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# GRAND PALAIS ÉPHÉMÈRE

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# introduction



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The Grand Palais Ephémère, a provisional 10,000-m<sup>2</sup> building organised by the Réunion des Musées Nationaux – Grand Palais, the City of Paris and Paris 2024 (Olympic Games Committee), will be located on the Champ-de-Mars from early 2021 until the end of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is designed by the firm Wilmotte & Associés and built by the company GL events.

During the renovation of the Grand Palais, this structure will host the major art, fashion and sporting events usually held in the Nave, such as FIAC, the Saut Hermès and the Chanel fashion shows, as well as cultural and art events created by the Rmn – Grand Palais.

Holding these events in a central, prestigious space in the capital during the renovation works at the Grand Palais will ensure their success, as well as preserving the role of Paris as world capital of art and culture.

Once the renovation works are completed, in summer 2024 the Grand Palais will host the fencing and taekwondo events of the Olympic Games, while the Grand Palais Ephémère will host the judo and wrestling competitions.

Located on the Plateau Joffre on the Champ-de-Mars, the Grand Palais Ephémère is written into the history of this site, recalling the place it occupied during the great Universal Expositions of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The architectural choice of a curved double-vault framework confers on the building a scale and presence in keeping with the Champ-de-Mars and blends seamlessly into this prestigious venue.

With the Grand Palais Ephémère, the ambition of the Rmn – Grand Palais and Paris 2024 is to propose a model that is exemplary in terms of simplicity and environmental responsibility, and emblematic of the cultural, environmental and sporting aspirations of our time. Its architecture and design, together with the international events it will host, combine to express this ambition.

# architectural project designed by Jean-Michel Wilmotte



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## environmental requirements central to the project

An urban, landscaped beacon that will host cultural and sporting events in the four years to come, the Grand Palais Ephémère will embody the unique challenges of the 21st century.

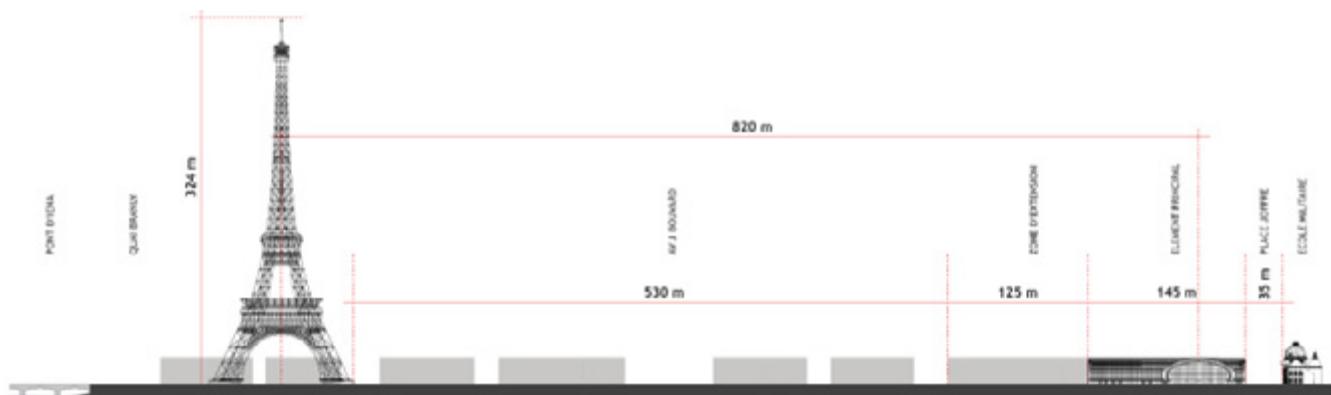
Sustainable materials and an arched form dialogue to propose a construction in line with the environmental aspirations of our era.

