris



Maria Campos Piera
born in Barceloneta in 1981
Diplôme d'architecture du Patrimoine, Ecole de Chaillot
Diplôme d'architecture par l'Ecole Technique Supérieure d'Architecture de Barcelone ETSAB

Head of International Development & Heritage Projects
Singapore



Suzanne Ogge
born in Melbourne in 1971
Masters in Ethnology: Ecole des hautes Etudes en sciences sociales, Paris
Post-Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies, Deakin University, Melbourne
BA (Honours) in Social Anthropology and Fine Arts, University of Melbourne
1999-present Consultant for UNESCO Cultural Heritage Projects & Museum Development



Preliminary archaeological excavation of the Carreau du Temple site in Paris, 2012



The Bougon Burial Mounds Museum, 1993

Architecture and Heritage

The work on architectural heritage

The studio's architectural work ranges from the strict conservation of an archaeological monument, such as at Bougon or Dmanisi, to the rehabilitation of historic or industrial buildings, and sites to bring them into line with contemporary uses and regulations, as for the Carreau du Temple, the Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg, National Art Gallery in Singapore, the National Automobile Museum in Mulhouse, and the New Comédie in St Etienne. In many cases, these approaches are carried out on the same buildings, or site, notably when the project brings together structures and heritage elements of different types, as at the Bougon Burial Mounds Museum or the National Art Gallery in Singapore.

Drawing on its team of specialists, studioMilou uses different methods for the various projects on which it works.

The preservation of heritage

The studio carried out strict preservation work, for example, in order to stabilise the archaeological excavations at Dmanisi that are open to the public and to preserve the Neolithic tombs and mediaeval chapel at the Bougon site. This consisted of the preservation of built heritage consists of minimal work on monuments or historical remains in such a way as to ensure their continuing authenticity and to halt their decay.

The conservation of heritage

The studio has carried out conservation work on the listed parts of the Supreme Court and City Hall buildings in Singapore, the listed parts of the Gare maritime in Cherbourg, and the listed parts of the Carreau du Temple in Paris, among other projects. The work has consisted of the restoration and structural reinforcement of a historic monument according to recognised procedures that often fully respect the building methods used at the time of its construction. This work, accompanied by minimal work on the original fabric, is designed to bring a historic building into line with contemporary regulations, while at the same time respecting its architectural and technical integrity.

The rehabilitation of heritage buildings

The studio has used rehabilitation techniques in its work on the Supreme Court and City Hall buildings in Singapore, on the conserved buildings at the National Automobile Museum in Mulhouse, among other projects. This work has consisted of carrying out work necessary to adapt a historic building to contemporary conditions and new regulations, while at the same time respecting its historical character and not engaging in significant rebuilding.

Significantly restructuring heritage buildings and sites

The studio has carried out work for the reuse of heritage buildings in many of its projects. This approach of restructuring has consisted of carrying out works including the demolition of certain parts and the construction of new sections. In such cases, the primary aim is to adapt a historic building to the requirements of a radically different contemporary brief without harming its intrinsic historical properties. The reuse, even if only partial, of a heritage building in this way avoids its demolition and is therefore important for sustainable development since it gives new life to buildings and sites that have outgrown their original uses.

Reusing 19th and 20th century industrial sites

studioMilou also has significant experience in the reuse of former industrial buildings and sites such as the National Automobile Museum in Mulhouse and the Comédie in St Etienne (a theatre school and performing arts centre), both in France. Although not considered monuments, both are heritage listed sites and like many such buildings, they are today considered part of the architectural industrial heritage of the 19th and 20th Century, and as such deserving of careful attention. studioMilou's approach to the adaptive reuse of industrial buildings and any other more recent buildings, whether listed as heritage sites or not, remains sensitive to their more recent past activity and their symbolic importance as part of a local community's memories and history.

Further details of the projects cited above are available in the studio's publications and at www.studiomilou.fr.

Mixed heritage strategies for large and complex architectural projects

In the case of major heritage projects, different strategies may be adopted in parallel. This was the case for the Bougon Burial Mounds Museum, for example, where the project included different forms of work on the same site, including:

- A strict strategy for the preservation of the remains of the mounds themselves, in order to ensure their continuing authenticity and integrity
- A strategy of conservation for the chapel working in close consultation with the National agency responsible for historic monuments
- A strategy for the rehabilitation of the mediaeval farm buildings, such that they could be used for modern office space while avoiding major reconstruction
- A more radical reconstruction strategy for the grange itself, such that it could be used for a contemporary cafeteria welcoming the widest public.

