Architect: Frank O. Gehry
Type of Project: Multi-purpose Cultural Center
Building Area: 198,000 feet²

The facility for the America Center, completed in 1994, is located in the Bercy district of Paris, in an area that has been undergoing rapid redevelopment.

The site is bounded by Rue Bercy to the North, a part to the South, a housing development to the East and a landscaped plaza to the West. Its street-side facade has a simple, quiet surface. The park side is energized by a series of lively, curving forms a swooping zinc-coated awning covers the main entrance.
The lower levels of the building accommodate the most public functions of the Center. Multi-purpose performance, rehearsal and exhibition spaces, a bookstore, a restaurant, and a 400-seat theater are organized along the edges of the site taking advantage of the heart of the Center is a great hall that opens to the park for special occasions.
Also linked to the great hall is a raised gallery area that provides over 200 square meters of flexible space for special exhibitions.
The more exclusive functions of the center are expressed on the upper levels of the building as two distinct forms.

To the west, an L-shaped tower is crowned by duplex apartments that take advantage of wonderful views of the Parisian skyline.

To the East, an articulated block from houses the fly-gallery of the theater, as well as a language school, administrative offices, and studio spaces for visual art and dance classes. Animating the top level of the block form are 600 square meters of flexible exhibition space with 5.5 meter high ceilings that are punctuated by monument skylights. This exhibition area opens onto a sculpture terrace overlooking the park and the Parisian skyline.
Sculptural small block planning by discovering that a convivial city could be made of juxaposed pavilions of one-room building.

Frank O. Gehry wanted the project to be the city full of music, activity, and energy. He tried to make the central space an open space, so that from there we would have been able to go into the book shop and travel agency. Then the loft space made sense as a kind of living room sitting in the middle of space. The gallery is way up at the top light. We can read
To get the dramatic gesture to the park and a mild approach to residential area, Frank O. Gehry designed the cascade of glass on the park side and step terrace on the resident side.

How does one create window-walls and terraces which are so big but not overpowering? The answers about that is a repetitive units with small scale.
urban fabric

to the residential zone

to the park

path & circulation
public, private, and transitional space

apt.
library
cafe

private

shop
interactive space

daylight, inside/outside

main
gallery
top of dance hall