

Creating in the created :
*the renovation of the Humanities
and Social Sciences Library at the
University of Lille*

FUTURE
BUSHS

2026



LIBER Architecture Group Seminar 2024
KBR - Royal Library of Belgium
*Building Bridges: Libraries as Engaged and
Trusted Hubs*
25.04.2024

Speakers

Frédéric Caudoux

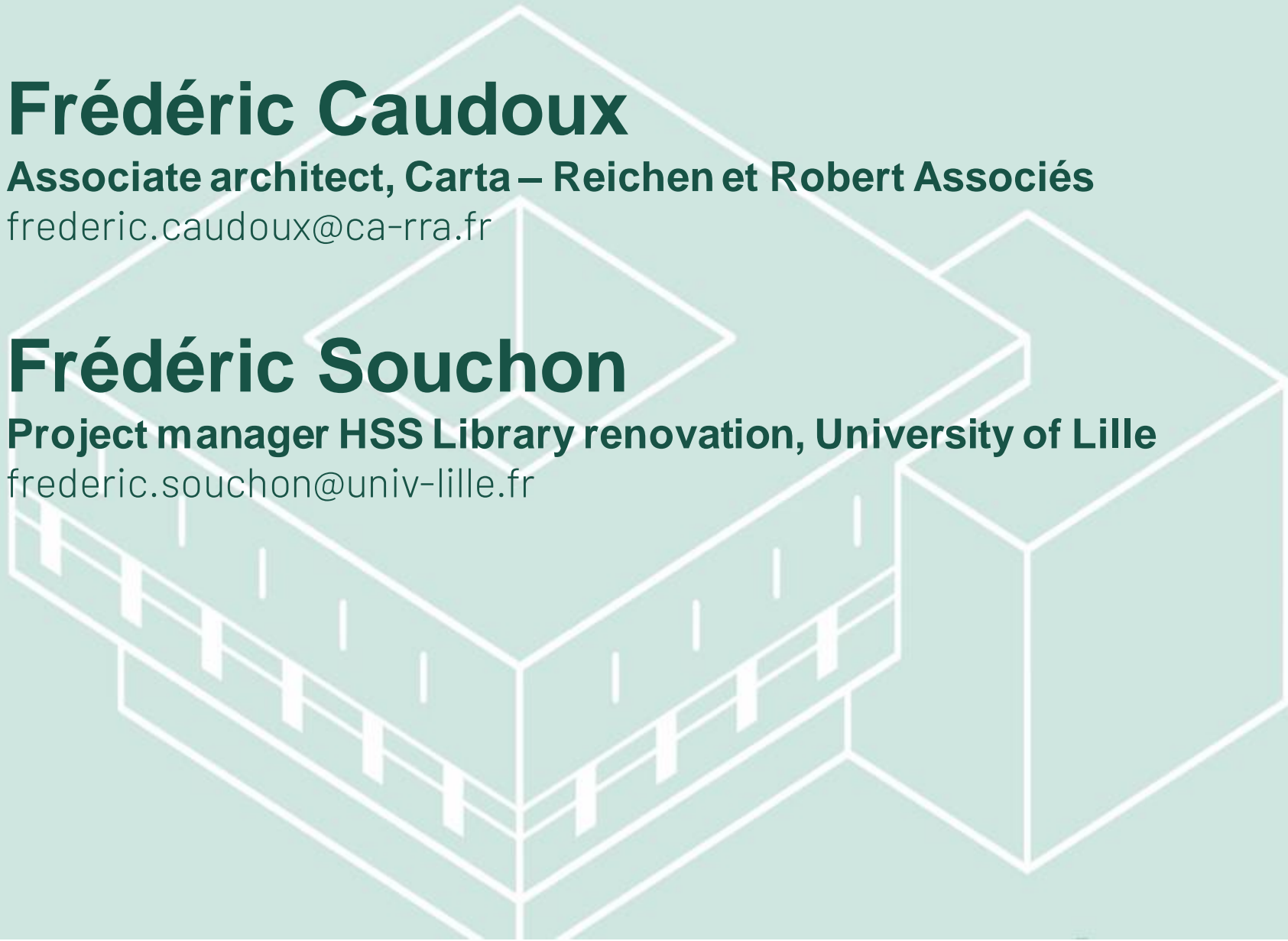
Associate architect, Carta – Reichen et Robert Associés

