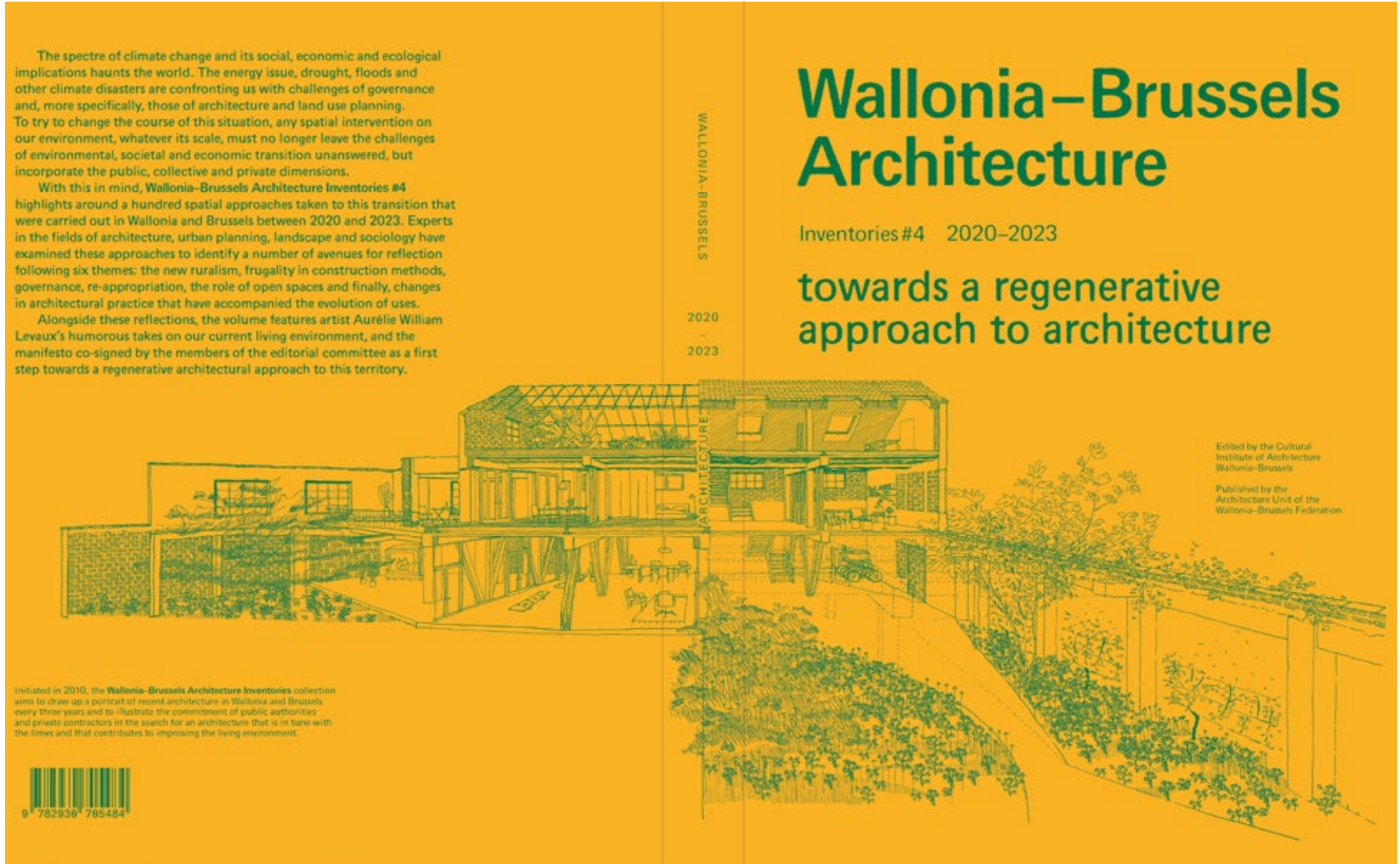


Press release

***Wallonia –Brussels Architecture
Inventories #4 2020–2023
Towards a regenerative approach to architecture***

Wallonia –Brussels Architecture Inventories #4 2020–2023. Towards a regenerative approach to architecture is committed. Committed to the valorization of spatial approaches, that are, both projects and actions, capable of activating the necessary spatial, environmental and social transition. Manifesto, thematic texts, embroidered libels, presentation of spatial approaches interact in the elegance of the layout of the work realized by Orfée Grandhomme and Ismaël Bennani. Several voices are thus transmitted by a diversity of media to convey the plurality of spatial practices that are engaged, between 2020 and 2023, in the holistic transformation of our built and unbuilt environment in Wallonia, Brussels and for some, internationally.



The selection

In February 2022, the Cultural Institute of Architecture Wallonia-Brussels (ICA), the Unit of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and Architectures Wallonia-Bruxelles (WBA) jointly launched the call for participation for the Inventories #4 2020-2023. This first collaboration will be perpetuated as the ICA is now in charge of piloting the *Architectures Wallonie-Bruxelles Inventaires # Inventories* collection.

Two questions were posed: How does your spatial practice provide a relevant response to current societal and environmental issues? How can we ensure a caring environment in today's society, which is characterised by risk and restriction?

Two questions that immediately signal the commitment of this Inventories. Certainly because the societal and environmental events (Covid-19 pandemic, energy crisis, floods, drought, etc.) of the last three years have urged us to take a stand.

No longer can any spatial intervention on our environment – built and non-built, whatever the scale – be allowed to fail to respond jointly and holistically to the challenges of environmental, societal and economic transition.

251 proposals were collected, including built projects, competitions, research, events and activities taking place in urban or rural areas, from citizens, architects, landscapers, artists, urban planners, sociologists and activists from across the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

124 answers to six issues

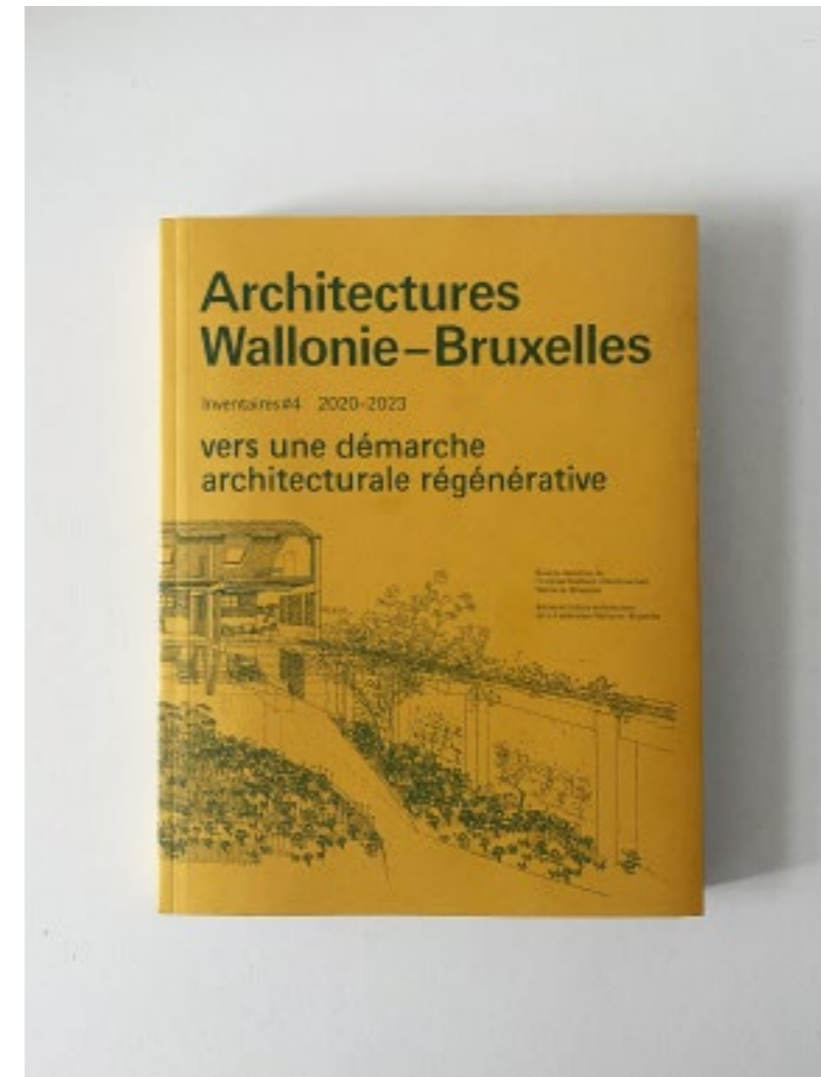
An editorial committee was set up to explore the topic, bringing together expertise from the architectural and publishing professions, based in Belgium and internationally. **Martina Barcelloni Corte, Oana Bogdan, Christophe Catsaros, Norbert Nelles, Anne Norman and Bernard Wittevrongel** started exploring this material individually, and then had the opportunity to exchange views during various meetings and project visits.

