

Captions :

LE REFUGE

(THE REFUGE)

Photographic documentary by

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Photo 01 -

The building seen from the courtyard. The bars on the windows are there to prevent falls.



Photo 02 -

The first floor, where there are around 90 beds reserved for the very weak. They are allowed to stay indefinitely.



Photo 03 -

The second floor is shared between the long term residents and people sent by the social services for one or two nights. There are 190 beds.



Photo 04 -

The refectory: several hundred meals are prepared on-site, morning, midday and evening, and served by volunteers.



Photo 05 - While some residents are happy to get together to chat over meals, many prefer to stay alone and thus prolong the loneliness of the day.



Photo 06 - Conflict is frequent in these confined spaces.



Photo 07 - This old man is led to a shower cubicle by a carer. Like others, he needs help to accomplish simple daily tasks (cleaning, eating, moving around)...



Photo 08 - Showers are not mandatory and the staff have to be very persuasive when needed. In this case, their insistence helped identify a case of an infectious skin disease.



Photo 09 - The man in the bed is just back from a stay in hospital. The staff of Le Refuge can only watch as his health worsens rapidly.



Photo 10 -

Madness.

A third of the homeless in the Greater Paris area suffers from psychotic or behavioural problems, severe depression or chronic anxiety. One in three is addicted to alcohol, drugs or medication not used as intended.



Photo 11 -

This man has just been admitted to the shelter, having spent the night at the out-patients' department of the local hospital. The next day, not yet fully recovered, he will be back out wandering in the streets.



Photo 12 -

A spirit of fellowship does exist, but is globally fairly weak.



Photo 13 -

After a meeting with his social worker, this man re-reads the forms to be filled out in order to be entitled to certain services.



Photo 14 -

This man has lived in Le Refuge for the past twenty-three years. When his social security money runs out, he goes out begging.



Photo 15 -
a shot from a pellet gun.

The homeless are often victims of violence. This man was hit by



Photo 16 - moments of happiness: this man is on his way to see his girlfriend for their daily meeting, where they will dance to Jerry Lee Lewis, whose disc he has just bought. "Do you know Jerry Lee?"



Photo 17 -



18 -



19 -

These men are very weak: physical and/or mental pathologies, consumption of alcohol, drugs or medication, lack of nutrients, night time wanderings and their lot of fights, winter cold, all of which combine to lead to a state of extreme fatigue.

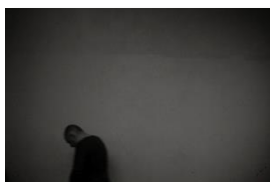


Photo 20 -

Some of the residents are no more than shadows you come across in the street, without papers, without a "legal existence", without work, friends or family, without a future, without hope.