



Building a New Library: Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

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Building a New Library:

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

- University of Cyprus Library: a case study
 - Figures, dates and pictures for the new building of the UCY Library
- Some dilemmas in the form of questions
- **Mission:** the university or the surrounding context?
- **The principles to be fulfilled:** how it appears impossible to defend them
- **Volume and size:** needs of the present or approaches for the future? Which future?
- **Size and time:** never in time, too early vs. too late,
- **Users (librarians) participation:**
 - how many? and when?
 - How? organisation structures or team works, or both?
- **User centricity:** a question of building / services / people or all?

A map of Europe with various countries and cities labeled. A red circle highlights the country of Belgium. The text "Brussels: the centre of Europe" is overlaid in red. Other countries shown include the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, and Turkey. Major cities like London, Paris, Munich, Rome, and Athens are also marked.

Brussels: the centre of Europe

Cyprus: the centre of the world

Cyprus



Cyprus

Nicosia

Makedonitsa

Ammochostos

Paralimni

Larnaca

Troodos

Paphos Forest

Paphos

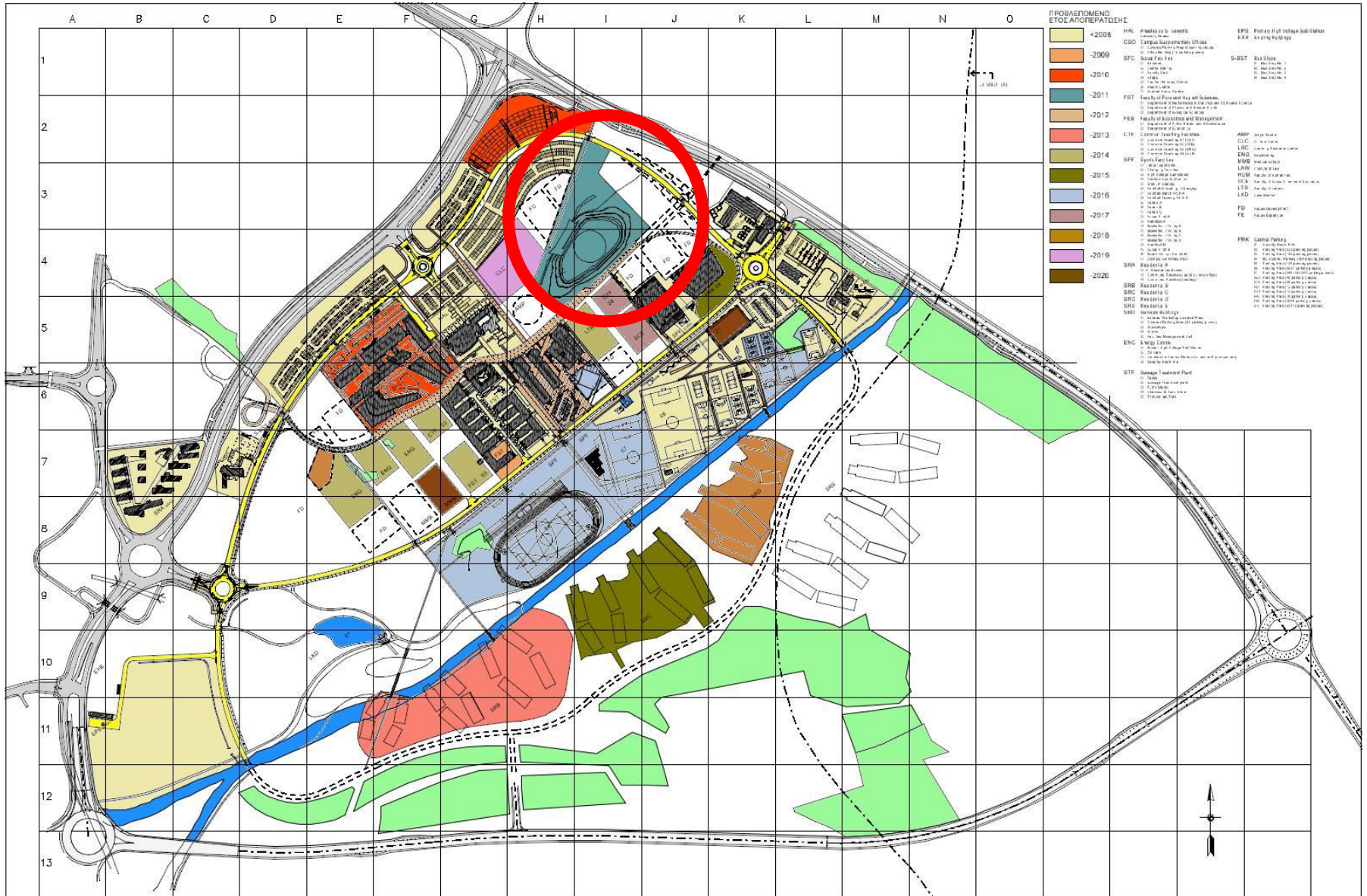
Limassol

Germasogeia

A6

A1

The Library within the UCY campus

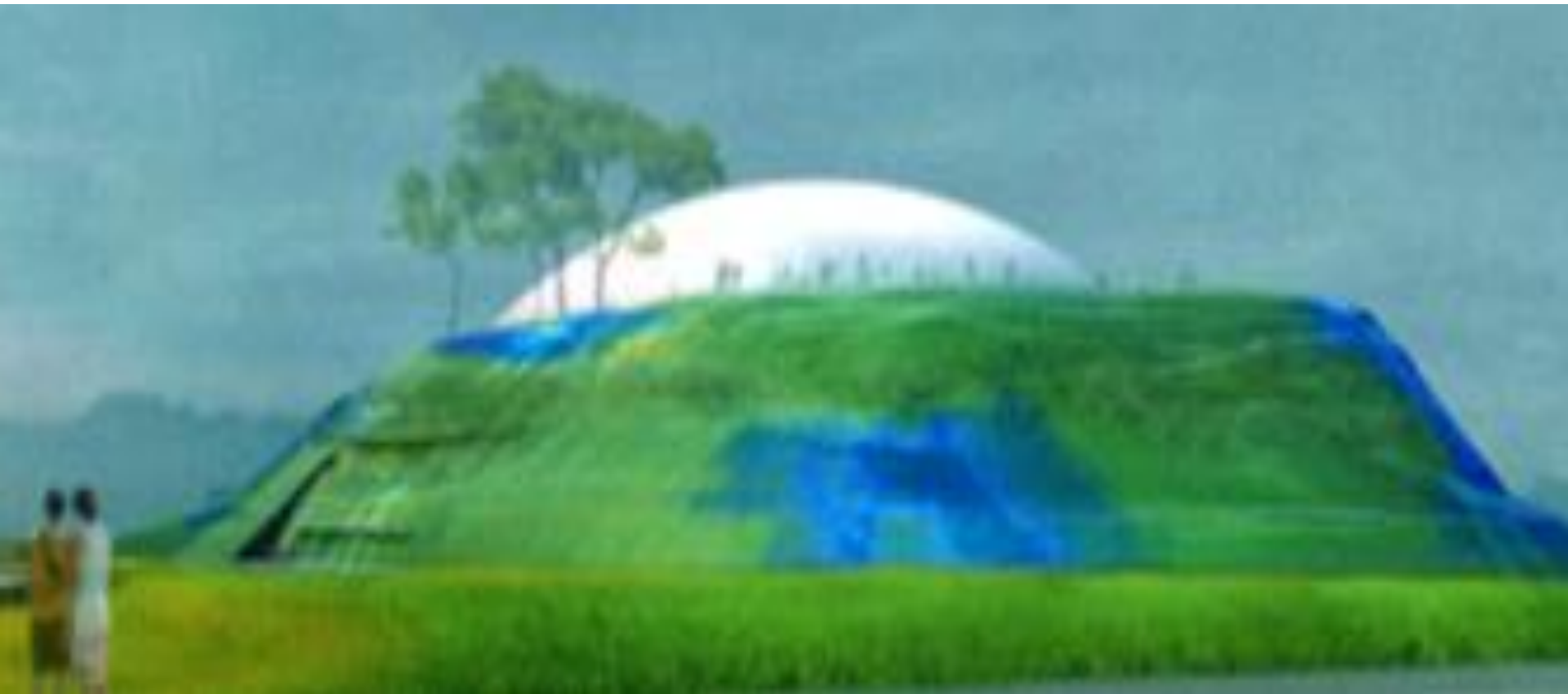


ΠΡΟΒΛΕΠΟΜΕΝΟ ΕΤΟΣ ΑΠΟΠΕΡΑΤΟΧΗΣ

2008	HAL	Ηρώδης Δελφίνης	EPS	Πρώην High Voltage Sub-Station
2009	CSO	Campus Support Offices	ESK	Αρχειοθήκη
2010	SFC	South Field Pav.	S-BST	Bus Stops
2011	FST	Faculty of Fine and Applied Sciences		
2012	FEB	Faculty of Economics and Management		
2013	CFB	Central Faculty Building	AMP	Amphitheatre
2014	SIF	Sports Field Pav.	CLC	CLC
2015			LSC	Library of Natural Science
2016			ENG	Engineering
2017			BMM	Business School
2018			HUM	Faculty of Human Sciences
2019			SCS	Faculty of Science
2020			LTS	Library of Law
			LSD	Library of Design
			FD	Faculty of Design
			FE	Faculty of Education
			PKK	Central Parking

The Library of the University of Cyprus “Stelios Ioannou”

concept and plans by Jean Nouvel



The Library of the University of Cyprus “Stelios Ioannou”



- Total cost of construction: 29 m€
- Donation: 9 m€
- Architect: Jean Nouvel (AJN, FR), hired and funded by the donor
- The concept of the Architect: the nearby Aronas hill, monumental
- The concept of the librarian: a “hybrid” building for a “hybrid” library
- Concept accepted by UCY: March 2003
- Complete draft plans: January 2004
- Final plans: 2005 (approved by international committee)
- International bid for the construction: completed May 2011
- Construction started: May 2012
- Expected/planned completion: December 2014