Six recurring themes emerged from their exploration and discussion, symptomatic of this 2020-2023 production: themes that also echo the challenges currently facing architecture beyond the borders of Belgium: the new ruralism, frugality in construction methods, governance, re-appropriation, the role of open spaces and finally, changes in architectural practice in connection with the evolution of uses.

124 answers relevant to one or more of these themes were selected. This selection was then put in the hands of subject specialists for them to analyse and put their views on paper.

Texts by **Mathieu Berger and Nicolas Hemeleers, Pierre Chabard, Carla Frick-Cloupet, Pauline Lefebvre, Daniela Perrotti and Yasmina Choueiri, and Ward Verbakel** contextualise these responses and set out their limits as well as their potential.

Of these 124 responses, 33 have been highlighted in the book, each having the capacity to inspire. The notes on each were written by the members of the editorial committee to show the reasoning behind their selection.



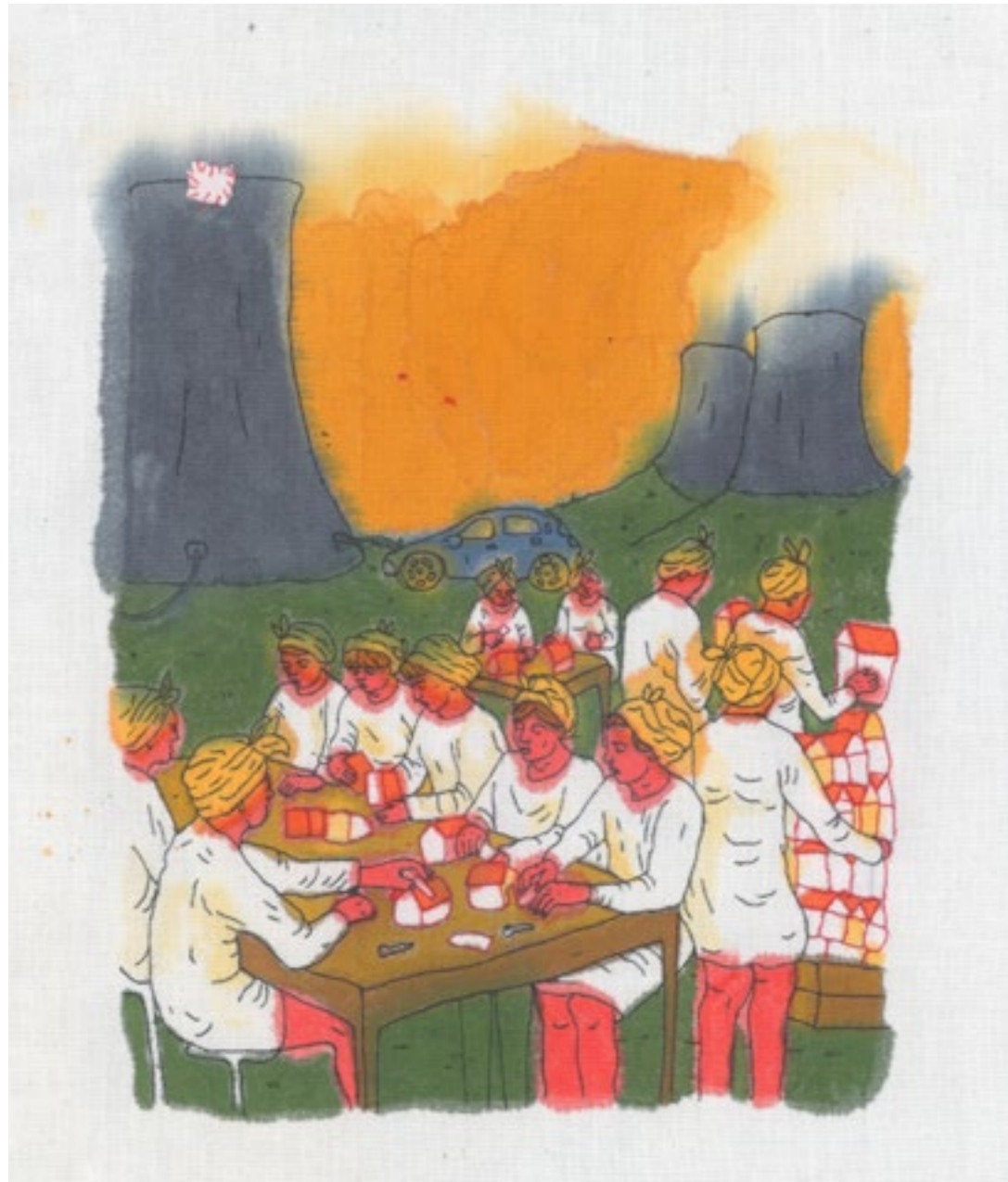
An incisive look at our living environment

The six themes and 124 responses were also handed over to the author and artist Aurélie William-Levaux to let her take her own incisive look at our current living environment.

Her witty takes come in the form of eight drawings on fabric, combining ink and embroidery. They caricature our lifestyles and mock the outdated spatial practices that the chosen responses seek to overcome.

Aurélie William Levaux is a Belgian author and visual artist who trained as an illustrator.

Her work, characterised by a certain pugnacity, questions the fact of existence itself, as much as it underlines the aberrations of our time with a singular humour. Compulsively speaking truth to power in search of justice, willingly hanging on to a certain clumsiness and a "peasant spirit" while borrowing from contemporary violence, she comes down hard on passive celebration and sets herself up as the advocate of the poorest, the weak, and of women in any context.



© Aurélie William Levaux



© Aurélie William Levaux



Following their exploratory work, discussions and selections, the editorial committee felt they needed to take a stronger stand.

Irritated by the contrast between the ingenuity and commitment shown by some of the project leaders and authors, and the stubborn lack of interest shown by politicians – particularly in Wallonia – in architecture and land-use planning, the committee decided to write a joint manifesto.

In 29 points, Towards a regenerative approach to architecture is intended to contribute to a new narrative of regeneration in our territory and, indeed, on our planet.

To that end, it proposes trajectories for projects as well as setting demands that should lead to a perception of a new way of living and transforming our living environment.

Last but not least, it seeks to encourage a wider mobilization for the years to come:

“What if Wallonia showed some ambition for its territory? Why should the regeneration of its territory not become an example on a European scale that can be spread beyond its borders? The momentum seems to be building, and the questions are being asked. Why not embark together and in concert on this great enterprise?”

Towards a Regenerative Approach to Architecture

To build is to collaborate with the earth: it is to put a human mark on a landscape that will be altered forever; it is also to contribute to the slow change that is the life of cities...

I have rebuilt a lot: it is to collaborate with the past, to seize or modify its spirit, to serve as a bridge to a more long-term future; it is to find the secret of the springs beneath the stones.

Marguerite Yourcenar, *Memoirs of Hadrian*

A spectre haunts the planet: that of climate change with all its social, economic and environmental implications. The energy issue, droughts, floods and other climate disasters are bringing us face to face with the consequences of the policies pursued in recent decades. The lack of political attention to architecture and spatial planning, along with the fragmentation of authority, has led to situations that seem hard to reverse. The responsibility of each and every one of us – politicians, public authorities, entrepreneurs, planners, landscape architects, engineers, architects and the public – is to act collaboratively more than ever before.

However, environmental constraints can also be seen as opportunities to enhance the quality of life and space in the towns and villages of Belgium. Any architectural intervention, whatever its scale, must therefore respond to the challenges of spatial, environmental and societal transition by integrating public, collective and private dimensions to achieve a positive transformation of our living environment. In view of the limited resources available, there is a need for pooling and sharing. It is our collective task to shape the quality of tomorrow’s architectural culture through inclusive dialogue and professional debate and by sharing responsibility, in order to rethink our social order, our forms of political governance and our ecological stewardship. Ultimately, responsible and mindful land use, the intelligent use of inhabited areas, sustainable and healthy mobility, energy efficiency, and the use of sustainable building methods and materials will develop a regenerative environment and diverse landscapes. These are the ideas that our manifesto will address and explore.

Governance and Territory

Organising the territory within a comprehensive and long-term vision is the main challenge for governance over the decades to come. It is inextricably linked to architecture, urban planning, engineering and landscape design, disciplines that cannot be separated and that will increasingly have to interact with others such as ecology, hydrology, philosophy, or anthropology, but also with the multiplicity of actors involved. Territorial organisation involves a paradox: the coexistence of general measures that apply to the whole territory and a fine-tuned approach that is attentive to local particularities.

In the case of the territory of Wallonia, we have in mind the establishment of an independent structure capable of stimulating the spatial quality of architectural, urban and public landscape projects, along the same lines as the *Bouwmeester/Maitre architecte* in Brussels, together with the empowerment of the Brussels and Walloon Administrations to enable dialogue on the basis of ambitious long-term objectives, capable of conceptualising the territory as a whole.

