

Press release

October 2020

Architectures Wallonie-Bruxelles Inventaires # 3 Inventories:
an unprecedented process which offers a selection of exemplary constructions and actions, for the first time selected by citizens' boards

Collection

Begun in 2010, the *Architectures Wallonie-Bruxelles Inventaires # Inventories* collection sought to paint, every three years, a portrait of modern architecture in Wallonia and Brussels. Produced by Wallonia-Brussels Federation's Architecture Cell, in conjunction with the Wallonia-Brussels Architecture (WBA) export agency, the collection illustrates the commitment of government departments and private project managers to pursuit of architecture in phase with its era, helping to improve where we live.



How it goes

Winners of the tendering exercise, this 4th volume was entrusted to the commissioners **Gilles Debrun** (architect and tutor at the Faculty of Architecture at UCLouvain) and **Pauline de la Boulaye** (freelance historian and exhibition commissioner). They proposed to go and talk to residents and move away from the traditional scenario of architects talking to architects. Combining their architect/historian binomial meets this desire. In fact, the two professions do not speak the same language, something which the commissioners used to their advantage.

To widen the debate and help to create a common architectural culture for the attention of the general public, they devised a very original process, in conjunction with the Habitant·e·s artistic community, which has forged interactive tools to assess the constructions.

In the course of the three phases in Tournai, Liège and Pont-à-Celles, the team lived in public space 24 hours a day, pitching caravans there to meet players on the ground, visit constructions, ask the architects questions and debate with residents and experts. The purpose of camping in places on different scales (heritage city, urban metropolis, rural settlement) was to incite, as soon as the project kicked off, residents' curiosity for architecture and encourage debate between architects and non-architects.

They were assisted in their epic by the expert architects Petra Pferdmenges, Olivier Bastin, Jean-Philippe Possoz and Philippe Madec. The inventory is intended to be collective, inciting co-operation between civil society and architects, also in more abandoned territories.

45 constructions selected, 45 actions, 4 criteria

At the end of the process, which began with a tendering exercise which opened in February 2019, 45 exemplary architectures of different types were, for the first time, selected by a mixture of boards and citizens: houses, grouped habitats, workplaces, community facilities and public spaces. These 45 constructions illustrate the reinforcement of government policies (sustainable district contracts for Brussels, competitions, ...), the ambitious commitment of a few private project holders, the emulation provoked by the Dutch-speaking architectural scene and the emergence of a promising new generation. The constructions were assessed according to 4 criteria forged by the residents' contact team: environment, social, governance, aesthetics.



The process also focusses on 45 actions undertaken to transform towns and cities, divided into 4 themes: art and architecture, ecological transition, training and temporary employment. All of these actions, either actions-manifestations, temporary employment, interactive work, social design, the circular economy and ephemeral or sustainable facilities have in common that they can transform the way we build and think and point the way to collective responsibility for the environment.

Industry, discussing images with the Habitant-e-s artistic community.

On arrival, *Inventaires* can be defined as a “choral” book, including many quotes and visual displays, which make up a heterogeneous portrait of new architectures and offer specific thoughts for public and private project managers and any resident who loves their environment.

Focus on 8 projects

Spread across the territories of Brussels, Wallonia, Flanders and internationally, the following projects, taken from the book, are illustrated in the photo link. They provide a representative selection of the different types included in the book.

- Villers-la-Ville Abbey: Wallonia/community facilities/Binario architects

The complete renovation of the visitor centre, abbey and gardens provides a new tool for visitors and residents to discover the site, creating a wonderful sequence as you enter the site of the ruins, really immersing the visitor. The wide variety of new materials (Corten steel, washed concrete, batten concrete and mud concrete, hardwood structures for walkways) enhances the flow of the architectural, landscape and scenery works on the site.

- Arsenal: Wallonia/council housing/LRArchitectes

For this conversion of an old industrial building into 24 council homes, LRArchitectes was inspired by medinas and medieval towns and cities to create a surprising internal street. The choice brought daylight to the passages and created more profound housing. It also stresses the basic size of the building and creates somewhere for residents to meet.

- Fetis: Brussels/house/AUXAU

Originally intended to epitomise living space, the rear extension, opening out onto two levels, connects the living space floors and projects the living space out into the garden. The extension has geometric triangular sections which overhang partitions and limit the building’s impact vis-à-vis neighbouring constructions. Inter alia, the project was selected for its constructive genius and its complete contextual approach, the form resulting from all of the constraints of the surroundings.

- Seucha: Wallonia/grouped habitat/Architectes Karbon, Magalie Braune, Bruno Husquin, Geoffroy Matthys, stekke + fraas architect(s) (n), atelier Arkhe Novis

The project divides the housing into two buildings which let the countryside penetrate to the heart of the site. The desire to enhance neighbourly relations, where people are friendly and help one another, is conveyed through the creation of a building and communal gardens. The desire to create and host projects open to neighbouring residents is materialised through positioning in the heart of the district. In environmental terms, the project favours use of bio sourced materials: straw, earth, wood and cellulose.

- Espace Winson: Wallonia/workplace/Reservoir A, A+11, Piron Architectes, Atelier Paysage. The extension and conversion of the Château Winson into a city hall and CPAS is almost like a ‘political act’ through which a private, enclosed space like a château is turned into a public space. The space, surrounded by high walls, has become a meeting place. The insertion of transverse distribution on the site completely changes its running logic: the entrance is now orientated towards the town and the rest of the site focusses directly on parkland.

- Ulysse: Wallonia/house/Aurélié Hachez Architect

The project entails extending a Walloon farm. The existing building stands on a long plot of land which it cuts into two widthways to leave an outdoor space alongside. A street extension replicates the space, with a sloping roof, of the existing building. At the rear, a building has been added. So the living space looks directly over the garden, with large openings created between the columns, which with their rectangular form and concrete construction, are in keeping with the massiveness of the existing thick brick walls.

- Leietheater Deinze/Flanders/community facilities/V+, TRANS architectuur

The new Deinze cultural centre houses a cinema room, multi-purpose room and cafeteria. In terms of the competition, the project has been moved 500 metres from the initial site, at the gateway to the town. It serves as a porch opening onto a public space. From an aesthetic point of view, the façade bricks are placed using different equipment and present matt, satin and gloss finishes, forming a luminous mineral mass which reacts in a variety of ways to the sun.

- Dejima pedestrian walkway: International/community facilities/Ney & Partners

The city of Nagasaki organised a competition to create a new bridge to the artificial island of Nejima. The steel walkway, with a long steel deck, is in keeping with the context and the desire for a pure design. The walkway is uniquely fixed to the bank of the terra firma and is a cantilever bridge to prevent it from sinking into the ground on the island of Dejima.

Photo link

<http://www.forum-communication.be/fileBox/Inventaires/Livre/>

ISBN: 978 -2 -930705 -40 -8

Languages: French/English Format:

186 × 260 mm - 384 pages Public

price: €25

Distribution in Belgium/Luxembourg/France:

www.adybooks.com. For more information:

Wallonia-Brussels Federation

Architecture Cell

Lamya Ben Djaffar +32 (0)2 413 34 55

lamya.bendjaffar@cfwb.be

Commissioners

Pauline de la Boulaye

paulinedelaboulaye@gmail.com

Gilles Debrun

gilles.debrun@uclouvain.be

Press relations Forum Presse & Communication

Kathleen Iweins 0475 55 49 61

ki@forum-communication.be

Nathalie Zalcmann 0475 79 77 01

ns@forum-communication.be