

IBM

1983 – 1986 Travelling exhibition

In 1983, IBM (International Business Machines Corporation), a leading company in the computer industry, decided to promote the knowledge of technology, especially among young people, by creating a travelling exhibit that would be set up, for one month at a time, in the parks of twenty different European cities.

The architectural structure used for this exhibit had to ensure precise microclimate control for the interior space in which the sophisticated electronic equipment would be exhibited to the public, and had to be able to be set up in various different settings.

The building, 48 metres long, 12 metres wide and 7 metres high, was comprised of an entirely disassemblable transparent tunnel, equipped with the various support systems for the computerized instrumentation that would be put on display.

Each time the exhibition was moved, a specific project had to be developed in order to allow it to be inserted within the new context, while the functionality of the building itself only required a connection to a main electrical power source.

The arch elements, being the modular structure of the building itself, were assembled upon an appropriately-outfitted and raised platform that housed all of the necessary systems.

The 34 arches, each with three hinges, were comprised of 68 semi-arches. These semi-arches were made up of three-dimensional beams in which a polycarbonate material served as both an external covering as well as the lattice structure between the inner and outer arches. Each individual arch was made up of 12 polycarbonate pyramids.

The internal structure was mainly made out of three primary materials: wood, which was employed in the laminated beechwood uprights, cast aluminium, which was used for the joints, and transparent polycarbonate, which was used to construct the thermoformed pyramids that served as the structural and roof cladding elements.

Wood was also used for the flooring and the walls, and as a base for the objects that were put on display.

The pavilion has not been reassembled since it was permanently dismantled following the completion of the exhibition in 1986.