The temporary character of the structure and its low impact on its surroundings contribute to the optimisation of its environmental goals. These goals comprise several levels:

- optimising the materials used: the profile of the structural arches, working in compression, minimises the mass of wood used
- the geometry resulting from these arches represents a useful volume covered by a reduced roof surface
- the proposed double skin has important benefits, not only from an acoustic perspective but also in thermal and ventilation terms, resulting in lower energy costs
- the reuse of the building after its occupation of the Champ-de-Mars, following its four-year use in situ, is a strong sustainable commitment that goes beyond the optimisation of a new building: the project is designed as a sum total of various modular elements that can be reconfigured in multiple new ways in other places.

Both historic and visionary, the Grand Palais Ephémère thereby aspires to become an integral part of the site's character and dynamics for the duration of its occupation.

# a successful integration into the emblematic Champ-de-Mars site



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The Grand Palais Ephémère is located on the Champ-de-Mars in keeping with the hundred-year tradition of this iconic venue which, like the Grand Palais, has a strong connection with the history of the Universal Exhibitions.

The urban and aesthetic integration of the structure represented a major challenge and the architectural ambition must equate with the prestige of the site that hosts it.

Jean-Michel Wilmotte's architecture is characterised by a strong commitment to its integration into the site and the simplicity of the desired structure.

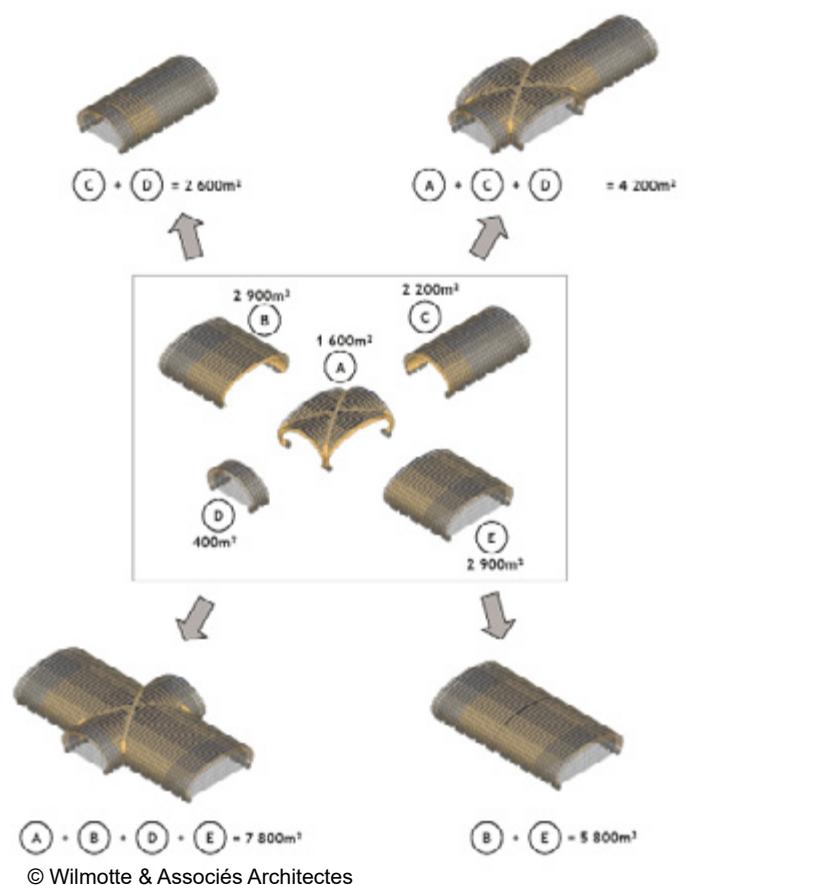
In accordance with the harmony of the Champ-de-Mars, the temporary building is located on the Plateau Joffre but is not intended as the culmination of this site: at 20 metres high— a height strictly necessary for its use – it still allows the Military School to dominate, 16 metres above.

Particular care has been given to minimising any disturbance to residents. In addition to its seamless integration into the urban context and landscape, the Grand Palais Ephémère also integrates a powerful capacity for sound insulation due to its double skin, which has excellent acoustic properties.

Every year, an additional structure will be added periodically to the main structure, providing an area of approximately 18,000 m<sup>2</sup> for FIAC and Paris Photo.

