



Press Release

Awards Ceremony for the « GSE Challenge - Innovative building & design » at the Cité de l'Architecture in Paris.

Paris, Wednesday 7th October 2009 – Cité de l'Architecture, Palais de Chaillot.

GSE, the engineering company specialising in the design, construction and turnkey delivery of industrial buildings and warehousing, has awarded the prizes for its first architecture and engineering competition on the theme of the **multi storey warehouse**. The competition was open to architectural students studying for a masters degree and engineering students in the last two years of their degree course. In most cases, the competition was included as an integral part of the university course. Participating students were required to design a multi storey warehouse on a real and strategic logistics site located to the north east of Paris at Porte de la Villette, bordering the peripherique and having rail and river access. Jean-Pierre Hugues, President of the GSE Group, who had the original idea for the competition stated : « The GSE Challenge fits within the framework of our R&D activity with the desire to promote innovative solutions within a sector undergoing significant change »; This first run of the competition proved to be a great success and the projects presented featured the required sustainable development aspects. The next GSE Challenge will be in 2011 with even greater interaction between architects and engineers and, perhaps, more technical realism to support the creative imagination.

Le jury, led by M. Henri Lachmann, president of the supervisory board of Schneider Electric, reviewed all the entries in July 2009 and had the difficult task of choosing the winning teams from a total of 84 competing entries. The four prize winning finalists are :

- **1st prize, « Plateforme logistique multimodale »**
Project by François-Auguste Bizet, student at the **ENSA Paris La Villette**
- **2nd prize, « Logisti-cité »**
Project by Loïc Thomas, Maria Carbonnell, Fanny Denu, Laurent Rebert students at the **INSA, Lyon**
- **3rd prize – « Entrepôt sur Cour »**
Project by Rémi Lelièvre and Ambroise Vermosel, students at the **ENPC Clément Carrière Université - Paris East - Marne la Vallée.**
- **Engineering commendation – « Les Ruches de la Villette »**
Project by Aurélie Duquesne, student at the **ENSA Paris La Villette**

The winning entries received 5000 € for the first prize, 4000 € for the second prize, 3000 € for the third prize and 1500 € for the engineering commendation.

Students were asked to consider the concept of « multi storey warehousing » in the context of scarcity of land in urban areas. In the proposed example, the warehouse on the outskirts of the city had to fulfil the two functions of conventional storage and cross docking. It was also required to be compact (traditional warehousing consumes significant land space) and adapted to new modes of transport in order to take account of increasing energy costs and new environmental demands which are set to modify existing practices in the logistics sector.

This competition received support from the Ministry of Culture and Communication as well as the Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and National and Regional Development.

The winning projects are on display at the Cité de l'Architecture from 7 to 14 October 2009.

For more information www.gsechallenge.fr

About GSE

*The GSE Group is an engineering company specialising in the turnkey delivery of buildings in the industrial, logistics and commercial sectors. Since its creation in 1976, GSE has become the reference in this sector with the ability to manage all aspects of a construction project (financial arrangements, choice of site, technical evaluation, design, construction and after sales service) linked to guarantees for the project duration, cost and quality. In 30 years, GSE has built more than 12 million m² and has become the **European market leader** with clients including Auchan, Alstom, Coca Cola, Danone, Lafarge Plâtres, L'Oréal, Michelin, Renault, Thales, Schneider, Aventis Pasteur, ProLogis, Gazeley, Elgan... Today, the GSE Group employs 450 people around the world : France, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, USA, China, Switzerland, Romania, Croatia and Russia.*

Contact presse : Image Sept – 01 53 70 74 52

Monique DENOIX – mdenoix@image7.fr - Priscille RENEAUME – preneaume@image7.fr