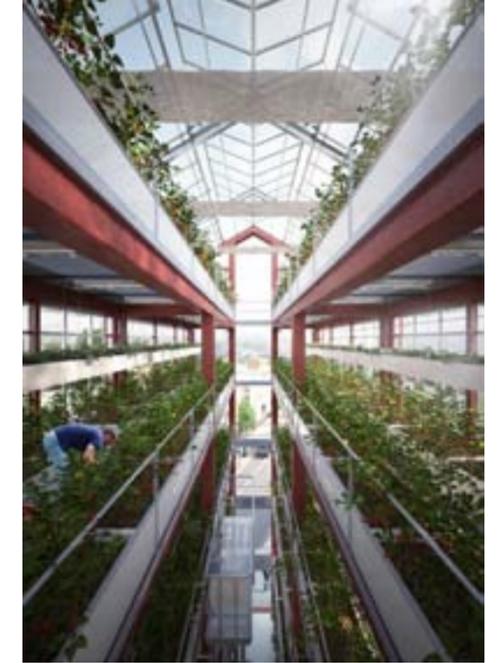


Market Garden Tower

Ilimelgo and Secousses / Romainville, France



Life in Romainville, a suburban town that is now part of Greater Paris and is being integrated into new transport networks, is about to get more dynamic. Since the area has always had strong agricultural roots, urban farming sits at the top of the list of long-term plans for the local economy. Among the pilot projects is the Market Garden Tower. Designed by Ilimelgo and Secousses architects on a site that belongs to the public-housing agency, it is intended to enable the local production of fresh food, create jobs and liven up the neighbourhood. More than 1,000 square metres (10,764 square feet) of plant beds filled with organic substrate rather than soil will be stacked inside a transparent facility complete with an educational greenhouse and a direct sales shop. The design team opted for archetypal shapes, and matched the project's height to the surrounding buildings. The project relies on prefabricated elements, and features a double-volume design with an all-glass exterior to maximize natural lighting. Green features include composting, rainwater management and a façade with vent panes and roller blinds for natural ventilation and protection from solar heat gain.