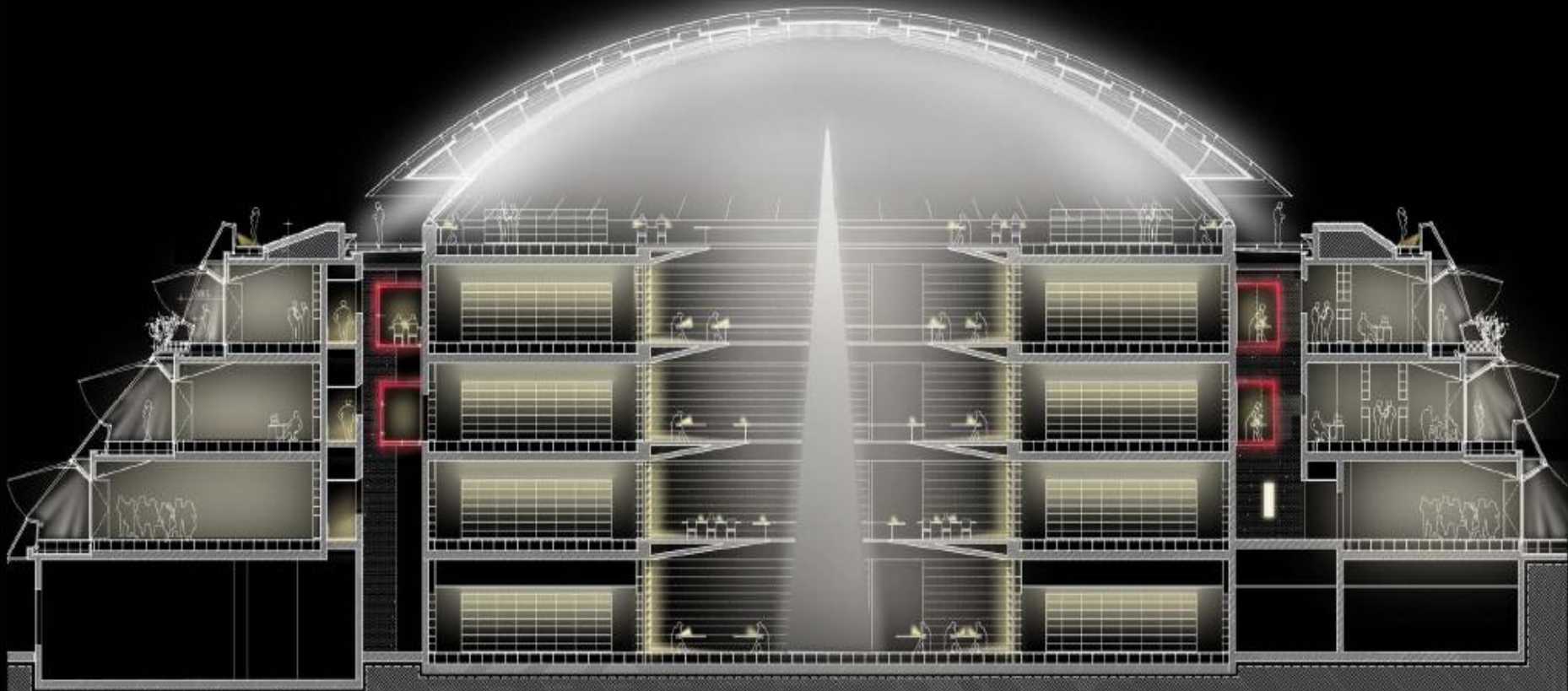
The Library of the University of Cyprus “Stelios Ioannou”



- Total surface: 15.700 s.q.
- Students population: 10.000 (plans for 2020)
- One roof for 4 services:
 - the Library ,
 - Information Systems Service,
 - Educational Technology Centre,
 - Languages Centre
- Library: distinct separate areas
- Sharing spaces for common use: training rooms, laboratories, controlled entrance, data centre

The Library of the University of Cyprus “Stelios Ioannou”

- Five levels, “one stop studying”







Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

Mission

- Is it really a University Library, (departmental, faculty)? Or something more? Define it.
- Will it serve only the students, the professors, the researchers of the university or the whole scientific community of the surrounding environment, that lacks of a similar library
- What are the data proving?
 - In the country # libraries, volumes books, journals, databases librarians per habitant, user, students
- Is it really a university library (departmental, faculty)?

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

Mission

- The first library with currently more than 300k books perspectives for 600k in 20 (?) years
- 30.000 e- journals
- 50.000 e-books
- No real national library collection and operation (1,6 books per 10 habitants) other countries 16-36 per 10 inhabitants)

Mission

- National research library open to the scientific community

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

The principles:

- Believing that the UCY had to gain from the imagination, creativity and experience of the architects, the library tried not to restrict them but to concentrate only to **basic principles**, concerning rather **the approaches and philosophy** of practical issues that were implied ...