1. **Only a holistic, long-term approach will ensure a quality environment for future generations.**
2. **Set up the governance structures needed to avoid dispersed and fragmented actions.**
3. **Engage all the stakeholders at their different levels: citizens' groups, universities, cultural operators, professional organisations and administrations linked to the organisation of the territory and architecture.**
4. **The territory is challenged by environmental, economic, social and now geopolitical concerns. Given the diversity of interests, this territory will be the subject of negotiations. The challenge is to transform these apparently contradictory concerns into shared interests. At-risk territories (for example from pollution or flooding) can become 'laboratories' for a European approach to transition.**
5. **The priority for architecture and urban and territorial development must be to work towards the regeneration of what already exists.**

Soil

The contemporary city, a 'city-territory', is largely made up of soil. An interconnected system of permeable surfaces, with multiple shapes and sizes, that could be harnessed to enhance the quality of the lived space as a whole. To recognise today that the city is 'made of land' would mean redefining the urban project of tomorrow in its entirety. A project that should be capable of preserving, increasing and enhancing the amount of open and/or arable space and of planning them together. Landscaping, lawns, embankments, drains, paths or trails, could be designed to work together in a systemic way.

The territory of Wallonia is heavily affected by soil pollution, mainly along the industrial belt. These territories in transition represent an extraordinary territorial challenge as well as outstanding spatial potential.

The Walloon landscape is also made up of interwoven valleys of varying sizes, extensive forests and wooded plateaus. This high landscape quality requires us to (re) evaluate the role and importance of functional and fertile soils, but also the capacity of a certain type of agriculture and urban character to be maintained.

'Good Soil' is the ambitious strategy of Bruxelles Environnement to protect and improve all soils in the Brussels-Capital Region in order to enhance the living conditions of Brussels residents while preserving the fragile substrate on which they live.

6. **Recognise that, in contemporary forms of urbanisation, the soil and the city are two realities that intertwine for 'an imaginary and symbolic refashioning of urban places in symbiosis with the living world'¹.**
7. **Expand and regenerate permeable and open land (public and private) in urban areas as a matter of priority for heritage (spatial quality), climate and environmental reasons.**
8. **View the environment and urbanisation as inextricably linked in the spheres of public policy and scientific research.**
9. **Consider public space as a necessary element for the re-balancing of all the aspects of the ecosystem, ensuring co-existence and promoting synergies between the various aspects (environments and organisms) that make it up: nature, culture, fauna, flora and human lifestyles (towards a 'public space for all').**
10. **The importance of preserving or recreating authentic natural areas, as sanctuaries with very little human influence or intervention.**

¹ Frédéric Bonnet, Stéphanie Bonzani and Chris Younès, 'Ville-nature et architectures des milieux', *Cahiers de la recherche architecturale et urbaine*, no. 26/27, 2012.

Situation and Site

Architecture is always situational. It is bound up with the site, its geography, the culture of the place, as well as with social and economic situations. It takes account of the condition of people and places, their needs and expectations.

Today, siting an architectural structure or a fragment of a city also means making it sensitive and responsive to particular ecological and climate dynamics, resilient to sudden and unexpected environmental changes, materially and functionally capable of cyclical regeneration so that it becomes a resource in itself (the city becomes a 'mine'), thanks to the potential offered by the host site.

The topographical and scenic diversity of Wallonia can be explained by its very varied subsoil and the complexity of its political and cultural history. It is a landscape with an abundance of high quality open spaces: half of the territory is currently occupied by crops and pasture and almost a third by forests. It offers exceptional potential for exploitation, enabling the city to adapt to the challenges that lie ahead.

The urban territory of Brussels, nestled in the valley of the Senne and its tributaries, is marked by an ecological network of parks, gardens and forests to the east. In the outer ring, the urban fabric also bears witness to the industrial past in the centre and at the bottom of the valley, with a concentration of urban challenges, socio-economic contrasts and ethnic hyper-diversity.

11. **Start the project with meticulous, precise and sympathetic observations of the existing situation, free of any preconceived ideas; cross-disciplinary and at multiple levels.**
12. **Address identified gaps and mobilise potential. Architecture draws its power and meaning from the site and its qualities, from the practices in place.**
13. **Architecture must always involve a reflection on the site.**
14. **Make architecture a potential vehicle for exchange and encounter. It is responsible for ties between individuals and social groups, between human and non-human environments.**
15. **Architecture is attentive to the long-term use of resources.**

Major Cities and Villages

Our territory is made up of cities, towns, villages, small settlements and isolated houses, interconnected in different ways and at different scales: capital to be developed. These entities, organised in 'constellations' of various shapes and sizes, maintain close links with their territory or region, which is defined, inter alia, by a catchment area, by a distinctive potential, and by the availability of resources and services.

The long history of settled rural areas, their infrastructure and networks have structured the environment. Against this background, the intermediate scale of the village plays a key role. To do so, it must have facilities and services at its own scale so as to play an active part in the local economy, complementing the other villages and towns. If the village represents a local structure, towns and cities are places of diversity where different communities live together. Complex places, potentially rich in exchanges and sharing. Densely populated places where open space becomes essential to absorb that density.

We are shifting from an opposition between town and country to a collaborative mode between different scales and territorial conditions.

The population is rather unevenly distributed over the territory of Wallonia. Human settlement developed mainly along the industrial corridor formed by the Sambre and Meuse valleys (coalfields) and to the north (the Brussels-Mons-Namur triangle). This imbalance can be seen as a strength in terms of a territory that can make the most of the diversity of its components and make them work together. The agricultural and mining past of these landscapes, their spaces and infrastructures and their physical and social networks, uniting and densely irrigating the territory in 'constellations' can be re-imagined and upgraded in the light of a new (expanded and high-quality) liveability. For its part, Brussels has one of the most diverse population in Europe. Its 19 municipalities, each with its own identity, boost this diversity which should be further embodied in a new Brussels urban culture that reflects and promotes an inclusive society as a source of social and spatial cohesion.

16. **Guarantee the sustainability of village structures and strengthen their complementarities and networks by providing them with the necessary educational, social, economic, productive and cultural facilities.**
17. **Carry out in-depth regeneration, with the selective densification of housing estates and city blocks. This involves clearing the blocks, redesigning them as gardens and sharing the reclaimed space.**
18. **Share facilities at different scales by multiplying uses and/or usage over time and making them more accessible.**
19. **Repair towns and villages through careful interventions that take account of the scale and distinctive characteristics of the plot.**
20. **Take on 'the palimpsest city'.**
21. **Develop a network for soft transport and public transport in order to achieve an interconnected territory at multiple scales and speeds.**

Heritage

Heritage represents the whole of our territory, our landscapes, our villages and towns, and the built and natural elements that make them up. In this respect the territory as a whole can be understood as a great work of architecture² which changes over time and must be cared for. Its regeneration also means being attentive to what has shaped it, its underlying rationales, its culture in the broadest sense of the term. The dynamics that have shaped the city and the territory over their long history are often dictated by features such as topography, geology or geography, the proximity of waterways or infrastructure and planning, some dating back several millennia. To inscribe our activities in this history is to give, or restore, meaning to it.

Furthermore, the treatment of heritage is not just a matter of maintaining it in good condition, of turning it into a museum. On the contrary, it is a question of anticipating what it may become. When we intervene in our heritage, we do not only safeguard our cultural legacy, but also inscribe it, through a process of co-evolution that extends to the environment, in the culture of the future. The European Green Deal and the concepts of Baukultur and New Bauhaus are valuable tools.

The rich and complex economic, political, social and cultural history of Wallonia, combined with its unique environment and industrial past, has allowed, over time, the construction and interaction of an urban fabric and a landscape which now represent invaluable assets. The heritage of Brussels reflects the diversity of the city-region, and the sedimentation of its historical strata. In each period, remarkable architecture and sites have created an immensely rich, contrasting, adaptable and resilient urban fabric.

² Aldo Rossi, *L'architettura della città*, Milan: Il Saggiatore, 2018.

22. **Reuse old working structures within blocks (workshops, small factories, etc.) for new production activities.**
23. **Build the heritage of tomorrow by ensuring a form of sustainability. This sustainability is achieved by means of a long-lasting structure. This implies a legible structure, anticipating future changes, a system that decouples the structure from the envelope and the partitioning. Relatively broad spans and generous heights should be preferred. All this enables us to offer the flexibility and 'transformability' necessary to accommodate a diversity of programmes. This is what we mean by generous optimisation and creative engineering.**
24. **Offer architecture that is not the result of add-on components but rather the result of an overall approach linked to the tectonics of the construction and its typology.**
25. **Promote consideration of 20th century heritage as a whole.**
26. **Take account of the 'commonplace' and 'poor' heritage in our cities. These modest buildings clothe our public spaces, establishing and marking plot boundaries and forming the kernel of our towns and villages.**

Materiality, Art, Technology and Culture

The increasing scarcity of resources compels us to reconsider our attitude to materials. The determining parameters are of multiple kinds: the availability of the raw material, whether renewable or not; its link with the transformation of the territory; the grey energy involved in the manufacturing process; the lifespan of the material; maintenance; the possibilities for reuse and recycling; repackaging; and finally, transport. This last parameter is probably the most difficult to identify. Materials are part of an economic process that calls for long-term thinking about the life cycles of buildings and the city itself.