For studioMilou, each heritage element of a project calls for a tailored treatment and for the use of an appropriate methodology.



Dmanisi, Georgia, 2006



Nouvelle Comédie, St Etienne, 2006



Carreau du Temple, 2012



Carreau du Temple, 2012



Carreau du Temple, 2012



National Art Gallery, Singapore, 2013

Preliminary studies for heritage projects: the studio's approach

studioMilou identifies an appropriate strategy for work on heritage projects through a preliminary study that functions as an essential reference document for all the stakeholders including the architect, the client and the relevant local authorities etc. Such studies include a description of the state of conservation of the historic buildings concerned, their significance as heritage, any damage they may suffer, and the different strategies applicable to different parts of the site – whether the strict preservation of archaeological remains, conservation, moderate rehabilitation or more thoroughgoing reconstruction.

This baseline study ensures that the studio and its partners in a project share a clear idea of an existing building's history, the various stages of its construction, the ways in which it was built, and the materials used and any limitations. It facilitates the work for all involved, allows the studio to present different strategies that might be used, and gives clear recommendations on the priorities and long-term objectives. It includes the following elements:

- Documentary research leading to an account of the development of the building or site
- A complete report on the state of conservation of the building or site
- A report on the construction techniques used and the existing historical remains
- A report on any damage or structural problems from which the buildings may be suffering
- Recommendations regarding any measures or investigations that should be carried out in order to monitor the building
- Any emergency or priority work that should be carried out in order to conserve the site or buildings
- An account of the technical and regulatory context, including energy consumption, security, accessibility, and so on
- Various proposals for work on the building, whether involving its preservation, conservation, rehabilitation or more radical restructuring
- Recommendations for work on the different parts of a given monument or site
- A feasibility study for the work proposed, including cost estimates and working schedule.

Thanks to its extensive experience of work on heritage sites and buildings and its international character, studioMilou architecture is ideally placed to carry out such preliminary studies in close consultation with the local partners and stakeholders.

Administrative Direction, International Projects and Public Relations, Documents and Communications

studioMilou's core teams for administration, project development, public relations, documents and communications work closely and often in multiple roles, to ensure the highest level of efficiency within and between each studio, and the smooth interfacing of all tasks.

Administrative Direction

The administration in each studio manages the daily activities of the architects and the organizational tasks supporting the teams working on different projects and ensuring quality management of the two agencies: ISO 9001, ISO 14001, etc.

Administrative and Financial Director
Paris



Florence Soulier
born in Paris in 1966
École Nationale Supérieure du Paysage de Versailles
École Supérieure des Arts Modernes à Paris

Head of Secretariat and International Projects
Paris



Agueda de Urruela
born in Barcelona in 1966
Diplôme en sciences politiques, Relations Internationales, UAB Barcelona

Administrative and Financial Director
Singapore



Joanne Koay
born in Singapore in 1968
Bachelor of Science (Economics) Honours, University of London

Managerial Assistant
Singapore



Rafidah Rashid
born in Singapore in 1983
A Levels

International Projects and Public Relations

This team works collaboratively between Paris and Singapore to identify projects, establish local branches, manage competition submissions and develop press and public relations.

Head of Secretariat & International Projects
Paris



Agueda de Urruela
born in Barcelona in 1966
Diplôme en sciences politiques, Relations Internationales, UAB Barcelona

Head of International Development & Heritage Projects
Singapore



Suzanne Ogge
born in Melbourne in 1971
Masters in Ethnology: Ecole des hautes Etudes en sciences sociales, Paris
Post-Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies, Deakin University, Melbourne
BA (Honours) in Social Anthropology and Fine Arts, University of Melbourne
1999-present Consultant for UNESCO Cultural Heritage Projects & Museum Development

Manager of Documents & Communications
Singapore



Eudora Tan
born in Singapore in 1987
Master of Architecture, National University of Singapore
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Documents and Communications

Mindful of presenting and promoting the projects in the best interests of the studio and of our clients, this team focusses on exceptional quality documents and communications. The team responsible pools strong skills in research, writing and both graphic and architectural design to produce well-informed and beautifully presented publications, (books, brochures, Website, film/audiovisual, etc.) in languages as required (including English, French and Mandarin).

