

# FAV 2026

## THE TWENTIETH



**Transmission**  
09-14.06.26

# THE FESTIVAL

Since its creation in 2006, the Festival des Architectures Vives (FAV), organized by the Champ Libre association under the direction of Élodie Nourrigat and Jacques Brion, both architects in Montpellier, has been dedicated to raising public awareness of architecture. This festival transforms Montpellier's historic center into an interactive architectural trail, connecting private mansions and courtyards that are mostly closed to the public.

For one week, the public discovers these innovative projects while exploring the city's heritage. The festival thus creates a dialogue between contemporary architecture and historical heritage, encouraging reflection on the evolution of architecture within an existing urban context.

The FAV attracts a growing number of visitors each year. From 3,500 visitors in 2006, the festival welcomed more than 13,000 people for each of the 2023 and 2024 editions. In 2025, for the first time, the FAV welcomed more than 16,000 visitors.



## CULTURE FOR ALL

The FAV fosters dialogue between architecture and the public, making culture accessible to everyone. The festival is open and free to all.

The FAV is a time for meeting and sharing, where architecture becomes a language accessible to all generations. From the youngest to the oldest, everyone finds something to marvel at, ask questions about, and discuss around the installations.

Mediators are present in each courtyard. They are dedicated to helping visitors better understand the architects' approach or simply to allow them to appreciate the installations. They share the architects' expertise and Montpellier's heritage.



## AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION



Since its inception, the Festival has embraced an international approach. Nearly half of the invited architects come from abroad, bringing with them a diversity of cultures, practices, and visions of architecture. This openness is central to the Festival's identity, which aims to be a forum for exchange, research, and experimentation on a European and global scale.

The Festival has welcomed academics and institutions from numerous countries, thus strengthening its reach. These include the Elisava School of Architecture in Barcelona, Tohoku University in Japan, Syracuse University in the United States, Aalto University in Finland, Laval University in Quebec City, Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), and many others. The FAV also participates in the European ReCITYing program.

## MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM *reCITYing*



2025 : Portrait of a planet (UNIGE)



2025 : Food-waste futures (IAAC)

ReCITYing, a project co-founded by the European Union's Europe Programme, aims to create a networking and exchange platform for best practices in the temporary reuse of urban spaces. Targeting young creatives, professionals in architecture, design, and the arts, as well as local policymakers and social enterprises, this project promotes the regeneration of disused urban spaces and buildings into artistic laboratories and cultural incubators.

The project fosters practical knowledge and professional skills in reuse architecture in four partner cities and four host cities (Genoa-Lublin, Barcelona-Umeå, Hanover-Tallinn, and Maribor-Timisoara). It combines the expertise of several institutions: the University of Genoa (UNIGE) (inclusive co-design), the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC) (digital fabrication), the University of Hanover (LUH) (urban resilience strategies), the Maribor Art Gallery (UGM) (visual arts and artistic events), and the FAV.

At the 2025 edition of the festival, UNIGE and the IAAC presented works exploring the relationship between architecture and scenography, and between architecture and Land Art. At the 2027 edition, partners LUH and UGM will highlight the interactions between architecture and music, and between architecture and visual arts.



Co-funded by  
the European Union



Università  
di Genova



Institute for  
advanced  
architecture  
of Catalonia



## A SPRINGBOARD FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION

The Festival of Vibrant Architectures is dedicated to showcasing a new generation of architects by offering them a unique platform for expression in the heart of Montpellier's heritage. Through their installations, these teams propose, invent, experiment with, and explore new ways of designing our environment.

For many, it's the first time they've faced the public eye: a diverse, non-specialist audience that reacts, questions, marvels, or challenges.

By taking over the courtyards of private mansions—emblematic and often inaccessible locations—these young firms benefit from a prestigious setting to create their first site-specific work.