Beyond the technical issues, building is a cultural act. Materials play a decisive role in the cultural impact of architecture. Hence technology is embedded in the culture of local expertise. Similarly, combining art and architecture as an integral part of a project, and not as an add-on, provides a historical and symbolic anchor.

The widespread availability of industrial spaces and buildings for conversion in the Brussels-Capital Region and Wallonia has stimulated a theoretical and material culture capable of demonstrating originality and excellence in terms of reuse, recycling and circularity. Research that Europe is watching with interest and which could guide us in the years to come.

27. **Advocate architecture whose materiality takes account of local, cultural, economic and social dimensions.**
28. **Use materials responsibly while promoting their re-use.**
29. **Think first about the art of the city itself before thinking about art within the city.**

Conclusion

This manifesto is intended to contribute to a new narrative of regeneration in our territory and, consequently, on our planet. Regenerative development is more ambitious than sustainable development and aims to create resilient and fair systems that balance societal needs with the integrity of nature on the basis of what is already there, the vast repository of grey energy.

This manifesto suggests project trajectories as well as seeking to explore new ways of occupying and transforming our living environment. In the future, its practical application could lead to the emergence of a positive culture of the built environment and open spaces and initiate the changes in values and attitudes necessary to change the political, financial and commercial rationales that have governed land use and the transformation of the territory for centuries.

What if Wallonia showed ambition for its territory? Why should the regeneration of its territory not become an example at a European scale and serve as a model? The momentum seems to be building, and the questions are being asked. Why not embark together and in concert on this great enterprise?

Martina Barcelloni Corte
Oana Bogdan
Christophe Catsaros
Norbert Nelles
Anne Norman
Bernard Wittevrongel

124 projects and actions selected, including
33 developed in the book (indicated here in bold)

Author	Project	Location
A practice	15(29) school	Gosselies
AADD - Atelier d'Architecture Daniel Delgoffe	Mixed equipments Hocheporte	Liège
Adrien Tirtiaux	Plus près de Toi Installation	Liège
AgwA	ECAM Mixed Facilities	Bruxelles
AgwA	Verbiest House	Bruxelles
Alexis Deconinck	Dormir sur le béton Artist residences	Charleroi
Apolline Vranken	Simone Guillissen-Hoa Research	
Artau, architectures	Arc Housing	Liège
Atelier 26	Rensonnet House	Stavelot
Atelier Chora	Vierset School	Modave
Atelier Chora	OM Music Complex	Seraing
Atelier d'Architecture Daniel Delgoffe	Young offender's institution (IPPJ)	Fraipont
Atelier d'Architecture Daniel Delgoffe & Atelier Chora	Cinetic space and Leonie Platel school	Liège
Atelier d'Architecture Galand & K2A sprl & C2A & GAU & participation de Koé	Training Center SEN801	Goudiry Bounkiling, Sénégal
Atelier d'Architecture Tribolet	Terril House	Liège
Atelier d'architecture Matador	Gillisquet Housing	Bruxelles
Atelier d'architecture Matador	Administrative and technical headquarters Toit&moi	Ghlin
Atelier d'architecture Matador & Dessin et Construction & de Alzua+	Office îlot 11A	Lille, France
Atelier d'architecture Meunier-Westrade	Desclée housing	Tournai
Atelier d'architecture Meunier-Westrade scprl	Solid Circus	Marchin
Atelier d'architecture Pierre Hebbelinck	Reception pavilion of the Gaasbeek domain	Gaasbeek
Atelier De Visscher & Vincentelli + Manger Nielsen Architects	Gray daycare	Bruxelles
Atelier De Visscher et Vincentelli & Manger Nielsen Architects	Lemaire Housing	Bruxelles
Atelier Paysage	Eugenie Square	Mohiville
Atelier Paysage	Natural infrastructure Chevetogne	Chevetogne
B612 associates	Mixed Facilities, Housing and Fontainas Park	Bruxelles
Baukunst & Bruther	Paris-Saclay Housing	Paris, France
Baumans-Deffet, Architecture et Urbanisme	Mixed equipments	Herve

Baumans-Deffet, Architecture et Urbanisme	Design and Innovation Training Center	Charleroi
Baumans-Deffet, Architecture et Urbanisme & Agence TER	Masterplan Vallée ardente	Seraing / Oupeye
Baumans-Deffet, Architecture et Urbanisme & Bureau d'études Greisch	Development Verviers user-friendly city	Verviers
Baumans-Deffet, Architecture et Urbanisme & Canevas, Architectes et ingénieurs	Administrative Centre of Liege	Liège
Benoit Vandenbulcke & Harold Fallon	Oversize Workshop	Liège
Bento	Europan16 competition	Bruxelles
Binario architectes	Saint André School	Liège
Binario architectes	Mixed equipments Ferrières	Héron
Bruum architecture & Brogneaux Thibaut Architecture	Natural infrastructure	Braives
Bureau FL.5.2 & After Howl & Rachel Magnan	Foyer Ocean Nord Theatre reception	Bruxelles
Canevas, Architectes et Ingénieurs	Renowatt energy renovation	Région Liégeoise
Canevas, Architectes et Ingénieurs & Atelier Kempe Thill	Infrabel training center	Bruxelles
Central office for architecture and urbanism	President Housing	Bruxelles
Central office for architecture and urbanism & NP2F	iMAL space	Bruxelles
Collectif Labo M	Action Vélorution	Mouscron
DA- achitecture	Mosa Dance school	Liège
Denis Derycke	Restitution in 3D of the House of the People of Victor Horta	Bruxelles
DEV-space	Public spaces research	Bruxelles
DEV-space	Guy Cudell public space	Bruxelles
EDA - AU	Education Home	Rwamishiba, Rwanda
Elodie Degavre	Documentary film La vie en kit	
époc architecture	Tivoli Clustered Housing	Bruxelles
époc architecture	Jolly Housing	Bruxelles
ERU	Living roofs	Bruxelles
Générale Assemblée d'architectes & Toestand	Jonction Park	Bruxelles
Giusto Van Campenhout	Hidden Villa	Bruxelles
Goffart Polomé Architectes & Ney and Partners/ Wow	Salt depot	Houffalize
He architectes	La Commune Clustered Housing	Liège
Jean-François Pirson	Publication Territory Practices	
Jérôme Giller	Walking with Walloon Brabant	
Johanne Hubin	La Grande Ourse Bookstore	Liège
Karbon	Cité Moderne Houses	Bruxelles

Kis Studio & Atelier d'Architecture Matador	Modul R Schools	Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles
Kis Studio & Sweco	Becobad bathing	Bruxelles
La pile	La pile Incubator of initiatives	Malmedy
Label Architecture	Sports Centre of Loverval	Loverval
Label Architecture	Reception Centre Porcheresse	Daverdisse
Laboratoire	Roserai Housing	Modave
Ledroit Pierret Polet Architectes	Day Care Saint Walburge	Liege
Ledroit Pierret Polet Architectes	Villas Housing	Bruxelles
Ledroit Pierret Polet Architectes & Artgineering	Candries housing	Bruxelles
Ledroit Pierret Polet Architectes & Artgineering	Mixed equipment La Marlette	Seneffe
Les biens communaux	Participatory Process for jardin de la Porte-aux-oies	Liège
Less beton & Université Populaire d'Anderlecht	Pimp my square Action	Bruxelles
LRArchitectes	Bornival School	Nivelles
LRArchitectes	Macors offices	Hamois
Martiat+Durnez Architectes	CF housing	Liège
Martiat+Durnez Architectes	MSA Housing	Huccorgne
Mia Architecture	Mia Office	Beaufays
Monsieur Pascal	Rue des ailes Housing	Bruxelles
MSA & Ney and Partners	The edible street	Bruxelles
MSA + Ney & Partners	Leopold Park	Bruxelles
MT4 architects spiral	Minerve Housing	Bruxelles
Ney & partners	Tilff Bridge	Esneux
Nord & Denicolai and Provoost Studio & Open Source Publishing	Foyer and identity of ISELP	Bruxelles
Notan Office	Duchesse Housing	Bruxelles
Olivier Fourneau Architectes scprl	Farm	Pailhe
Olivier Sire & Jean-Marc Sterno, Vincent Becue	Urban Ma[r]ker research	
OST Collectif & ICA	Vouloir habiter Action	Charleroi
OST_Collectif & Centre de Rénovation Urbaine & Union de Locataires Anderlecht Cureghem	Action « Les bâtisseurs »	Bruxelles
Ouest architecture & Rotor	Mixed facilities Zinneke	Bruxelles
Philippe Samyn and Partners srl, architects & engineers	Administrative Centre of the Province of Namur	Namur
Philippe Vander Maren & Richard Venlet	M House	Biez
Pierre Blondel	Architecture and Literature Practice	
Pierre Blondel Architectes	Allée verte Sports hall	Bruxelles
Pierre Blondel Architectes	Wittouck nursery	Bruxelles

