

## Hervé Beaudouin



Born in Nancy in 1949.

Studied at Nancy School of Architecture, graduating in 1975.

Created the NIORT (Deux Sèvres) agency in 1976.

Following various encounters, in particular with American architect Bruce GOFF, but also with mason Manuel Paiva, he became interested in materials and the principles of recovery and reuse.

Curious exploration of rural territories, and learning about local traditions and know-how, led to creative interpretations and transpositions.

In the early years, he developed a simple architecture based on geometric rigor and symmetry.

Small means: a lot of little...

A keen photographer inspired by Raoul Hausmann's pictures of Ibiza, he built up a collection of medium-format photographs of the country.

The succession of projects constitutes a series of exploratory experiments, enabling him to improve the implementation techniques that may be appropriate in economically constrained contexts.

Praise for the raw and the "ordinary", for textures, tactile walls, thickness and anchoring to the ground.

He advocates the stubborn use of local resources and the most suitable materials for simple techniques that can be practiced, without sophisticated tools, by the fabric of regional businesses.

His experience and predilection for materials and the minerality of stone have brought him into close contact with Portuguese architects such as Joao Luis Carrilho da Graça (Théâtre Auditorium de Poitiers - Conservatoire de Musique et de danse de La Rochelle) and Eduardo Souto de Moura, with whom he has worked on several projects, including one in Bordeaux (84 housing units).

In 1997, he was appointed Architecte Conseil de l'Etat, and was successively posted in Creuse, Essonne and Hauts de Seine.

In 2009, he was elected Vice-President of the Académie d'Architecture, Place des Vosges, Paris.

In 2016, one of the Agency's projects, the Maison des Habitants de la Gibauderie in Poitiers, was exhibited at the Venice Biennale.

The Agency's work has been the subject of numerous publications in French and foreign journals, and covers a wide range of fields: municipal facilities, auditoriums, theaters, media libraries, housing, educational buildings, university buildings, museums, offices, business premises and more.