### ZOOM AT THESE ARCHITECTS

Since 2006, the FAV has hosted nearly 640 architects from all over the world, including:



*380 architects  
from France*



*193 architects from  
Europe (out France)*



*70 architects outside  
of Europe*

## THE MEDIATORS: A STRONG LINK WITH THE PUBLIC

Students at the National School of Architecture of Montpellier have mediators present in each course throughout their studies. Their mission is to help students better understand the architects' approaches or simply facilitate access to and appreciation of the installations.

**NEARLY 430**  
MEDIATORS SINCE 2006



# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

The Festival des Architectures Vives is committed to an environmental approach, favoring natural resources and materials, reuse and waste reduction. As a public event, one of the objectives is to raise public awareness of the broad field of architecture, associated with a virtuous image. The festival's ephemeral installations can generate waste, the cost of which is constantly rising, underlining the importance of rethinking our practices and modes of production in a world of limited resources.

Today, construction accounts for around 40% of CO2 emissions, 37% of energy consumption and 40% of waste in developed countries. It is crucial to take action to reduce energy consumption and favor sustainable materials. Numerous projects are rediscovering ancestral building techniques, such as adobe and stone construction, or the use of bio- and geosourced materials, with a view to recycling waste.

The Festival des Architectures Vives and the participating teams are committed to integrating environmental concerns. The installations presented during the Festival des Architectures Vives are designed with a view to limiting the use of resources, valorizing natural materials and considering the reuse, recycling, reutilization or donation of the materials used. The overall approach to the event incorporates these considerations at every stage, from design to reuse.

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FAV

To assist teams in this process, the FAV has partnered with MAS RÉEMPLOI in Montpellier since 2024. This partnership allows participating teams to consult an online catalog of available materials.

When the project is decommissioned, MAS RÉEMPLOI collects materials for reuse or recycling, with an emphasis on reusable materials.

This year, in collaboration with our partner, an environmental award was awarded to the project that optimally integrated this environmental approach.



Opting for a global approach

Recovery of natural and reuse

An environmental prize

## FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

A collection of the 13 temporary installations presented was conducted at the end of the festival. By reusing materials from the installations, the FAV 2025 enabled nearly 983 kg.eq Co<sup>2</sup> saved.

Which represents :



575 kg of materials integrated into reuse



223 round trip Montpellier-Paris by TGV



Environnemental prize - CHAUME SUBLIMÉ  
Julia Fraolini & Félix Steinbacher

# FAV 2026 - THE TWENTIETH

## COMMON THREAD: TRANSMISSION

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In 2026, the Festival des Architectures Vives has chosen to highlight an invisible yet essential dimension of creation: transmission — what is shared, passed on, and what connects us.

To transmit is far more than simply conveying knowledge or a gesture. It is about creating a living link between the giver and the receiver, between the hands that shape and the minds that imagine. It is the circulation of a way of seeing, understanding, and building the world — an heritage in motion.

In Montpellier, within the courtyards of private mansions, this notion resonates deeply. These spaces embody the delicate balance between tradition and modernity made possible through transmission. They are places where the past constantly converses with the present. Here, artisanal know-how meets new ideas, inherited techniques encounter emerging technologies. Architecture becomes a living language, in constant evolution.

Because building is never a solitary act. Architecture is nourished by ancestral gestures and fresh perspectives. Know-how—whether manual or intellectual — is at the heart of this dynamic. It is not merely a set of techniques, but a way of seeing the world, a sensibility passed from knowledge keepers to future bearers. It encourages us to weave links between generations, but also between disciplines and cultures. It gives meaning to continuity while opening the door to creativity.

By celebrating transmission for its 20th edition, FAV 2026 pays tribute to that invisible yet vital thread that runs through generations of architects, artisans, builders, and thinkers. A thread woven from trust, attentiveness, and transformation. A collective journey, turned toward tomorrow.



## AN ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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In June 2026, the Festival des Architectures Vives will celebrate its 20th edition in Montpellier. To mark this symbolic milestone, the FAV is evolving its traditional format and presenting a special edition dedicated to TRANSMISSION.

For this occasion, the festival has chosen to invite emblematic teams from past editions to take on a new role: that of mentor.