Pigeon Ochej Paysage & BUUR & Gesplan	Parking Sart Tilman	Liège
Pigeon Ochej Paysage & Le Collectif IPE & Geolys	Fishing pond	Bruxelles
Post-a, atelier d'architecture	Ruine Moderniste Housing	Liege
R²D² Architecture	Vandergoten Housing	Bruxelles
R²D² Architecture	Housing and cultural space Wiertz	Bruxelles
Reservoir A	Docherie houses	Marchienne au Pont
Reservoir A & Carbonifère	Eau d'Heure promenade	Charleroi
Reservoir A & Générale Assemblée d'architectes & Jean Gilbert	Ring 9 Installation	Charleroi
Séverin Malaud	Action Brussels agglomeration	Bruxelles
Specimen architects	Saint-Servais Clustered Housing	Namur
Suède 36	Wayez public spaces	Bruxelles
Suède 36 & Base Landscape Paris	Porte de Ninove Park	Bruxelles
TRA Toussaint Robiglio Architetti & PAT_Atelier d'Architecture Patrick Bribosia	Centre for Stone	Soignies
Traumnovelle & Carbonifère	Cité d'or research	
Twyce Architects	L'Ambassade Clustered Housing	Bruxelles
Twyce Architects	House of psychiatric care Les Trois Arbres	Bruxelles
Umons, Uilille & IDEA Coeur du Hainaut & Ville de La Louvière & SEM Ville Renouvelée	Blue workshop	Mons
Valérie Vogt & Simon Ruaut	Bassin dormant, bassin versant research	Bruxelles
Vanden Eeckhoudt - Creyf architectes	Angleterre - Hollande Clustered Housing	Bruxelles
Vers plus de bien-être V+ & HBAAT	Le Pont des Arts Cultural Centre	Marcq-en-Baroeul, France
VERS.A	VDB Housing	Bruxelles
Ville de Bruxelles, Pierre Blondel Architectes, Ney&Partners,	Study for the transformation of the Rempart des Moines sports hall	Bruxelles
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vvv architecture urbanisme & Bloc Paysage	Pocket Parks	Bruxelles
vvv architecture urbanisme & Studio Paola Viganò	Marie Janson square	Bruxelles
Waow collectif d'enthousiastes	Bathyscaphe polyvalent space	Bruxelles

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Martina Barcelloni Corte is an architect, professor of Landscape Urbanism and director of the Unité de Recherche en Architecture (URA) at the University of Liege. She was scientific coordinator of the Habitat Research Centre (EPFL) and scientific collaborator at the EPFL Laboratory of Urbanism between 2014 and 2020. She has taught in the field of architecture and urbanism at a number of international institutions including GSAPP Columbia University and the National University of Singapore. She also acts as a consultant to public and private players. Her field of expertise focuses on the design of cities and territories in the face of environmental constraint and risk, and a new understanding of the relation between human and natural agency.

Oana Bogdan promotes a culture of quality urban space, not least by anchoring the work of &bogdan (formerly known as Bogdan & Van Broeck) in the public debate and by questioning the architect's traditional role. Recently chair of the Expert Committee in charge of Brussels Region building code's reform (2001-2022), she also chaired the jury for the Rotterdam Architecture Prize 2021, was ambassador for Wiki Women Design and Women in Architecture Belgium and took on the role of Secretary of State for cultural heritage in the Romanian Government in 2016. Her involvement in both social affairs and political debates helps to raise awareness of a holistic approach to sustainable development.

Christophe Catsaros is an independent architecture critic. From 2011 to 2018, he was editor-in-chief of the Swiss magazine *Tracés*, assistant curator at the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam and taught at ESAC in Cambrai. In 2018, he launched *Écrans Urbains*, a cycle of film screenings at the Cinémathèque Suisse exploring the links between architecture and cinema, which continues today in Bordeaux. He is a regular contributor to the magazines *artpress*, *Volume* and *Architecture d'Aujourd'hui*. He co-edits the *Cahiers de l'Bois* for the EPFL, and writes a blog on the city and architecture for the daily newspaper *Le Temps*. He is the author of several works published by Actes Sud. Since April 2022, he has been head of publishing at the Arc en Rêve architecture centre in Bordeaux.

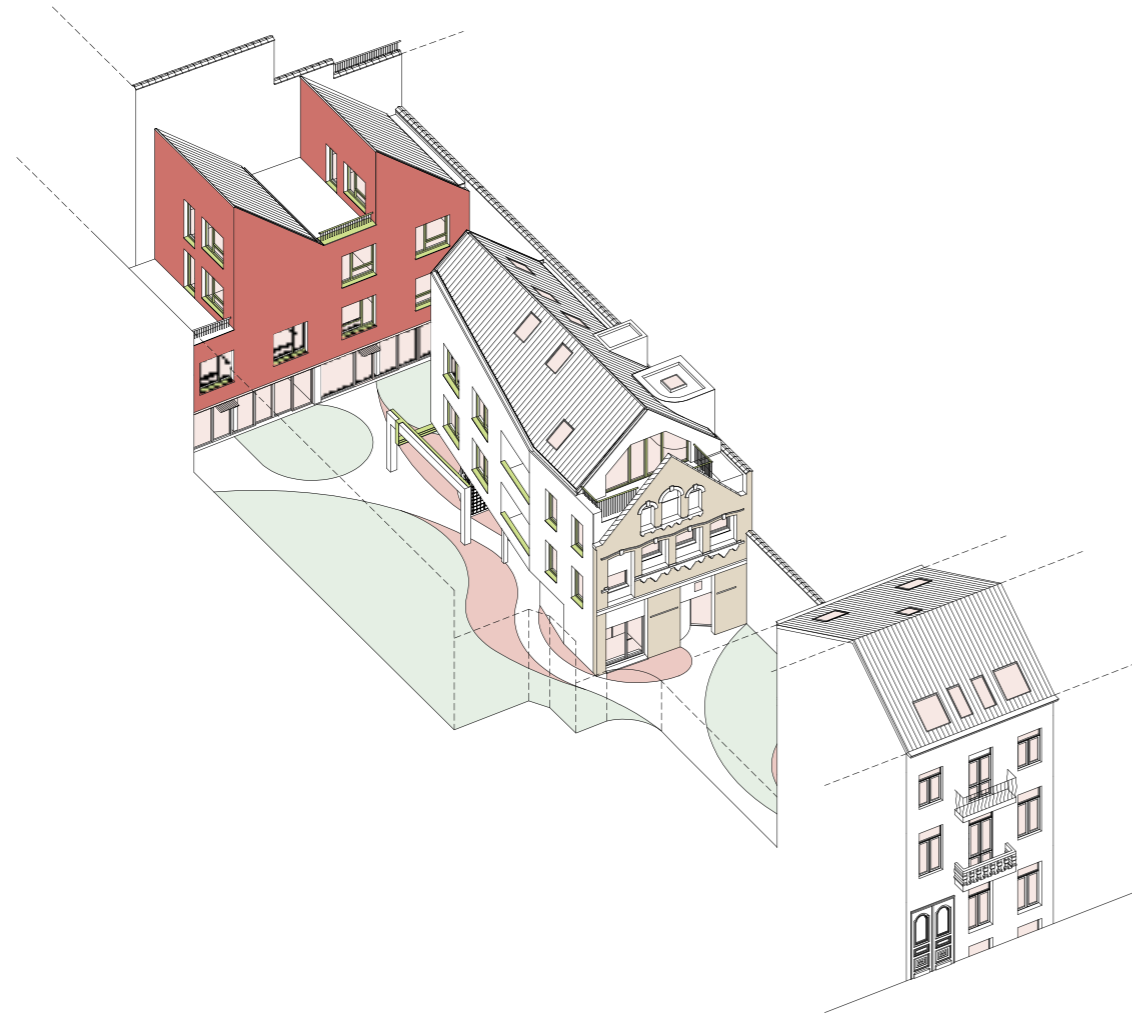
Norbert Nelles is an architect and co-founder of the architecture agency Artau. In 2002, he became director of the Institut Supérieur d'Architecture Saint-Luc de Wallonie. He was involved in the integration of the two Liège architecture schools into the University of Liège (2010) and was co-dean of the new Faculty of Architecture until the end of 2011. A teacher at the ULiège Faculty of Architecture, he has been developing a master's workshop on rural issues since 2013. He was scientific co-director for the Verviers edition of the *Guide d'architecture moderne et contemporaine* (2022).

