With this reconstructed Paris headquarters, PCA-STREAM and RF Studio ‘address the challenges of tomorrow’s workspaces’

175 Haussmann was transformed to create a more sustainable, human-driven and agile space for 400 employees.

In 1990, the Paris addresses 173 and 175 Haussmann were restructured, creating a joined complex that would later come to function as a headquarters. Now, with a new restructuring resulting in 7,210 sq m of modern workspaces, it has become the investment banking office of financial advisory and asset management firm Lazard. The project – which actually spans 11,980 sq m when you factor in outside space, reception and leisure areas and more – was completed by PCA-STREAM and RF Studio. The two practices paired up to ‘address the challenges of tomorrow’s workspaces’, namely the need for increasingly agile, collaborative and wellness-promoting space and environmentally responsive design.
Kept minimal and bright, the modular office floors and 400 workstations merge fluidly, housed under an expansive triple-height glass roof. Access to ‘convivial’ spaces and landscaped terraces – including a green roof space – are integral aspects of the human-driven design, says Phillippe Chiambaretta, architect and founder of PCA-STREAM. The terraces were built utilizing a vertical urban permaculture technique developed in partnership with start-up Sous les Fraises, speaking to the myriad circular practices which PCA-Stream and RF Studio employed in the renovation. 175 Haussmann has BREEAM, HQE and Label BBC Effinergie certifications, and is reported as the first European building to recycle 100 per cent of its grey water.
RF Studio designer and founder Ramy Fischler explains that the project brought two main challenges. "The first was to fully understand the issues and needs of an investment bank like Lazard, with its duality between confidentiality and openness," Fischler says. "The second was the transformation of habits. We had to anticipate the fact that the teams would change their working patterns when changing place. We therefore minimized the impression of working or receiving in a closed, compartmentalized building as much as possible, and instead sought to create a place that gives a feeling of freedom of movement and a feeling of being at home." "This building will enable us to better welcome our clients and offer to our best talents a more collegial, friendly and inclusive way of working," believes Lazard Frères CEO Jean-Louis Girodole.