The mentor will not design an installation for the festival but will instead nominate an architect or a team of young architects they trust and wish to spotlight. By supporting this emerging talent, the mentor becomes a conduit of heritage—both creative and human. The nominated architect or team will be responsible for designing and building the installation presented during FAV 2026.

While transmission is the common thread of this anniversary edition, each mentor-mentee duo will be free to define a specific theme together, embodying the bond that unites them. This theme, both personal and symbolic, should reflect a process of sharing, inspiration, the transfer of experience, know-how, or values.

# MENTORS

Mentor



## RÉGIS ROUDIL

### **Atelier Régis Roudil**

*Aix-en-Provence (Fr)*

Régis Roudil graduated from the Marseille School of Architecture in 2008 and then moved to Nice, where he worked for various organizations such as Atelier Comte et Vollenweider and Atelier Barani. In 2013, he founded Atelier Régis Roudil Architectes in Aix-en-Provence, which focuses on developing both public and private projects addressing various scales in the fields of architecture, urban planning, scenography, and rehabilitation.

In 2013, he participated in the Festival des Architectures Vives, whose theme was memory.

With a team of 10 architects working on the theme of terroir, the studio has received several national and international awards. Alongside his practice, he has been teaching at the Marseille School of Architecture since 2014. In 2017, he co-founded the KHORA collective – with EGR, Ivry Serres and Thibault Maupoint de Vandeul – which organizes an annual traveling architecture seminar across the Marseille metropolitan area, on the theme of “the landscape city”.

### **FAV 2013 : EMPR(EI)NTEZ-VOUS !**

Participated in the 2013 FAV in Montpellier, with the «Emp(ei)ntez-vous!» project.

FAV 2013 theme: Memories



## Mentors



### FAV 2014 : SAVON(S)

Participated in the 2014 FAV in Montpellier, with the project «Savon(s)» (Jury Prize).

FAV 2014 Theme: Sensuality

## MOONWALK LOCAL

**Lucas GEOFFRIAU, Etienne HENRY, Camille RICARD,  
Axel ADAM & Xin LUO**

*Bordeaux (Fr)*

MOONWALKLOCAL is a collective of five architects, graduates of the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux. We have been united since 2011 by the desire to explore unique fields of architecture.

We view architecture as a means of building relationships with those who create and experience it. Thus, conversation with the inhabitants of a place is a privileged mode of action for us. We propose desirable and reasoned architecture, humane and environmentally friendly.

Winners of the 2020 AJAP and the 2019 European15 competition on the theme of the circular economy (runner-up), our committed approach is developed around the promotion of local know-how and sectors, waste and resource management, and the experimentation of building materials related to reuse, bio-sourced, and geo-sourced materials.

We primarily operate in locations accessible by bicycle or public transport: Bordeaux and the Bordeaux metropolitan area, and more broadly in Nouvelle-Aquitaine. We are also developing several projects in the Ile-de-France region and the Pyrenees.

## Mentors



## AGENCE SPATIALE

### **Marianne CHARBONNEAU & Étienne BERNIER**

*Québec (Canada)*

Located in Quebec City (Canada), Agence Spatiale is a firm that brings together the spatial disciplines of architecture, art, interior design, urban design, brand design, and furniture design. Habits and design evolve, but memorable experiences remain. This is the premise that inspires the team. Agence Spatiale offers an inclusive approach designed to offer a broad range of expertise and focus on the human experience.

Their mission: to shape space and distort time by bringing together a team that dares to dream the impossible. A process deliberately focused on enjoyment.

### **FAV 2011 : MA COUR DANS TA COUR**

Participated in the 2011 FAV in Montpellier, with the project «My Courtyard in Your Courtyard» (Audience Award).

FAV 2011 Theme: Encounters

### **INVITATION FAV 2015 : TETRAMAGIQUE**

Invited to the 2015 FAV, they were given carte blanche to design a project. Étienne and Marianne, part of the Plux.5 collective, created «Tétramagique.»