Head of Editorial & Content Management
Singapore



Suzanne Ogge
born in Melbourne in 1971
Masters in Ethnology: Ecole des hautes Etudes en sciences sociales, Paris
Post-Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies, Deakin University, Melbourne
BA (Honours) in Social Anthropology and Fine Arts, University of Melbourne
1999-present Consultant for UNESCO Cultural Heritage Projects & Museum Development

Infographist
Paris



Shinobu Takaso Clin
born in Nagano in 1971
Diplôme de l'Institut Supérieur des Arts Appliqués de Paris, LISAA
Diplôme d'architecture niveau II Japon, Waseda Université à Tokyo

Manager of Documents & Communications
Singapore



Eudora Tan
born in Singapore in 1987
Master of Architecture, National University of Singapore
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) Honours, National University of Singapore

Audiovisual Documentalist
Paris



Valentin Milou
born in Paris in 1990
Bachelor of Arts (Film - Cinematography & Editing), LASALLE College of the Arts

Four projects,

the Bougon Burial Mounds Museum, 1993
the Cité de la mer in Cherbourg, 2002
the National Automobile Museum in Mulhouse, 2005
the Place de la Brèche in Niort, 2009

Landscape

The Bougon Burial Mounds Museum is a museum dealing as much with landscape archaeology as it does with the presentation of the Bougon Neolithic burial site. Through this project, studioMilou architecture began to focus more on problems of architecture and landscape.

At Bougon, the lowest levels of the museum were built underground in the chalky soil.

The museum's entrance, therefore, is around four metres below ground level at the bottom of the archaeological excavations. The chalky nature of the soil is underlined by the use of limestone paving slabs of different sizes and finishes.

The use of bronze paving slabs reinforced the work at this level, and these were designed to mimic the surfaces of the archaeological excavations carried out by Jean-Pierre Mohen.

Thick walls of calcareous concrete, made using the chalky rock of the site, were also built to form a maze of rooms open to the sky. In the evenings, low ground lighting, and low lighting of the surrounding landscape, means that the visitor experiences a feeling of distance, a kind of reserve, which draws attention to the site itself and to the landscape around it.

In the projects that follow the studio has paid particular attention to the ground in which the projects are set. Examples illustrating this include the staircase at the Hôtel Administratif in Niort and the entrance to the exhibition hall and dock at the Cherbourg Gare maritime.

The absence of cars in the approach and access to the projects is a characteristic of all of the studio's work. In many cases, such as in Niort, Bougon, Cherbourg and Mulhouse, projects are surrounded by a pedestrian public space, which the visitor walks through on foot, having left his or her car at a respectable distance in a parking area.

In fact, in all these projects the architecture has been conceived as if to invite the visitor to renew an instinct for slowness.

Architecture

These four projects present an architecture open to the four winds and one that seems to invite both nature and the visitor to enter a vertical space built to scale with the landscape. Here, visitors are free to wander among tall trees and delicate colonnades.

The architecture often uses lightweight techniques of steel and wood placed on masonry made of concrete produced from the site, and thus itself linked to the ground. This contemporary architecture, sober and simplified in style, does not aim at formal sophistication. On the contrary, it produces a feeling of weightiness and of verticality. It is uncluttered by any kind of flourish. The colour palette used is that demanded by the rules of classical perspective, with yellows at the lower levels, and blues at the higher.

The Bougon Museum is a good example of this sort of work. It was designed using simple, commercially available structural elements, and it is simply articulated. The open portico encourages the slow entry of vegetation. The visitor follows a promenade-like itinerary.

The exhibition hall at Cherbourg takes up from this work on porticos and uses a similar architectural style. Here, the architecture stops the visitor short by framing a view of the harbour through the portico. A feeling for the portico's verticality is never far from the visitor's mind in his or her tour of the site, like a reminder of the marine horizon.

The two glasshouses under construction as part of the project for the Place de la Brèche continue the same idea of an open portico set in a garden through which the visitor can walk. Here, too, the architecture is intended to express light and verticality, and a peristyle structure, open on each side and protected from the sun by a system of wood and stone screens, is intended to place the visitor in a fluid space in which he or she can wander slowly between the architecture and the surrounding gardens.