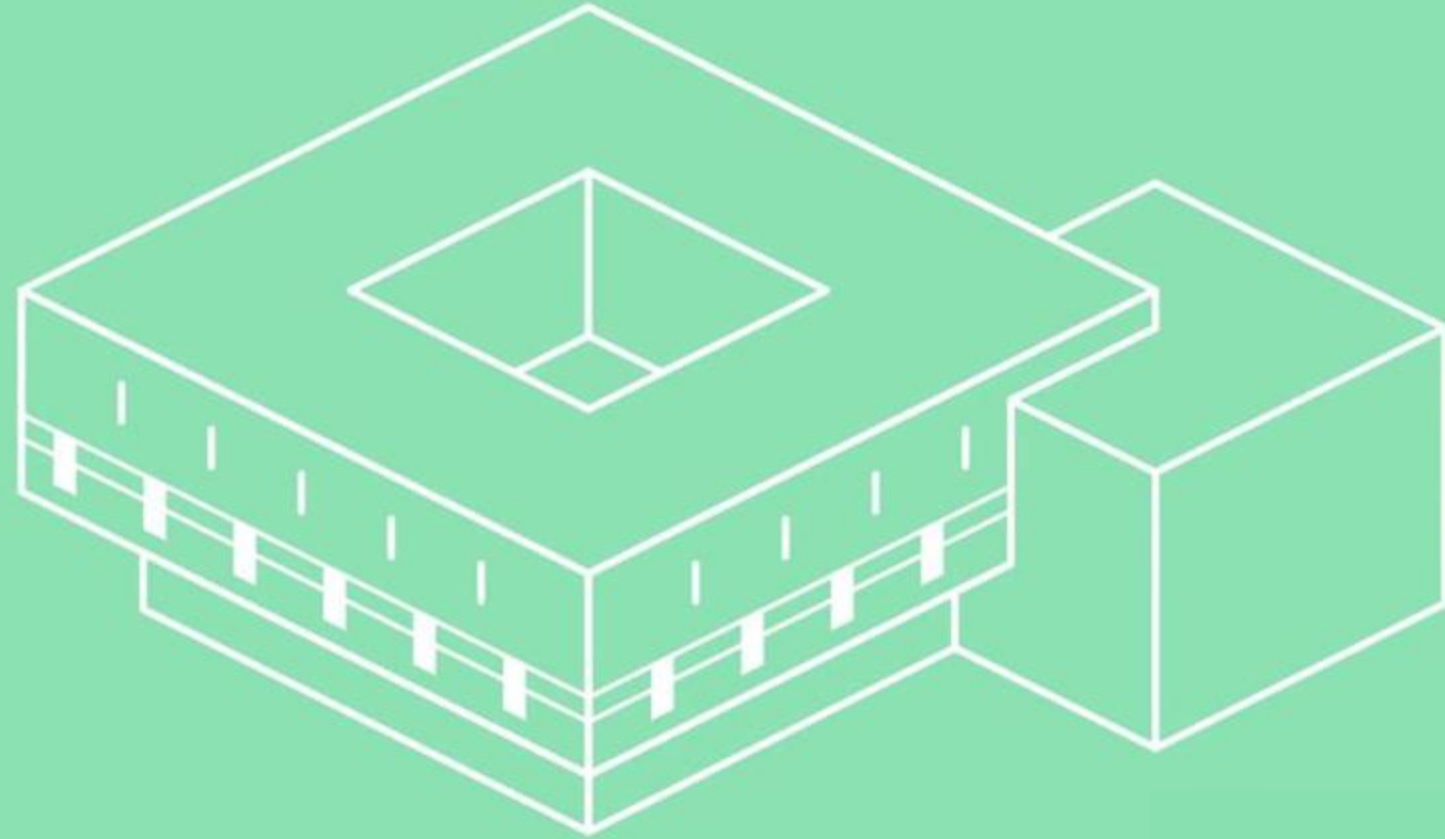
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01 Context and ambitions



OUR STARTING POINT

- A campus built as unified whole in 1974 by the architect Pierre Vago in the new town of Villeneuve d'Ascq
- A massive library building located at the entrance of campus



A SLOW DEGRADATION

- Some major structural defects (asbestos, lack of fire resistance)
- A library focused on traditional functions
- Targeted and limited redevelopments without real transformation
- Programming studies from 2009 but no funding



OUR HORIZON TO 2026

- A totally refurbished and redesigned library
- 45 M€ Budget, 17 000 m², 1 200 seats
- Scheduled opening in September 2026



OUR AMBITION MULTIPLE SPACES FOR MULTIPLE USES

1.

Working spaces

140 000 freely-accessible books
680 000 books in the reserve
1200 working seats
30 group study rooms
Collaborative working space

*Reading,
Focusing on
Working alone
or in groups*

2.

Social spaces

Cafeteria (100 seats)
Relaxation area (600 m²)

*Having a break,
Relaxing,
Meeting friends*

3.

Exhibition spaces

Fully equipped
exhibition space
(160 to 260 m²)
Event space
(100 m², 60 seats)

*Discovering,
Meeting,
Sharing*

4.