Mentor



## TOHRU HORIGUCHI

*Higashiosaka (Osaka Prefecture - Japan)*

Tohru Horiguchi specializes in contemporary architectural theory and cross-cultural architectural education. Prior to joining Kindai University, he was a Research Assistant under Hitoshi Abe at Tohoku University, including a one-year-term Visiting Scholar at UCLA, an Associate Professor at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. Among the maniacs in Japan, he is known as the «architecture film detective» who searches and visits filming locations worldwide using Google Street View, and holds screenings and talk events on an irregular basis in Osaka, Kyoto, Sendai and on YouTube. He recently contributed «Geography of Shinji Aoyama, Film Director» to «The Shinji Aoyama Chronicles» (2023, Little More Co., Ltd.). He has been a frequent contributor to “Architecture + Tectonics Taiwan” on contemporary Japanese architecture.

### FAV 2009 : U-CHI-WA

Participation with Tohoku University at FAV 2009 in Montpellier, with the «U-CHI-WA» project.

FAV 2009 Theme: Ephemeral Curiosities





## ALVARO GONZALEZ SERRANO & JENNYFHER ALVARADO FIGUEROA

**Gonzalez Serrano Studio +** *(Madrid - Spain)*  
**J-AF Architecture** *(Pamplona - Spain)*

Álvaro González Serrano and Jennyfher Alvarado Figueroa are Spanish architects whose practice combines technological innovation, academic research, and an international outlook in ephemeral, residential, and interior architecture. Álvaro, holding a Master's Degree in Architecture from the European University of Madrid, has worked in renowned studios in Madrid and Rotterdam. In 2023, he founded González Serrano Studio+, integrating digital manufacturing with traditional craftsmanship and a strong commitment to environmental responsibility.

Jennyfher, architect from the University of Navarra and the European University of Madrid, founded J-AF in Pamplona in 2022, focusing on contemporary construction and residential projects, alongside custom furniture design and international experience in Japan.

Together, they have received notable recognition, including the COAM 2024 Prize in Ephemeral Architecture for "Una mesa elevada en el paisaje" and the Professional Jury Prize at FAV 2024 for their installation The Proscenium of Ephemeral Reflections.

### FAV 2024 : 人 THE PROSCENIUM OF EPHEMERAL REFLECTIONS

Participation in the FAV 2024 in Montpellier, with the project «The Proscenium of Ephemeral Reflections» (Jury Prize).

FAV 2024 Theme: Rhythm

Mentor



## VICENTE SPÍNOLA

### **FRACTAL**

*Porto (Portugal)*

Studied Architecture Porto (FAUP) and Darmstadt (TU-D), graduated in 2008. Since then has developed his activity in Copenhagen, Madrid and Porto.

Co-founder of FRACTAL – a cultural platform that hosts an urban art festival based in Funchal, Portugal – where he has worked as creative director, manager and factotum, of sorts.

With architecture as background, he has been creating spatial installations and sculptures. These focus on the experience of the visitor, rely on optical effects and explore the phenomenology of its space.

The participation as a mentor in this year's edition of the Festival comes from a strong belief in the power and energy of upcoming generations, and in the principle that a cross-pollination of ideas can bring beneficial results to those who are open to this exchange.

Believing that Architecture should be in deep relation to its surrounding, utilitarian but also playful and experimental, his practice explores the subjects of sustainability, ephemerality, flexibility and economy of means, either conceptually or in built form.

### **FAV 2023 : TWO POINT FIVE PLANETS**

Participation in the FAV 2023 in Montpellier, with the «Two Point Five Planets» project.

FAV 2023 theme: Sacredness

Mentor



## NICOLA CANESSA

Genova (Italy)

I founded the Coagroup architecture studio in 2008 (with N.Pisani, G.Pisani, P.Raffetto), then in 2015 with P.Raffetto I founded the Co-Up architecture studio, and finally in 2021 I became a professor of urban planning at the University of Genoa.

I was lucky enough to participate in the FAV with both my architectural studies, with good results, and above all with great personal growth. As an architect I have always dealt with the themes of museum design and artistic installations, while as an urban planner the themes of my research have focused on the processes of urban renaturalization, smart city and strategic urbanism.

