Lots of damages

Among the competing teams, some of them had the bad surprise to assess some material damages, especially broken glazing. In the case of a classic construction site it is probably current, but in the case of a competition, this adds a lot of stress. The concerned teams, such as Team DTU from Copenhagen, did not have any other choice than to order some pieces in emergency or reconstruct the broken parts. The problem is that the delivery dates are unpredictable and it delays the construction greatly.

Never too late to study

A strong link exists between American and French people. Team Reciprocity is proof of that with the long lasting partnership between the Appalachian State University of the state North Carolina and the University of Angers of the state Val de Loire. The team is composed of Bachelors and Masters degree students in the field of architecture, interior design, construction, communication... Among them, a very proud 62-year-old student, Dudley, retired engineer who now studies photography. «The advantage is that I have a lot of time to dedicate to our prototype and I have no pressure to pass my diploma». That is the spirit of Solar Decathlon: multicultural and multi-generational teams.

Building on top

The Berliners present the ROOFTOP project and the inhabitants from Frankfurt, ONTOP. The same nationality, a similar project name and the same concept with vertical density and roofs but these two teams are actually quite different from one another! When the first team invests roofs and neglected attics, the second one builds housing on top of existing buildings.

The Agora

The Solar Decathlon is so much more than a competition. It is a real place of meeting and sharing. In the heart of La Cité du Soleil, the Agora is a real living and exchanges area where people from all over the world meet. Various conferences and presentations will take place there, and the Fifa World Cup 2014 games will also be broadcasted there. A bar and some relaxing spaces have been put nearby for visitors to rest and relax during the event.

A good atmosphere

Since Monday 16th, the Solar Decathlon competition has begun. Nevertheless, the state of mind of each team is rather relaxed. They are unanimous: «Our priority is to be able to express our project linked to our environmental issues». They do not dread a particular team in but are admiring and impatient to visit all the other competing houses.

The construction, a team sport

The Spanish team Plateau Team knows how to differentiate itself with a singular ritual. Everyday, the decathletes gather to stretch and practice. This fitness class takes place right in front of their prototype. This amazing show happens at each team rotation, in the morning and in the afternoon. For them, warming up is very important to be more efficient, this is a question of well-being and a guarantee of good health.