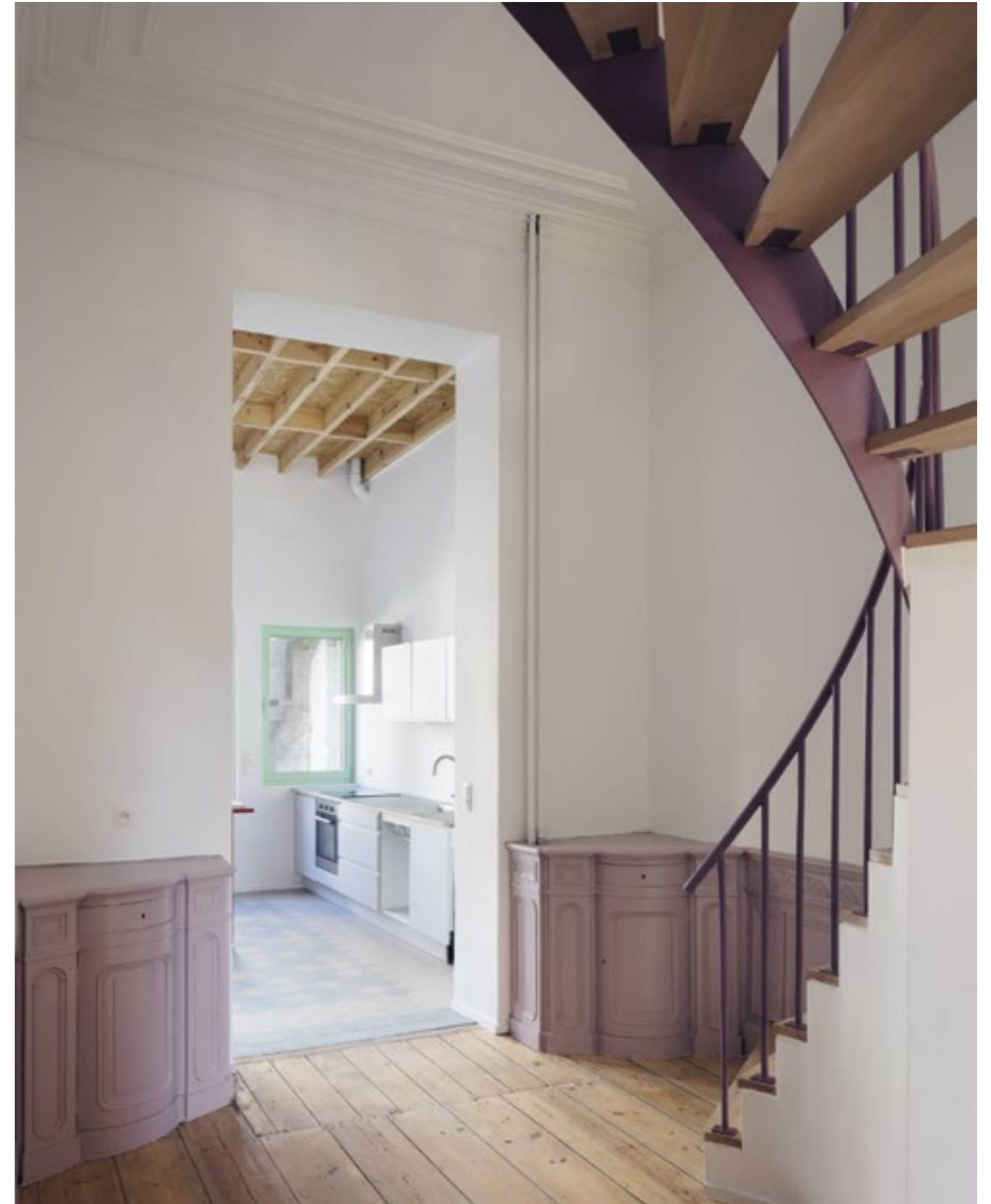
Anne Norman is an art historian, writer and architecture critic. For ten years, she was editor-in-chief of *Espace vie*, a periodical on spatial planning, urbanism and architecture published by the Maison de l'Urbanisme at the Centre Culturel du Brabant Wallon. In 2017, she published a tale with CFC Éditions to raise architectural awareness among young people entitled *Li et les sphères. Un voyage au cœur de l'architecture*. She now alternates between publications on architecture and novels, regularly serves on architectural juries and works with think tanks to improve our living environment.

Bernard Wittevrongel is an architect who teaches architectural design at LOCI Tournai and lectures at ENSAPL in Lille. His teaching focuses on the question of critical regionalism and on the conceptual and creative dimension of the material constituents of architecture: tectonics, structure and construction. Between 2001 and 2008, he directed the ISA Saint-Luc de Wallonie in Tournai. He is a member of the Kortrijk Spatial Planning Commission and sits on the scientific committee for the Tournai edition of the *Guide de l'architecture moderne et contemporaine*. He is also the editor of *Traces*, a collection of interviews with architects published in 2008, and co-editor with Professor Denis Zastavni of a work on the engineer Jürg Conzett (2014).

Seven selected projects from the book

Project	Duchesse Housing
Programme	Apartments (simplex and duplex), houses, shared garden and common room
Author	Notan Office
Client	Private
Design date	2017
Handover date	2022
Total budget	1 600 000 €
Plot area	712 m ²
Built surface area	1 100 m ²
Location	Place de la Duchesse de Brabant Hertogin van Brabantplaats - 1080 Brussels
Stability	Forme et Structure
Photos	© Stijn Bollaert







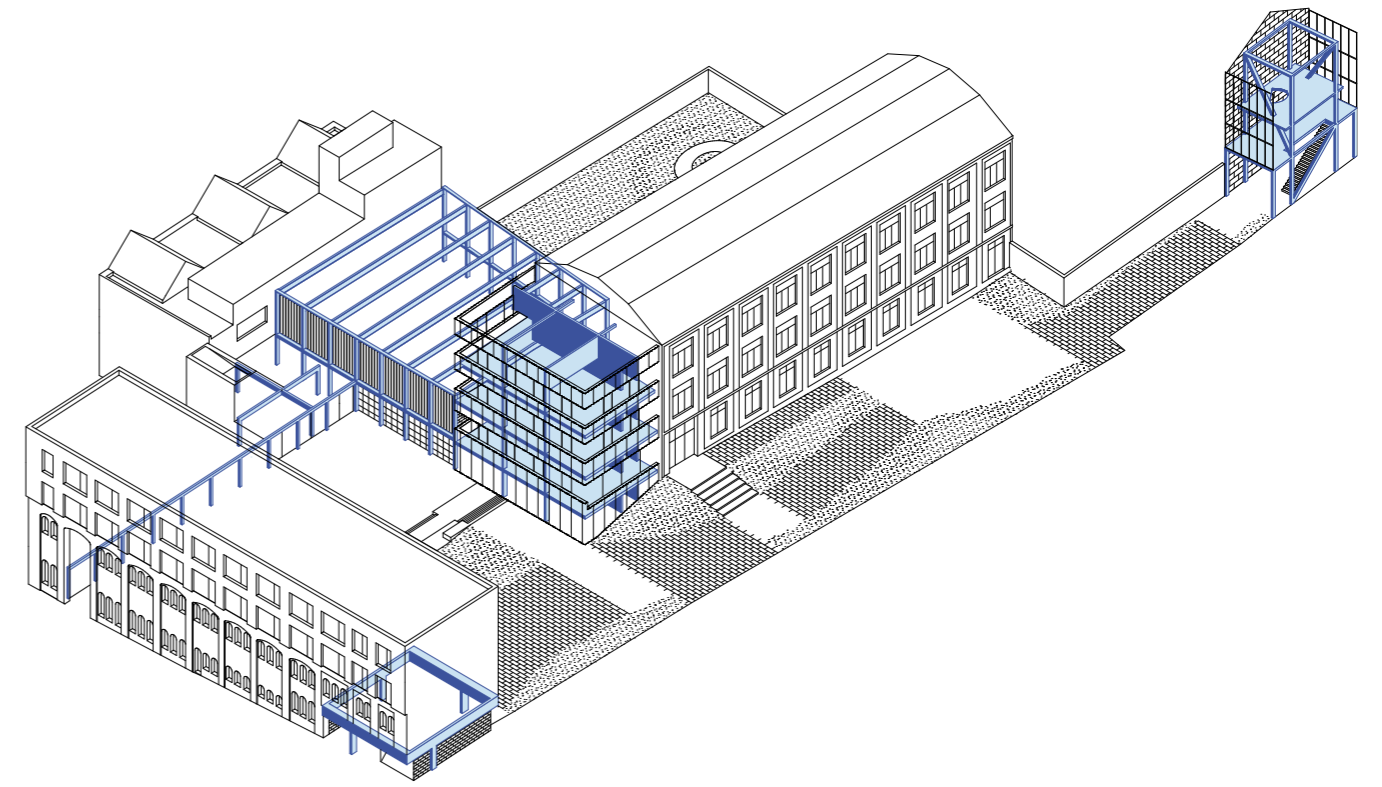
Located on the Place de la Duchesse de Brabant in Molenbeek, Brussels, this housing complex replaces two industrial halls in the interior of the block, taking care to preserve the 1880 mansion overlooking the square. This conversion/densification arranges five flats, two houses and a duplex in three buildings around a planted courtyard. The project was the initiative of an unusually non-conformist private developer, and theatricalises the transformation of the site by freezing an element of the past in its ruined state. Far removed from postmodern formalism, reusing a structural element frees up the space below the building to accommodate the shared workshop. It also brings the continuous evolution of the site to the fore, rather than the amnesiac plastering over of the past that typifies

