



OBU: ORIGINAL BIPOLAR UNITS

BONA-LEMERCIER





Paris-based architects Bona-Lemercier developed the Original Bipolar Units, or OBU, as a multifunctional solution for CNEAI, the national centre for contemporary graphic arts. OBUs form part of an intelligent intervention within a heritage building, and are used as archive storage, exhibition displays, shop equipment, office furniture and video-viewing platforms. Each unit is made up of two steel sheets, bent at 90° and slotted into each other to form a box. Conceived both as modular storage units and building blocks, they are held together by magnetic rubber bands, allowing for complex cantilevered shapes. Easy to build and disassemble, OBUs can repurpose a space in a minimum amount of time.