Learning spaces

Learning lab
(220 m²)

*Learning,
Trying and experimenting,*

5.

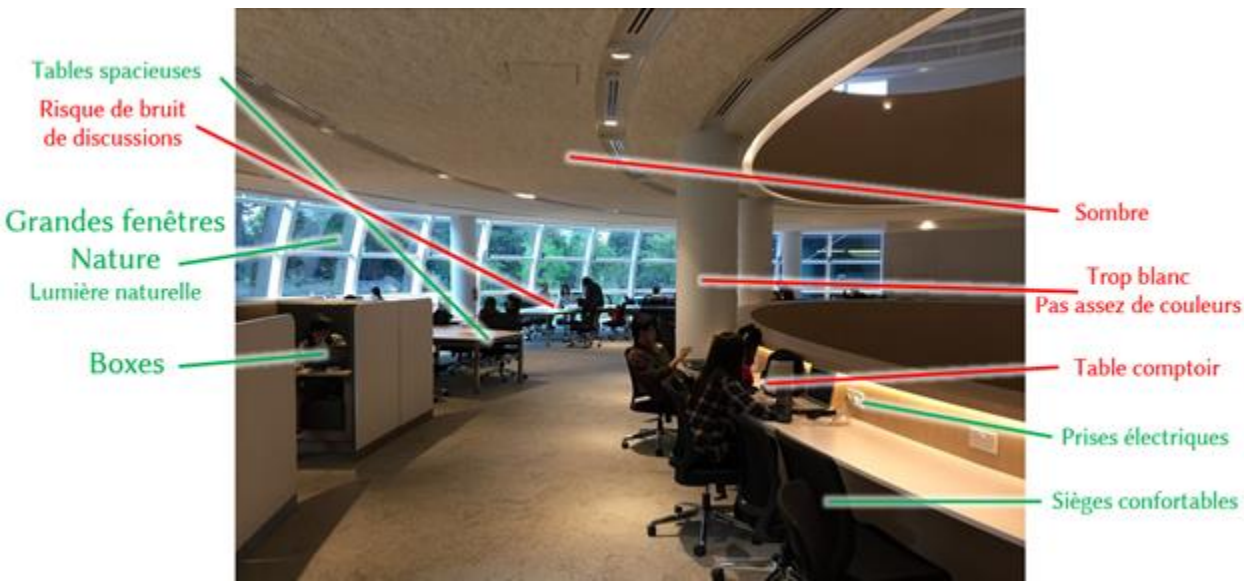
Researcher spaces

600 m² dedicated
to PhD students and
researchers only
Working room (60 seats)
Kitchen & room for rest
Group study and
meeting rooms

*Networking,
Working like at home*



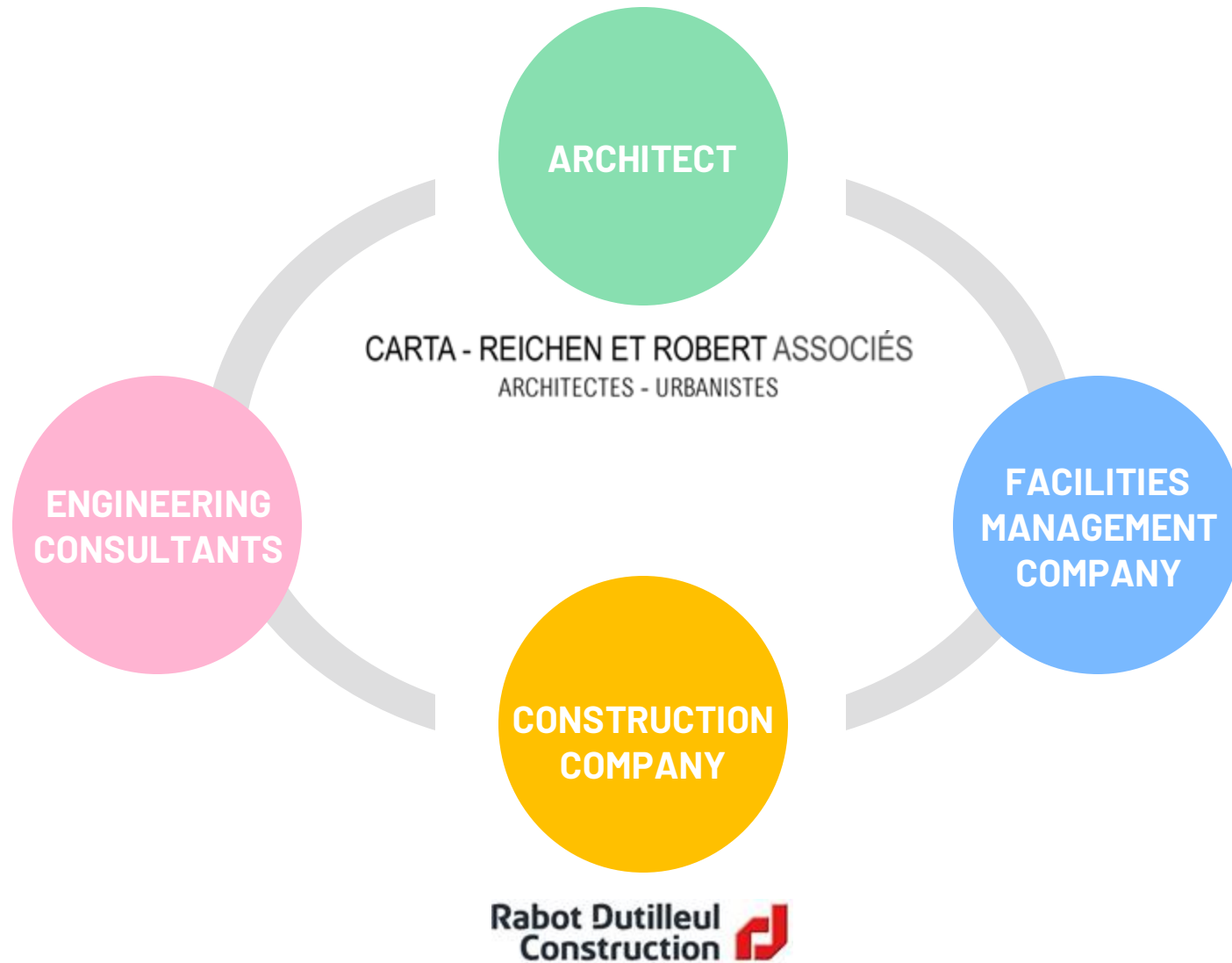
What kind of worker are you?