Design of the Mulhouse Automobile Museum



At the Mulhouse Automobile Museum, the visitor leaves the Museum's parking area, crosses a canal via a large bridge and, having walked through a group of trees, enters a giant atrium designed like a kind of Noah's Ark in which animals and automobiles are suspended in the air together in an unusual fashion. This design, allegorical in character, presents a riot of automobiles and animals, caught and stylized as if cast in bronze.

A sort of enigma, this construction can be read in different ways. According to his or her disposition, the visitor could see it as a sort of promethean laboratory to produce infernal machines, or as an unexpected representation of nature and industry united in a kind of craziness with the aim of creating beings that are as enchanting as they are disturbing. On the other hand, it could be seen as a spatial image of the way we imagine the motor car, linking animality on the one hand with mobility and invincibility on the other.



Design of the Bougon Burial Mounds Museum

There is a play between the ancient and the new buildings in the Bougon project, encouraged by placing a mediaeval monastic barn, housed in the main hall of the Museum, between the hall and an exterior peristyle. Looked at symbolically, this arrangement could suggest:

Either the enhancement of a piece of Christian heritage by placing it in a contemporary space, or the new staging of a significant fragment of the landscape, if a dissected one, among the museum's contents, or a baroque play of architectural juxtapositioning.



Design of the Cherbourg Gare maritime

Placing the submarine *Le Redoutable* in its new dock at the heart of the Cité de la mer project in Cherbourg can be seen in the same way. This design consists of a large submarine, 138 metres long, that has been beached in the middle of the town and aligned with the architectural structure of the Gare maritime.

Here, too, there are questions regarding the nature of the message sent to the visitor by such a design:

Is it optimistic and pacifist?
Is it a promethean parable about the murderous folly of mankind?
Is it a formal and carefree game of 20th century engineering?

The contents of the submarine also constitute an inexhaustible source of meaning for the Cherbourg Gare maritime (it contains nearly all its original equipment). But in itself the design is mute and enigmatic, leading each person to ask questions.



Weaving together of project elements

In the 1996 project designed for the Église de la Défense competition, architecture, sculpture and design come together in a screen design built to scale with the urban environment.

At Bougon, the Chapel parallels the peristyle, and it seems to merge within the same design. The mass of objects occupying the empty space of the entrance atrium at the Automobile Museum in Mulhouse parallel the architectural design of the whole. In Cherbourg, the siting of the submarine in its dock has again been done in parallel to the Cherbourg Gare maritime and the exhibition hall. The design of the Place de la Brèche in Niort is organized in strips parallel to the architecture of the glasshouses and to that of the underground areas.



In all these cases, the architecture has been enriched by recovering different layers, the boundaries of which are blurred and have finally become one, as if woven together.

Jean François Milou, January 2005



architecture – public facilities



Post offices

In 1988, studioMilou architecture built an experimental post office as part of the project for the Cerizay town centre. This building, designed as a large open hall, unites the public reception and postal sorting areas in the same space to achieve great visual transparency. Interestingly, opening the office's activities to the public in this way has increased the status of the postal workers. This project has been the object of many publications and has been featured on a postage stamp in the Europa series. Its success has led to studioMilou architecture being invited to enter a number of competitions for post office buildings, where the same ideas were developed (transparency of public space, opening up of the sorting hall and design of furniture for the project).

Cerizay	pilot post office	La Poste	completed 1988
Les Herbiers	post office	La Poste	competition 1991
Beauvais	post office	La Poste	competition 1991



Educational facilities

studioMilou architecture has designed various projects for educational facilities, either by direct commission or by competition, including:

Collège Pocquelin	canteen	ville de Paris	completed 1985
Soisy-sous-Montmorency	children's leisure centre	ville de Soisy	completed 1986
Cerizay	primary school	ville de Cerizay	completed 1986
Soisy-sous-Montmorency	infants and primary school	ville de Soisy	completed 1990
Asnières	crèche and kindergarten	ville d'Asnières	completed 1996
Caen	regional Fine Arts school	C agglo de Caen-la-mer	completed 2010



Public spaces

studioMilou architecture has built numerous public spaces in urban areas. In each case, studioMilou has sought to use elegant materials, such as stone and bronze, in order to lend these spaces permanence as expressions of public heritage. Examples are:

Sarcelles	development of the place de France	CIRS	study 1982
Les Aubiers	construction of a planted area	ville des Aubiers	completed 1988
St Laurent	construction of R. Bazin Avenue	ville de St Laurent	completed 1992
Cerizay	squares and streets	ville de Cerizay	completed 1993
Pamproux	general development	ville de Pamproux	completed 1998
Cherbourg	30,000 m ² of exterior space	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 1999
Niort	around 4,000 m ² of squares and streets	ville de Niort	completed 1999
Niort	Place de la Brèche	ville de Niort	completed 2013
Niort	Place de la Brèche, 40 000m ² de jardins	ville de Niort	completion 2013

landscaping



studioMilou has undertaken the landscaping of many architectural projects including in the city of Niort (France), at the Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg (France), at the Jardin des oiseaux libres (France), the Dmanisi Archaeological Park (Georgia) and the conference centre at Quy Nhon (Vietnam). Most recently, studioMilou completed the design and construction of the major landscaping project of the place de la Brèche in the centre of the city of Niort between 2005 and 2013, which included around four hectares of public space and gardens.

Cherbourg	3 ha of public space and landscaped areas	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 1999
Ménigoute	jardin des oiseaux libres	Conseil Gen des Deux Sèvres	completed 2003
Saint Denis	collective gardens and private dwellings	Plaine commune habitat	completed 2009
Dmanisi, Georgie	archaeological site of Dmanisi	Georgian National Museum	completed 2010
Caen	courtyards of regional fine arts school	C agglo de Caen-la-mer	completed 2010
Aiffres	collective gardens and private dwellings	HLM des Deux Sèvres SA	completed 2010
Quy Nhon, Vietnam	landscaped areas at scientific conf. centre	Afase	completed 2013
Niort	4 ha of public areas and gardens	ville de Niort	completed 2013

architecture - cultural projects



Cultural institutions built or under construction

In addition to its major museum projects, studioMilou has also been the architect of various large-scale cultural, educational and performing arts projects. After the completion of the Ecole des Beaux arts in Caen in 2009, studioMilou won the project to construct the new Comédie de Saint-Etienne (France), a performing arts centre, as well as the new Théâtre de Rambouillet (France), both of which open their doors in 2015.

Caen	fine arts school	ville de Caen	completed 2009
Saint-Etienne	Comédie de Saint Etienne	ville de Saint Etienne/EPA	completed 2015
Rambouillet	theatre	ville de Rambouillet	completed 2015
Quy Nhon, Vietnam	scientific conference centre	Afase	completed 2013

museums



Museums built or under construction

studioMilou was awarded the projects to build the Bourgon Burial Mounds project and the Cherbourg Redoutable Museum. Studies for the building of the Redoutable Museum at the Cherbourg Cité de la mer were carried out to 1998, and its construction was completed in March 2000. The new exhibition galleries of the National Automobile Museum in Mulhouse were opened in 2006. The National Art Gallery of Singapore (60,000 m²) will open its doors in 2015.



Bougon	burial mounds museum	Niort Conseil général	completed 1993
Cherbourg	Cité de la mer	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 2002
Mulhouse	automobile museum	Musée de l'automobile	completed 2006
Menigoute	jardin des oiseaux libres	Conseil General des deux sèvres	completed 2003
Tbilisi, Georgia	S. Janashia museum auditorium	Musée national de Géorgie	completed 2010
Dmanisi, Georgia	site survey shelter	Musée national de Géorgie	completed 2010
Singapore	National Art Gallery	MICA	completed 2015

Studies

Several studies have been commissioned from studioMilou architecture for the building of museums, either by direct commission (the Daguerre Museum at Bry-sur-Marne), or as a result of a competition (Georges Pompidou Museum at Cajarc). Between 2006 and 2013, Jean François Milou was in charge of the design and management of the master plan for the Georgian National Museum in the historic city-centre of Tbilisi.

Bry sur Marne	Musée Daguerre	Épamarné	study 1983
Cajarc	Musée G. Pompidou	G. Pompidou association	study 1988
Tbilisi, Georgia	Museum Street	Musée national de Géorgie	study 2009
Tbilisi, Georgia	Museum Avenue of the Arts	Musée national de Géorgie	study 2012

exhibition design



Among its exhibition design projects, studioMilou developed the displays for the new wing of the National Automobile Museum in Mulhouse that opened in 2006. In 2008, studioMilou was given responsibility for the design and preliminary studies for the 8,000 m² of permanent exhibition space in the National Art Gallery of Singapore. Working from its office in Singapore, the studio has also designed and constructed numerous exhibitions of modern and contemporary art.