The Grand Palais Ephémère will be easily accessible by public transport, with two bus stops at less than 150 meters from the public entrance and the Ecole Militaire metro station within 300 meters. "Soft" modes of transport have also been taken into account, with the inclusion of bicycle parking nearby and the "Ecole militaire - place Joffre" Vélib' station.

a modular strcture that is quick to assemble



The structure of the building is not only designed to be modular and quick to assemble, but also to be reused in multiple configurations when it is dismantled after the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The curved double-frame wooden structure will be composed of different prefabricated elements, enabling complete sections to be pre-assembled.

These pre-assembled segments will be sized for efficient road or river transport to reduce assembly time on site and minimise local disturbance:

- a small set of pieces makes up the structure
- elements are prefabricated for faster completion and better-quality assembly
- elements are grouped together in a compact way to rationalise transport logistics, by road or river
- once on site, the prefabricated elements are put together for fast assembly.

The structure is highly modular, to adapt to different configurations for the events being hosted and best meet organisers' expectations. Its technical specificities guarantee the safety and comfort of its future users.

# an optimal collaboration between the Rmn – Grand Palais and Paris 2024

The challenge for the Rmn – Grand Palais is to continue to be able to host the events, held every year in the Nef of the Grand Palais, that are so key to the appeal and cultural standing of Paris, in such a way as to guarantee the success and visibility of these events and to keep the image and spirit of the Grand Palais alive among the public while it is closed.

The Grand Palais Ephémère is to remain operational until September 2024 in order to host several Olympic events.

While the Grand Palais will host the fencing and taekwondo competitions for the Olympic Games, and the armchair fencing and para-taekwondo competitions for the Paralympic Games, the Grand Palais Éphémère will host, just a few hundred metres away, the judo and wrestling, armchair rugby and para-judo events in an equally prestigious setting.

Paris 2024 was eager to take advantage of this opportunity – one that did not exist during the Olympic Games application phase – to further optimise its concept. The use of the Grand Palais Ephémère will add to the splendour of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games project, while reinforcing the compact distribution of the sites inherent to the concept. This temporary facility is located in the immediate vicinity of such sites, as the Invalides (archery), the Grand Palais (fencing and taekwondo), the Eiffel Tower (beach volleyball, marathon start, triathlon), thereby increasing the singularity of Paris as an Olympic/Paralympic park.

This opportunity for the collaborative use of the Grand Palais Ephémère by Paris 2024 and the Rmn – Grand Palais has unquestionable environmental and economic benefits, among them the ability to achieve significant cost benefits by means of single dual-purpose construction.

# major events held at the Grand Palais Ephémère



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The Grand Palais Ephémère organises and operates, among others, the following major emblematic events of the Grand Palais :

- Change Now
- Forum International Bois Construction
- Bonhams auction
- Art Capital
- Saut Hermès
- Art Paris
- Tour Auto Optic 2000
- International Rare Book and Fine Art Fair
- Revelations. International Fine Craft and Creation Biennial
- Taste of Paris
- La Biennale Paris
- FIAC
- Paris Photo

and the Chanel fashion shows.

Prior to completion of the newly renovated Grand Palais, the provisional structure will also host multidisciplinary cultural and art events created by the Rmn – Grand Palais over the summer period. This programme will be conceived in cooperation with the Parisian, French and international cultural fabric and will form one of the aspects of a partnership approach with major institutions nearby.

## business model

The cost of the Temporary Grand Palais is €40M, which covers the design, construction, technical operations and maintenance of the building for four years, as well as dismantling.

This sum will be financed entirely by revenues from leasing collected by the Rmn – Grand Palais, ensuring its financial stability, as well as the contributions of the Organising Committee of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## architect : Wilmotte & Associés

"An architect, city planner, designer and member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts since 2015, Jean-Michel Wilmotte founded his architecture firm in Paris in 1975 which, along with his design studio Wilmotte & Industries, now unites 270 architects, city planners, designers, museographers and interior designers in France (Paris, Nice), the United Kingdom (London), Italy (Milan, Venice) and South Korea (Seoul). They are currently carrying out over 100 projects in 28 countries, with a strong presence in the culture, hospitality and service industries.

