

Site Verrier de Meisenthal Meisenthal, France

Hidden in the bucolic landscape of Northern Vosges Natural Park, Site Verrier de Meisenthal is an active cultural center in a historic glass factory dating back to the 18th century. SO–IL's intervention defines a contemporary institutional identity in dialogue with an industrial heritage.

Site Verrier is a publicly funded project composed of three independent yet interrelated institutions: the glass museum (Musée du Verre et du cristal) – a living memory tracing the history of glass at the site; the CIAV (Centre International d'Art Verrier) – an international glass art center where traditional craftsmanship meets contemporary practices; and the Cadhame (Halle verrière) – a multidisciplinary cultural space hosting art installations, happenings and concerts.

The design of Site Verrier alludes to glass production with an undulating poured-in-place concrete surface. The surface functions as roof, ceiling and wall, connecting the site's buildings and framing a public plaza. New functions are sensitively introduced under and over this surface, including offices, workshop areas, a cafe and restaurant, and a 500-seat blackbox theater that can be reconfigured as a theater with standing room for 700 or opened into a concert hall for 3,000. The new public space heightens civic awareness of the historical site and also introduces a highly flexible space to host outdoor theater, concerts, and seasonal festivities.

Client	Communauté de communes du Pays de Bitche
Location	Meisenthal, France
Program	Cultural center, visitor center, black box theater, art storage, offices, workshop areas, classrooms, glass blowing studios, galleries, shop, cafe, restaurant
Area	5000 m² / 53,800 sf
Status	Competition first prize 2015, expected 2022 (in phases)
Team	Florian Idenburg, Jing Liu, Ilias Papageorgiou, Lucie Rebeyrol, Seunghyun Kang, Pietro Pagliaro, Danny Duong, Antoine Vacheron, Max Hart Nibbrig
Collaborators	Associate Architect: FREAKS Scenography: dUCKS Cost Estimator: MDETC Structural Engineer: MHI Acoustic: Peutz
Image credits	Aerial photo: Jean-Claude Kanny



