

Stanhope Gate wins housing competition by Disneyland Paris

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Traditional practice chosen to design homes in Serris new town

Stanhope Gate Architecture has won an invited competition to design a residential scheme that will be part of a 2,000ha community next to Disneyland Paris.

The contest-winning project, which is a joint venture between the Disney Corporation and French developer OTI, will consist of 127 flats in seven buildings, plus 12 mews-style houses.

The architecture is based on the 18th-century picturesque style and the masterplan follows the concept of villas in the park while maintaining a dense urban grouping of buildings, said Stanhope Gate principal Alireza Sagharchi.

The scheme will form part of Serris which is a traditional-style new town just south of Disneyland and 30km east of Paris.

Serris will be home to 30,000 residents and contain 130,000sq m of offices and 1 million sq m of commercial space. It already has projects by architects such as Leon Krier and Jean Nouvel.

It is part of the 2,000ha Val d'Europe plan to build a fully functioning urban development alongside the theme park over the course of the next 30 years.

Stanhope Gate principal Alireza Sagharchi said: "The Serris project represents a crystallisation of our practice's philosophy in the creation of human-scale urban environments of streets and squares and blocks that form the core of the traditional city.

"We believe that the size and volume of the brief should not necessarily dictate the size of the built form. The use of the urban villa typology in the architecture of the buildings is seamlessly adaptable to the needs of integration of modern housing and affordable housing without denigration of the architecture or place."

Paris-based Estudio Hertenberger PCA is executive architects.

The project is expected to be in for planning before the end of the year, with work due to start on site early next summer. Completion is slated for late 2017.