# THE OLYMPIC AQUATIC CENTER



# A LARGE-SCALE FACILITY IN THE HEART OF THE FUTURE PLAIN SAULNIER DISTRICT, IN SAINT-DENIS

Connected to the Stade de France district by a footbridge, the Olympic Aquatic Center will host artistic swimming and diving competitions, as well as the preliminary rounds of water polo competitions. As the main permanent facility built for the Games, it will subsequently be at the heart of the revitalization of the former gasworks site of Plaine Saulnier.



### THE PROJECT

# THE REVIVAL OF A BROWNFIELD SITE OPPOSITE THE STADE DE FRANCE

Located near the Stade de France, between downtown Saint-Denis, the Plaine area, and the future Pleyel hub, but surrounded by road and rail infrastructure, this 12-hectare site was owned by the city of Paris until 2019. It was long occupied by the Landy gas factory, then by Engie's research center. After extensive decontamination work, it will host the Olympic Aquatic Center and will be connected to the Stade de France by a footbridge, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to cross the A1 and President Wilson Avenue. As the main permanent infrastructure built for the Games, the Olympic Aquatic Center (including the footbridge) initiates a broader development project where new housing, facilities, shops, and activities will emerge after 2024. Thus, a profound urban transformation awaits the Plaine Saulnier site, the first ZAC (Joint Development Zone) created by the Greater Paris Metropolitan Area.

#### TOTAL BUDGET OF THE OLYMPIC AQUATIC CENTER:

€174.7 million (including the concession, provisions for risks and contingencies, demolition, and decontamination work)µ

#### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

The State, the Region, the Greater Paris Metropolitan Area, the Seine-Saint-Denis department, Plaine Commune, the city of Saint-Denis, and the city of Paris.

# **DURING THE GAME**

# ARTISTIC SWIMMING, DIVING, AND WATER POLO

Designed as a "wooden jewel suspended in the sky," the Olympic Aquatic Center will host artistic swimming, diving, and the preliminary rounds of water polo competitions. It could also serve as a training site during the Paralympic Games.

- Area: 1.2 hectares / Length: 114 m / Width: 106 m
  / Height: 30 m
- 50m pool (10 lanes) for Olympic artistic swimming and water polo events (preliminary rounds)
- 25m x 22m diving pool (6 lanes)
- **5,000 seats** in Arena-style stands (semicircular)
- Temporary 50m warm-up pool (to be dismantled after the Games and relocated later in Seine-Saint-Denis)



**Project management:** Greater Paris Metropolitan Area (assisted by the Plaine Commune Development Public Company) Project execution: 20-year concession to the Bouygues Bâtiment Île-de-France consortium (lead contractor) for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Olympic Aquatic Center and the adjoining footbridge.

**Architects:** Laure MERIAUD (Ateliers 2/3/4) and Cécilia GROSS (VenhoevenCS)

**Responsible for the construction of temporary facilities:** Paris 2024 The Greater Paris Metropolitan Area, the city of Saint-Denis, and the Plaine Commune territory have also signed a partnership agreement for the governance of the Plaine Saulnier ZAC.



## **AS LEGACY**

#### A FLAGSHIP FACILITY FOR THE POPULATION AFTER **THE GAMES**

The Olympic Aquatic Center will help develop swimming in an area where the number of pools per inhabitant is much lower than the French average (0.55 pools per 10,000 inhabitants compared to 0.94 nationally). Designed for diversified use, open to the general public, schools, clubs, and associations, this metropolitan-scale infrastructure will also be a high-level training venue under the auspices of the French Swimming Federation, as well as host international and national competitions. It will also host the French diving team. The temporary pool area will be transformed into sports fields and can be reused during international competitions to set up a warm-up pool.

#### The Aquatic Center after the Games:

- Olympic 50m pool, configurable into three 25m pools
- 250m<sup>2</sup> movable floor to vary the depth of the main pool (swimming lessons, baby swimming, aquafitness...)
- 2,500 seats expandable to 5,000 seats

A multitude of additional activities: Aquatic activities (aquakids, multipurpose pool, and solarium), Fitness area / 6-lane climbing

• Sports fields: padel tennis, 5-a-side football, 3x3 basketball, Skate park / Catering area / Sports recycling center

#### IN A LONG RUN, A NEW DISTRICT

With a width of 18m, the footbridge will not only connect two sports facilities but also two neighborhoods: the Stade de France and Plaine Saulnier. This future district will include housing, offices, public facilities including a school group, shops, innovative economic and cultural activities, as well as extensive public spaces including a central 1.5-hectare green space and a sports mall. To address climate challenges: priority to active mobility, high energy performance, bioclimatic design, quality of public space network, etc.

## **CONSTRUCTION FOCUS**

### **EXEMPLARY DESIGN AND INNOVATIVE ECO-CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLES**

The building will stand out with:

- A concave roof of 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> covered with photovoltaic panels allowing the Aquatic Center to operate selfsufficiently.
- Double-glazed facades with external wooden sunshades for better thermal comfort.
- External air filtration, recovery of 50% of water used, supply by 90% renewable or recovered energy.
- Seats made of recycled plastic materials with contributions from residents to plastic waste collection.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON AN ENGAGED LOCAL PLAYER**

Founded on the former Christofle brownfield site in Saint-Denis, SAS Minimum - Le Pavé has quickly grown. The young startup, now nestled on the lands of Aubervilliers to be closer to the construction sites of the 2024 Games, has transitioned in less than three years from a student project to a company boasting remarkable success: 15 employees and over 400% growth in the last twelve months. It is to this local startup, specialized in eco-construction, that we owe the 2,500 seats of the Olympic Aquatic Center and another 8,500 for Arena 2.

The seats are made from recycled plastic sheets with colorful glitter, reminiscent of terrazzo. This is the ingenuity of the Le Pavé team: working with plastic deposits from construction sites or waste collections and envisioning a material with meticulous design and long lifespan!

### **TIMELINE**

**END 2019** Site clearance October 2020 Start of decontamination work

April 2024

Delivery of the site to Paris 2024 and availability until the end of 2024

**END 2024** 

Start of district development work

March 2020

Start of building demolition

**Summer 2021 - Dec 2023** 

Construction of the Olympic Aquatic Olympic and Paralympic Games Center and the adjoining footbridge

July 26 - Sept 8.2024

Summer 2025

Opening of the OAC to the general public