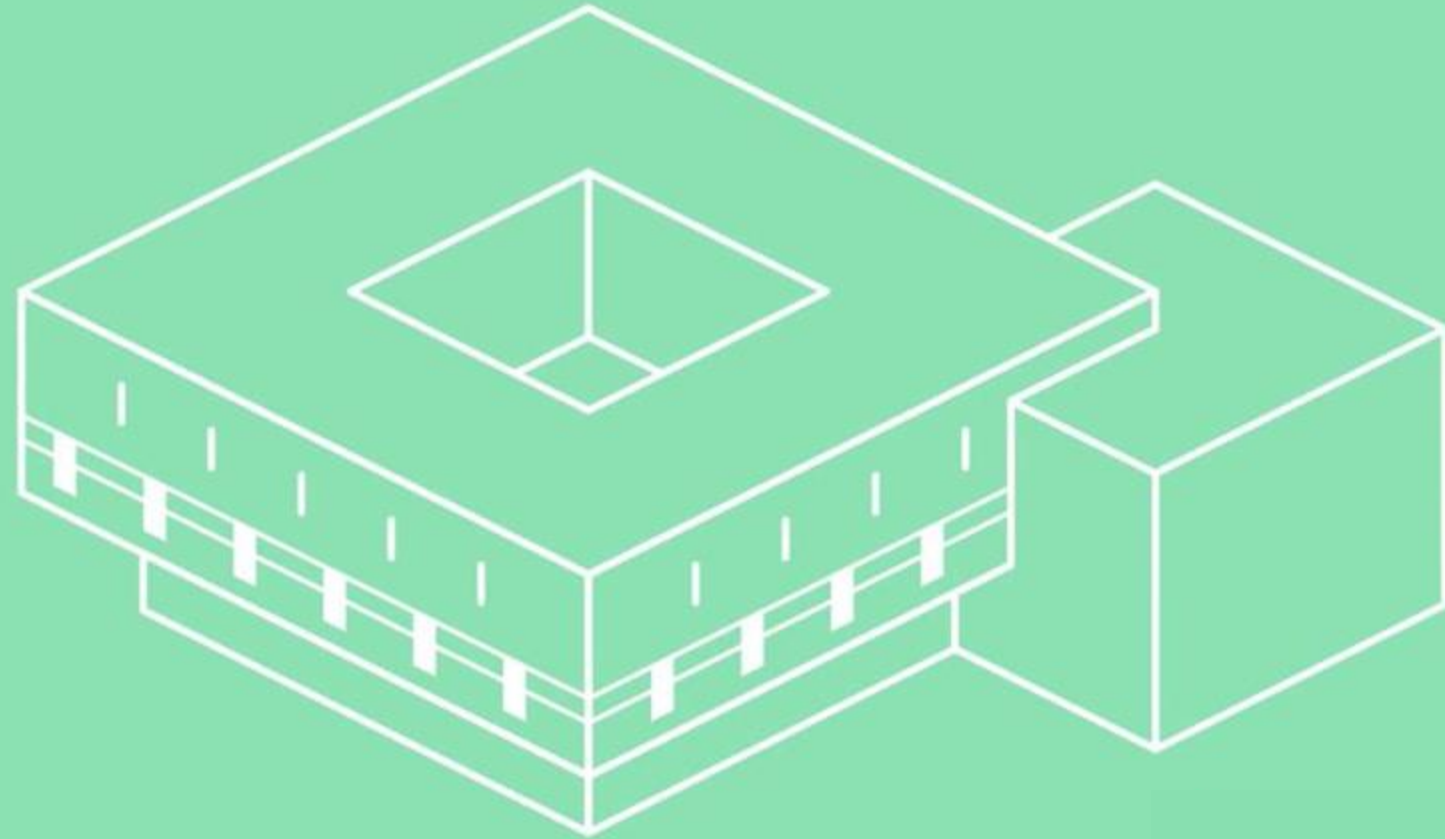
HOW TO INVOLVE USERS ?

