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9. Exhibition Halls «Grenslandhallen», Hasselt (Belgium)

Owner: City of Hasselt
Architect: L. Ghijsebrechts
Engineers: Betrac
Service date: 1992

The city of Hasselt, centrally situated between Brussels, Antwerp, Liège, Aachen and Maastricht, and at the same time located in the frontier zone of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany, had an urgent need for large halls for all kinds of activities, such as: commodity exchanges, exhibitions, shows and mass meetings.

Special features of the project

As a result of a competition, the chosen project presented several winning qualities, amongst which is the concentric star-shaped layout of the halls, which all open into a vast inner court.

All the vital elements of each hall, the service, sanitary and administrative areas, are adjacent to a hexagonal gallery. In this manner, the distances to be covered by the staff are reduced to a minimum.

Visitors also find their way easily: after having visited a hall, they always return to the same point, i.e. to the gallery and/or the inner court.

Aesthetic aspect

The plastic qualities of the project were obtained largely through the general and functional star shape of the complex, and also by the treatment of colours of the steel and the general atmosphere which results from them, both inside and outside.

Hall 6

The transverse elements are plane trusses made up from rectangular steel hollow sections. Their overall span is 60 m.

At 9.35 m from each end, they are suspended by exterior main trusses. The distance between these transverse trusses is 9.25 m.

The global length of the construction is 117 m.

The chords of the main trusses are rectangular hollow sections while the diagonals are circular hollow sections.

The main trusses in the longitudinal direction are supported by two towers by means of stay-cables. These towers consist of two circular hollow sections.

The shape of the transverse trusses is determined by the required free passage in the various zones of the hall.

The whole structure has been made from steel hollow sections except the main columns of the hall which are in concrete.

(J. Bastians)

