



*A SQUARE AS WELL AS A ROOF*

The redevelopment project is based on the decision to create the largest public pedestrian area in Paris. A functional and environmental differentiation is organized along the main axis of the square, allowing the careful design of voids to blend it and harmonize into the general urban setting.

The atmosphere of the square is highly dependent on the flow of traffic, and particularly public transport. The public transport traffic has been concentrated in the shaded area of the square, in order to free up a large pedestrian area in the sunny part.

The soft 1% inclination of the central concourse reveals two wide terraces at the back of the esplanade. The square also has a very important underground dimension, given the considerable density of metro networks present underneath the square's smooth surface. That means it also serves as a "roof": the site is home to five Metro lines, sewers, telecom tunnels, etc. (...)

*The square's comfort is the result of a strategy that is at once urban, landscaped and architectural*



*A DIALOGUE BETWEEN HERITAGE AND COTEMPORARY*

Before and after the competition the project was carried out in close cooperation with local residents through a long consultation process. Public meetings and thematic workshops open to all were organized by Paris Municipality in order to define the program and clear out some of the projects' features.

One of the major stakes of the renewal project, was to transform this public space into a 21<sup>st</sup> century grand popular square that would set a dialogue with its surrounding urban and architectural heritage, characterized by large spaces allowing a wide flexibility of uses : a day and night embellished square. (...)

