



## Press release

### The future Palais de Justice de Paris

On the Tolbiac - Freyssinet Hall site, Paris 13

### Results of the international ideas competition

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**EPPJP contact**  
**Liliane Guignier**  
01 53 94 88 12  
liliane.guignier@justice.fr

**Press contact**  
**I P C Dominique du Jonchay**  
01 47 53 93 70  
dduj@ipconseil.com



INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION  
FOR IMPLANTING THE NEW PALAIS DE JUSTICE DE PARIS  
ON THE TOLBIAC- FREYSSINET HALL SITE

## COMMUNIQUE from the JURY

27 November 2006

The jury in charge of examining the 275 proposals submitted in the international ideas competition for implanting the new Palais de Justice de Paris on the Tolbiac-Freyssinet Hall site met on 24, 25 and 26 November 2006.

Among the 200 projects in the 'professionals' category, which grouped both young architects and established firms, the jury chose 3 winning projects and designated 7 more for commendations. Among the 75 proposals in the 'students' category, the jury distinguished 5 winning projects and 2 commendations.

The jury praised the quality, diversity and wealth of responses, which expressed the keen interest of architects from all over the world. It was impressed by the relevance of architectural and urban design ideas put forward to solve major problems for Paris. The jury also reiterated the three main issues affecting the territory of the 13th arrondissement:

- link the old neighbourhoods to the new areas on the Seine front,
- enhance the Freyssinet Hall - a significant architectural landmark,
- join the parts built on the slab to those situated at ground level.

The jury remarked that the implanting of the new TGI constituted a fine opportunity to weave together this part of the capital, instil dynamics, and create a new cityscape there: a major public institution in dialogue with the new National Library.

**In view of the proposals, the jury confirmed the site's capacity to contain the TGI, and its suitability, this in respect of the other components of the Paris Left Bank development master plan, especially housing and green belt.**

The three winning projects in the 'professionals' category are noteworthy for the contrasting responses of their morphology. All three confirm the site's capacity to contain the TGI, and support the conservation of the Freyssinet Hall.

Among the 'commended' professional proposals, the jury favoured different approaches to the treatment of the Hall and the re-composition of urban feature and public space.

The jury saluted the exceptional quality of the preparatory works carried out by the EPPJP and the exemplary character of the open ideas competition as an innovatory method for furthering debate on city-making, putting Paris in the forefront of international urban design trends.

## ■ The jury

### **President :**

- Massimiliano FUKSAS, architect (Italy)

### **Jury members :**

- Christian CLERET, director-general of the EPPJP (France)
- Joseph ABRAM, architect historian (France)
- Josep ACEBILLO, architect (Spain)
- Yves BOT, advocate-general at the Court of Justice of European Communities (France)
- Jean Marie COULON, Honorary Chief Justice at the Court of Appeal of Paris (France)
- Francis CUIILLIER, architect/urban planner (France)
- Michel DESVIGNE, landscape architect (France)
- Paul GOLDBERGER, teacher & critic (United states)
- Michèle LELOUP, journalist (France)
- Dominique PERRAULT, architect (France)
- Wolf D. PRIX, architect (Austria)
- Rudy RICCIOTTI, architect (France)
- Benedetta TAGLIABUE, architect (Spain)
- Francis TEITGEN, former president of the Ordre des Avocats at the Court of Appeal of Paris (France)
- Bernard TSCHUMI, architect (France - Switzerland)

### **The ideas competition**

Ideas competitions are held all over the world for major urban and architectural schemes – from the reconstruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center to the National Museum of Korea. The Etablissement du Palais de Justice de Paris (EPPJP) conducted the competition with rigour and transparency, in view of promoting ambitions for Paris and furthering public debate on the future of architecture and urbanism. The implanting on the Tolbiac site of the new law courts complex - a highly symbolic public facility - is of prime importance for the entire city.

**By the number, quality, diversity and richness of responses, which testify to considerable effort, architects from all over the world have enabled the EPPJP to attain this objective.**

## ■ Questions to Massimiliano Fuksas, architect, president of the jury

***You are often involved in major development schemes in Europe and Asia. As president of the competition jury, what are your feelings concerning the approach adopted by the EPPJP for building the TGI on the Tolbiac site? And concerning the new 13th arrondissement that is taking shape, in what way is the role of architects essential in helping to define the new rules of urban design?***

I think that Paris 13 - the new part on the Seine front around the National Library, and the old quarter - have to create conditions to confirm what they share in common. To achieve this, I believe three principles must be respected:

- link the old quarters south of the railway tracks to the new parts on the Seine front;
- safeguard and convert the Freyssinet Hall as a significant transition landmark;
- join together parts built on the slab to those at natural ground level.

