



## The Rails of Memory

Location : Place Carnot, Lyon

Architect : Blaising Borchardt Studio

Client : Blaising Borchardt Studio

Date : 2023 - 2025

The Shoah Memorial, titled "The Rails of Memory," is erected in Place Carnot, Lyon. This monument, inaugurated in 2025 during the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, is dedicated to honoring the victims of the Shoah.

The location of Place Carnot is highly symbolic due to its proximity to Perrache Station, a historical site of deportation from Lyon.

The materials used for the memorial's construction reflect the elements of a railway track:

- Steel rails,
- Wooden sleepers,
- Ballast.

These materials were carefully chosen by the architects for their strong symbolic significance, as the railway is universally recognized as a means of deportation.

The memorial consists of 1,173 meters of rails, provided by SNCF, representing the 1,173 kilometers separating Lyon from Auschwitz, Poland.

The structure is composed of stacked rails, arranged in a crossed pattern to form a rectangular silhouette, with a total weight of 65 tons of steel. The ground area is defined by a ballast-covered perimeter.

Certain sections of rails are replaced by extrusions in the shape of letters, maintaining the same dimensions as the rails. This integrates the commemorative message directly into the architecture of the Memorial.