

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Herms opens second leather goods workshop in Normandy

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The house is forming a leather goods hub just outside of Paris, creating 260 new roles for local artisans to fill in the process. Image credit: Herms

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

French fashion and leather goods house **Herms** is opening a leather workshop in Louviers, France.

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The Maroquinerie de Louviers center, whereby artisans will produce bags, small leather goods, saddles, and bridles, joins the existing Maroquinerie de Val-de-Reuil space to form a production network just hours outside of Paris. Forging the creation of the Normandy hub using a saddlery-first approach, in honor of Herms' oldest trade, the new space stands as the house's first non-Parisian equestrian workshop.

In the saddle

Herms' new workshop is residential, allowing artisans to live in the space where they create luxury items. Those employed at the facility will have received training from the accredited "**Louviers cole Herms des savoir-faire**" apprenticeship program.

For the project, Herms turned to many biomimetic building methods. French-Lebanese architect Lina Ghotmeh is responsible for having originated the leather workshop's blueprint, calling the eco-style "the archaeology of the future" in her attempt to blend the natural environment with the brand's distinct heritage.

Herms opens a new leather goods workshop in Louviers (Eure, France), ultimately creating 280 jobs, in a high environmental performance building. <https://t.co/TcigmxHVYH>
pic.twitter.com/yDD23IDOGH

Herms (@Hermes_Paris) **April 7, 2023**

The house's twenty-first leathery in the world, the building itself is in line with current sustainability metrics – according to the brand, the workshop is housed within the first industrial building to have earned the French E4C2 label.

The certification indicates that the building is energy positive, meaning that the space aims for net zero emissions through reductions and offsetting measures such as energy efficiency and energy decarbonization. The building, built on an old brickmaking industrial site, uses geothermal and solar energy.

The site used excavated soil to plant a garden to avoid any wasted resources. The garden is additionally enabled for rainwater collection.



Hermes is paying attention to both the sustainability goals and the equestrian roots of the company in the new space, expressing this fusion through architecture. Image credit: Hermes Often platforming professional competitions of the like ([see story](#)), Maroquinerie de Louviers' interior design integrates arches inspired by the trajectories of jumping horses.

Another nod to all things equestrian, Parisian artist Emmanuel Saulnier created an art piece for the courtyard inspired by The Epsom Derby, a work by French painter Thodore Gricault. The artwork is made from seven steel needles, held up by leather stirrups made by Herms bridle-makers.

Hermes' second Normandy location brings the total count to 54 countrywide, continuing a dedicated effort to keep the majority of manufacturing in France.

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