These elements will contribute to the emergence of a new cityscape and a new neighbourhood, harmonious in spirit and sensitivity, a far cry from the days when in new developments each developer did what he wanted to with his particular block.

***Do you think the level of ideas put forward by the competition entrants is on par with the urban significance of the TGI ?***

Yes. The ideas put forward in the competition will be productive for the ongoing urban debate, in which the fundamental question was to know whether it was feasible, in this area, to implant a law courts complex of 100 000 m<sup>2</sup> by preserving the Hall and giving it a new function. The answer is yes - because all three winning projects in the professional category show how the Freyssinet Hall can be kept and converted. The responses also confirm the idea of not building on the slab, which was a major security constraint for the TGI project, besides showing how the new complex will fit in harmoniously between old and new.

The three winning projects will enable these things to be modulated in the future.

***Personally, do you think that prior consultation enabled better evaluation of the potential of the Tolbiac-Freyssinet Hall site?***

I'm totally convinced that as a result of this open consultation, and what with 275 responses from professionals and students, from France and from all over the world, the proposals have brought forward ideas that address all the possibilities envisaged by the jury and all the expectations of the client.

The TGI must remain part of the city - it is a major institution that is inserted in the site. With the TGI and the National Library as symbolic masses, and what with all the other new elements and the university, this part of Paris will become both interesting and attractive.

**Interview by Christine Desmoulins, curator of the exhibition.**

## ■ Awards

### « PROFESSIONALS » CATEGORY

#### Winning projects

- A. Josep FUSES, associé à Joan Ma VIADER, Carla ARRUEBO, Nùria MARTIN, M. DOLORS BOSCH, Pilar ARBONES, Enric GRANELL, Cristina BECH, Blázquez-Guanter Arquitectes, 72 dpi.net imatge+arquitectura SCP  
Spain
- B. 3 BOX  
Pacôme BOMMIER, associé à Jonathan BRUTER et Charles GIRARD  
France
- C. Fernando DONIS, associé à Katrin BETSCHINGER  
Netherlands

#### Commendations

- D. ARNT – arq. Design e urbanism, LDA  
Tiago MOTA SARAIVA associé à A. SALAVESSA DE JESUS GARCIA, C. PERREIRA CONDEGO, N. FERREIRA, S. ANTUNES JOAO, BM. SIMOES GONCALVES  
Portugal
- E. HAUVETTE Christian  
Associé à Pierre CHAMPENOIS, Frédéric TERREAUX  
France
- F. CHARTIER / DALIX architectes  
Frédéric CHARTIER, associé à Pascale DALIX  
France
- G. Julien VENTALON, associé à Laura BARTOLONI  
France
- H. Rachdi MANAL & Landfabrik  
Rachdi MANAL, associé à T. VERMET, B. ROUGELOT et D. CHENEAU  
France
- I. BUFFI Associés SA  
Jean-Pierre et Marianne BUFFI, associés à V. JACOB, S. CARNUS  
France

- J. Agence Scape  
Paolo MEZZALAMA, associé à Ludovica DI-FALCO, Alessandro CAMBI, Francesco MARINELLI, Marta NARDONE, Ilaria IOVINO, Justyna MORAWSKA, Marco DE ANGELIS, Giorgio CALOISI, Giovanni TOISI  
Italy