Aerial view of existing site



View towards visitor center



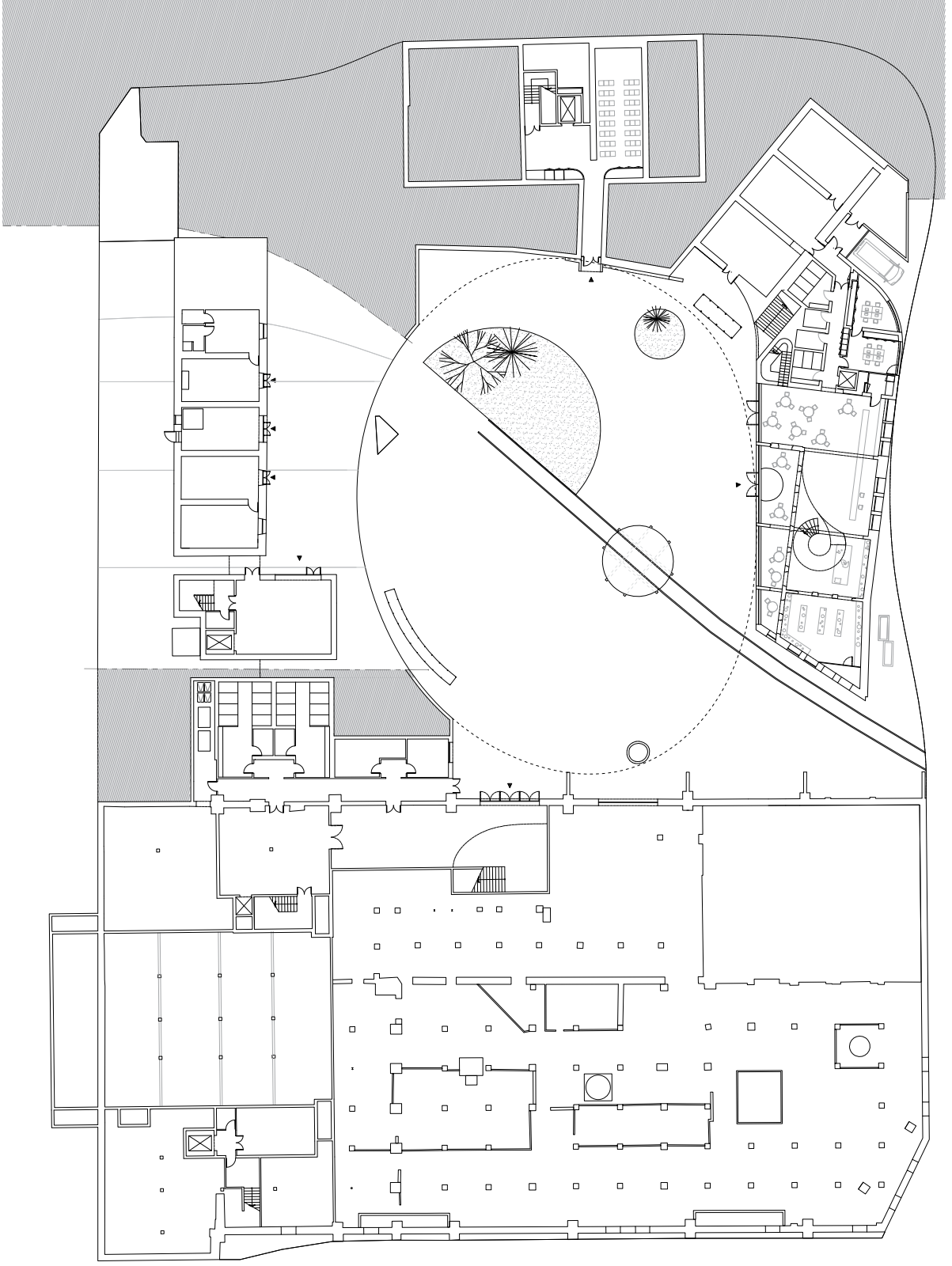
View towards glass blowing center



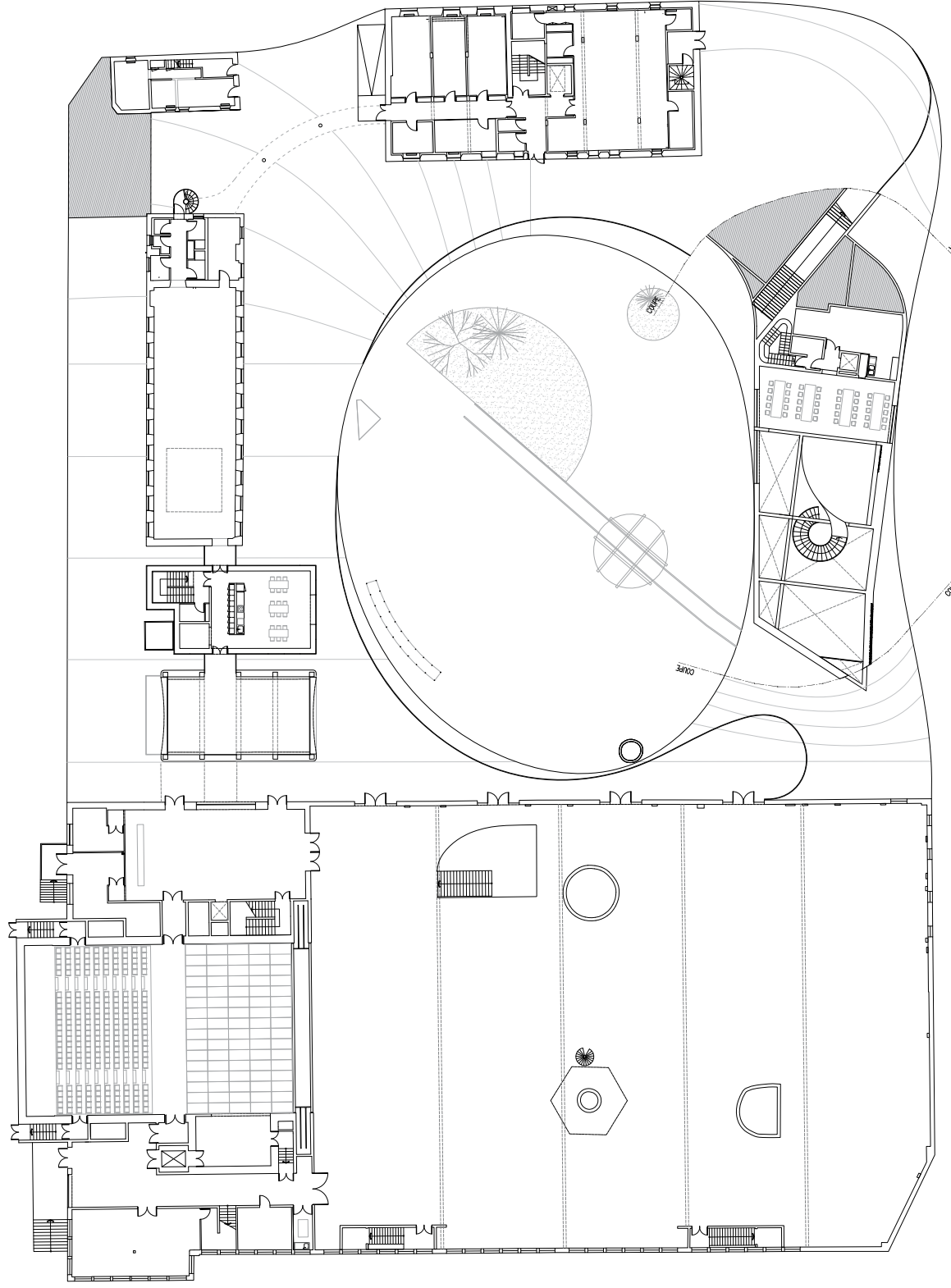
