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Barely out of lockdown, the group Maulin.ski and Ossabois are installing the wooden modules of the first fully modular residential hotel ever seen in a ski resort



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On Friday 29th May, Le Corbier ski resort (dept. 73) in Les Sybelles ski area witnessed the installation of the wooden modules of the first entirely modular residential hotel to be built in the mountains. This is the very first time such a method has been used to build this type of tourist accommodation in a ski resort. The modular construction and the use of timber, a biosourced and renewable material, make a strong statement in favour of the environment.

Built with 23 million euros of funding from the Savoie-based group Maulin.ski, this real estate project baptised "Etoile des Sybelles" (Star of Les Sybelles) will also be Europe's highest (alt. 1,550 metres) to be built entirely of wooden modules. With a total surface area of 10,000 m², the building is designed by Hubert Architecture and built by Ossabois with a group of companies led by Barrel & Pelletier. It will rise to 8 floors and house 99 apartments and suites. The structure comprises 310 timber modules and also includes lounge areas and activity rooms, as well as wellness, fitness and pool facilities.

This project illustrates the advantages of using modular constructions in ski resorts. Besides the record fulfilment time announced and the virtuous nature of the timber construction, the project has been able to continue in spite of the unprecedented health crisis that has struck the entire country.

"Because the modules are assembled at the factory, safety measures can be implemented more quickly. So we were up and running by April and by increasing our output we were able to promise our client we would meet the initial deadline. Through this project we have proven how resilient off-site construction is", says Michel Veillon, Managing Director of Ossabois.

Off-site production and the use of renewable materials reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% compared to a traditional building. Furthermore, the modules assembled in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region represent a 30 to 40% reduction in waste material.

"I am delighted that we can now install the first wooden modules of the Etoile des Sybelles residential hotel, just 18 days after exiting lockdown. This sends a strong message in terms of the restart of business. It means we can keep our promises, continue to invest and be ready to welcome holidaymakers again this summer. For 2020, we are maintaining our planned investments in the ski area of Les Sybelles. With this new residential hotel of timber, which paves the way for more sustainable building in ski resorts, and the new 6-seat detachable chairlift, Gaston Express, the Maulin.ski group is investing 27.6 million euros this year", states Alex Maulin, CEO of Maulin.ski

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This project is just part of an overarching approach in favour of sustainability. The property will serve as tourist accommodation for the next 30 years. It will be run by the MMV hotel clubs company who will take up management of the building as soon as it opens in December 2020.

About Les Sybelles

The largest ski area in Maurienne and the 4th biggest in France, with 136 slopes for all skiing levels and at altitudes ranging between 1,100 and 2,620 metres. The appeal of this ski area resides in the beauty of its pristine setting, the spectacular scenery and 360° panoramic views, but also the diversity of skiing possibilities available.

Since its creation, the ski area has been managed through an eco-responsible approach that ensures everyone enjoys the beauty of this natural environment. www.sybelles.ski

About Maulin Ski

French group Maulin.ski was created in 1995. It specialises in ski area management and operations: Les Sybelles in Maurienne.

For the 2019/20 financial year the group's turnover reached 17.69 million euros. The group employs 36 permanent staff members and 182 seasonal workers. As an eco-responsible group, Maulin.ski creates environment observatories to protect and

study biodiversity, and plans slope layouts accordingly. It supports the "Les Cajoutiers de Warang" association in Senegal, which aims to improve the lives of children through schooling and extra-curricular activities. Maulin.ski helped to provide new equipment for the maternity ward of the free clinic in Boudari, Niger, after it was destroyed by arson. www.maulin.ski

About OSSABOIS

At the forefront of sustainable building in France, Ossaboïs has spent 40 years coming up with solutions for virtuous, eco-friendly constructions that make more pleasant places to live.

The firm specialises in timber constructions and modular solutions, thus meeting the demands of social landlords, promoters and building companies.

With a staff of 180 working at 4 manufacturing sites, Ossaboïs delivers an annual 1,000 to 1,200 housing units and between 1,500 and 2,500 modules (student accommodation, hotels, boarding schools, etc.). The off-site assembly approach adopted by Ossaboïs reduces both the duration of worksites and the noise they generate, as well as keeping the carbon footprint to a minimum and fulfilling

commitments in terms of cost, quality and delivery dates.

Ossaboïs has opened a new chapter by teaming up with GA Smart Building, a promoter, building company, manufacturer and corporate property manager. Together, the two companies operate in markets that complement one another. By incorporating Ossaboïs, GA Smart Building is able to expand its scope of building expertise, optimise its carbon footprint and reduce the time needed to deliver constructions.

Ossaboïs' turnover was 41 million euros in 2019.

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