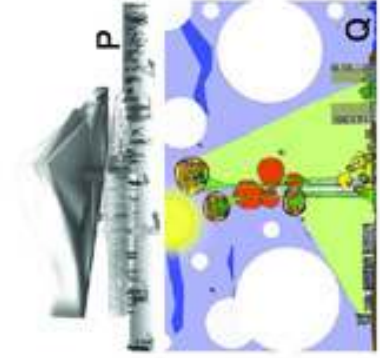
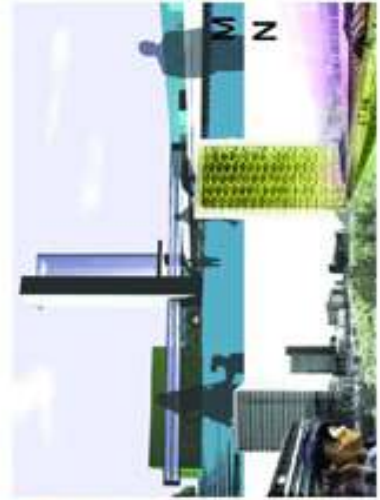
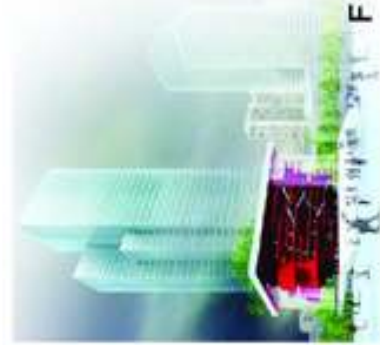
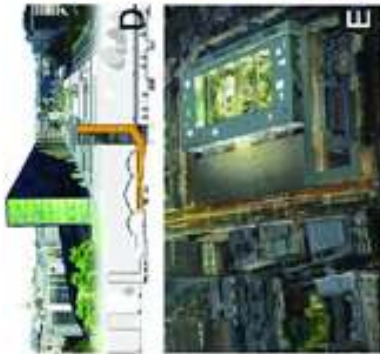
**« STUDENTS » CATEGORY**

**Winning projects**

- K. Jean-Marc PITET, associé à Antoine BROCHARD, Jérémy DEBOIS, David LEVAIN et Renaud PEREIRA  
France
- L. Clément FORVIEUX  
France
- M. Cédric THOMAS  
France
- N. Yann MARTIN  
France
- O. Antoine LACAZE, associé à Pauline CABOURET et Julien VEVER  
France

**Commendations**

- P. Julien SYRAS  
France
- Q. Faraz SOLEYMANI, associé à S. MESDAGHI, M. FEIZABADI, S. MOSTOFI  
Iran



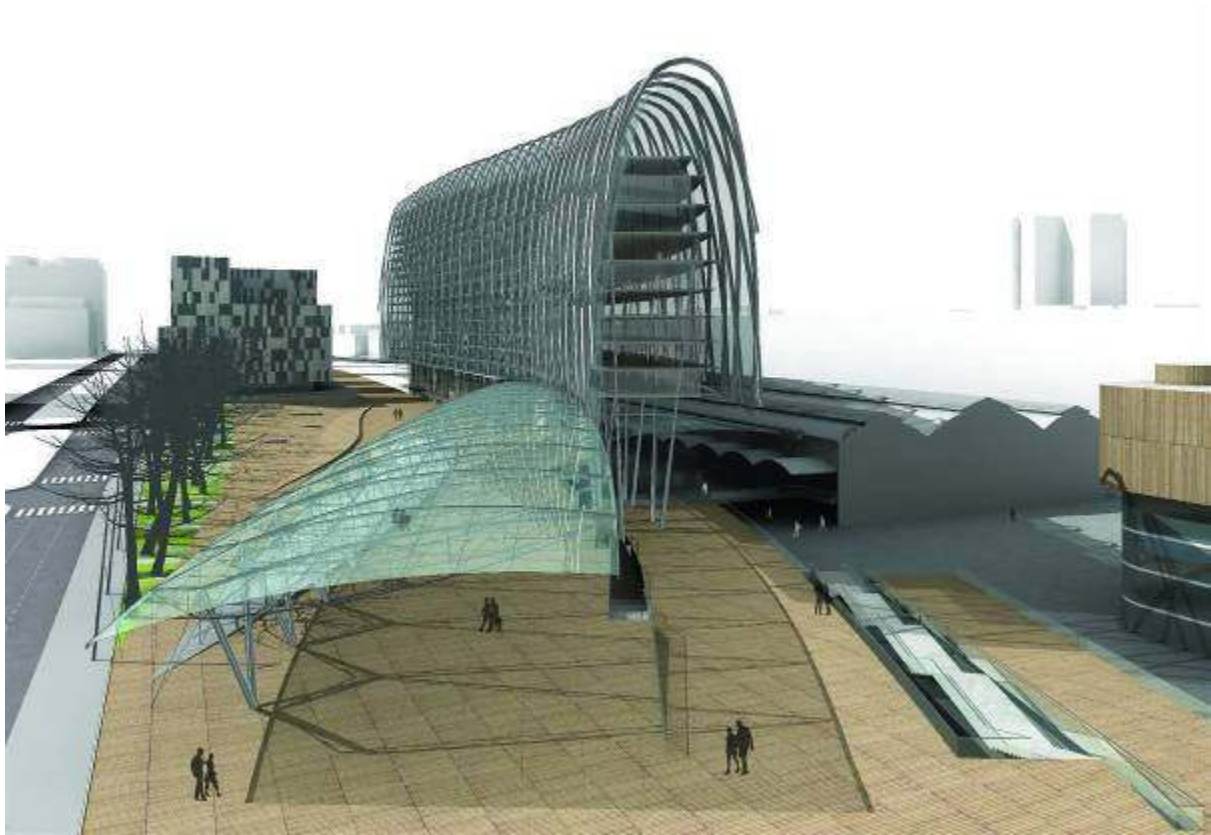
INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION  
FOR MASTER-PANNING THE NEW PARIS COURTHOUSE  
ON THE TOLBIAC-FREYSSINET HALL SITE