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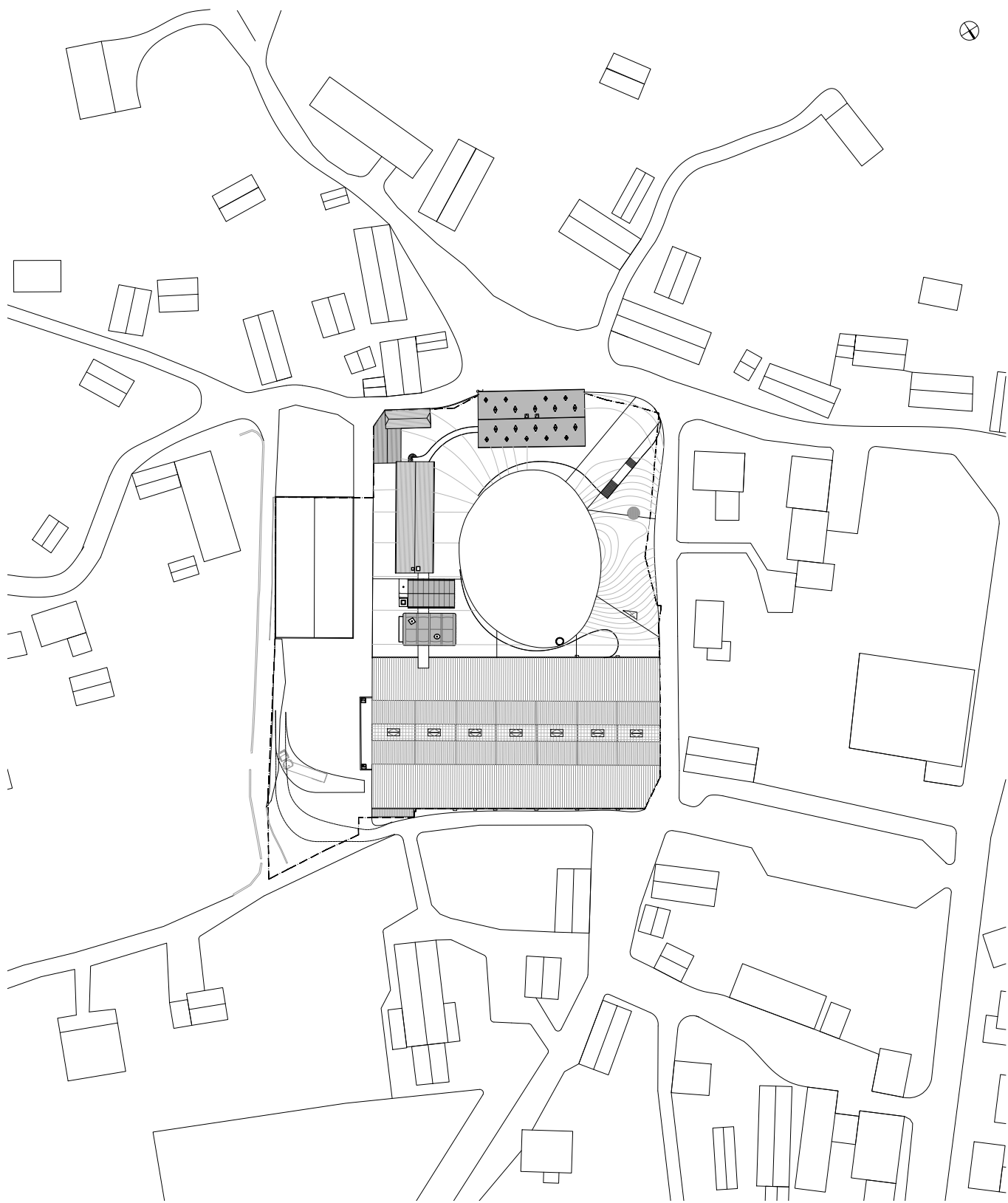
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Ground floor plan



First floor plan



Site plan