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IPERTEC : Hypertext Information System for Dry-assembled Building Elements

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Introduction

The experience presented concerns the study of advanced information tools for design disciplines teaching. The objectives pursued are: on one hand self-teaching according to methods that go beyond traditional technical manuals and specialized texts and that give a systemic view of the strict connections between technological culture and design poetics; on the other hand assistance during design exercises as far as references assumption and deep analysis of technical and architectural topics are concerned. The result of the research is the information system *Ipertec*, a hypertext handbook with didactic purposes allowing students to approach executive techniques of dry assembly. The research has been carried out by an interdisciplinary research group composed of Andrea Campioli, Maria Savegnago, Cinzia Talamo, Giorgio Vignati and coordinated by Guido Nardi and Claudio Molinari.

Description of the System

The system *Ipertec*, developed in *Windows*, is a relational data-base (*DBIII*) that can be inquired by a hypertext interface (*Toolbook*). The documentation has been organised in categories of informations regarding architects, buildings, components, materials. The knowledge is built around files containing alphanumerical information (biographies, bibliographies, descriptions, standards) and graphic information (photos, general and detailed drawings). Files are connected through a hypertext interface that enables to pass through information networks by taking the traditional knowledge paths followed during the design activity. These correlations are pursued through *codes*, related to every file, that become *keys* allowing the connection of the different archives.

Conclusions

The most remarkable feature of *Ipertec* is the horizontality of the interconnection of information and the extreme freedom of the combinatorial game with the knowledge one is acquiring; the cognitive maps which can be configured by the user, not being predetermined by a previous path, vary with the type of approach chosen: from the needs of further investigation which may arise in the course of enquiry to the different objectives (design, didactics, consultation). The system provides the user with two types of services: on one hand, self-teaching by methods which, surpassing the traditional reference to technical manuals and publications in the sector, give an ordered view of the tight connections between technological culture and poetic design.

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