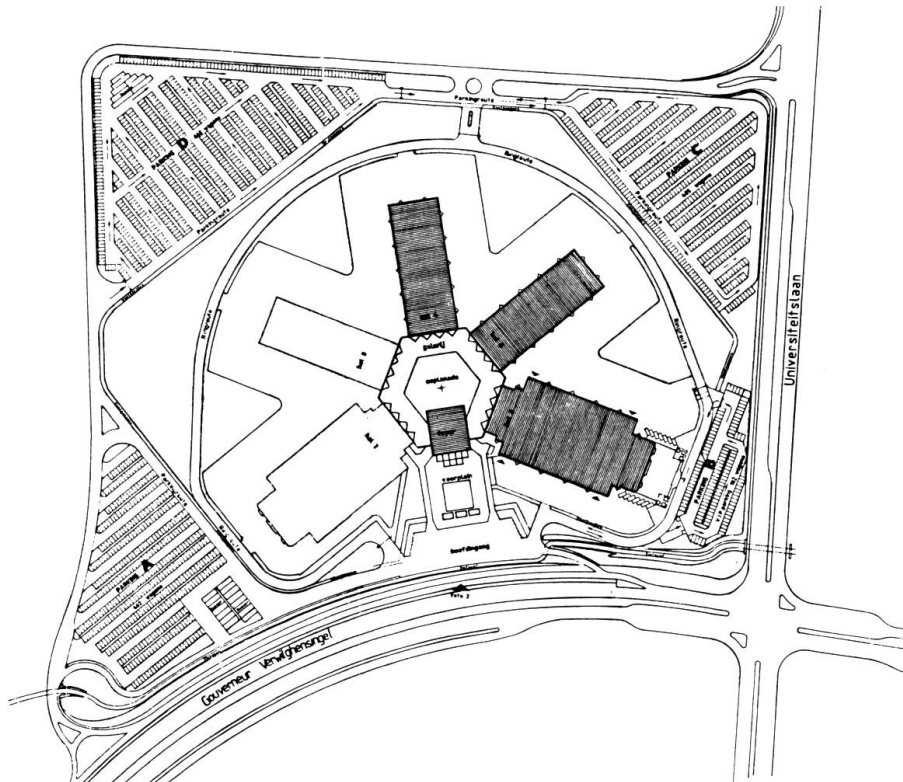


Fig. 1: Site plan

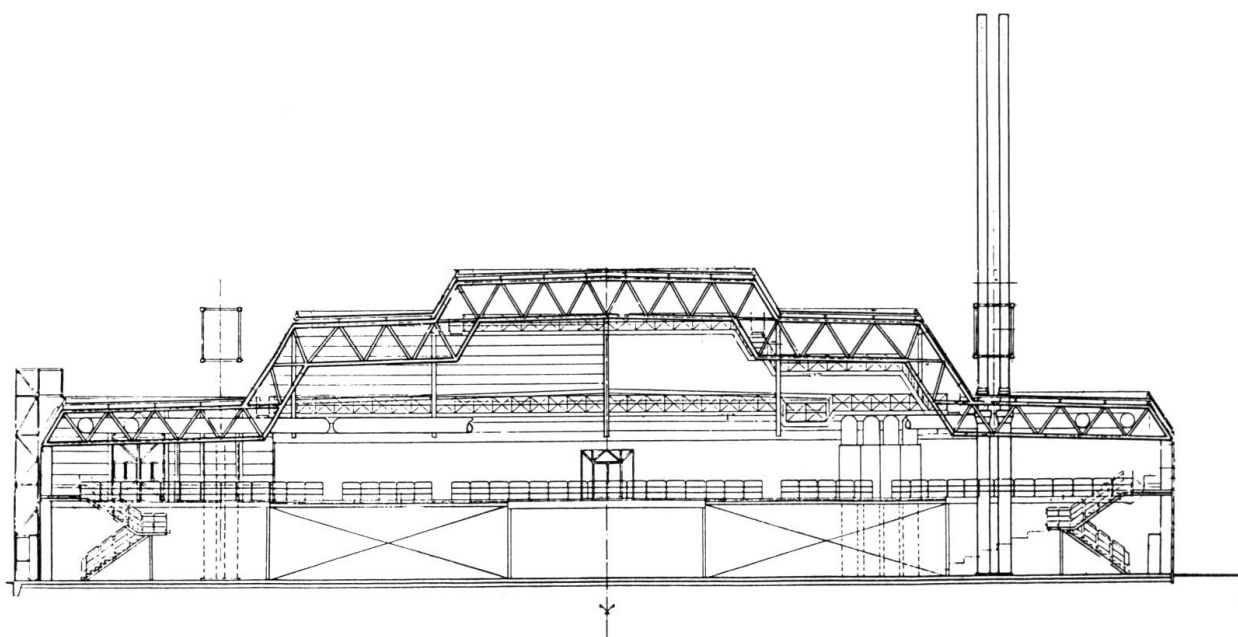


Fig. 2: Section

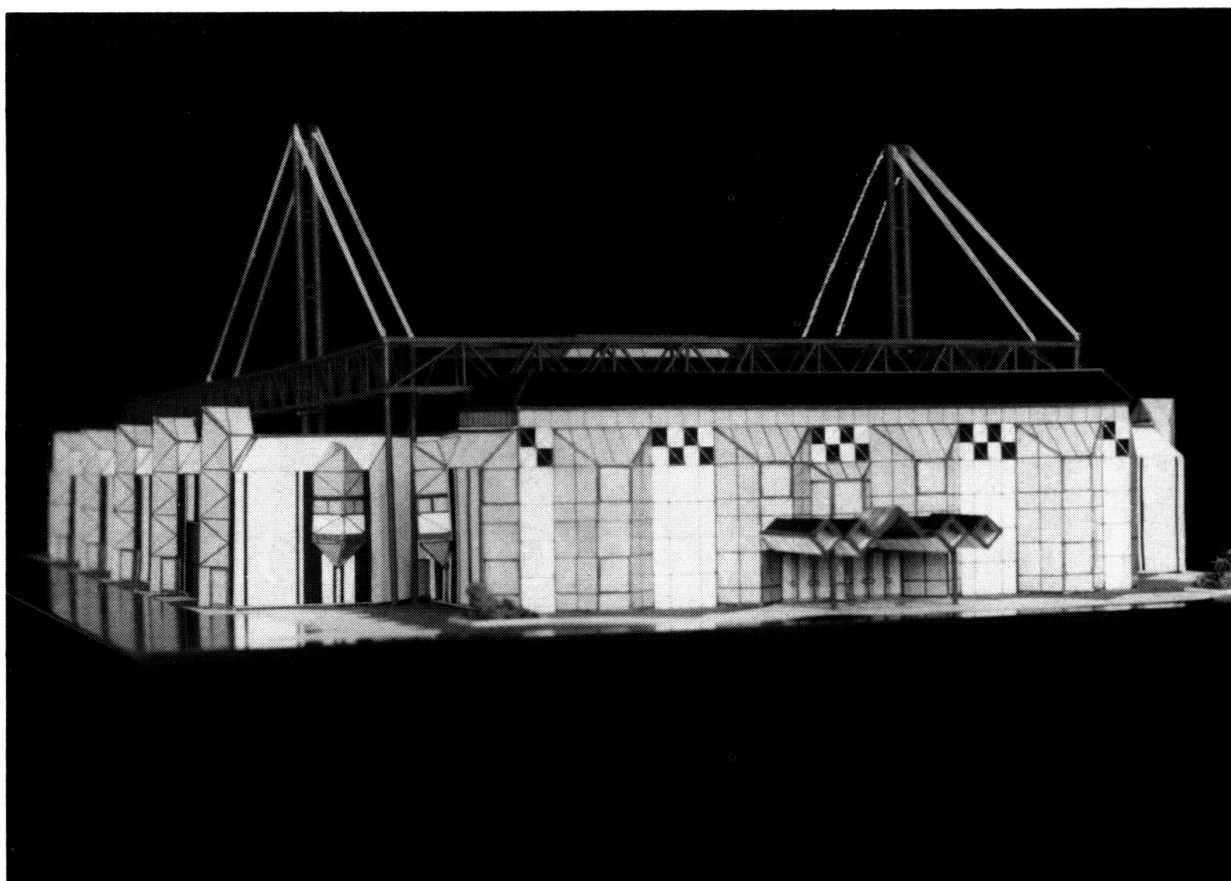


Fig. 3: Model of the building