**Winning project – ‘professionals’ category**

**FUSES i VIADER**

**Josep FUSES, Joan M. VIADER, architects**

**Spain**



By developing a new sequence of public spaces opening generously to both slab and ground level, harmonious dialogue is secured between the National Library, the TGI and the neighbouring blocks. The Freyssinet Hall is conserved, opened up frontally and lengthwise. Its west side is made over to public space and all the internal volumes are thus freed. The creation of a 'fourth nave', raised on pilotis and contemporary in design, extends the Hall and brings added fluidity at ground level besides opening necessary sight lines. The new nave asserts monumental presence in its forms, forging the identity of the TGI as a new Parisian landmark of human dimension. This project proposes a complete strategy and shows great respect for the ambitions of the operation.

INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION  
FOR MASTER-PANNING THE NEW PARIS COURTHOUSE  
ON THE TOLBIAC-FREYSSINET HALL SITE

**Winning project – ‘professionals’ category**

**3 BOX**

**Pacôme BOMMIER, Jonathan BRUTER, Charles GIRARD, architects  
France**



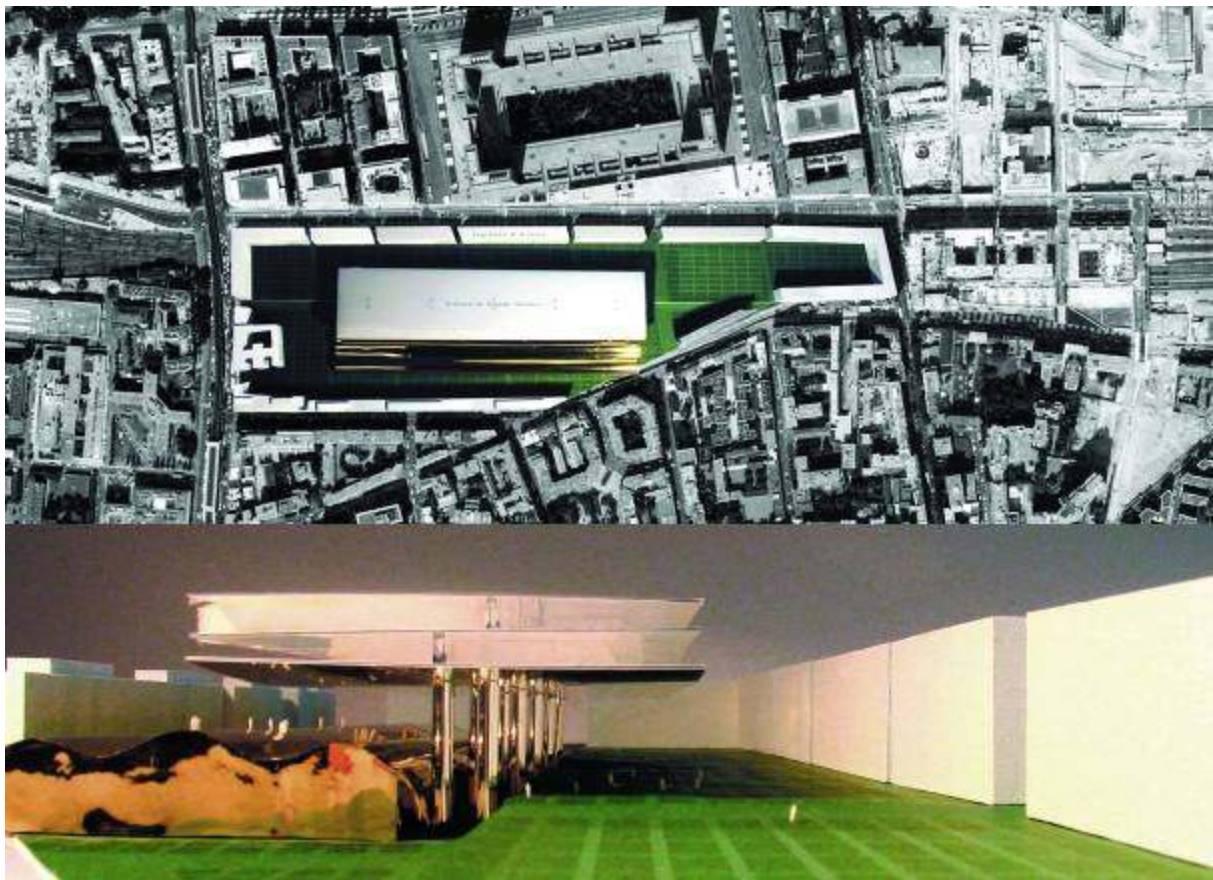
The particular interest of this proposal lies in the idea of inter-connecting by means of the Freyssinet Hall - most of which is conserved and made over to public activities - all the components of the master plan: housing, offices, activities, shops, urban park and TGI, each of them handled according to the objectives of the competition.

