AIGUILLE DU GOÛTER
Architecture as a main factor in the development and protection of the popular ascension to the Mont-Blanc summit

Implantation - Territorial Scale
Situation at lower altitude in order to:
• potentially reduce the number of mountaineers by increasing the difficulties on the way up
• give a special symbolic meaning to the refuge, a higher status as a threshold to the highest European summit
• integrate the refuge as a step of the ascent and so having a territorial scale perception on the approach route

Typology - Building Scale
The conception of the refuge is fully-based on the special context to immerse the users in the high mountain environment
• The ascent to the Mont-Blanc as an experience is the main source of inspiration for the internal space composition
• The approach route “continues” within the refuge, and every floor signifies a step towards the summit
• The dimension and organisation are based on the dimension of the main component of the refuge: the bed

Spatial Experience
The main idea of the project is to raise the awareness of the mountaineers amongst the environment of high altitude and its risks. The reflection has been mainly concentrated on:
• the spaces (adapted to the context)
• the materials (for instance, the presence of the rock is linked to the omnipresence of the mountains and the wood leads to the idea of a resting place)
• the reduction of level of comfort to a necessary minimum (spatial consideration - space efficiency, material selection, dimension, lighting - and reduction of technological aspects in order to decrease the effort in producing energy and to adapt the building to the site)