



STUDENTS RENOVATE THEIR OWN HIGH SCHOOL | 2008

In the context of a major renovation and refurbishment project concerning the Pannevelles vocational training school in Provins, costing €55 million and spread over 36 months, Sacer's Champigny office, which won the roads and main services contract, took the initiative of having students take part in the reconstruction of their own school. Roughly thirty students studying construction at various levels, including trainee surveyors, site machine drivers and pipe-layers, participated in the site.

The school refurbishment was designed according to HQE® (High Environmental Quality) norms, entailing mastery of energy expenses, a strict limitation on impermeable surfaces and systems to prevent stormwater run-off from entering the public drainage network.

This full-scale practical project gave some 35 students the opportunity to find out more about their future careers in a real-life situation, in contact with building industry professionals. It also helped unite them, and motivate them by working on a project of which they can be proud. More widely, a partnership was established between Sacer Paris Nord-Est and the Pannevelles school enabling thirty students to carry out work experience internships on construction sites in the region. This approach has raised the profile of the profession and promoted enthusiasm for a business which has a great need for manpower but which often suffers from a negative image.

What they said:

- A teacher: *"I'm proud how efficient and productive they were, they are real professionals in the making."*
- A student: *"I want to go on to take a professional degree, and if I was hired by Sacer PNE after that, I'd be thrilled!"*
- A manager: *"He's applied for a work/study contract for next year. He'll be very welcome."*

