

### ***Abstract M.F. Bisbrouck***

In 2005, the Ecole Polytechnic Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) launched an international architectural competition for the construction of a Learning Centre comprising in particular a large library. The twelve competing architectural projects were studied by a technical panel nominated by the contracting authority, comprising experts from the building-engineering and quantity-surveying fields, and including two library-science experts, Mel Collier and Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck.

The author presents her methodology for the project study, which she founded not purely on functional criteria (number of floors; legibility of various departments; inter-departmental associations; vertical and horizontal circulation; security of collections; design-open-endedness etc.), but also on individual project impact on the built-up architectural environment of the campus site, and the sensation of interior ambience perceived for each project according to the manner in which the interaction and articulation of the various spaces of the program were proposed.

The presentation also includes a comparative table comprising five of the twelve competing projects, highlighting the fact that even though a project may seem to satisfy the majority of the analytical criteria, it is not necessarily functional and attractive in overall terms.

The prize-winning project established by the Japanese architecting firm "SANAA" -- an eminently "poetic" work -- henceforth leaves EPFL with a question, namely, the degree of "adaptability to reality".

## Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck --

For over 30 years, alternating with library management, the career of Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck has been one devoted to the problems of building, restructuring and equipment of libraries, and to the study of space-planning in unison with evolving user needs.

A decade at the French Ministry of Culture (1972 to 1982), managing the building of municipal libraries, was followed by another decade (1991 to 2000) at the Ministry of Higher Education, where Madame Bisbrouck was responsible for a major national programme devoted to rebuilding and restructuring France's academic library base. She is currently Library Director at Université Paris-Sorbonne, where she has completed several library modernisation projects.

Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck has published several reference works, including "The Municipal Library: Design, Build and Equipment" (1), "University Libraries: From Design to Build" (2) and "University Libraries: An Assessment of Recent Building Programmes" (1992-2000) (3). She is also contributor to several other works (4), and author of numerous articles published in professional journals.

### National and international activities:

- **1995 to 1999:** Secretary of the "Library Buildings and Equipment" Section of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) (and member of the Standing Committee from 1994 to 2004): organisation of biennial library-building seminars (The Hague, 1997; Shanghai, 1999; Boston, 2001; Paris, 2003), and publication of seminar enactments.
- **Since 1995:** Member of the "LIBER Architecture Group", a brain-trust of the LIBER Association (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche): organisation of the Paris seminar on the design and construction of academic and research libraries (22 to 26 January, 1996). Co-organisation of other seminars -- London (April 1998), Warsaw (April 2000), Leipzig (March 2002), Venice/Bolzano (March 2004), Utrecht (March 2006).
- **1994 to 1998:** Member of the Scientific Council of Institut de Programmation en Architecture et Aménagement (IPAA, Paris).
- Consulting in the field of municipal- and academic-library building in Spain, Portugal, Italy (Trento, Venice, BEIC Milan), Switzerland, Hungary (World Bank for Hungary), Belarus (UNESCO) and France (Bibliothèque de l'Institut Pasteur, Bibliothèque du Pôle universitaire académique Léonard de Vinci, Paris-La Défense; study into reorganisation of libraries and documentation centres at OECD; Bibliothèque du Film et de l'Image; Bibliothèque de l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques etc.).
- Extensive initial and continuous training in the field of library design and construction (since 1975).

(1) La bibliothèque dans la ville : concevoir, construire, équiper. Sous la direction de Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck. Paris, Editions du Moniteur, 1984, 302 p..

(2) Construire une bibliothèque universitaire: de la conception à la réalisation. Sous la direction de Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck et Daniel Renoult. Paris, Editions du Cercle de la Librairie, 1993, 304 p. (Collection Bibliothèques).

(3) Ministère de l'Education nationale, de la Recherche et de la Technologie. Direction de l'Enseignement supérieur. Sous-direction des Bibliothèques et de la Documentation. « Bibliothèques universitaires : évaluation des nouveaux bâtiments », sous la direction de Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck. Paris, La Documentation française, 2000. 150 p.

(4) Particularly: Nouvelles Alexandries: les grands chantiers des bibliothèques dans le monde. Sous la direction de Michel Melot. Paris, Editions du Cercle de la Librairie, 1996, (Collection Bibliothèques).