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

The principles: communication with the architects

- Identification of the relative standards to defend the principles
- List all the routine tasks, all the every day operations, all the repeated functions
- Walk on the library plans as a particular user
- Then as another particular users,
- be your users
- Convince the architect for the needs

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

The principles: communication with the architects

- The users (librarians)
- The architects
- and the “god” The Architect
- Usually the a “god” is more listening (prays, claims, requests, user needs) than speaking about them
- Achieve common sense, language, keywords, not just terms
- Refer to the standards (e.g. #seats,)

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

The principles:

The following basic principles had to be commonly understood, agreed and finalised

1. zones of use: **clarity** and **orientation**

- Minimise the questions **where** is, how can I **go** to

2. space expandability, space use **flexibility** and **modifiability**

- Restrictions of the shape, expansion is not the applicable

3. locations **uniformity** and **familiarity**

4. services **synergy** and **integration**

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

Sizes and volume:

- **Current needs vs. visions** of library development
 - Covering the pressing present or approaching the future user needs
 - How to foresee the future user needs????
- Forecast for linear or exponential increase of the material
 - Projection of the past or discontinuation of the future
 - known needs of old departments vs. unknown needs of future departments and courses
- P-books of e-books for how many years
- Books or journals (replied)

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

Time

- Which is the **life cycle** of the new library building
 - 15, 25, 30-50, 50-100 years?
- The decided size never in time, either too early vs. too late,
- Expandability vs. flexibility of space use
- Team work vs. single study spaces or modifiable
- Spaces for open stacks or study areas

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

Users (librarians) participation:

- Participation vs. (wo)man-hours saving, how many, all or some
- organization structures or team works, or both?
- When users (librarians) participation adds value
- What if the first plans are to change 80%
- Before the final drafts

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

User centricity: a question of

- Building
- Services / tools
- people
- or all plus philosophy
- There are no general or average “users”
- How to cover the dynamic individual needs of each user personally
- How to exploit the natural characteristics of the information
- One stop studying approach for the building, the services / tools, the people

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

Some dilemmas in the form of questions

User centricity: some examples

- Journals has to be in different places from books. Why
 - There are sciences where books are uses more heavily than because
 - one stop studying principle: A undergraduate student of the social science needs a dictionary and a journal and a database and a book and they have to be in a ... walking distance.

