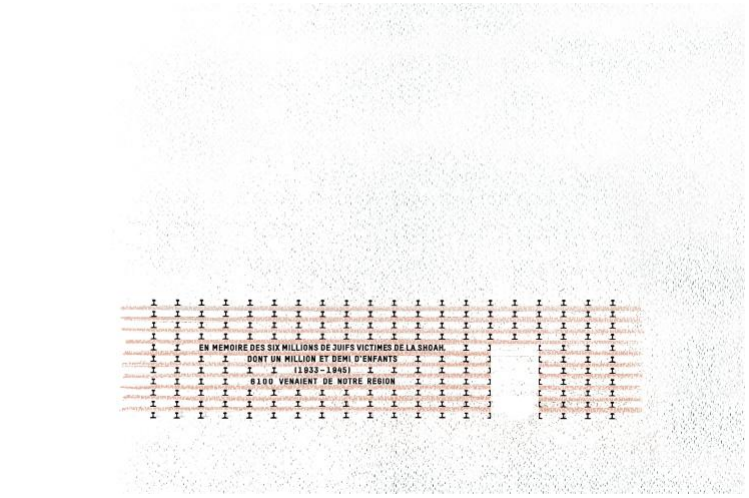






Rails of Memory

Location : Place Carnot, Lyon
Architect : Blaising Borchardt Studio
Client : Blaising Borchardt Studio
Date : 2023 - 2025

The Shoah Memorial, titled "Les Rails de la Mémoire" (The Rails of Memory), is erected in Place Carnot, Lyon. This monument, inaugurated in 2025 during the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, is dedicated to honoring the victims of the Holocaust. The choice of Place Carnot is symbolic due to its proximity to Perrache Station, a historic site of deportations from Lyon.

The materials used for the construction of the Memorial are inspired by the fundamental elements of a railway track: steel rails, wooden sleepers, and ballast. These materials were selected by the architects for their strong symbolic significance, as railways universally represent a means of deportation. Symbolically, the memorial incorporates 1,173 meters of rails—provided by SNCF—representing the 1,173 kilometers separating Lyon from Auschwitz in Poland.

The monument consists of a stacked arrangement of rails, with interwoven layers forming a rectangular silhouette. The entire structure is composed of 65 tons of steel, with its ground area defined by a ballast foundation. Certain sections of the rails are replaced by extrusions in the shape of letters, identical in dimension to the rails, allowing the commemorative message to be directly inscribed into the architecture of the Memorial.