

GTB_Lab. 22/01 2022

I have written down my short introduction to limit my speaking time. There is so much to report about this project that it would take me a long time to get you completely informed.

Today it is more or less the first activity of the GTB-lab after the completion of the first phase.

Congratulations are in order on this day. I mention the provincial government of Limburg, IBA, the Ministry of the Interior, Parkstad Limburg and the municipality of Heerlen. And many more.

But I must immediately add somebody else: Elma Durmisivic. We wouldn't be here today without her boundless energy and perseverance. Thanks very much Elma.

The changes in social thinking have made it necessary to discuss these changes, especially in construction processes. I need not mention the most important changes: Climate adaptation, the energy transition and the circularity which is at stake here. The GTB-Lab is a laboratory for the latter. Thinking about these subjects concerns the entire building process.

The way in which this institute was established is special. There has been positive cooperation with many parties to realize this. The substantive value of this laboratory is of great significance for the further development of the construction process. Results of the research of the new laboratory are not only important on local and regional level, but also national and international.

Some time ago I wrote a letter to the famous French architect-engineer Jean Prouvé. Circularity was very important in his projects in the 20th century. Prouvé you will say, he is no longer with us. He did indeed die in 1984, two years after he had won the Erasmus Prize for his complete oeuvre. His way of thinking and working was based on an integrated approach of all parties involved in the construction business. From the client to the management during

the lifetime of the buildings. With this method you can use the expertise of all parties to achieve the best results. Sequence processes are replaced by integral processes. What we want for circularity is to become far more important in these processes. Although the cultural and social aspects of the built environment remain important, the technical and process aspects are equally important. This has already become clear during the realization of the first phase of the GTB Lab.

It has already become clear that the region is showing an interest in this development. National and international interest will soon arise.

Jean Prouvé did not write me back. This was expected. But I know his answer. He would fully support this initiative and once again underline the integrated approach. If his famous circular façade panels and construction units (they are very rare) are on the market after 75 years, the price you will pay is sky-high. Let us hope that it will be the same with the GTB-Lab components in the future. I wish all of you an interesting day on this 3rd International Revisable Circular Building Symposium.

Thank you for your attention.