Forget the answers, Remember the Questions

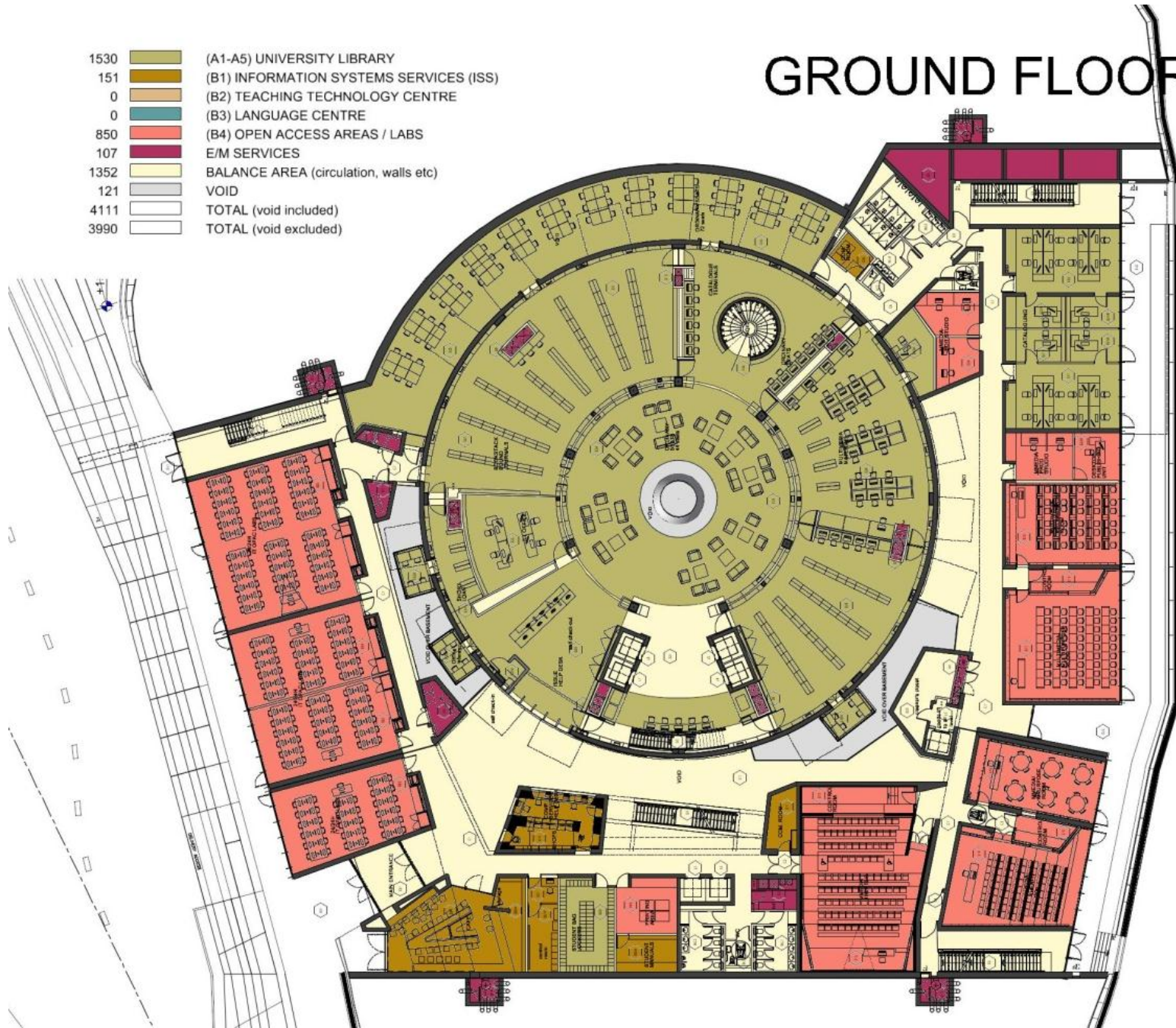
Some dilemmas in the form of questions

User centricity: some examples

- Why rooms for team work cannot be transformed into rooms for personal study or vice versa if necessary
- Relocation of the uses
- **Flexibility principle:**
- It is not guaranteed that in 10-25 ... years the needs will be the same as when the questionnaires were filled in by the today (already yesterday) students.