As an alternative to increased density, this proposal develops direct and natural links with the old urban fabric of Paris 13, increasing the potential porosity of the site by inserting wide visual openings, by subtly absorbing differences in topographical levels using buildings and green spaces, by enhancing the TGI in its dialogue with the National Library while asserting the identity of each, and by adding a large public square for activities of sharing and exchanging.

INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION  
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**Winning project – ‘professionals’ category**

**Fernando DONIS, Katrin BETSCHINGER, architects  
Netherlands**



As radical as it is clear, in its writing this project proposes urban composition that is unitary on the metropolitan scale and yet diverse at local scale. A new public garden is the main founding element of the scheme, providing respiration and crossover links for the neighbourhood, setting up dialogue and co-existence between the Hall and a contemporary building to reconcile heritage and modernity. The Hall is kept and the courts inserted in a case. Simplicity in the functioning diagram and purity of approach contrive to reinvent a new symbolic image of justice, integrating architectural heritage as the link between history and society.

## ■ From the Ile de la Cité to the Tolbiac - Freyssinet Hall site: two judiciary centers

Ten years ago it became abundantly clear that the Palais de Justice on the Ile de la Cité was no longer sufficient to its purpose: its annexes were spread all over Paris, there was a lack of space and of offices, and certain premises were shabby and non-functional. In 1995, a planning document levelled severe criticism. Clearly, what was needed was to give Paris a new and modern law courts complex to meet the needs and aspirations of users, judiciary professionals and citizens.

The EPPJP (Etablissement Public du Palais de Justice de Paris) was set up in February 2004 on the initiative of the President of the Republic to carry out forecast planning in view of building the new Palais de Justice de Paris. It elaborated a functioning scenario that consisted in implanting the new Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris on a new site and in renovating the old Île de la Cité facility for use by other jurisdictions (Court of cassation and court of appeal).

Studies focusing on availability and necessary re-adjustments of needs were carried out simultaneously. A dozen sites<sup>1</sup> were reviewed and evaluated, in the context of the increasing rareness of available land in Paris *intra muros*. By spring 2004, studies had found five likely sites: two hospitals – the Hôtel Dieu and Saint-Vincent de Paul – and three redevelopment zones proposed by the City of Paris : Austerlitz, Masséna and Tolbiac Freyssinet.

By summer 2004, the EPPJP advised the government to retain the hospital sites in priority with Tolbiac as an alternative. Since the City of Paris was opposed to using the hospital sites, **in January 2005 the State expressed its preference for the Tolbiac site.**

Throughout 2005, the State and the EPPJP assisted the City of Paris in consulting with local associations active in the Paris Left-Bank mixed development zone. In the course of this process, six possible sites<sup>2</sup> were identified as suitable in regard of common criteria: capacity, surface, accessibility, security, impact on the environment, location at natural ground level and in the block core to ensure optimal security, availability, quality urban environment...