Mulhouse	new entrance and galleries	Musée de l'automobile	completed 2006
Dmanisi, Georgia	design of excavation pavilion	Musée national de Géorgie	completed 2010
Singapore	Wu Guan Zhong exhibition	National Art Gallery	completed 2010
Singapore	Cheong Soo Ping exhibition	National Art Gallery	completed 2010
Singapore	"Negotiating Home, History and Nation"	Singapore Art Museum	completed 2011
Singapore	Diptychs, MAGMA exhibition	Magma Collection	completed 2011
Singapore	Diptychs, "The World without Politics"	Valentine Willie	completed 2012
Singapore	8,000 m ² of permanent exhibition space	National Art Gallery	completed 2015
Korea	"Face to Face" exhibition	Elizabeth Daynes	completed 2014

town planning projects



Cerizay

Between 1986 and 1993, studioMilou architecture was the project architect for the restructuring of the town centre of Cerizay. Numerous consultation meetings were held with the local population in order to draw up the master plan for this project (community meetings, public exhibitions, etc.). The objective of the project was to revivify the historic centre by introducing new facilities and building new housing, as well as by the general renovation of public areas. The project has drawn much attention in the professional press (Architecture d'aujourd'hui, Techniques et Architecture, Urbanisme, Diagonales d'Architecture, etc.). It included the following projects, all carried out by studioMilou architecture as project manager.



overall project design	project, public consultation	ville de Cerizay	study 1986
Pérochon school	4 primary classrooms	ville de Cerizay	completed 1985
post office	around 1,000 m ²	PTT	completed 1988
covered market	around 500 m ²	ville de Cerizay	completed 1993
Cerizay, Pérochon	18 housing units	opac Thouars	completed 1988
Cerizay, Les Voûtes	58 housing units	opac Thouars	completed 1991
Cerizay, Beaud	40 housing units	opac Thouars	completed 1993
public spaces	city-centre squares and streets	ville de Cerizay	completed 1993

Hôtel administratif, Niort

In 1996, studioMilou architecture won a competition to develop the historic area around the Niort town hall. This project involved the construction of a municipal administration building, the Hôtel administratif, with various public facilities, as well as of housing units within the existing urban fabric. studioMilou was project manager for the administration building, the external spaces and the garage. It also oversaw the other projects that were underway (Youth Centre, housing units).



overall project design	project, public consultation	ville de Niort	study 1996
underground garage	250 places	sopac	completed 1998
administration building	around 6,000 m ²	ville de Niort	completed 2001
public spaces	around 4,000 m ²	ville de Niort	completed 1999



Cherbourg

In 1996, studioMilou architecture won a European architectural competition and was given responsibility for building the Cité de la mer at Cherbourg. This town-planning and architectural project aimed to convert the site of the Cherbourg Gare maritime, situated on the central jetty of the harbour. This former station, together with its train hall and associated buildings, in the past connected transatlantic shipping with French rail services, and it was converted to house a Museum of the Sea centred around a submarine, the Redoutable, together with a multi-use space, a maritime garden, and other leisure facilities.

overall project design	project, public consultation	C Urbaine Cherbourg	study 1996/1997
dock, VRD	30,000 m ² of exterior space	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 1997/1999
train hall	9,000 m ² covered	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 1997/1999
museum	around 2,000 m ²	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 1998/2000
gare maritime	around 7,000 m ²	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 2000/2002



Niort, place de la Brèche

Following a preparatory study carried out in 2002 by the Ville de Niort, studioMilou architecture was given the task of restructuring the place de la Brèche in Niort. This project involved the building of an underground garage for 530 vehicles, a multiplex cinema complex with 12 screens, an exhibition hall and a large town centre public space of around four hectares in area. This large urban project was completed in April 2013.



overall project design	6.8 ha project, public consultation	ville de Niort	study 2002/2005
public spaces	5.22 ha in total	ville de Niort	completed 2006/2013
12-screen cinema	around 6,000 m ²	ville de Niort /operator	completed 2006/2008
upper esplanade, galleries	around 2,000 m ²	ville de Niort	completed 2006/2008
restaurant terraces	coordination	ville de Niort /operators	completed 2006/2008
underground parking	530 places	ville de Niort /operator	completed 2008/2011
gardeus, play area, fountain	1.5 ha	ville de Niort	completed 2010/2013
garden kiosques	6 kiosques, 230 m ²	ville de Niort /operators	completed 2010/2013

Town-planning studies

In the wake of the Cerizay project, studioMilou architecture was commissioned to undertake town-planning project studies that are considered today to be reference works in the field of urban studies. studioMilou architecture followed the same procedures as those carried out at Cerizay in each case, proposing a collection of small projects, positioned at strategic points in the urban fabric, in order to create new uses for existing urban spaces, these in turn calling forth new stakeholders.

