

# THE VEOLIA HEADQUARTERS BENCH, A REFUGE ENJOYED OUTSIDE



When it comes to Veolia, a multinational operating in the energy and waste treatment sectors, a focus on green spaces would be evident. But when those green spaces mingle with the well-being of human resources, then a special piece was necessary.

That's how we arrive to the social space in the new Veolia headquarters in Aubervilliers, Paris. From the outset a building that projects an ambience of modern workspace and comfortable leisure, it also intends to stand as a byproduct of the union between landscaping and architecture, echoing the emergence of green organisms along the facades created by

the Austrian architect Dietmar Feichtinger.

As such, the social space bench, a key element in the building, was designed to harmoniously embody these concepts. The choice for the material used in the bench fell on Amarelo Mondim granite, an ornamental stone able to sustain heat and capable of high resistance to frosting and defrosting, featuring serene yellow tones. In order to meet the demands of the design, the portuguese company charged with cutting and assembling the materials made use of CNC equipment in order to ensure the precision of curvature changes on the various sections that the 80

continuous metres are comprised of. The sandblasted finishing allowed for the material to become smooth and pleasant to the touch.

This is one of many projects involving companies associated to ANIET – National Association of the Extractive and Manufacturing Industry – which was founded 42 years ago with the mission to propagate this typically portuguese culture of mixing tradition and innovation in the rock industries, and promoting the demand for materials that already export 70% of its production. Within the extractive and manufacturing sector, the ornamental rock subsector represents half of the total export value.

The main advantages that helped earn this standing refer to the union between innovating technologies and a tradition in stonework mastery. On the other hand, the European manufacturing standards are rigorously achieved, ensuring quality and assurance for every material, all branded with the CE designation.

The human capital of an artisan culture in stonework and the investment capital put into innovating technologies ensure that the ornamental stone is at home in a building that promotes the respectful worship of nature in a frame of modern architecture.