My experience at the Festival des Architectures Vives, with EXPO D'EXPE (2011) and REFLECTIONS (LGM 2016), allowed me to investigate two themes that I still consider fundamental today: architecture as a collective and dynamic experience, and space as a threshold that generates new and unexpected perceptions. From this research comes the desire to convey to the teams I follow not so much forms to be replicated, but an open design attitude, capable of transforming the space into a device for relationships, listening and awareness. The new challenges we face correspond to those that the two groups of young designers have chosen to explore: on the one hand, the landscape, in particular the urban one, as a place of fragile and regenerative balance; on the other hand, the advanced city, investigated through emerging materials and technologies as an opportunity to rethink the relationship between body, perception and environment.

### FAV 2011 : EXPO D'EXPÉ

A first participation in the FAV 2011 in Montpellier, with the «Expo d'Expé» project (Jury Prize).

FAV 2011 Theme: The Encounter

### FAV 2016 (LA GRANDE MOTTE) : RÉFLECTIONS

A second participation in the FAV 2016 in La Grande-Motte, with the «Reflections» project.

FAV 2016 theme: Innovation





## LUC LÉOTOING & CHLOÉ MARIEY

### **Luc Léotoing Paysage urbanisme & GRAMA Architecture**

*Clermont-Ferrand (Fr)*

Luc Léotoing is a certified landscape architect and Chloé Mariey is a certified architect.

They teach at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Clermont-Ferrand in parallel with their work as project managers in their respective fields. At the intersection of their disciplines, they develop artistic research that focuses on geological singularities and their associated environments. Like «open works,» their proposals showcase the dynamics of life.

Our approach focuses on the notion of geographies and «geotopes.» Geotopes are portions of territories determined by unique geologies and their associated environments. They provide insight into the evolution and construction of natural landscapes and those that have been invaded by humans.

### **FAV 2007 : FLOWERS-STILL LIFE (Luc)**

Luc participated in the 2007 FAV in Montpellier, with the «Flowers-Still Life» project.

FAV 2007 Theme: Course Games

- + Invited to FAV 2015, Luc was given carte blanche to design a project. Within the Spaces collective, they created «Review.»

### **FAV 2016 (LGM) : DESSINE MOI UN HORIZON (Chloé)**

Chloé participated in the 2016 FAV in La Grande-Motte, with the «Draw Me a Horizon» project.

FAV 2016 theme: Innovation



## LES ATELIERS O-S ARCHITECTES

**Gaël LE NOUËNE, Guillaume COLBOC & Vincent BAUR**

*Paris (Fr)*

Les Ateliers O-S architectes are led by Vincent Baur, Guillaume Colboc and Gaël Le Nouène. The three associate architects, with complementary personalities, frequently collaborate with figures from other disciplines such as the visual arts and landscape design. Before joining forces on common projects, Vincent Baur, Guillaume Colboc and Gaël Le Nouène gained experience alongside stimulating figures such as Rem Koolhaas, Nicolas Michelin, Christian Devillers, and Brigitte Metra.

The partnership began in 2002 with numerous entries in international design competitions and installations at the Festival des Architectures Vives in 2008, where their projects were often noticed. In 2011, the firm was nominated for Le Moniteur's First Work Prize with the "Decks Bleus" housing project (39 units in Chalon-sur-Saône), and for the Équerre d'Argent award in the Infrastructure category with the park-and-ride project in Rennes in 2024.

Today, Les Ateliers O-S architectes are developing a wide range of public commissions, from social housing to cultural facilities, through which they express a sensitivity to situation, context, and program. Deeply attentive to the expectations and needs of users, O-S seek a responsive architecture capable of offering each individual an experience, an emotion.

The name O-S refers to multiple wordplays, notably Open Source and Operating System, notions that synthesize the ideas of openness and production essential to the development of a project. Through this name, the agency asserts its stance as a group open to dialogue and the expression of every interlocutor. The blending of ideas and proposals thus becomes a means of enriching the project, transforming it, and at the same time revealing the essence of each situation.