Moncoutant	urban development plan	ville de Moncoutant	study 1990
Mauléon	urban development plan	ville de Mauléon	study 1990
St Laurent	urban development plan	ville de St Laurent	study 1991
Cherbourg	project, public consultation	C Urbaine Cherbourg	study 1996/1997
Niort	project, public consultation	ville de Niort	study 1996

architecture - housing



Housing in historic city-centres

In 1986, studioMilou architecture was asked to design a housing development in an ancient district of the old town of Melle by HLM Melloise, a low-cost housing agency. This project was to be located at the western limit of the town and would be built in the protected area around the town's Roman churches. It would involve the rehabilitation of around 15 housing units and the construction of 20 new ones within the framework of state-assisted financing. In 1985, studioMilou won a competition to build the headquarters building of Opac nord (Deux Sèvres) in Thouars. This project also included the construction of 30 PLA housing units and of an underground parking lot to be used by office workers and local residents.

Fossemaigne à Melle	35 PLA housing units	SA HLM Melloise	completed 1985
Les villas, Thouars	30 housing units and offices	Thouars OPAC	completed 1986
Hôtel de St Vaize	50 PLA housing units	HLM Niort SA	completed 2003
Argenteuil	47 PLA housing units	Cités Jardins	completed 2009
Orléans	student housing	Vinci	completed 2013

Housing in new urban areas (ZAC)

In 1995, studioMilou architecture was asked by the OPARC of the Ville de Poitiers to design 50 housing units. This project was an experimental one (rex), looking at new ways of organizing construction sites.

Poitiers, ZAC St Éloi	50 rex housing units	Poitiers oparc	completed 1996
Saint Denis, Pierre Semard	50 housing units	Plaine commune habitat	completed 2009

Rural housing

Following a study carried out by Jean François Malou in 1979 for a group of housing units at Celles-sur-Belle, many public contracting authorities approached studioMilou architecture requesting designs for PLA housing in the region.

La Mothe St Heray	10 housing units	HLM Niort SA	completed 1979
Celles-sur-Belle	10 housing units	HLM Niort SA	completed 1979
Brioux-sur-Boutonne	20 housing units	HLM Melloise SA	completed 1983
Aiffres	41 BBC housing units	HLM des deux Sèvres SA	completed 2010