Past and current projects include museographic refurbishments at the Musée du Louvre (1987-2006) and the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam (2013), the Stade de Nice (2013), Google's London offices (2015), the Hotel Lutetia (2018), the Sciences Po campus, the Russian Orthodox Spiritual and Cultural Centre in Paris (2016), the world's biggest start-up campus, Station F (2017), the Ferrari Sporting Management Centre in Italy (2015 and 2018) and the UN headquarters in Senegal.

Committed to preserving architectural heritage while remaining resolutely forward-looking, Jean-Michel Wilmotte and his teams are equally comfortable building, transforming and producing using natural materials and artisanal expertise as they are with composite materials and cutting-edge techniques. This approach and know-how is also shared with future architects through the Fondation Wilmotte, founded in 2005, and the Prix W, a Europe-wide competition that requires an old building to be converted according to the concept of contemporary grafting.

The recipient of a host of international prizes and awards, since 2010 Wilmotte & Associés has ranked among the world's top 100 architecture firms, according to the study by English magazine Building Design.

[www.wilmotte.com](http://www.wilmotte.com)"

## concession holder: GL events

Appointed the concession holder following an international call for proposals, GL events is in charge of the design, construction and technical maintenance of the structure, based on exacting specifications drawn up by the Rmn-GP and Paris 2024 in partnership with the City of Paris, and can provide services to the organisers of the events hosted.

As an integrated Group operating in all event professions, GL events works on behalf of public and private clients in France and around the world, including companies, institutions and event organisers. It supports them across their entire projects, from defining strategies or concepts to implementing operations on the ground. Working with public authorities, it contributes to policies to promote regions and economic development, managing the organised events and sites entrusted to it in a dynamic and ambitious way. With a presence on five continents and over 20 countries and listed in Compartiment B Paris on the Euronext Eurolist, GL events had a turnover of €1,041M in 2018.

Boasting a great deal of experience in major international projects for temporary buildings and operating events sites, GL events has recognised expertise in comparable projects, including the design and production of complex temporary structures, project management for construction and rehabilitation works for Establishments Receiving the Public (ERP), and the long-term management and operation of event spaces. GL events has a wide range of in-house skills and professions, which has led to its recognition as a trustworthy operator able to work on complex projects with professionalism.

Given the ambitions listed in the specifications of the Rmn – Grand Palais and the Organising Committee of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, GL events has assembled a very comprehensive team that combines the technical expertise of two subsidiaries of the GL events group: GL events Live, for the design, production and promotion of events structures, and GL events Venues for the management of event spaces. The experience of the Venues division in terms of project management and financing works on event sites allows the company to take on the role of jointly liable representative of the concession.

GL events has also called upon specialised and renowned operators that can provide the necessary design and engineering services prior to the construction. These include:

- Chabanne Ingénierie & Chabanne Energétique, whose design and engineering offices have lent their expertise and vast technical skills to especially accomplished and realistic projects given their tight completion deadlines;
- Cabinet Lamoureux, which has lent its globally-renowned expertise in vibration and acoustics technical studies in order to best meet the particularly structural acoustic prescriptions in the specifications;

# key project stages

Local residents involved in all phases of the conception, construction period, operating and dismantling.

The Grand Palais Éphémère will host high-quality cultural and sporting events on the site of the Champ-de-Mars, while avoiding disruptions and inconvenience for local residents, related to the installation and dismantling of events and forums, together with operational modalities. Crucial for residents, this commitment has regularly been the subject of discussions in meetings organised at the Town Hall of the 7th arrondissement. Residents' concerns have been – and will continue to be – addressed in each of the planned stages of the construction and operations of the Grand Palais Ephémère. The Convention d'Occupation du Domaine Public was supplemented by wishes expressed by the Mayor of the 7th arrondissement, in particular acoustics issues, logistics flow management and building dimensions, that have been strictly controlled to meet the legitimate demands of residents. A monitoring committee, involving the City of Paris, the Town Hall of the 7th arrondissement, the Rmn-Grand Palais and Paris 2024 was established and met prior to the notification of the call for tenders. A committee of residents of the Plateau Joffre has been set up in conjunction with the Town Hall of the 7th arrondissement and all will meet in early October 2019 at the Grand Palais. Exchanges will continue throughout all the phases, from assembly and operation of the Grand Palais Éphémère, until its dismantling and the restoration of the site. The Rmn-Grand Palais and Paris 2024 ensure that the installation of the ephemeral building on the Plateau Joffre du Champ-de-Mars is done in the respect of the harmony of this prestigious site and the well-being of its residents.

