



Bayeux Tapestry Museum

Bayeux, France

For an exceptional work like the Bayeux Tapestry, we had to choose an exceptional architectural firm. Throughout the development of the project, RSHP demonstrated the quality of its architectural, heritage and scenographic solutions. Its sound functional and technical understanding of the old building and its extension, the future conservation site for the thousand-year-old embroidery, is equal to the ambitions of this structuring project for the town of Bayeux and its surrounding area

Antoine Verney
Head Curator of Museums
Head of the Bayeux Museum



Place
Bayeux, France

Date
2023 -

Client
Ville de Bayeux

Cost
€26 million

Area
8,250 m²

Heritage Architects
Lympia Architecture

Designer
Atelier Brückner

Landscape Architects
Bassinot Turquin Paysage

Structural, Technical and Civil Engineering Design
Ingérop

Acoustics
Kahle Acoustics

Lighting designer
Reflot

Multimedia
Create

Cost Consultant
VPEAS

Museographer
FL&CO



The new extension is carefully integrated into the historic fabric of this remarkable town. The materiality, scale and layout of the building on the site possess qualities that locate it within the formal and material palette of Bayeux, linking it sensitively to its setting. Our intention is to weave this building elegantly into the rich urban ‘tapestry’ to which it belongs. The extension is also designed to be contemporary, drawing visitors in with an iconic design that clearly places the extension in the present moment.

The museum is organised around a unique and singular object, the tapestry: the space housing it is the starting point for the extension. Its volume resolves the complex geometry of the site, is the result of alignments with neighbouring buildings and defined by the dynamic lines delimiting its roof, helping to reduce the perception of the volume of the extension, aligning its scale to that of the buildings that surround it. The monumental nature of the tapestry is reflected in the building’s horizontal presence on the street, underlining its exceptional dimensions.

The formal design of the extension is legible from the outside, making it easier to understand how the building is organised. The geometry of the space housing the tapestry is dictated by the spatial qualities that characterise it (depth of field, set-back distances, cones of vision, etc.) and by its relationship with the volume housing the permanent exhibition. It directly defines the sculptural expression of the building.

Our proposal offers views of the tapestry that embraces it at every scale. Focused on this singular object, the architecture and dispositions of the museum create the right conditions for viewing the tapestry, placing the visitor and the work in a privileged relationship: from an overview that reveals the work over 70m in a single sweep, celebrating its monumentality, to one that places the visitor in intimate contact with the tapestry, one in which each thread of the embroidery is revealed. The visitor circuit takes the form of a loop, one that offers views of the tapestry from a number of different vantage points, orienting the visitor and re-framing the work to its historical and cultural context, offering the visitor new perspectives on this emblematic artifact.