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<sup>1</sup> Batignolles / ZAC Pajol / Millénaire / Austerlitz / Tolbiac / Bercy / Les Carènes / Rungis / Hôtel Dieu / La Santé / Les Carènes / Saint-Vincent de Paul

<sup>2</sup> Austerlitz / Tolbiac Chevaleret-Vincent Auriol / Tolbiac Chevaleret-Halle Freyssinet / Masséna Bruneseau-Rives de Seine / Masséna Bruneseau-Avenue de France / Masséna Bruneseau south

**By late 2005, two sites were left in the running : the initial proposal, Tolbiac, and a new site, Masséna-Bruneseau, re-named Masséna-Rives de Seine :**

- Masséna-Rives de Seine lies at the heart of the Ivry traffic interchange beside the industrial and warehousing zone of Ivry. This site did not constitute a viable alternative given the issues at stake in the project. What is more, it did not meet criteria of accessibility for a public service catering to Parisians.
- Tolbiac-Freyssinet, initially proposed by the City of Paris, opposite the National Library and near Austerlitz terminus, appeared as the best solution to accommodate the TGI in good conditions of access and security, besides offering the opportunity of enhancing the Freyssinet Hall as a landmark of historic and architectural significance.

**In spring 2006, after two years of close consultation with the City of Paris, including a year with local associations, the State confirmed its preference for Tolbiac. In spite of a lack of agreement, in June 2006 the EPPJP decided to launch an international ideas competition to further debate.**

## ■ Tolbiac, Justice in the City

### Exhibition and debate at the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine

The EPPJP wanted to inform the general public at large and open discussion on this major project for Paris. The exhibition and debate at the new Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine express the will to ensure openness and transparency.

#### ■ Exhibition from 13 December 2006 to 7 January 2007

17 projects – the winners and the commendations – will be on show at the new Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine. The 258 other proposals will also be presented there.

The exhibition will relate the adventure of this competition and the ambition of the TGI project, which is to be a major public facility implanted in the new areas of Eastern Paris, and a new monument for the capital.

Besides the issues raised by the international ideas competition for implanting the new Palais de Justice on the Tolbiac site, the exhibition will also examine the role of Justice in society. And it will show how Justice inscribes itself in the City by building the facilities needed to concentrate its functions, providing new impetus for redevelopment schemes.

#### ■ Debate - 15 December 2006

On the theme " Tolbiac : Justice in the City", chaired by Stéphane Paoli.

With the participation of

- Joseph Abram, architect/historian
- Christian Cleret, director general of the EPPJP
- Massimiliano Fuksas, architect, president of the jury
- Jean-Claude Magendie, president of the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris
- Jean-Claude Marin, prosecutor of the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris
- Nicolas Michelin, architect/urbanist
- Yves Repiquet, Bâtonnier de Paris.

## ■ **The Etablissement Public du Palais de Justice de Paris : EPPJP**

**Confirmed in 2003 by the President of the Republic and set up by decree on 18 February 2004, the Etablissement Public du Palais de Justice de Paris is a public builder and contracting authority whose mission is to improve and rationalize the functioning of Parisian law courts.**

The creation of a new Palais de Justice and the renovation of the old Palais on the Ile de la Cité are necessary to remedy the non-functional situation caused by the scattering of annexes on different sites around Paris, by the lack of space and by ill-suited premises, and by difficulties of functioning (at present there are seven separate sites for the Tribunal de Grande Instance).

The assignment of the Etablissement Public du Palais de Justice de Paris (EPPJP) is to pilot the construction of the new Palais de Justice de Paris.

Its action is manifold :

- find the site,
- define the programme specifications,
- carry out consultations,
- choose firms and architects,
- follow up works to final completion.

The board of administration is composed of seven members by law, two qualified figures and two representatives for personnel. The EPPJP has a piloting committee that evaluates real estate projects and functioning diagrams. Chaired by the president of the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, the committee is composed of two sub-groups, which represent the various stake-holders in the project: the City of Paris, the magistrates, the prefect of the police, the civil servants of the court of appeal, the TGI and the Court of cassation, the town planning services, and the president of the Ordre des avocats.

The EPPJP is in charge of designing, purchasing, building, and laying out new premises to meet the needs of Parisian jurisdictions.

The decision was taken to provide new premises for the TGI and to renovate the Ile de la Cité site for use by the Court of cassation and the court of appeal.

**Besides people appearing in court and users of the Palais de Justice de Paris, this project concerns all Parisians as part of the urban development of the capital.**