

**VINCENT MAUGER,  
MÉTALOBIL  
AND NAPOLEÓN III,  
7 TILSITT STREET,  
PARIS**

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**Nantes, Thursday 28th October 2016**

Groupama, the owner of one of the twelve Maréchaux hotels, located on the 7 Tilsitt street, 17th district of Paris, wanted to invite an artist to enhance the court of honor, as part of the enhancement of its asset in collaboration with Anne Charlet and Volume ABC.

The artist **Vincent Mauger** and **Métalobil** took this opportunity to collaborate again. The first, the original creator, explains: *“The sculpture I designed creates a visual connection between the building architecture and the nearby environment. Thanks to the steel reflects game, its appearance is both changing seconding the view points and in harmony with its surroundings.”*

An artificial environment comes into existence around the observer. **Vincent Mauger** says: *“The parallel straight lines and the curved lines of this structure shape in the space a drawing closed to a technical study or a 3D form. The sculpture can’t turn on itself as a model on a screen, but, while walking around, the spectator can muse over this kind of virtual representation.”*

*“In a very stylized way, the structure evokes a vegetal form as a virgin grapevine, an ivy or a wisteria.”* It is composed of 178 aluminum tubes, 383 aluminum and mirror polished stainless steel scales.

**Métalobil** research department realized all technical studies (sizing, operating weight, wind and snow calculations, stress of joints, etc.). Métalobil workshop realized then the prototypes in order to demonstrate those calculations and to assist client in

its choices, before manufacturing the structure and install it in its environment.

Freddy Bernard, co-founder of **Métalobil**, adds: *“This building is typical of the Second Empire: it’s characterized by an eclectic, polychromatic, flashy architecture, with rhythmic, symmetrical scheduling. It’s crowned with the beaux arts genius of the latter half of the nineteenth century. This project continues the past practice of linking the building and the ornamentation as an indivisible whole, aiming for one and only goal: materialization of human genius immanence in architecture. The contracting owner and the project management pass down this legacy by proposing to artists to work for this rehabilitation. The stakes subtlety is proportional to the context wealth. We are asked to follow in the footsteps of our elders, artists, prominent representatives of the culture of the era. Honoring them means being ourselves the worthy representatives of ours.”*

Anne Charlet concludes: *“Thanks to the materials lightness, the lights and shadow game, this sculpture reveals the whole decor of Gunzburg Hotel facade, its outlines of cornice, its elegant bronze statues and the very precious revolving door. It evokes the water that springs up to the fountain on which it is installed.”*

A few numbers:

6.5m high

5.5m wide

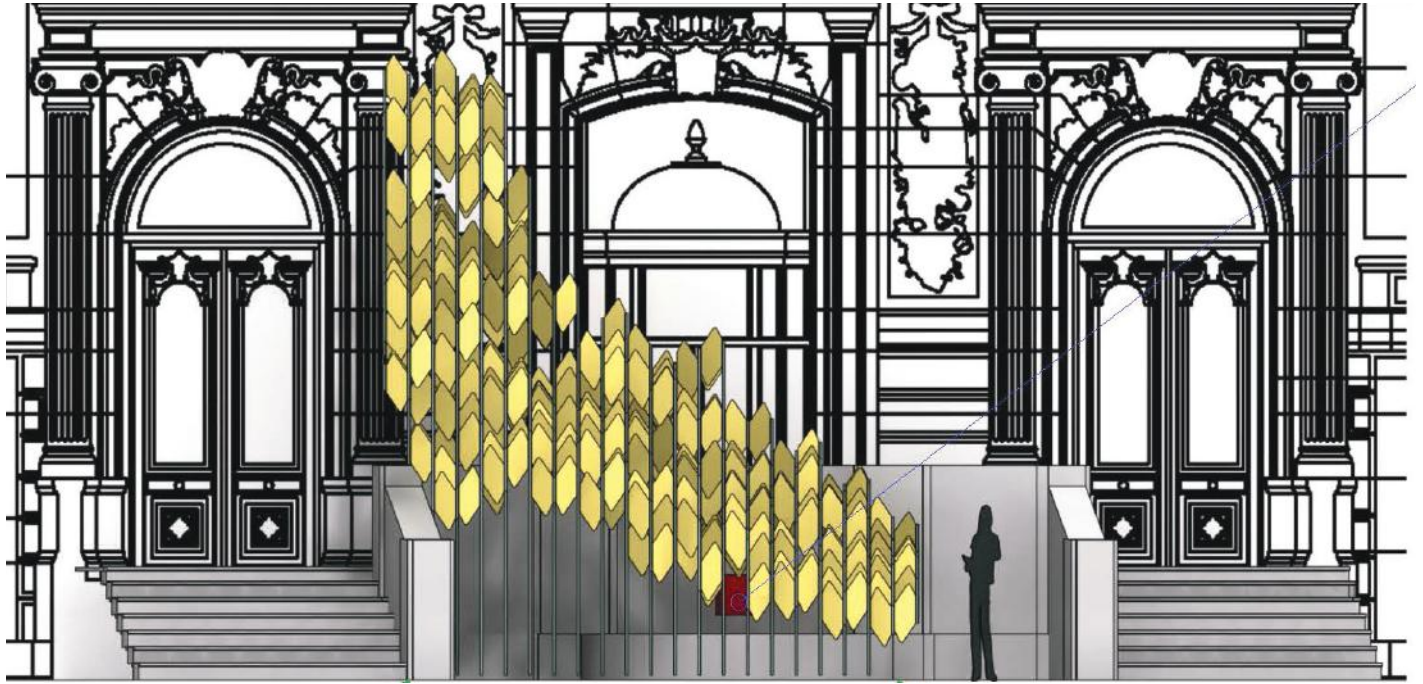
178 aluminum tubes

383 aluminum and mirror polished stainless steel scales

Vincent Mauger computer generated image



Métalobil Technical Model



The shape is coming to life at Métalobil workshop



Installation in the environment



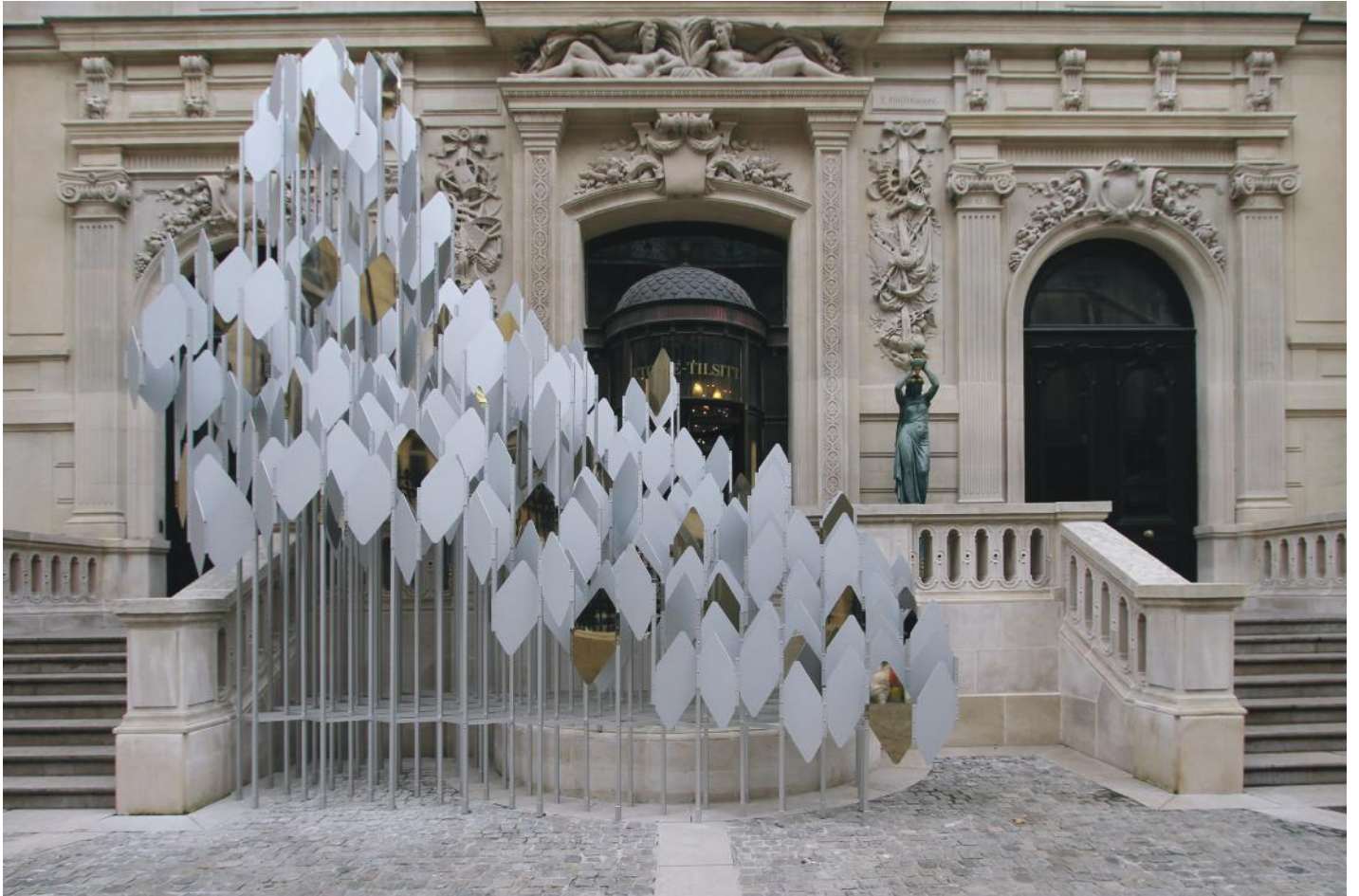
Press release

Photo Credit: Vincent Mauger



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Photo Credit: Métalobil



Press release

# ABOUT VINCENT MAUGER

Vincent Mauger approach centers around the problematic of materialization research, concretization of what would be a mental space. Mental space means the way thoughts appear in front of a space or a site, as well as virtual universes and mathematical constructions developed in order to enabling everyone to projecting oneself into a nonexistent or distant space.

Vincent often confronts an existing space with the representation of a mental perception of another space. Using ordinary building materials, he rebuilds landscape representations. These last are kind of mental landscapes closed to computer generated images or mathematical constructions. He parallels real and concrete construction techniques with virtual or scientific imaging. He attempts to move closer and to show the similarities between a concrete construction system and a mental reasoning.

# ABOUT MÉTALOBIL

Metalobil takes place as a free spirit in the fields of environmental design, layout, scenography, furniture and graphic engineering.

Our team gathers artists, designers, architects, engineers, joiner, welders, locksmiths... Those complementarities enable us to integrate the whole process of design (from initial drawing to final installation), to work with all materials (wood, rattan, vegetal, metal, composite, etc.), to enter into many constraints (mechanical, thermal, acoustics, normative, etc.).

Thusly dynamics and ludic facilities are built. They command an unheard and learned lecture of their environment

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Press Contact

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Lola Nicolai

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Mobile phone

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+33 (0)6 64 48 22 39

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Email

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[lola@metalobil.fr](mailto:lola@metalobil.fr)

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Website

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[www.metalobil.fr/en](http://www.metalobil.fr/en)