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

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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
Reading, Focusing on Working alone or in groups

1. Working spaces
- 140,000 freely-accessible books
- 68,000 books in the reserve
- 1,200 working seats
- 30 group study rooms
- Collaborative working space

2. Social spaces
- Cafeteria (100 seats)
- Relaxation area (600 m²)

3. Exhibition spaces
- Fully equipped exhibition space (160 to 260 m²)
- Event space (100 m², 60 seats)

4. Learning spaces
- Learning lab (220 m²)

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

OUR AMBITION
MULTIPLE SPACES FOR MULTIPLE USES

Discovering, Meeting, Sharing

Having a break, Relaxing, Meeting friends

Learning, Trying and experimenting,

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
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

Direction / Service / Composante / ou autre
<insérer le nom>
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?
PRESERVING FIRST

- 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

Sketch Pierre Vago, June 1969
A SPECIFIC ACCESS TO ENTER ON THE 1st FLOOR

- One entrance: multiple directions
- Two floors less to create a 4-level space
OPEN UP THE BOX WITH VIEWS OF THE PARK AND THE SKY
A VOID BECOMES THE HEART:
THE LEARNING “PROMENADE”
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
REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

- 30 tonnes of bio-sourced Materials
- Materials from recycling and/or recyclables
WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE PAST TO SUCCEED FOR INVENTING THE FUTURE
Thank you for your attention!