### FAV 2008 : BACK SIDE FLIP 360°

Participated in the 2008 FAV in Montpellier, with the «Back Side Flip 360°» project.

FAV 2008 theme: In(side)out

## Special Guest Mentors

### ATELIERS A+

Montpellier (Fr)

Unlike the nine other mentors, all former FAV participants, Ateliers A+ has never before participated in the festival.

Yet their presence this year is a natural fit: since their inception, they have made sharing knowledge a true driving force of their practice. By gradually integrating new partners, regularly welcoming young graduates, and providing them with a framework conducive to their development, Ateliers A+ fully embodies the spirit of sharing and renewal that guides this edition.

Their roots in Montpellier also make them distinguished guests, whose participation will enrich this special edition of the FAV.



Christophe AUBAILLY



Clément RABOURDIN



Fabien THUILE



Gilles GAL



Philippe BONON



Philippe CERVANTES



Vincent NOGARET

**Ateliers A+**

We are architects, urban planners, landscape designers, product designers, engineers, economists, project managers, visualizers and filmmakers — and we are passionate about what we do. Coming from related disciplines and diverse backgrounds, multidisciplinary lies at the very heart of our architectural practice.

With more than 100 collaborators today, based in Montpellier, Nîmes, Toulouse and Paris, our teams have combined expertise, experience, curiosity and enthusiasm for over 30 years. We design collectively, across all scales, guided by a shared vision born from the creative and collaborative reflection of our eight fields: architecture, urban planning, landscape, environment, design, engineering, economics and management.

Each project is an invention. The collective energy that drives us enables us to deliver innovative and committed projects with a strong social impact. With an average age of 32, our agency welcomes many young graduates each year who challenge our skills and forge their own character. Transmission has always been at the core of our values — within our teams as much as within our leadership.



# ROLES

## THE ROLE OF THE MENTOR

The mentor does not participate as a designer of an installation, but plays a role of transmission and support, entrusting them with the following tasks :

- **Propose two architects or teams of young architects** that he/she wishes to highlight
- Define, with the mentees, **a specific theme** echoing the general theme of TRANSMISSION
- **Support** these applications in a transmission logic
- **Keep a close eye on the work** carried out by the mentee
- **Help the mentee in preparing their project, in particular by supporting them in finding partners** (if necessary)

This role is intended as a symbolic handover, a trust placed in the new generation. The final installation remains the work of a joint approach.

## THE ROLE OF THE MENTEE

The mentee(s) will be responsible for designing and creating a temporary installation as part of the FAV 2026. They will be proposed by a mentor, and their final selection will be made by a jury from the two applications submitted. The role of the mentee :

- **Design and create the installation during the festival in June 2026.**
- **Work on a specific theme**, defined in conjunction with the mentor, as a symbol of the transmission between them
- **Engage in an autonomous creative process**, but nourished by exchanges with the mentor, in a dynamic of dialogue and mutual trust
- Be responsible for **setting up** the project on site in Montpellier, in the location allocated to it, during the assembly period planned from June **4 to 8, 2026**, and also ensuring **dismantling** on **June 15, 2026**. FAV 2026 is open from June 9th to 14th.



# PARTNERS & CONTACTS

## PARTNERS 2025 :



## THE MEDIA 2025 :

**v2com**  
newswire

**Midi Libre**

Festival des Architectures Vives is organized by the Champ Libre association.  
A non-profit organization governed by the French law of 1901, chaired by Elodie Nourrigat and Jacques Brion, architects.

FAV 2026 organization: Judith Rossi



ASSOCIATION CHAMP LIBRE  
4 rue des Trésoriers de la Bourse  
34000 - Montpellier



+33 4 67 92 51 17



communication@festivaldesarchitecturesvives.com



www.festivaldesarchitecturesvives.com



Instagram : @festivaldesarchitecturesvives  
LinkedIn & Facebook : Festival des Architectures Vives  
TikTok : @fav\_montpellier



Paul KOZLOWSKI @photoarchitecture.com  
Site : <http://photoarchitecture.com>

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