The Paul Marie Letarouilly Architectural Foundation, Paris France

The Institute de France houses several thousand drawings and engravings by the noted French architect Paul Marie Letarouilly (1795-1855) whose documentation of Roman architecture is recorded in his three volumes, *Edifices di Roma Moderne* published around 1850 and a fourth volume on the Vatican and St. Peter's published after his death. These volumes constitute the most thorough documentation of modern Roman architecture ever produced ('Modern' in this context refers to architecture of the Renaissance and Baroque époques of Rome as opposed to the 'Ancient' Rome of the Caesars).

The curators of his collection propose that his extensive archive be appropriately housed in a modern structure with state-of-the-art facilities in a new, separate building venue. They have been favorably impressed with aspects of a similar project in New York City, the Morgan Library and Museum renovation and addition by Renzo Piano which has a similar program and scale. Both venues—the Morgan and our project—are responsible for combining the best aspects of Modern ideas and practices with precious works of art in an historic setting.

This initiative is planned to provide for more desired space for a library and archive dedicated to preserving Letarouilly’s legacy and promoting the scholarly study of his work which expands the study of Roman architecture. It will also host and display materials from the archive, including his library, original sketches and measured drawings. These will be exhibited in permanent and temporary galleries along with space for architectural models and especially the thousands of drawings that he had carefully documented during his extended stays in Rome.

As the Turgot Plan of Paris 1739 shows, the prominent site chosen is in a densely populated and historic district of Paris. The irregular property is bounded on the east and west with access giving onto public access on the south edge, whereas the north edge is without access. As the site plan shows, the challenge for the design is to somehow overcome the irregularities of the site, making the resultant building not only commodious and functional but also beautiful. Because this structure is a 'civic' building with access for the public, its facade becomes an important aspect of the design problem. Therefore an equal emphasis will be placed on the plan and the facade.

The basic program elements include:

- Library open to the public, main reading room, study carols
- Multi-media space with IT acoustic and visual controls and support
- Archival space (secure, limited access)
Work space and conservation area for librarian and archivist
Staff office space and suite for director and assistant
Permanent exhibition space
Temporary exhibition space
Conference rooms (two)
Main auditorium-meeting room with seating for 140.
Studio space and modest apartment for visiting scholar
Services, elevator, storage, etc.
and
Full scale building fragment designed by Letarouilly for permanent display
(this artifact to be determined by you based on your studies)

Bibliography/references:
Mike Dennis, Court and Garden from the French Hôtel to the City of Modern Architecture, MIT Press, 1992.
Paul Marie Letarouilly, Edifices di Rome Moderne, Morel, 1850, ca.