

Practices in Research

practice-based research seminar

Tour d'horizon

22nd of October 2020
CIVA - Kanal Centre Pompidou
Brussels

scientific committee

Georges Pirson (ULB)

Julie Neuwels (U Liège)

Pauline Lefebvre (ULB)

Rolf Hughes (KU Leuven)

Iwan Strauven (Bozar – ULB)

Robin Schaefferbeke (KU Leuven)

Harold Fallon (AgwA – KU Leuven)

Céline Bodart (ENSA Paris La Villette)

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Caroline Voet (Voet De Brabandere – KU Leuven)

Lisa De Visscher (A+ Architecture in Belgium – U Liège)

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double-blind peer reviewed

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front cover image

Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen, Dar Al Jinaa, 2016

back cover image

AgwA, Durllet, 2019



Program

13:30 Arrival and welcome

14:00 Introduction to the research seminar
Presentation of 'Practices In Research #01 - First Steps And False Alarms' publication

zoom - Introduction - meeting ID : 997 4590 6821 - password : PiR02
<https://zoom.us/j/99745906821?pwd=ZVlvaTRLVjVEdFRUOWxDd0dPVUMxdz09>

14:30 Parallel sessions

Session 1

BAST - *S611, Periurban Infrastructure* (CB, HF, IS)
Carla Frick-Cloupet - *Complexity and contradiction regarding architectural constraints* (CB, AC, RS)
Dries Rodet - *About conditions* (AC, HF, IS)
Aurélie Hachez (discussion with Piero Bisello) -
#01#02#03 (AC, HF, RS)

discutants

Céline Bodart (CB)
Asli Çiçek (AC)
Harold Fallon (HF)
Robin Schaefferbeke (RS) (chair)
Iwan Strauven (IS)

zoom - Session 1 - meeting ID : 938 0958 5056 - password : PiR02
<https://zoom.us/j/93809585056?pwd=bnduamo3M3d2NlZGQmFxZVNNdHZhdz09>

Session 2

Marie Pirard - *Living with externalities* (PL, GP, CV)

JQTS - *From the hand to the mind to the hand*

(RH, GP, BV)

Steven Schenk - *Translations* (RH, BV, CV)

vvv architecture urbanisme - *In situ* (PL, GP, BV)

discutants

Rolf Hugues (RH)

Pauline Lefebvre (PL) (chair)

Georges Pirson (GP)

Benoit Vandenbulcke (BV)

Caroline Voet (CV)

zoom - Session 2 - meeting ID : 413 161 3718 - password : PiR02

<https://zoom.us/j/4131613718?pwd=QkVrZHhpSeldEVWFiU0N0c0tadzFSUT09>

17:30 Plenary closing session

zoom - Closing session - meeting ID : 949 9776 7352 - password : PiR02

<https://zoom.us/j/94997767352?pwd=c3FwelczQkljQlRrQ3lkTW53VlIEUT09>

18:00 Book launch of 'Raamwerk In Practice'

Discussion with Bart Decroos, Rolf Hugues and

Raamwerk

Lectures

AgwA - Durlet

Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen - Dar Al Jinaa

zoom - Booklaunch & lectures - meeting ID : 986 0757 5682 - password : PiR02

<https://zoom.us/j/98607575682?pwd=SElBMW80TGdrYkxhZHRpb2hKVUFQUT09>



IN PRACTICE

OFFICE KERSTEN GEERS DAVID VAN SEVEREN AGWA

THURSDAY 22ND OF OCTOBER 2020
C I.II.III.IV. A - KANAL MUSEUM
SAINCTELETTE SQUARE 21
1000 BRUSSELS

IN PRACTICE
proposes a platform for architecture
practices at the heart of research through
lectures, seminars and books.
www.architectureinpractice.eu

13:30
PRACTICES IN RESEARCH #02
practice-based research seminar
free access

18:00
OFFICE KGDVS - DAR AL JINAA
AGWA - DURLET
Raamwerk In Practice - booklaunch
registration: info@architectureinpractice.eu

S611

Periurban Infrastructure

BAST

Our practice within BAST is committed to “ordinary contexts” or “programs devoided of architecture” in rural or peri-urban areas: clubhouses, refectories, communal homes, multiservice centers, municipal workshops, extensions of town halls. Through continuous questioning around the use of material resources, programmatic recurrences, innovation and the economy that governs the act of building nowadays, the presence of these architectures is considered as the production of commons. The aim of the semester is to develop a small equipment project based on real programs while developing a constructive system of its own. The answers by the project focus on simple and pragmatic constructions, tolerating small budgets and seeking to enhance contemporary artisanal or industrial know-how.