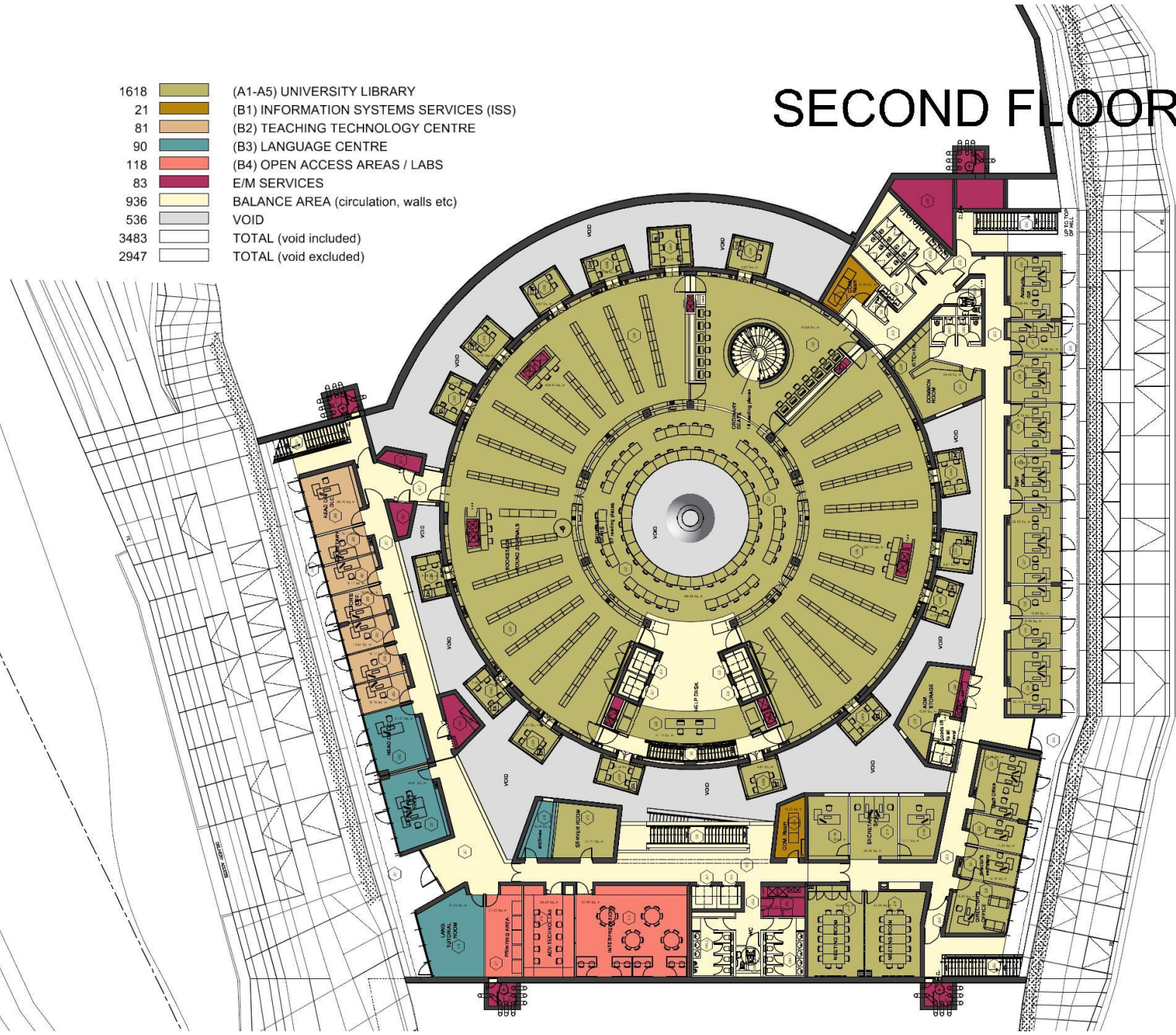
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

- 1530 (A1-A5) UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
- 151 (B1) INFORMATION SYSTEMS SERVICES (ISS)
- 0 (B2) TEACHING TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
- 0 (B3) LANGUAGE CENTRE
- 850 (B4) OPEN ACCESS AREAS / LABS
- 107 E/M SERVICES
- 1352 BALANCE AREA (circulation, walls etc)
- 121 VOID
- 4111 TOTAL (void included)
- 3990 TOTAL (void excluded)













