

06/12/16

BTP magazine – press clipping

In Paris, La Samaritaine regains her balance

By Julia Petit-Torotici
12 July

Caption : Support bracing at the Rue de Rivoli building Photo : Aline Boros

Vinci Construction France guides the La Samaritaine rehabilitation project from all sides

"The challenge of this project – and especially given the restricted space – is the combination of major construction work on buildings classified as historical monuments (such as the Jourdain building's glass roof, or the Jourdain and Sauvage facades) and the construction of new spaces, including the contemporary facade designed by the Sanaa agency," begins Fouad Sultan, construction manager at PETIT, a subsidiary of Vinci Construction France and general contractor in charge of the project.

The boldest element of this €500m project is the reconstruction of the Rivoli building – while almost completely demolished, nevertheless it retains its historical section, plus a part not belonging to LVMH. To enlarge and create new basements, the building had to be strengthened. "On the restored section – covering the Paris Heritage-designated housing area - we have braced the bay windows of the facade and strengthened it with the help of metal I-beams. For the infrastructure, to avoid any potential movement of the walls in the Rue de Rivoli, we've installed metal bracings crossing the entire excavated area," says Sultan. This ensures the stability of the walls of the excavated area extending three levels of basements. "At the same time as the installation of the bracings, we poured the concrete for the surrounding walls directly into the ground. The completion of the new floors will take the stress off the temporary bracing." On the structure, four stability supports, based on triple-pile tripods and then concreted to prevent shocks, maintain the walls.

Supporting new loads

The metal frame buildings, designed by architects Henri Sauvage and Frantz Jourdain in 1928 and 1905 respectively, are being completely refurbished. The Jourdain building's Art Nouveau section, historic glass roof and facade framework are being preserved, while in the Sauvage building, the facade remains while the posts and floors are being reinforced. "In both buildings, concrete shafts have been installed to brace the building. On the Jourdain building, temporary stability supports are laid in cross shapes at the same time as the shafts, before demolition of the central zone begins," Sultan continues.

Underpinning work, trenches and reinforced shafts involves using concrete slabs and covering the metal posts with concrete – an essential step to allow the deconstruction of the existing foundations. "We then proceed to install the foundation beams supporting the permanent

concrete walls, and the framework walls on one side allow us to reinforce the surrounding walls and start the future foundations of the building," the executive concludes.