demolition/reconstruction operations. Overall, the language of the new elements is simple and of high quality, with an uninhibited use of raw materials. Without ostentation or luxury in its design, the complex maintains a strong identity in the way it constitutes a community of its residents. It offers generous, well-executed spaces by using standard elements intelligently. The layout of the living spaces is atypical, with arrangements which adapt to the scale of the buildings rather than trying to meet the unimaginative standards of the property market. The dwellings face onto each other and are semi-detached due to the size of the plot. In order to cut down the footprint, the flats are arranged vertically rather than horizontally. Although the rooms are compact, they do not feel cramped, thanks to the openings to the common space. The flats, which are offered for purchase in an affordable price range for Brussels, exude the kind of well-being that typifies residents' cooperatives. It would be difficult to imagine a family moving in and living a life in isolation. The courtyard and the layout of the dwellings suggest, but do not impose, the ideal of community life. It is an intangible element of the architectural past of the place which has been masterfully transposed into its converted form.

Christophe Catsaros



Project	ECAM Mixed Facilities
Programme	Large-capacity crèche, sports halls, educational facilities, artist's studio, cafeteria, municipal administrative offices, playground, park in the interior of the block
Author	AgwA
Client	Municipality of Saint-Gilles
Design date	2018
Handover date	2022
Total budget	11 365 151 €
Plot area	9 827 m ²
Built surface area	7 087 m ²
Location	Rue du Tir 14-16 Schetsbaanstraat - 1060 Brussels
Stability	JZH & Partners
Special techniques	Enesta
Photos	© Severin Malaud





Dispositions is the title of Agwa's first retrospective. Their architectural and landscape rehabilitation project for the site of the former École Centrale des Arts et Métiers in Saint-Gilles, Brussels, is one of the six projects featured in the exhibition, which retraces twenty years of practice. This project exemplifies the firm's preferred three-stage spatial and architectural strategy. The first stage consists of 'taking measures to change a situation'. Here, the main decision was to take advantage of a transversal block to transform it into a public garden over which the new programme extends; to make

it a space of biodiversity by using diverse plant species, with maximum surface permeability and water management using contouring and a storm water basin. A crossing place thus becomes a meeting place. This is followed by 'spatial measures'. Here the architects opted to give new legibility to the block by optimising the existing buildings as far as possible and minimising the footprint of new construction. The old and new structures adjoin and intertwine, bringing a new spatial coherence. Finally, for the architects, the architecture must be understood as 'making spatial structures available'. This was a particularly appropriate strategy for this project, where the programme kept evolving throughout the process. Conceiving of architecture in spatial terms corresponds to a long-term approach, allowing for changes in use and users, while at the same time offering a generous spatial dimension and a durable structure. This strategy is also reflected in the building that marks the entrance to the park at 110 Rue Théodore Verhaegen. Initially a simple porch, structural constraints led to a reflection on its height. From offering a balcony over the city and the park to becoming, eventually, the park workshop: a protected but unheated space, which can be completely dismantled and reused, where only the explicit structure continues to play its role. A multi-purpose public asset that serves as a lantern for the neighbourhood at nightfall.

Audrey Contesse



Project	Natural Infrastructure
Programme	Landscape intervention on 4 ha
Author	Atelier Paysage
Client	Province of Namur
Design date	2017-2020
Handover date	2021-2022
Total budget	1 350 000 €
Plot area	40 000 m ²
Location	Pirchamps 1 - 5590 Chevetogne
Hydraulics and stability	Arcadis
Environment	Aries
Photos	© Maxime Vermeulen



In the 1970s, rising mass tourism led to the draining of a site nestled in the heart of a 600-hectare estate, by channelling two streams, the Molinia and the Mivau, creating an artificial environment. Fifty years on, the challenge is to rediscover the natural characteristics of this land by finding a balance between welcoming visitors and restoring a semi-natural wetland living environment. To achieve this, the road that used to cut through the estate was replaced by a submerged ford, and the stream beds were realigned to ensure that the land would once again be irrigated and reclaimed by the flora and fauna. Appropriate differentiated management methods have also been set up for each biotope.

Developing the site in an environmentally friendly way also leads to a gentler approach for the public. It is a semi-natural landscape, a meeting point between man and nature, designed to provide visitors with a better balanced relationship with the environment, while offering congenial access on foot by creating paths and appropriate play equipment. The reconstituted nature initiates a new form of coexistence between two worlds. This project also bears witness to the gradual paradigm shift among managers of this kind of space, who are now being led to combine profitability, enjoyment and respect for the natural environment.

Anne Norman

Project	Paris-Saclay Housing
Programme	Student housing, offices, shops and parking
Authors	Baukunst / Bruther
Client	1001 Vies Habitat - EPAPS
Design date	2016
Handover date	2020
Total budget	21 000 000 €
Plot area	4 700 m ²
Built surface area	26 920 m ²
Location	Boulevard Gaspard Monge 24-28 - 91120 Palaiseau, France
Stability	Batiserf
Special techniques	Inex
Acoustics	Gamba
Landscaper	Franck Neau
Artistic intervention	Chevalier-Masson
Photos	© Maxime Delvaux





With no connection to the urban rail networks, the plateau de Saclay, the new figurehead university campus for the Paris region, remains mostly dependent on road transport: high-frequency buses and, of course, cars. This unusual building by Baukunst and Bruther—a student residence, with half its volume occupied by car parking—is a symbol of this paradoxical situation. The building is recognisable by the arched concrete roof line. The spacious access ramps betray their function: the first three levels are open car parking, while the apartments occupy the upper three floors. The theatrical form of vertical circulation which the spiral staircases gives the whole a playful aspect that sets off the sobriety and neo-brutalist directness of the building quite well. Instead of hiding the car to discreetly encourage its use, it is placed at the heart of the built ecosystem. However, this arrangement is reversible, as the space used for parking can be reconfigured into housing when the arrival of the metro makes the use of private

cars redundant. This architectural sincerity contrasts strongly with the doctrine of most so-called eco-neighbourhoods which, while flaunting their environmental credentials, offer their residents countless underground car parks, carefully camouflaged beneath gardens. The frankness of the arrangement proposed by Baukunst and Bruther breaks with the alienating illusion of being part of a sustainable world. Is not the awareness of one's true condition, once social, now environmental, a first step towards emancipation? The radical nature of the building functions as group therapy: a manifesto built upon the condition to be overcome; an architectural way of exposing contradictions and calling for change. The fact that the parking spaces are not underground also offers one last benefit, and not the least important: an open-ground core area. As well as allowing the building to adapt to changing needs, this configuration will allow large trees to enrich the interior garden.