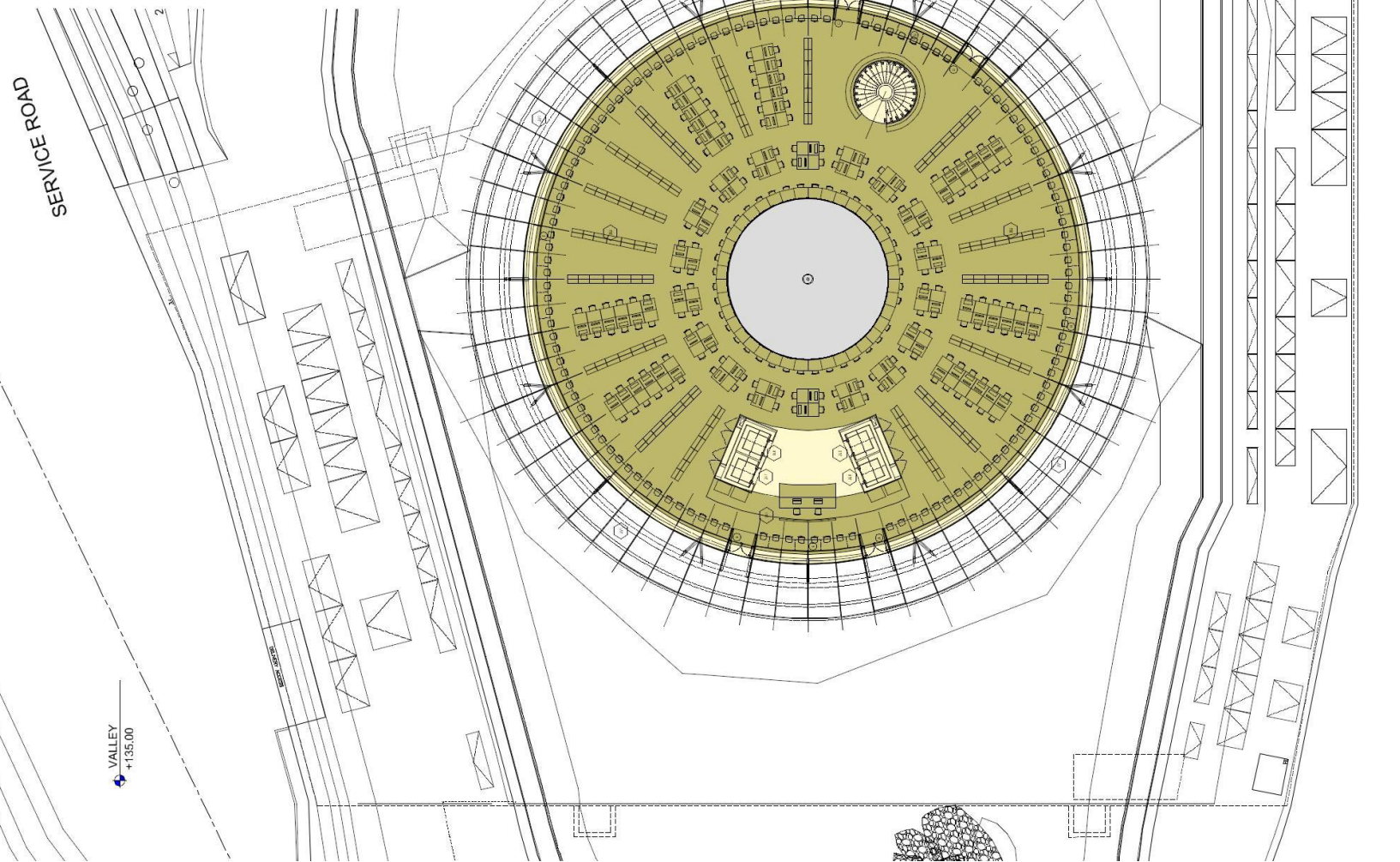
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

- 1618 (A1-A5) UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
- 21 (B1) INFORMATION SYSTEMS SERVICES (ISS)
- 81 (B2) TEACHING TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
- 90 (B3) LANGUAGE CENTRE
- 118 (B4) OPEN ACCESS AREAS / LABS
- 83 E/M SERVICES
- 936 BALANCE AREA (circulation, walls etc)
- 536 VOID
- 3483 TOTAL (void included)
- 2947 TOTAL (void excluded)



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

1056		(A1-A5) UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
0		(B1) INFORMATION SYSTEMS SERVICES (ISS)
0		(B2) TEACHING TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
0		(B3) LANGUAGE CENTRE
0		(B4) OPEN ACCESS AREAS / LABS
0		E/M SERVICES
165		BALANCE AREA (circulation, walls etc)
106		VOID
1327		TOTAL (void included)
1221		TOTAL (void excluded)





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Thank you !

