PROJECT LINKEROEVER

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
BRUSSEL 3-14 SEPTEMBER 2018
INTRODUCTION
Developed within the framework of an ongoing design research on the transformation of domestic space in Flanders, the International Summer school ‘Project Linkeroever’ aims at rethinking one of the most prominent modern urban project in Belgium – the Linkeroever neighborhood in Antwerp.
The starting point for our interest towards Linkeroever is the search for possible alternative urban and domestic spaces that would improve the conditions of the existing population and at the same time provide for additional housing units.
This project will allow us to test the capacity of Linkeroever to provide for new living spaces, to offer answers to the ever-recurrent questions about housing availability and affordability, and to allow for the development of a closer link between spaces of life and work.
The projects that will be developed during the Summer school will directly confront these issues vis-a-vis the present condition of a historically controversial project of urban expansion.

SITE
Linkeroever is a large modern neighborhood of Antwerp built during the 1970s across the river Schelde. The left bank of the river has been for centuries the perfect, immaculate, ground for political controversies and battlefields of urban proposals, each trying to pragmatically tackle the changing condition of the city. Notwithstanding this great interest and countless attempts to expand the city, the area has been subject to real urbanization processes only in the second half of the 20th century.
Built as a large urban expansion, the current neighborhood is characterized by the presence of residential towers, large housing slabs and a fragmented carpet of low-rise housing blocks with vast green areas in between them.
While Linkeroever is a paradigmatic example of the spatial character of modern urban planning, its present condition testifies to the contradictory planning process it has undergone since the start of the construction and a timid process of transformation and densification, clearly visible in the recent attempts to increase housing provision and functional diversification.
Linkeroever today represents at the same time a challenge and an opportunity. Thanks to its paradigmatic features, it represents an exemplary test-case to imagine urban and architectural reconfiguration for existing neighborhoods inherited from the modern period.
Separated from the historical city, with which it is connected via few tunnels, it is also –like many satellite settlements built during the second half of the 20th century– a largely mono-functional neighborhood.
Yet, the large open spaces in between the existing residential towers and slabs, the provision of mobility infrastructures, the presence of the river and forest as well as its proximity to the city center, make Linkeroever a place where new spaces for living and working and alternative common urban spaces can be produced.

**BRIEF**

The Summer school builds upon a recent ideas-competition launched by the Antwerp City Architect with an explicit ambition to address Linkeroever as an object of design research and to start the debate on the importance of this part of the city for the whole of Antwerp.

The Summer school therefore aims at bringing further the debate on the future transformation of this large part of the city. It offers an excellent opportunity for architecture students to dwell into the transformation of the area by engaging both in design and debate on a real case study currently at the center of the planning and architectural debate.

Participating students will intensively work on design proposals that will tackle one or more of the issues pertinent to the area, such as the need for new types of residential units, the functional diversification of the neighborhood, the development of spaces for production, the upgrading of the existing housing stock and the relationship between Linkeroever and the historical city of Antwerp.

A central role in the reflection about the future transformations of the area will be given to the relationship between new possible inhabitants and spaces that might accommodate alternative modes of living and working in the city.

**DETAILS**

The summer school is intended both as an intense design workshop and as a moment of exchange, debate and confrontation.

The event is jointly organized by three leading architecture schools -KU Leuven (B), Politecnico di Bari (I) and RWTH Aachen (D)- and will be supported by the Antwerp municipality and the City Architect.

The Summer school is open to 18 students from these three academic institutions. 6 places are available for KU Leuven students.

Selected students will work together in three mixed teams, each aiming at the development of a full project for the area. Each team will be tutored by the teaching staff of one of the participating schools.

The outcomes are expected to encompass different scales and problems, from the definition of an urban strategy to the design of housing typologies, public spaces and interiors.
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PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS
Faculty of Architecture/KU Leuven (B)
Faculty of Architecture/Politecnico di Bari (I)
Faculty of Architecture/RWTH Aachen (D)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Martino Tattara and Andrea Migotto (KU Leuven)
Carlo Moccia and Francesco Defilippis (Politecnico di Bari)
Uwe Schröder (RWTH Aachen)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
This Summer school is free of charge and open to 6 Master students in Programs of Architecture, Urban Design or Urban Planning (including Erasmus or exchange students) at the Faculty of Architecture/KU Leuven. For more information, email to: andrea.migotto@kuleuven.be

SELECTION
Interested candidates should send their digital portfolio and letter of motivation (max 500 words in ENG) to: andrea.migotto@kuleuven.be

CREDITS
Participating students will be awarded 5 credits.

SCHEDULE FOR SELECTION
1 April 2018, deadline for application
16 April 2018, confirmation of acceptance
30 April 2018, confirmation of participation