Christophe Catsaros

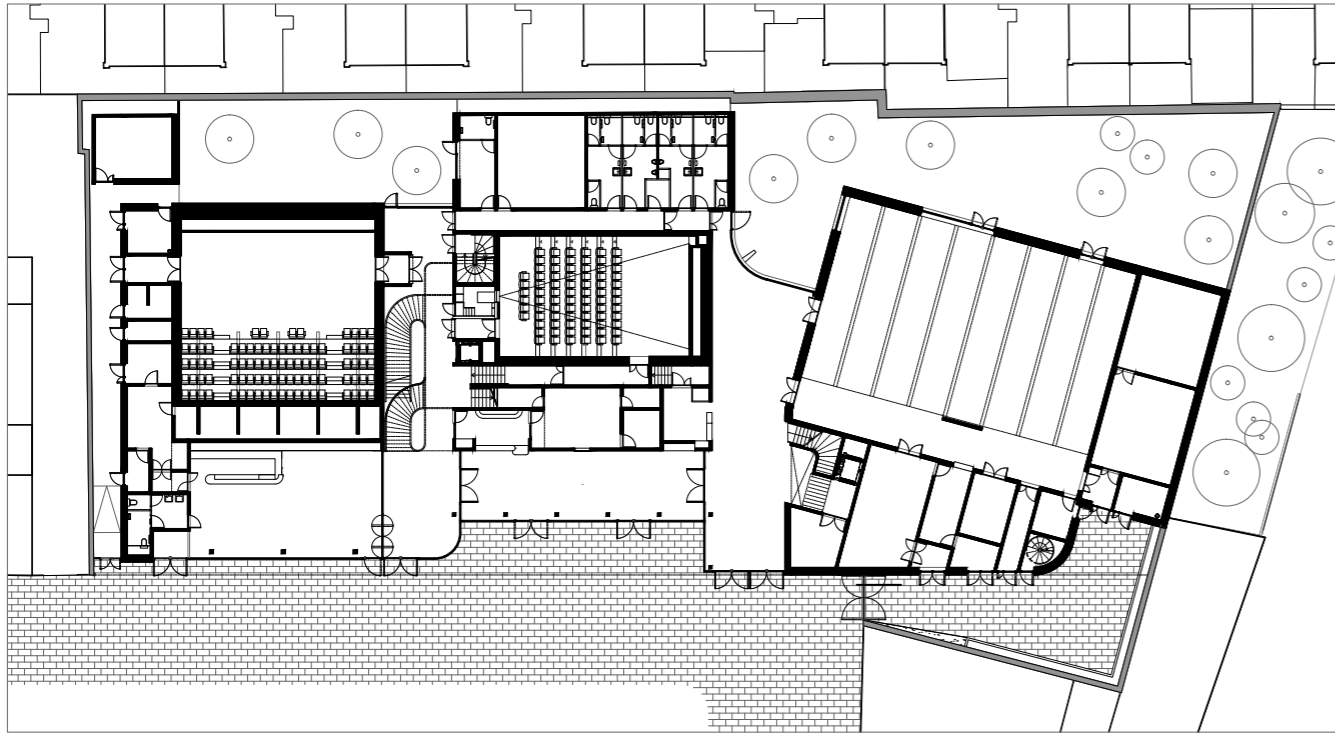


Project	Le Pont des Arts Cultural Centre
Programme	Cinemas, multi-purpose complex and rehearsal room for the music school
Authors	Vers plus de bien-être V+ / Hart Berteloot Atelier Architecture Territoire
Client	Municipality of Marcq-en-Barœul
Design date	2020
Handover date	2022
Total budget	7 860 000 €
Plot area	3 000 m ²
Built surface area	2 767 m ²
Location	Place Paul Doumer – 59700 Marcq-en-Barœul, France
Stability	Bureau d'études Greisch
Special techniques	BEA
Acoustics	Daidalos
Landscape	Leblanc Venaque
Intervention artistique	Chevalier Masson
Photos	© Florian Buquet © Cyrille Weiner



A town centre cinema takes us back to a time when the cinema experience was collective, when it was a local event. This is the spirit which this project aims to embody. In terms of its form, the building fits into the context of the centre of Marcq-en-Baroeul by exploiting two registers: first the emphatically horizontal ground floor with a broad strip setting back the glazed facades of the café and foyer, which offer connection to the pedestrian; second the fragmentary nature of the volumes on the upper levels which take up the grain and scale of the various built structures of the Place Doumer, along with the ‘tower’ which recalls the cinemas of the 1930s. The layout of the volumes allows for a high terrace, a balcony overlooking the city, serving as a venue for outdoor screenings. The architects have been attentive to how the facility connects with the neighbouring housing. They have created two gardens which provide the necessary distance and

allow generous light into the circulation spaces between the screens, which form two ‘faults’ in the ground floor plan. The material form of the envelope is based on the brickwork so characteristic of the architecture of northern France. In the interior, especially in the circulation spaces, the use of structural concrete contrasts industrialised construction methods with the skills of site-poured formwork. Tapestries evoking iconic film scenes by designers Chevalier Masson serve as tacit signage, marking the way to the screens. The cultural centre project has allowed the Place Doumer to be redeveloped. Unfortunately, this redevelopment still gives too much space to the car, not least because sharing the supermarket car park located just across the road would have sufficed. However, the architects have at least managed to take back a strip of land from car parking space, enabling a terrace to be installed. Bernard Wittevrongel





Project	Development Verviers User-friendly City
Programme	Regeneration of the city centre through appropriable public spaces
Authors	Baumans-Deffet Architecture et Urbanisme / Bureau d'études Greisch
Client	Municipality of Verviers
Design date	2017-2023
Handover date	2023
Total budget	11 839 728 €
Plot area	45 000 m ²
Location	Verviers Centre - 4800 Verviers
Landscape	Anne Rondia
Photos	© Matthieu Litt



Against the backdrop of economic decline and social marginalisation, this project aims to regenerate the city centre of Verviers by reorganising its open, public spaces: redesigned, planted and reconnected, they aim to restore the historic centre to its wounded community. The main lines of development in the urban centre (the Vesdre with its quays, the sequence linking the central squares and the Verviers West shopping centre, and the historic axis between the station and the Town Hall) are enhanced, regenerated and reconnected to the wider landscape of the Vesdre valley and its hillsides through a mesh of open spaces, designed on multiple scales. The versatility of the spaces, which are flexible and multifunctional, allows free appropriation and the coexistence of different uses: major events as well as

day-to-day life, intimate and communal, cultural and commercial. The pathways, punctuated by paved and planted sequences, small squares and recreational spaces of varying nature and size, create a public continuum which is varied and never dull. Rather than simply designing a patchwork of quality public spaces, the project takes on a greater challenge: the construction and coordination of a system of spaces capable of working in concert and aiming to transform the way we look at and use the city centre. The backdrop of the historic centre, interrupted and out of sight, becomes a 'garden' inviting the inhabitants of Verviers to move across their town through a sequence of terraces and 'clearings' between the Vesdre and the hillsides.

Martina Barcelloni Corte

Project	Mixed facilities Zinneke
Programme	Workshops, material storage and offices
Authors	Ouest Architecture / Rotor
Client	asbl Zinneke
Design date	2016-2017
Handover date	2021
Total budget	2 280 000 €
Plot area	2 500 m ²
Built surface area	4 000 m ²
Location	Place Masui 13 - 1000 Brussels
Stability	JZH & Partners
Special techniques	Matriciel
Photos	© Delphine Mathy







The Zinneke project is exemplary of contemporary Belgian architecture that prioritises collaboration over the dominance of the architect. It guides a dual transition, both social and environmental, through co-creation and the use of re-purposed materials, within the constraints of a public tender. The project entails the sensitive renovation of a former print shop complex in the north of Brussels, made available by the regional government to a local non-profit organization, Zinneke. The innovative approach to the project involved occupying the building during the design stage, allowing for real-time design experiments and collaborative decision making. The result is a remarkable feat

of sensitivity, frugality, and joyous collaboration that resulted in unexpected solutions to issues of space, structure, and detail. The architects credit the client for their contributions, but the true strength of the project lies in the architects' ingenuity, expressed through subtle details such as the placement of recycled windows in a façade composition reminiscent of De Stijl, or the discreet but impactful yellow line above the cornice. The project has had a positive impact on the surrounding community, revitalising a district that had previously been overlooked, and serves as a model for urban renewal.

Oana Bogdan

The collection

Initiated in 2010, the collection **Architectures Wallonie-Bruxelles Inventaires** aims to draw up a portrait of recent architecture in Wallonia and Brussels every three years.

This collection illustrates the commitment of public authorities and private contractors in the search for an architecture that is in tune with the times and that contributes to improving the living environment.

Since 2023, Inventories is coordinated by ICA, edited by the Architecture Unit and promoted internationally by Architectures Wallonie-Bruxelles. This new edition is therefore placed under the direction of Audrey Contesse, director of ICA.

Architect, historian and critic of architecture, Audrey Contesse has dedicated her professional experience to the defense and dissemination of quality architecture for the past fifteen years, first as editor-in-chief of the magazine A+ Architecture in Belgium, then in various publications and exhibitions.

The Cultural Architecture Institute Wallonia-Brussels (ICA)

The Cultural Institute of Architecture Wallonia-Brussels (ICA) wishes to identify, analyse, publicize and help build the architectural culture specific to the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB).

For this purpose, it wishes to highlight architectural, landscaping and urban initiatives and projects that promote the construction of a high-quality built environment and a sense of community living.

Based on the principle that architectural culture is something which concerns everyone, the ICA wishes to create a meeting place for all architecture-related professions, citizens and commissioners, since they are all actors and users of the territory.

The ICA thus forms the core of architectural culture in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation with the objective of creating a cultural network of references for architecture in the FWB and to encourage its development.

It references all activities related to architectural culture in FWB.

The ICA is not one place, but places. It moves around, goes to meet the actors of the territory and stimulates this cultural network through a series of exhibitions, installations, visits, symposiums, workshops and activities.

Through visits, creative workshops, internships and meetings with the various architectural professions, the ICA offers children and adults the opportunity to exercise their critical faculties, to analyze a context and to respond to a problem. In this way, they are able to open their eyes to architecture and contemporary architectural creation.

More info

→ [Link to the toolkit containing the images](#)

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