competitions and studies



Main competitions

Paris	collège israélite	fondation Rothschild	competition	1994
Angles sur Anglins	site museum	Conseil général Vienne	competition	1994
Asnières	Magenta School	ville d'Asnières	competition	1994
La Défense	ND de la Pentecôte church	epad, évêché	competition	1994
Poitiers	student centre	rectorat	competition	1995
Asnières	crèche	ville d'Asnières	winner	1995
Bordeaux	information centre	sia	competition	1995
Le Creusot	heritage library	rectorat and city	competition	1995
Argenteuil	EDF GDF branch	EDF GDF	winner	1995
Geunneville	60 housing units	SEMAG	winner	1995
Niort	administration building	ville de Niort	winner	1995
St Denis	100 housing units	OPHLM St Denis	winner	1995
Cherbourg	Cité de la mer	C Urbaine Cherbourg	winner	1996
Sarlat	town museum	ville de Sarlat	competition	1997
Amiens	sports centre	ville d'Amiens	winner	1997
Mulhouse	National Automobile Museum	SEMHA/ Musée Auto	winner	1998
Paris	adolescents centre	hôpital Cochin	competition	2000
Paris	extension to lycée Jean-Baptiste Say	ville de Paris	competition	2000
Tel Aviv, Israel	Rabin International Peace Forum	City of Tel Aviv Jafo	competition	2001
New Delhi, India	new Alliance Française	Alliance française	competition	2001
South Africa	Cradle of Humankind	Gauteng district	competition	2002
Paris	exhibition design	musée du quai Branly	competition	2002
Serris	town hall	SAN Val d'Europe	competition	2003
Niort	place de la Brèche	ville de Niort	winner	2003
Niort	hôtel du département Caserne Dugesclén	Conseil général	competition	2004
Wingen-sur-Moder	Lalque Museum	ville de Wingen	competition	2005
Nantes	la Fabrique, developing artistic practices	ville de Nantes	competition	2005
Caen	regional fine arts school	C agglo de Caen-la-mer	winner	2005
Paris	Boule school	ville de Paris	competition	2006
Paris	Carreau du Temple	ville de Paris	winner	2007
Menton	Jean Cocteau Museum	Ville de Menton	competition	2007
Singapore	National Art Gallery, Singapore	MICA	winner	2008
Genève	ethnographic museum	Ville de Genève	competition	2008
Lyon	Chazelle sur Lyon cultural centre	C Commu Forez en Lyonnais	competition	2008
Paris	renovation of Picasso Museum	EMOC	competition	2009
Oslo	National Museum of Norway	City of Oslo	competition	2009
Orléans	student housing	Vinci immobilier	winner	2010
Anglet	performing arts centre	Ville d'Anglet	competition	2010
Caudebec en Caux	Marine de Seine Museum	C Commu Caux Vallée Seine	competition	2010
Rambouillet	performing arts centre	ville de Rambouillet	winner	2010
Argenteuil	Abbey public areas and gardens	ville d'Argenteuil	competition	2011
Vendôme	Ronsard cultural centre	ville de Vendôme	competition	2011
Meaux	cultural centre	C Agglo pays de Meaux	competition	2011
Tille	storage of Musée départemental de l'Oise	Conseil général de l'Oise	competition	2011
Gravelotte	1870 war memorial	Conseil général de la Moselle	competition	2011
Saint Etienne	Comédie de Saint Etienne	ville de Saint Etienne	winner	2012
Lille	rehabilitation of industrial areas	SOVELI	competition	2012
Melbourne, Australia	Flinders Street Station	State of Victoria	competition	2012
Melun Senard	licences building	région Ile-de-France	competition	2013
Taichung, Taiwan	Taichung City Cultural Centre	Taichung City Govt	competition	2013



conservation of architectural heritage



studioMilou has extensive experience in the reuse of ancient buildings and historic monuments, and studioMilou architecture has now become a company specializing in the conservation of ancient buildings. Under the direction of Jean François Milou, Thomas Rouyre, and, from 2012 onwards, of Maria Campos, studioMilou has carried out the following conservation projects:

Mediaeval and pre-mediaeval architectural and archaeological heritage

Dmanisi, Georgia	restoration of archaeological remains	Georgian National Museum	completed 2010
Bougon	restoration of a monastery grange	Niort Conseil général	completed 1993



19th-century architectural heritage

Niort	restoration of a design school	ville de Niort	completed 1999
Mulhouse	restoration of a textile factory	Ass. Gest Musée Automobile	completed 2007
Carreau du temple	restoration of metal architecture	ville de Paris	completion 2014
Saint Etienne	restoration of an industrial area	ville de Saint Etienne	completion 2016



1930s architectural heritage

Cherbourg	conversion of train hall	C Urbaine Cherbourg	completed 2006
Singapore	restoration of a colonial house	George and Elsa Goh	completed 2013
Singapore	conversion of City Hall and Supreme Court	NAGA	completion 2015

architectural heritage master-planning



Architectural and urban heritage protection areas

During the 1980s and 1990s, Jean François Milou undertook research into the development and protection of historic city-centres. He carried out numerous studies of architectural and urban heritage protection areas for medium-sized historic cities.

Airvault	heritage protection area and urban-planning	drae	study 1986
Thouars	heritage protection area	drae	study 1992
Bougon	heritage protection area	dau	study 1995

expert missions on architectural heritage



Since the late 1990s, Jean François Milou has carried out many expert missions on the protection of architectural heritage for the French government and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Expert missions for the French government

Dholavira, India	planning (archaeological site)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dmanisi, Georgia	consultancy (archaeological site)	Georgian National Museum

Expert missions for UNESCO

Lumbini, Nepal	expert mission	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Island of Bali, Indonesia	expert mission	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Agra, India	extension, Taj Mahal & Agra Fort	UNESCO World Heritage Centre



For further detail on these projects, please consult our website:
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