

Chapelle des Brigittines

... The project consists in 12 concrete boxes in wooden casings, imitating columns like trunks supporting imagination.

The vertical axis directs the gaze like the tree, the column, the obelisk or the tower, symbolising the central axis of the Earth. These elements invite us to adapt, deeply rooted in the earth while touching the sky with our outstretched arms. They symbolise the 12 Apostles, the 12 months of the year, in a temporal then spatial rhythm, underlining the North-South axis of the church and the departure, the act of going somewhere.

These twelve columns create a nave, as they correspond to the pilasters on the chapel walls. On the floor they form five squares directly inspired by the central model which gives rhythm to the flagstones. A metallic structure emerges from each box, reinforcing the idea of incompleteness, becoming and being in a state of project. At the back of the nave at the end of the path, a giant square protractor marks the entrance to the choir. On its main surface, the base line or 'line of faith', corresponds at each end with the 0 and 180° markers of the 'limb(o)', marking the protractor's outer border. The word also defines a place in which the souls of the good await the coming of the Saviour, according to the ancient Law. In the imagination the diagonal lines uniting all the progressive markers at the center-point may recall, as in religious imagery, the rays of the sun at dawn. At the entrance to the choir, we can thus see the 'crowning' of an interior journey, the fact of going somewhere.

The pavement of the choir is like a radiant projection.

Right at the back of the building, a vertical leveling staff is installed, a surveyor's tool, a master-builder's measure. It is divided into 12 equal sections which allow for anything, like the builder's rope with its 12 knots, traced from the right angle to the edge of the circle. The measuring scale is also a product of our imagination, like Jacob's ladder

Pierre Courtois 1993.