

Session 3, Wednesday

Jean-Louis Baal, *University Library of Caën*
Total flexibility

Abstract

The architect Jean-Louis Baal designed a methodology allowing to create quickly and very simply buildings with total flexibility.

This concept was applied to the new university library of Caen. The concept allows to move the components of networks as simply as furniture. Our libraries turn into a gigantic "motherboard" where adding partitions, electric plugs or quite different services can immediately be realized, and practically without tools.

He will soon launch this concept commercially, a database of objects which, together with CAD software, allows to reduce the time of study by a factor of twenty and to see at once the financial and technical consequences of any modification.

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Jean-Louis Baal, born Jan. 4, 1957, in Caen, married father of 5 children, is a graduate of the school of architecture U P. 9 Paris la Seine.

In 1990, during a congress organized by EDF on "electricity – vector of intelligence" the idea was launched that the digitization of technical management of buildings will soon free the building owners and the architects of very restraining facts and conditions as to organization and arrangement of space. Indeed this digitization touches in the long run all the means of communication and thus makes it possible to simplify the topology of their physical network. It has led to the creation of the bus system building (electrical supply, liquid and gas networks) making it possible to construct the infrastructural networks of a building totally flexible, and the removing of structural elements has become instantaneous.

On June 2, 1992, an experimental window is inaugurated in the presence of François Ailleret, then general manager of EDF. This first realization precedes by ten years the architectural bus concept.

Today small and large buildings use this concept of total flexibility, e.g.:

- Center of Formation in Caen in 1992
- Office building in Holy Hérrouville
- Nursery and primary school in Cabourg
- Punt trains technical Schneider in Grenoble
- Seedbed of company in Magny
- Extension house of the Technopôle in Laval
- Extension of Ismra in an existing building in Caen
- Buildings of the SCI in the Abbey in Caen
- A call center in Cosne on the Loire
- A building of activity in Cosne on the Loire
- A research laboratory for the Baclesse hospital in Caen
- The university Library of Caen
- A farm building for E.D.F. in Briquebec
- A building for teaching for the I.U.T. of Lisieux

Jean-Louis Baal is about to launch an online Internet service on the topic that can be subscribed.