- Meetings with the various councils of the university and the relevant departments and services
- Public surveys, observation & analysis of practices
- Mobilization of library staff through various thematic workshops
- UX design approach for specific areas : learning & researcher spaces

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS



- A consortium of firms contractually committed to meeting ambitious targets, particularly environmental: 60% reduction in consumption compared with 2017



03 Architectural Concept

one building / few lives

PROJECT PRESENTATION FILM



THE VIRTUES OF REUSING

Two questions

- How to transform a 50 year-old iconic building into a new multifunctional library for the next 50 years ?
- How to create the most sustainable project in accordance with actual climate change challenges ?



Esquisse Pierre Vago, juin 1969

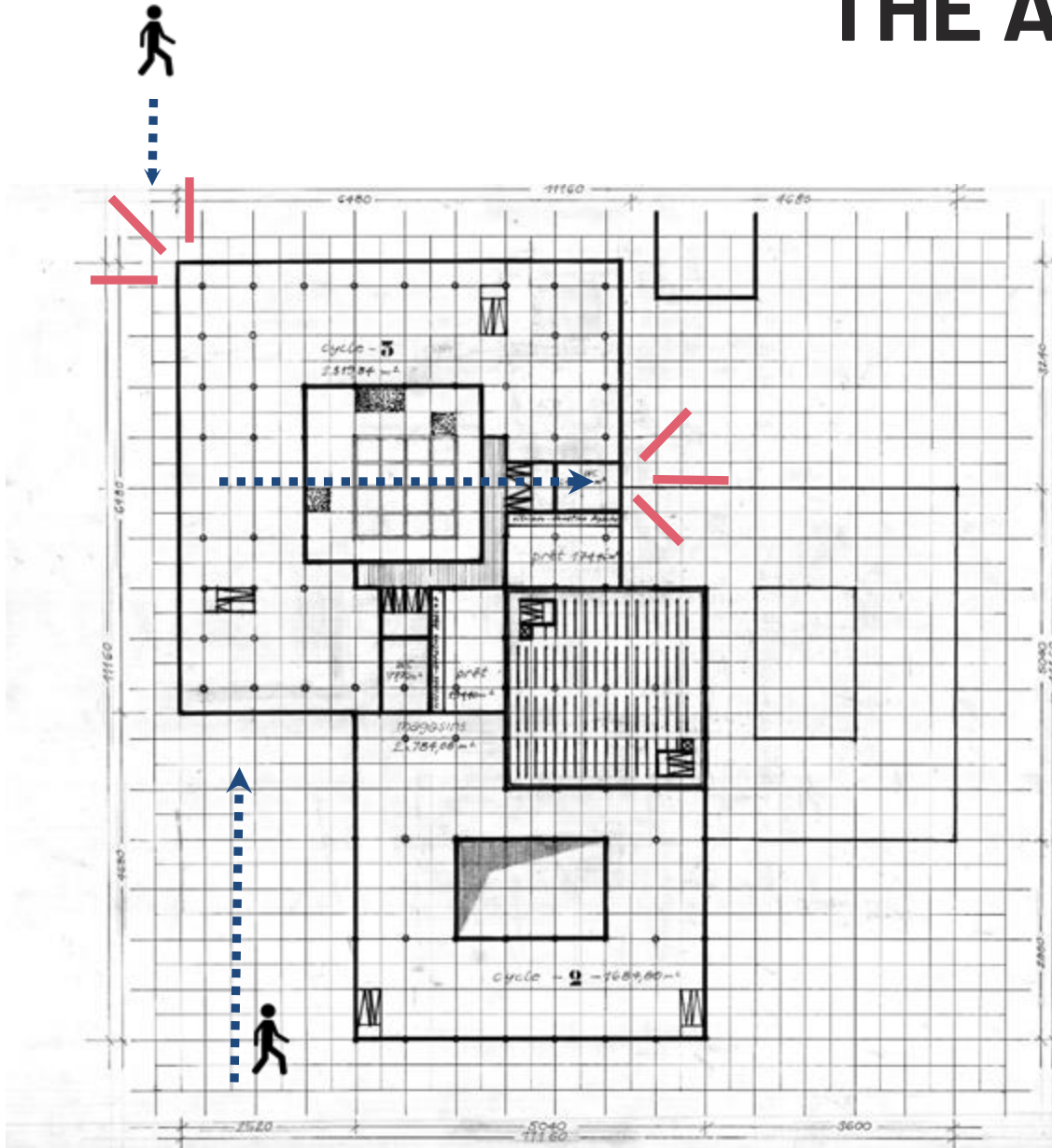
PRESERVING FIRST



Photo of the building's dredging phase, march 2024 - University of Lille

- To understand the original project from Pierre Vago in 70's
- Keeping as much as possible the structures, the interior organization
- And keeping the generous volumes, and height as well

THE AUGUSTE PERRET "PLAN LIBRE" OFFERS A SPECTACULAR FLEXIBILITY TOOL

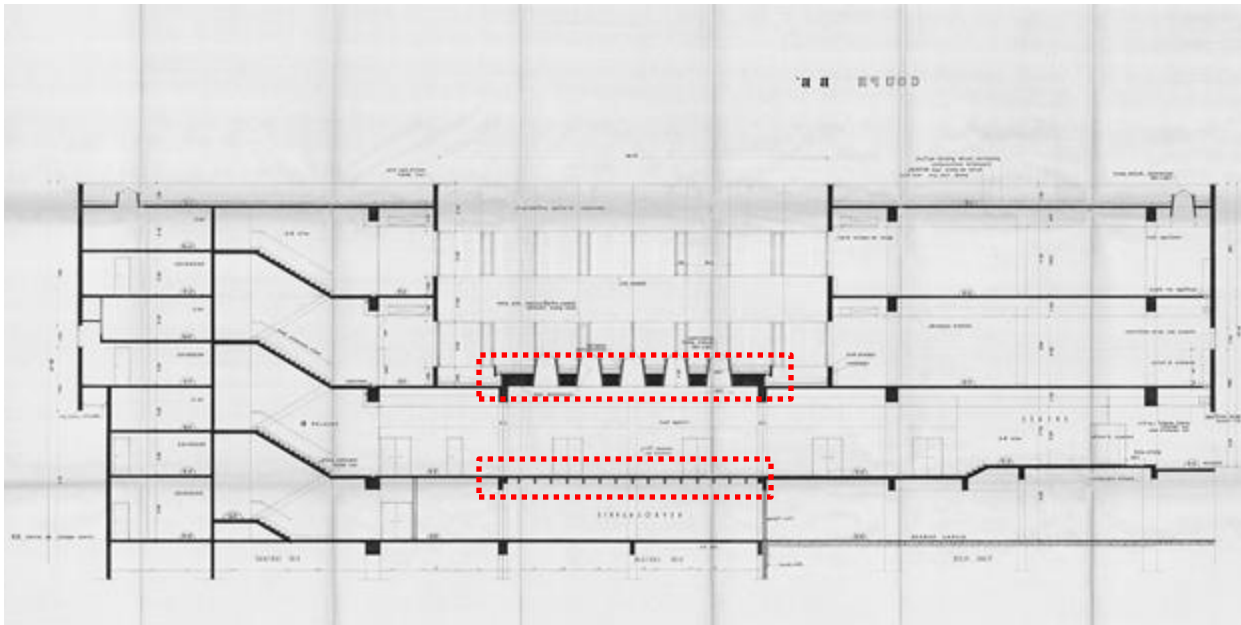


Using the existing original square design :

- To open up the building to the forum
- To create new access and terraces
- And to propose large new mixed-use spaces

