

New Small Centres

Les Quatre Chemins, Vichy, France

Les Quatre Chemins shopping centre is a new development on the thermal city of Vichy, centrally located on the French countryside, famous for its mineral waters, and centre of tourist attraction, especially fashionable in the 50s and 60s, and looking now for regaining its “city of pleasure” appeal.

The centre is situated on the site of a former military hospital at the crossing point of the four main city exit roads. This is what Les Quatre Chemins name stands for. The municipality of Vichy launched a public tender among developers with the objective of revitalising the retail attraction of the centre, but at the same time, reinforcing the “leisure and pleasure” offer of the city.

The Dutch developer Multi Development Corporation, A M Development today after the merger with Amsteland, won the competition and designed and built **Les Quatre Chemins**, with a total investment of € 37 million, as a mixed-use urban scheme. For a 70.000 total catchment area population.

The development consists of 13.000 sqm GLA of retail and leisure. 24 retail units, located at the street level, have three major stores specialised on electro household appliances, sport goods, and toys. A multiplex cinema and, more interestingly, a full casino will be opened on the upper level. And some residential units and office space have been developed on the upper part of the buildings. The parking is beneath the scheme, with 450 underground spaces.

To host the centre, a number of historic buildings on the site have been adapted to the expected uses of the project. Some others have been designed brand new with an interesting choice of different shapes, materials, colours and textures. All of them are carefully integrated on the city architecture, and provide an attractive new streetscape to the immediate surrounding neighbours.

Opened in April 2002, **Les Quatre Chemins** brings a broad mix that will inevitably revitalise the city’s retail and leisure offer, and it also represents a remarkable addition to the urban appearance of Vichy city centre.