

# × FLAGSHIP TECHNICAL CENTERS FOR THE METRO OF THE FUTURE

In addition to the Aulnay-sous-Bois operations center, six industrial sites will dot the 200 kilometers of track. Société du Grand Paris estimates that they will generate 1,000 highly-qualified jobs, making them growth drivers for the areas in which they are based.

By Rim Shangri



In Champigny-sur-Marne, the technical center will be covered with a 20,000-square meter planted roof as an element of biodiversity that could be used to plant vegetable crops.

Far from using a single model as a basis, Société du Grand Paris wanted a strong identity for each of the operations centers for which it is the contractor. Despite their immense size, these industrial buildings must blend into the urban landscape. To ensure that is the case, Société du Grand Paris ordered an

architectural, urban and landscaping charter from the group made up of Barton Willmore International and BETCI. It was developed by the team following consultations with the stakeholders in the affected areas. According to this charter, the consulting engineers for the technical centers will use an eco-



## SOUND BITE

**FRÉDÉRIC BLEROT,**  
ARCHITECT AT RICHEZ ASSOCIÉS  
FOR THE CHAMPIGNY-SUR-MARNE SITE

**“As its footprint is far larger than all the surrounding constructions, it was important to correctly gauge the scale of the technical center in Champigny-sur-Marne.**

**And yet we felt very cramped on the 9 hectares of land. We built up whenever we could. We also reduced the space taken up by the tracks. And, finally, we succeeded in including everything: the tracks, the maintenance workshop, the command and control post, the offices and meeting rooms, the cloakrooms, and the 140 parking spaces. It was a shoehorn fit.**

**It turns out the 14-meter difference in height between the Departmental park Le Plateau and our land was an advantage. Since the trains come out of a tunnel dug underneath the park, we extended it under a 20,000-square meter planted roof. In addition to treating rainwater, this roof will also be a source of biodiversity. It could also become a biotope observatory in an urban setting. We are also teaming up with Société du Grand Paris and the city of Champigny-sur-Marne to explore the possibility of planting vegetable crops. Ten thousand square meters would be used to manage rainwater and the other 10,000 for urban agriculture. However, the roof will not be accessible to the public as the control centers, like the maintenance centers, are highly secure.**

**The extensive green roof will only cover part of the 50,000-square meter building. The rest will be made up of a north-light (sawtooth) roof covered in copper with transparencies to let natural light through. The last part of the building will house the centralized control post and administrative services.**

**Its distinguishing features are the glazed white ceramic finish and large square windows. Finally, Société du Grand Paris asked us to study the construction of 300 housing units on the lots along the building. We are not only designing an industrial building; we are participating in the composition of the district.”**