© BAST

Complexity and contradiction regarding architectural constraints

Carla Frick-Cloupet

In order to question the interactions between practice and research in architecture, I wish to investigate the relationship between architects and their production constraints.

By constraints, I mean the conditions of production of an architectural object, whether it is theoretical or built. Constraints are the different logics at work participating in the design of the architectural object, linking its conception to reality. Constraints thus speak directly of the practice of architecture and the framework in which it takes shape. By questioning the relationship to the practice framework, it is therefore the relationship that architects maintain with their practice that is questioned.

The relationships that architects maintain with constraints are not univocal and their diversity contributes to the history of the architectural discipline. For example, in the criticism that postmodernists have addressed towards modernists, the relationship to constraints was crucial. Thus, whether the constraints are academic or project-induced, architects position themselves in relation to them. Far from being anecdotal, this position is rather constitutive of an architectural posture.



© Carla Frick Cloupet

The relation to constraints captures the interactions between practice and research in architecture in their complementarity, considering the transversality of practices as a force capable of broadening the reflection.

About conditions

Dries Rodet

The seemingly arbitrary traces of nature growing in-between two buildings, the transient density of a fog, the unstable logic of the course of the Mississippi river, the controlled humidity in a botanical greenhouse, the apparent randomness of a set of chairs on a summery terrace.

Can architecture focus on what is ephemeral and generate similar conditions? Can a design approach that accepts uncertainty, vagueness and lack of control be developed? Can it be, like nature, conducive to evolution and transformation over time?

Truwant + Rodet + wants to investigate architecture that has no clear boundaries. So instead of seeing architecture as an authoritarian discipline that produces fixed and hermetic objects, we propose to think about what could be put in place to stimulate unexpected phenomena and relationships.

Architecture as a transversal discipline that becomes a generator of potentials and conditions.

PRACTICES IN RESEARCH #02



© Truwant + Rodet +

#01#02#03

Aurélie Hachez

When for an architect the finality of work is building, detour must be taken for a reason. #01#02#03 is an artist book, the result of a collaboration between an architect and an editor-designer. Taking three architectural projects as a starting point, the artist book was envisioned as a detour from the typical architecture portfolio. It served the reflection on the act of making architecture, exposing what occurs during the conception of projects rather than showing the projects themselves. Constrained by the parameters of the artistic medium, the design of this artist book allowed the identification of specific tools and methodologies for architectural conception: the embrace of side-effects during the design and production stages, the concept of undesigning, and the general role of art in an architecture practice. A few specific questions emerged from the working of the book: What happens to a renovated art deco apartment when it is looked through the eyes of a fashion photographer? What does a renovated Brussels house become when it is coupled with literature in the space of a page? What if the reconstruction of a Wallonian farm is presented in the form of an art catalogue for a performance?

PRACTICES IN RESEARCH #02



© AHA

Living with externalities

The refurbishment of the Palais des Expositions of Charleroi in a post-growth context

Marie Pirard

As a part-time collaborator for the architectural offices architecten jdviv and AgwA, I have been involved for four years in the refurbishment of the Palais des Expositions of Charleroi, a post-industrial city in the south of Belgium. In my other part-time, I am a doctoral student in architectural history. In line with this situation, the article is divided in two. First, I develop a reading of the construction site based on the concept of “externalities” borrowed from environmental humanities, a disciplinary field that I explore in the context of my research. Secondly, I re-use this conceptual framework to describe the development process of the project, during which I have noticed that some decisions were consciously outsourced. By interpreting this observation, by linking it to my reading of the construction site, I seek to open the debate on the posture of the architect in a contemporary post-growth context.



