

Mediatheque

Carnoux-en-Provence
France

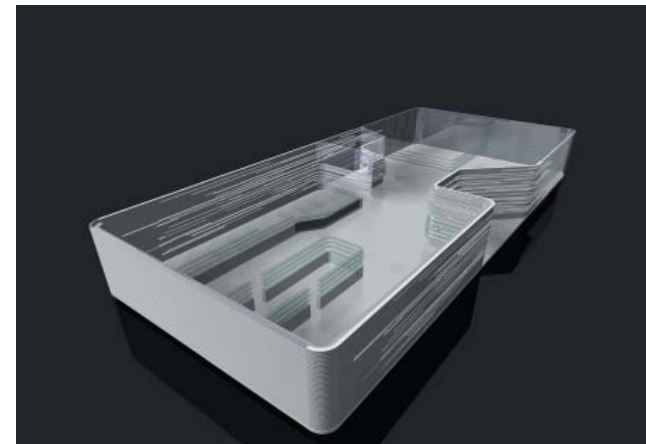
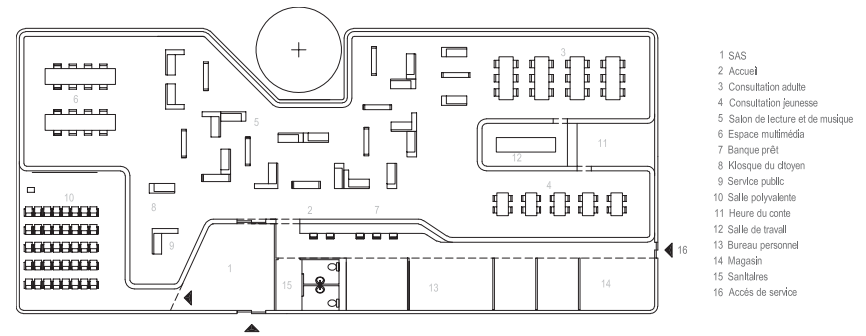
Client - Le Ministère de la Culture
Design team - dZO, Esther Sperber, Diego Rosales
Area - 500 sq.m.
Cost - \$1,200,000
Date - March 2003

Instead of heralding the disappearance of the book, the mediatheque project celebrates the opportunity to use space to experience the spectrum of available information from printed books to digital media.

In contrast to the traditional library where the books and bookshelves wrap around a room creating the space for reading, the contemporary library is often an independent grid of shelves organized within a large room. The mediatheque we propose returns to the traditional library concept where there is no separation between the walls and the books. In a sense, the books create the space.

The program called for 500 linear meters of storage space for books, periodical and new media (such as CD-Roms and DVD). We developed a bookshelf strip which was compressed and folded within the space to define the different areas of activity for adults, children, reading, lectures and offices. This bookshelf element acts as both a storage space for books and digital media as well as a structural wall that encloses and subdivides the space.

The wall is constructed by stacking glass and concrete blocks, creating an uncertain boundary between the interior and exterior landscape. The walls blurs from a mostly opaque element, protecting the books from the exterior sun, to a light and clear wall holding the digital information. Parts of the wall act as retrieval devices for the digital data allowing the visitor to use the the architectural structure to interact with information.



floor plan
study model
interior reading room

shelf and wall system

