

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, June 14, 2016

Louvre Museum  
Café Mollien designed by Mathieu Lehanneur reopens its doors

*“Standing on the landing of the monumental Mollien double staircase built in stone and bronze, with a labyrinth of the finest art galleries in the world stretching ahead of you; the most spectacular, never-ending view over the Tuileries Gardens at your back, and the haunting soul of the nearby Mona Lisa floating through the air... what more could you ask for?” Mathieu Lehanneur.*

Located in the Denon Wing of the Louvre Museum, the Café Mollien reopens its doors after a one-month closure for remodeling. Managed by Areas<sup>1</sup> and redesigned by Mathieu Lehanneur, the Café is a new venue linking the Carrousel and the Tuileries Gardens with the Louvre and its collection of masterpieces. In this monumental setting of 150m<sup>2</sup>, with its vertiginous ceilings and marble tiled floor punctuated by massive columns, the designer has succeeded in creating a prestigious cafe on a human scale.

Areas<sup>1</sup> provides a unique, customized catering experience for visitors to museums and prestigious sites. Areas<sup>1</sup> works hand-in-hand with internationally renowned professionals, such as architects and chefs, to promote and contribute to the success of exceptional venues. A partner of the Louvre Museum for some thirty years, Elior Group endeavors to enhance the visitor’s cultural experience.

After designing the Café ArtScience in Boston, which is currently in the running for the “outstanding bar” award in the US<sup>2</sup>, Mathieu Lehanneur went on to tackle the remodeling of the Café Mollien in the Louvre, the most prestigious monument and museum in Paris. Café Mollien comprises an L-shaped dining room and a 230 m<sup>2</sup> terrace offering the best view of the Louvre Pyramid. Inside, 66 seats are arranged around a magnificent brushed-brass, acrylic lighting structure, with organic-like extensions stretching up to 4.5 meters high. The designer describes these as *“three, large pale-pink eggs; luminous and translucent, floating in space and inhabiting the void that separates us from the ceiling, and act as a signal in the Parisian perspective.”*

In the alcoves of the tall historic windows, the presence of lacquered wooden benches upholstered in fabric alongside mat-white furniture, is almost “blasphemous in this palace of color”, and seems to set and accentuate the rhythm of the space. The white of the furniture is also echoed in the marble of the 10-meter long bar at the entrance.

Throughout his various assignments, notably in the Church of Melle (UNESCO World Heritage) and the Château Borely in Marseilles, and his next mission within the context of the complete remodeling of the Grand Palais in Paris<sup>3</sup>, Lehanneur has proven his ability to re-examine and update the iconic monuments of our heritage.

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<sup>1</sup> the global catering concession brand of Elior Group

<sup>2</sup> Café ArtScience Boston, US, is on the list of finalists for Outstanding Bar Program at the James Beard Foundation, US.

<sup>3</sup> Lehanneur won the international competition for the restructuring of the Grand Palais, including the National Galleries and the Palais de la Découverte. Project won in partnership with the LAN Architecture agency.

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### About Elior Group

Founded in 1991, Elior Group has grown into one of the world's leading operators in the catering and support services industry, and is now a benchmark player in the business & industry, education, healthcare, and travel markets.

In FY 2014-2015, it generated €5,674million in revenue through 18,600 restaurants and points of sale in 13 countries. Our 108,000 employees serve 4 million customers on a daily basis, taking genuine care of each and every one by providing personalized catering and service solutions to ensure an innovative customer experience.

We place particular importance on corporate social responsibility and have been a member of the United Nations Global Compact since 2004. The professional excellence of our teams, as well as their unwavering commitment to quality and innovation and to providing best-in-class service is embodied in our corporate motto: "Time savored".

For further information: <http://www.eliorgroup.com> Elior on Twitter: @Elior\_Group / @Elior\_France / @elioruk

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### About Areas

Areas is one of the global leaders in the travel catering and retail industry, generating €1.679 billion in revenue in 2015. A global brand of Elior Group, Areas welcomes 330 million customers each year in 2,200 restaurants and points of sale in 12 countries, throughout Europe as well as in the USA, Mexico and Chile.

As the caterer of choice in the travel and leisure markets, focusing on quality for 45 years, Areas is present in transportation hubs large and small across the world (airports, train stations, motorway service plazas), as well as in exhibition centers and leisure parks.

Building upon a culture of operational excellence, Areas draws on its in-depth understanding of travelers' needs and the most extensive range of catering concepts on the market to offer the perfect blend of ingredients for each of its 900,000 daily customers to savor.

For further information: <http://www.areas.com> Areas on Twitter @Areas / @Areas\_FR / @Areas\_ES

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### About Mathieu Lehanneur

Mathieu Lehanneur, among the "100 world top designers and influencers" is one of the few designers of his generation to be able to embrace so many different fields beyond furniture. He innovates with objects and magical architectures that brew design, science, art and technology to the wellbeing of its users.

A graduate of ENSCI (Paris), his work is in the permanent collections of the MoMA (New York & San Francisco / USA), Centre Pompidou (Paris), the FRAC Ile de France, the Museum of Decorative Arts (Paris), and the Design Museum of Gent (Gand / Belgium).

In 2008, he won the "Best Invention Award" by the US magazine Popular Science for "Andrea", a home air filtration system by plants, invented in partnership with Harvard University and on the basis of studies conducted by NASA.

Lehanneur collaborates with leading companies in their sector, as Veuve Clicquot, Audemars Piguet, Pullman Hotels, Nestlé, Cartier, JCDecaux, Nike. He is acclaimed for his designs for the Choir of the Church of Saint Hilaire, world heritage by UNESCO (Melle / France), for the Château Borely - Museum of Decorative Arts (Marseille / France), for the Diaconesses Hospital and the Centre Pompidou (both in Paris).

The designer's portfolio also includes partnerships with major global brands such as Huawei, with whom he collaborates as chief designer.

Lehanneur was invited to the prestigious TED conference (2009).

In 2012, a monography was devoted to him by Gestalten editions and also an exhibition entitled "Choses" at the Grand Hornu - Innovation and Design Centre, Belgium.

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### About Louvre Museum

As an ancient royal residence, the Louvre is inextricably linked to eight centuries of French history. Designed in 1793 as a universal museum, its collection, among the best in the world, span many millennia and miles, from the Americas to Asia. Over 35,000 artworks are grouped into eight curatorial departments, including universally-admired works such as The Mona Lisa, The Winged Victory of Samothrace, and the Venus de Milo. With over 8.3 million visitors, the Louvre ranked as the world's most visited museum in 2015.

The Louvre is open every day (except Tuesday) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Night opening until 9:45 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

For further information, please visit our website: [www.louvre.fr/en](http://www.louvre.fr/en)