© Marie Pirard

From the hand to the mind to the hand

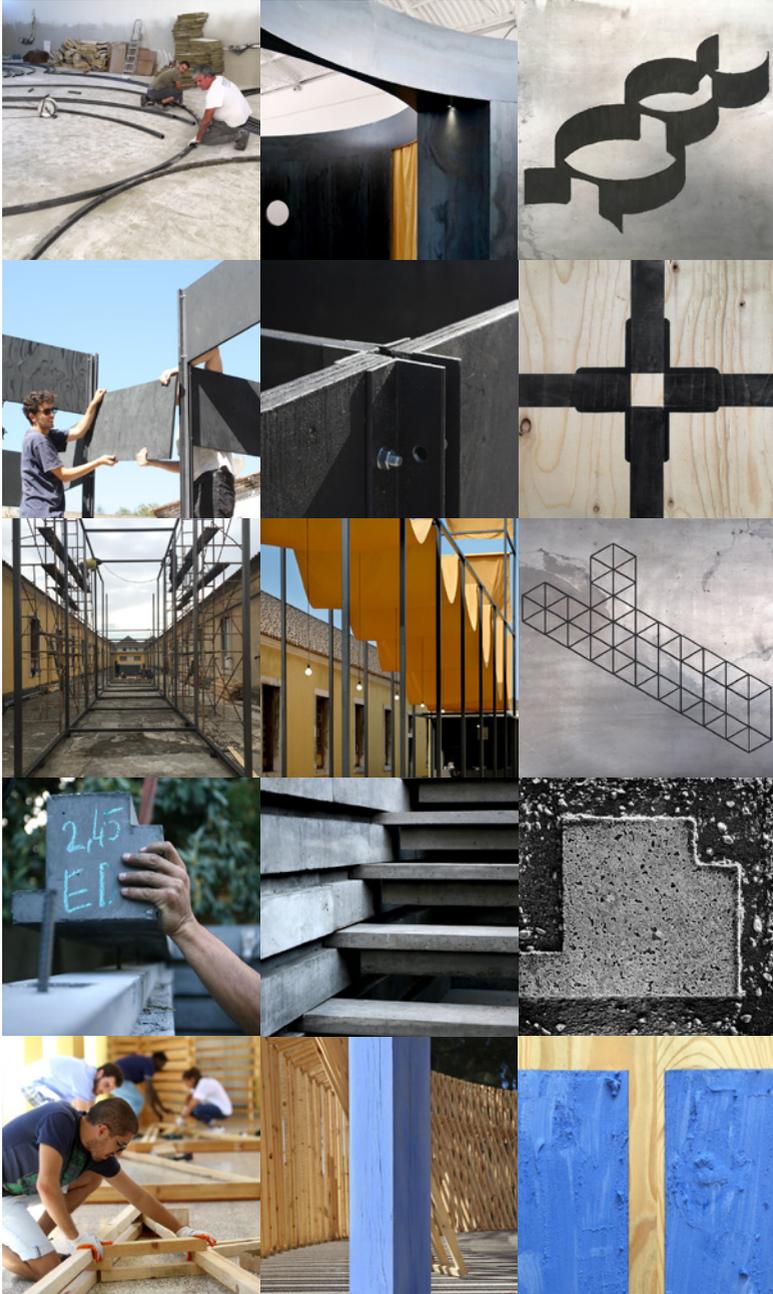
JQTS

If we consider architecture as the art of construction it can be determined by a mental process of design or, instead, it can be complemented with an empirical knowledge where building is learning, building is deciding, building is designing. A process of going back and forth asking the brick what he wants to be indeed.

We have had the possibility of developing several self-built projects where the gap between designing and building is filled by the experience with the materials themselves. Important decisions are taken while the performative act of building is taking place. The act of construction is turned into an act of design as it goes from the hand to the mind. By this the rational nature of construction is complemented by instinctive intentions.

In the same way we try to explore drawing techniques not just as a design tool but as a process of analysis and expression. Handmade drawings of the projects are produced afterwards in an abstract but very precise way in order to clarify the principles that come out of the designing process. The act of drawing is turned into an act of analysis as it goes from the mind to the hand. The project informs the drawing and the drawing reveals the project. There is a point where the question of representation in architecture arises once these works aspire to a certain autonomy.

PRACTICES IN RESEARCH #02



Translations

Steven Schenk

The title of the article “Translations” refers less to the fact that Schenk Hattori is a Belgian Japanese office - which faces obvious cultural differences, but rather to the relationship and act between architecture itself and the recipient. The way it is perceived as an object by a subject or in the best case, perceived in its active role itself. The framework of our forged considerations for this article is led by a general question that appears to me as essential:

What is the relationship between the way form manifest itself in front and inside of us?

By addressing a recently built project by our office, we want to address the potential of the difference between both manifestations in order to understand more the idea of meaningful form.

PRACTICES IN RESEARCH #02



© Schenk Hattori Architecture Atelier

In situ

vvv architecture urbanisme

The site often refers to the physical location of the project or the research. Implicitly, it refers to an existing situation and to whatever is *already there*, formula that is intended as a synthesis of geographical, material, conceptual or social elements. Within these conditions, a project of architecture finds its own space for reflection, developing its own principles, rules and *modus operandi*. This short paper questions the notion of site and the way in which the project supports, circumvents, confronts or encounters it, within the frame of the practice of vvv architecture urbanism. In the following, we call all these pre-existing elements and conditions the “*déjà-là*”, meaning what is “already there”. In the frame of four ongoing (but not built yet) projects of public spaces and gardens, we enlarge our reading by recalling to a photographic glance operated by Michiel De Cleene. Within a dialectic operation between pictures (from the photographer) and elements of the projects (from the architects), we aim at constructing knowledge on the site themselves but also at delineating the panorama of our own design operations.



© Michiel De Cleene



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