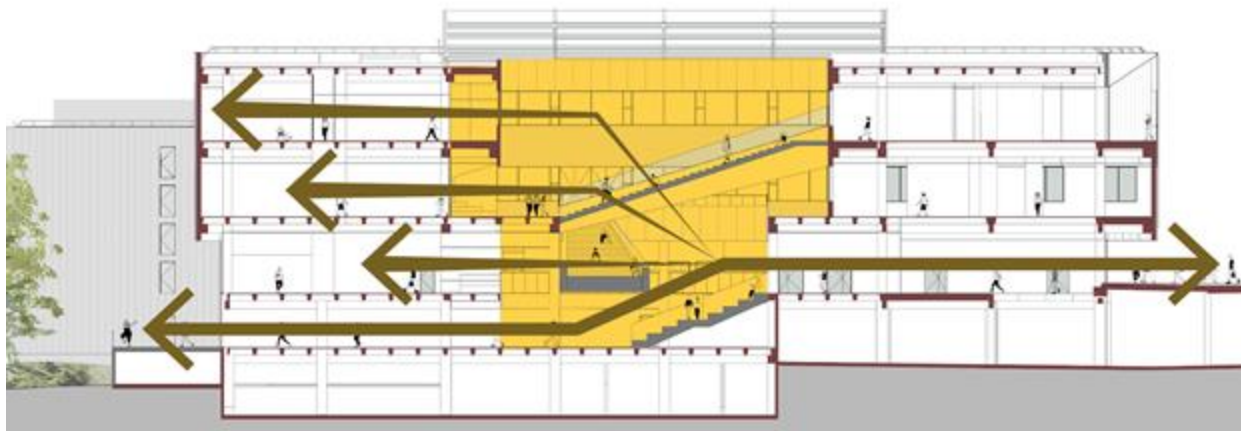
A SPECIFIC ACCESS TO ENTER ON THE 1st FLOOR

