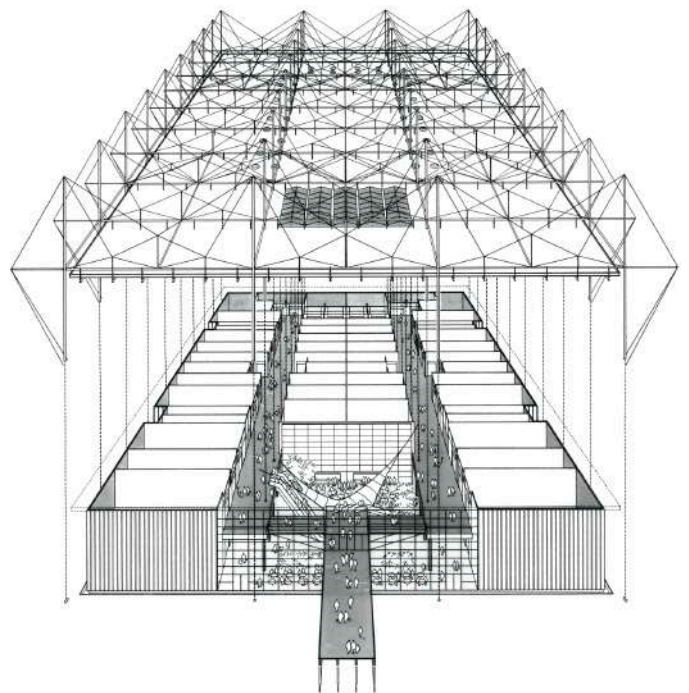




Centre Commercial St. Herblain

Nantes





Place
Nantes, France

Date
1986 - 1987

Client
GC

Cost
£6.3 million

Area
21,000 m²

Cost/m²
£300

Architect
Richard Rogers
Partnership

Structural Engineers
Ove Arup & Partners, Rice
Francis Ritchie,
OTH Rhone-Alpes

Services Engineer
Ove Arup & Partners/OTH

Quantity Surveyor
Thorne Wheatley
Associates, Paris

Landscape Architect
David Jarvis Associates/
Dan Kiley

Co-Architect
Atelier Claude Bucher

Interior Designer
B & FL, Paris

Lighting Designer
Lighting Design
Partnership

Awards

1988
Concours des Plus Beaux Ouvrages de Construction
Métallique

We devised a simple, legible external structure highlighted in vibrant colours. The flying entrance bridge makes a strong welcoming gesture, despite the modest budget

The shopping centre at St. Herblain, near Nantes, was built to a very strict brief. The client wanted a low-cost building in record time - one which projected the dynamic retailing operation it was to contain and could at the same time be adapted to other sites. A simple and clear architectural statement was required.

The client was familiar with the Fleetguard factory and the suspended structure of Fleetguard re-emerged at St. Herblain, with a forest of slender masts giving what could have been a basic shed a genuine architectural grace.

Inside, the plan is remarkably clear and well organized. The Centre is entered, as at Fleetguard, by way of a steel bridge, leading into a double-height reception area. A strong use of colour adds to the appeal of the building, while exposed servicing provides visual interest inside. The lightness of the construction and the provision of generous quantities of daylight make the Centre a clear counterpoint to the typical cluttered, claustrophobic out-of-town shopping centre.

At only 21,000 sq m, St. Herblain is a modest masterpiece, clear and logical, achieved at low cost.