## **29 March 2018**

declaration of interest by the Rmn – Grand Palais and Paris 2024 to the City of Paris

## **25 May 2018**

close of the call for expression of interest published by the City of Paris

## **2 July 2018**

vote of the Conseil de Paris de la Convention d'Occupation du Domaine Public

## **20 July 2018**

launch of the call for proposals for the concession relating to the design, construction and technical maintenance of the structure, based on a joint programme drawn up by the Rmn – Grand Palais and Paris 2024.

## **september 2018**

proposals received

## **december 2018**

public meeting, Town Hall of the 7th arrondissement

## **february 2019**

offers received

## **september 2019**

concession holder appointed

## **october 2019, january , july and october 2020**

meeting of the local residents' committee

## **summer 2020 - beginning 2021**

structure assembled on the Plateau Joffre

## **beginning 2021**

events at the Grand Palais Ephémère begin

## **september 2024**

operations cease at the end of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

## **autumn 2024**

structure dismantled

# Grand Palais Ephémère installation



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On 15 July 2020, the concession holder GL events began its installation on the site by setting up the living base and the construction site fence. Particular attention was paid to ensuring that pedestrians and motorists could circulate comfortably and safely around the site area. During August, after the construction of protective systems for trees, urban furniture and architectural heritage, the foundations of the ephemeral structure were laid. On 1 September, the assembly of the structure was able to begin, and the first portal of the wooden framework was raised on 3 September. The assembly of the structural elements has been ongoing ever since.

# visuals available for the press

<http://www.grandpalais.fr/fr/salle-de-presse>

## synthesis visuals

1.



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2.



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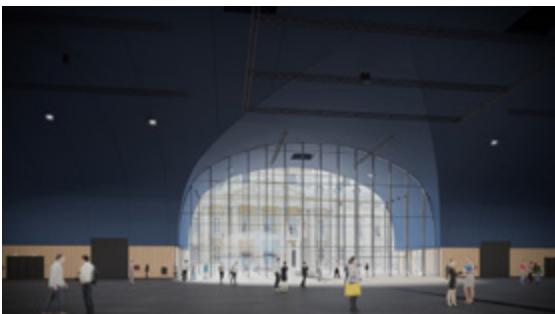
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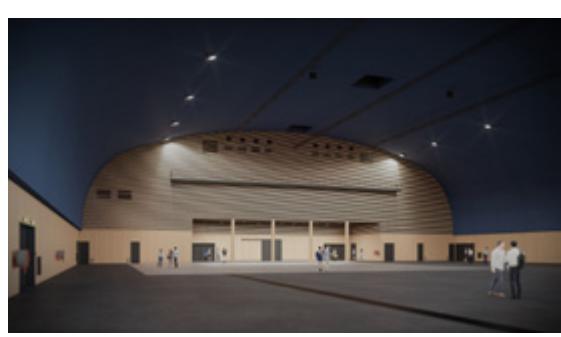
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october 2020

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## novembrer 2020

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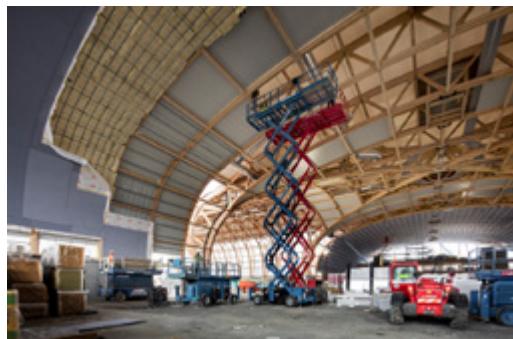
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## january 2021

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