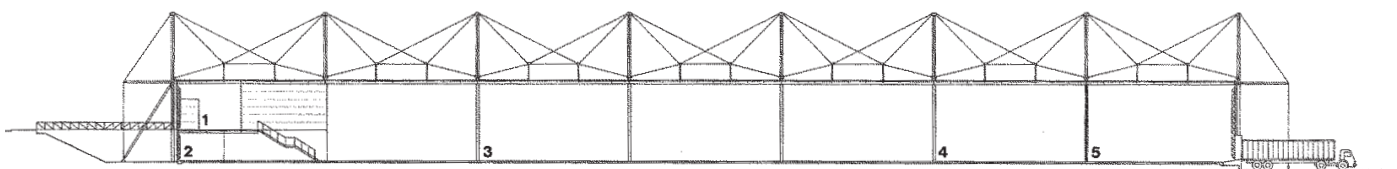




Fleetguard Factory

Brittany, France





Place
Brittany, France

Date
1979 - 1981

Client
Cummins Engine
Company/Ville de
Quimper

Area
8,750 m²

Structural Engineer
Ove Arup & Partners

Quantity Surveyor
Northcroft Neighbour and
Nicholson

Project Manager
Fleetguard International
Corporation

The tension structure, using 15 percent less steel than a conventional design, gives the building a legible, spare and dynamic expression which grows from the basic and key principle of least effort for maximum return

Awards

1986
Constructa Preis for 'overall excellence in the field of architecture'

1982
Concours de Plus Beaux Ouvrages de Construction Metallique

Located in a newly designated industrial zone within a few kilometres of the town of Quimper in Brittany and adjacent to a major road, the site provides magnificent views across country towards Quimper and the south Brittany coast.

Fleetguard specialises in manufacturing heavy duty engine filters and the new plant at Quimper was to include production lines for air, fuel and oil filters, storage facilities and administrative headquarters totalling 8,750 m² but with a future growth potential of up to 40,000 m² over 15 years. The highly adaptable building, capable of responding to changing needs and functions, has established the company in mainland Europe.

The design places great emphasis on minimising intrusion on the landscape. Surplus excavated soil has been used to create a carefully controlled landscaping scheme, relegating access roads to the perimeter of the site and segregating industrial from personnel traffic. A dynamic suspension structure reduces both roof span and structural depth,

diminishing the overall mass of the building. The external structure frees the interior roof zone for flexible services distribution, unhindered by the excessive structural depth of a conventional frame of similar span. The stairwell is enclosed in glass so that it becomes the focal point linking both physically and visually the production and administrative areas.

The main structure consists of elements which require very little fabrication and can be joined simply. Structural connections necessary for extending the building can be made without removing existing cladding, thereby avoiding disruption to the use of the building. Total steel weight is 47kg/m², about 17% less than conventional structures of comparable bay size. The cladding is clearly articulated from the structural frame to facilitate bay by bay expansion without disruption to Fleetguard's activities, and is separated from the roof zone by a continuous band of high-level glazing, bringing natural light into all parts of the building.