- One entrance :
multiple directions
- Two floors less
to create a 4-level space



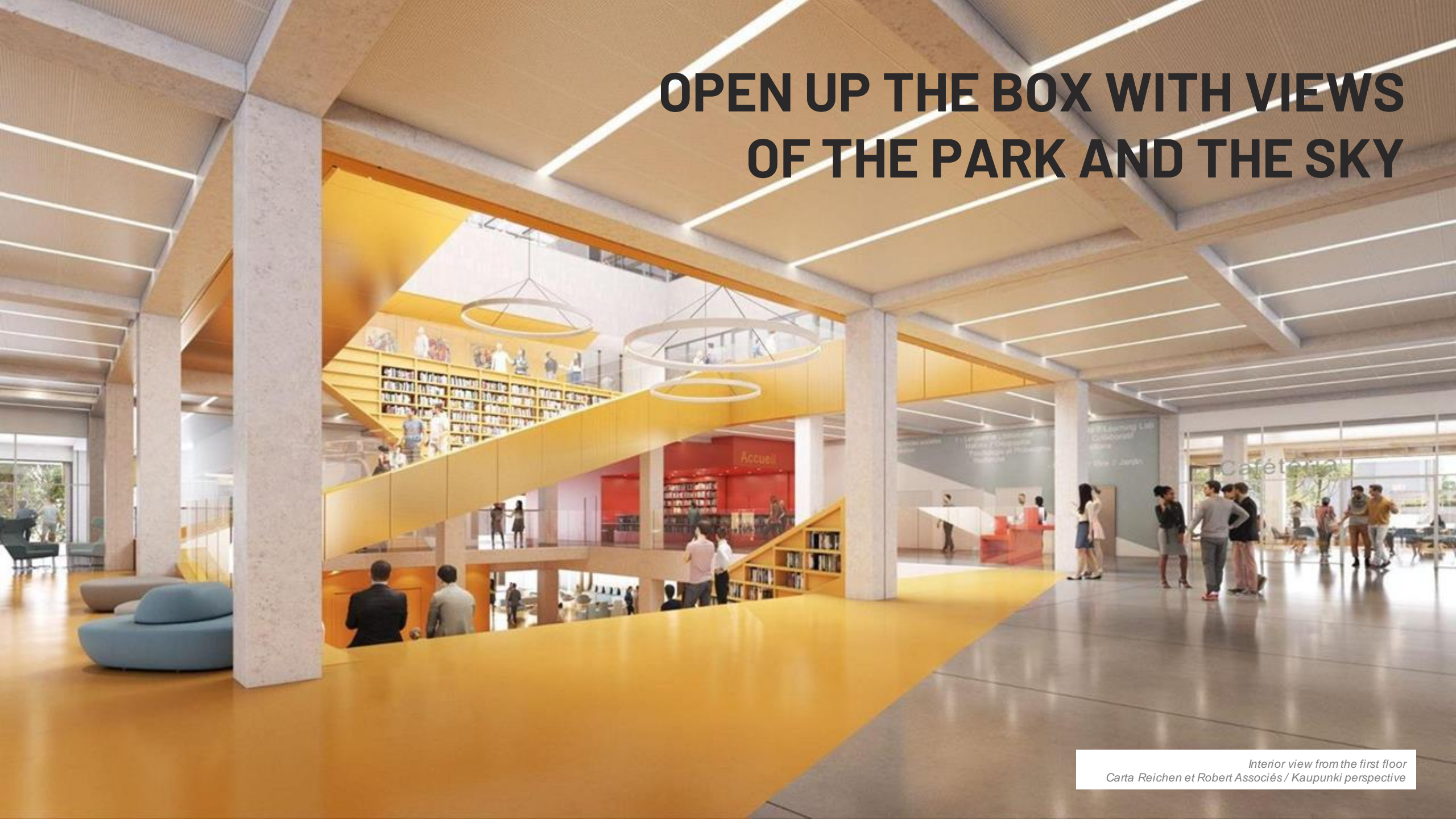
Dismantled floors

Cross-sectional view of the building, 1969
Pierre VAGO

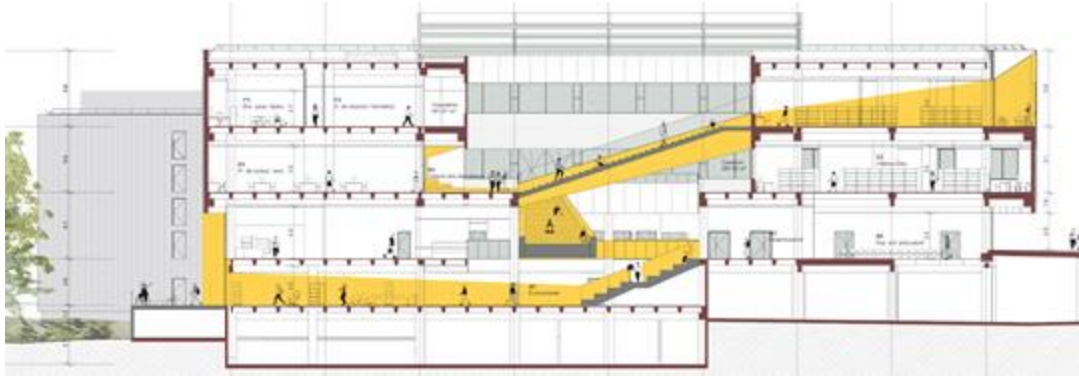


Cross-sectional view of the building, 2024
Carta Reichen et Robert Associés

OPEN UP THE BOX WITH VIEWS OF THE PARK AND THE SKY



A VOID BECOMES THE HEART: THE LEARNING "PROMENADE"



*Cross-sectional view of the building
Carta Reichen et Robert Associés*



Patio view, 2022

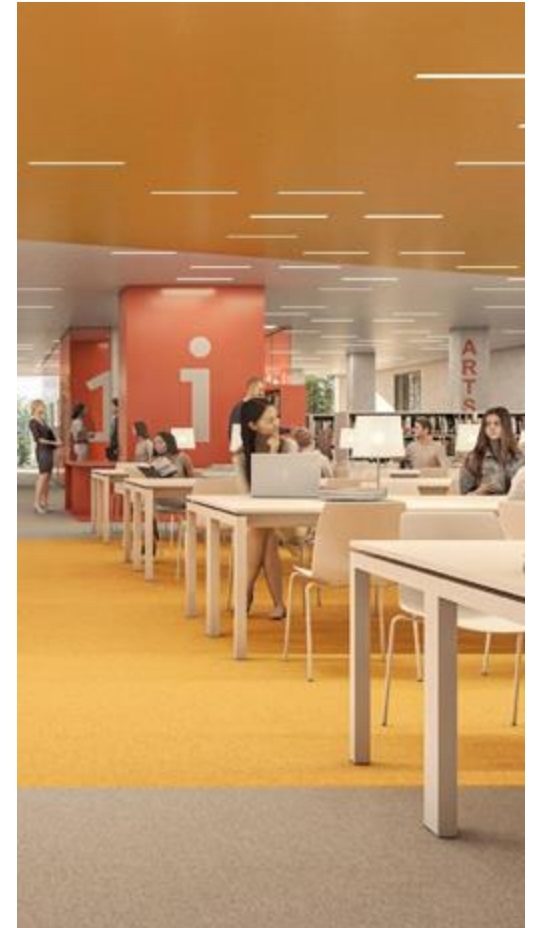


*View from the landing of the second floor
Carta Reichen et Robert Associés / Kaupunki perspective*

THE SERENDIPITY

Multipurpose desks

Reading and working anywhere as much as possible



A SUSTAINABLE PROJECT

- Frugality
- 60% less of energy consumption
- An Exemplary energy performance
- High-performance technical systems
- 2700m² of solar panels.
- Recovery tank for rainwater
- Bioclimatic Design of the facades



*South view from the walkway
Carta Reichen et Robert Associés / Kaupunki perspective*

REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

- 30 tonnes of bio-sourced Materials
- Materials from recycling and/or recyclables



Interior view from the first floor - Carta Reichen et Robert Associés / Kaupunki perspective



Recycled fishing nets for flooring materials

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE PAST TO SUCCEED FOR INVENTING THE FUTURE



Thank you for your attention !

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