THAI-2-BELGIUM INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
27 July – 5 August 2018

Call for Participants

A joint initiative of:
KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture &
Faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University

Project Description: “A walking, drawing, reflecting, exploration of Thai-Belgian links in various locations in Brussels and Flanders”

A. Summer School Concept

Background: This project frames within a Memorandum of Understanding and the work-plan which the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture concluded with the Faculty of Architecture of Chulalongkorn University (CU) in 2016. The project is a sequel to the successful summer school that CU hosted in Bangkok and Northern Thailand last year. The 2017 summer school explored tourism development interventions in Nan city that emphasized the much-appreciated slow pace of life in Nan Province. This year’s summer school will adopt a similar ‘slow pace’ approach.

The year 2018 also marks the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Belgium and Thailand. As part of the commemoration, the Belgian Ambassador in Bangkok has invited CU staff and students to make sketches and watercolours of the Ambassador’s residence in Bangkok which is a heritage building. These renderings will be exhibited at the residence and CU staff will provide guidance on days when the residence is opened to the public. In line with this initiative, this year’s summer school will focus on ‘drawing / painting / multi-media’ as ways of exploring the multiple dimensions of architectural objects and/or urban settings.

Focus: The project intends to be an informal tribute to this year’s celebration of 150 years diplomatic relations between Belgium and Thailand. Over that period, the two nations have developed cooperation in variety of fields ranging from the Thai legal framework, the minting of Thai coins, the management of the Bangkok tramway system, etc. A contingent of Thai soldiers joined allied forces to assist Belgium in World War One. And today, the Thai-Belgian bridge stands as a lasting tribute to Belgian engineering prowess in support of Bangkok traffic gridlock (see picture).

Drawing on these fields of cooperation, the project will identify a theme where the two nations meet each other (in past, present or future), and identify one or more locations in Flanders that are linked to that theme. Possible themes, though not exhaustive, include:

- The Belgian realisations of Arch. Lucien Coppé (designer of the Faculty of Architecture building, Chulalongkorn Main Campus, Bangkok).
- The locations in Brussels (Montgomery, Tervuren Gate, Simonis) where the Nobels-Peelman movable steel structure was erected in the 1970s-1980s before parts of it were shipped to Bangkok to make the Thai-Belgian bridge in 1989 (Sathorn intersection in Bangkok).

During the summer school, participants will be offered a chance for a ‘walking, drawing, reflecting’ exploration of these themes, the neighbourhoods in which they are situated and the clues they offer as to their social, historical or cultural value (or the absence thereof).
Process: The project will unfold in two consecutive steps:

1. In the 2nd semester of AY 2017-18, one or more KU Leuven students will prepare the thematic, methodological and logistic aspects of the summer school as part of the elective ‘Summer schools: intensive foreign programmes’. In parallel, one or more CU students will be invited to research the Thai sources on this theme and prepare logistic arrangements for the travel and accommodation during the summer school.

2. The summer school itself will be conducted from approximately 27 July till 5 August 2018 in one or more locations in Flanders. It will accommodate 15 to 21 students, young artists and professionals. It is hoped that the selection process can achieve that about one third of these participants are proposed by KU Leuven, one third by CU and another third through internet applications. The exact location and methodology of the summer school are yet to be determined in consultation with collaborators from KU Leuven and CU.

Expected outputs: The cumulative outputs produced in preparation and during the summer school will be made available online in accordance with faculty and copyright regulations. They may also be integrated in the exhibition at the Ambassador’s residence (at the discretion of the curators of the exhibition).

B. Summer School Logistics

- Participation in the summer school is limited to maximum 21 students. Available places will primarily be allotted to 3rd Bachelor and Master students from KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture and 4th Bachelor and Master students from CU Faculty of Architecture. Bachelor and Master students from partner universities come in third priority in as far as quota have not been filled.

- Participants are required to attend the summer school in full. Unless force majeure, late arrival or early leave is not acceptable, and refund of registration fees cannot be made.

- Upon successful completion of the summer course, all participants will receive an official certificate of attendance. In AY 2018-19, KU Leuven Master students can validate their participation by enrolling in the elective “Participation in an International Project” (SECTS). All participants will preferably enrol for this elective during the same semester (1st or 2nd in consultation with the promotor and the OPO coordinator.

- Selection of suitable candidates will be organised by each of the organising Faculties separately. For KU Leuven candidates, selection will be based on motivation letter, CV and grades of the 1st semester, to be submitted to our international Office (nele.demeyer@kuleuven.be) before 15 March 2018.

- For CU candidates, please contact Dr. Vorapat Inkarorjrit (vorapat.i@chula.ac.th) for procedure and timing. For candidates from partner institutes of KU Leuven or CU: please submit motivation letter, CV, proof of ID and student registration to koen.dewandeler@kuleuven.be or vorapat.i@chula.ac.th respectively, before 15 March 2018.

- Selection procedures at each of the organising Faculties will result in a list of selected candidates and a list of reserve candidates. Reserve candidates will be notified only in as far as selected candidates do not duly and timely register for the summer school.

- Registration of selected candidates from KU Leuven and CU is free of charge. To confirm their registration, selected participants need to provide by 15 May 2018:

  1. evidence that they booked and paid international and local travel to guarantee their presence at kick-off session of the summer school @ CU Main Campus in Bangkok (date, time and exact venue to be confirmed).

  2. A signed agreement that they are personally responsible to obtain all legal documents and documents required to travel and stay in Thailand for the duration of the summer school and will individually arrange insurances for the duration of their stay. The organisers may propose low-priced, cost-shared travel modes and accommodation with due consideration of participants' safety and security. However, CU and KU Leuven have no responsibility in this matter.

Deadline for confirmed registration is 15 May 2017.

- Registration of candidates not enrolled at KU Leuven or CU is subject to a charge of € 250.00, to be paid via international bank transfer to the organizers by 19 June 2018 (details of payment will be given once selection of candidates has been finalised, travel arrangements provided, and agreement of individual responsibility signed (partial waiver of registration fee will be considered for participants from LDC, LIC and LMIC counties).
C. Summer School Time Schedule

- Call for participants: 15 February 2018
  - For KU Leuven candidates (time schedule for CU candidates: contact vorapat.i@chula.ac.th)
    a. Deadline for application: 15 March 2018
    b. Interview: date, time & venue will be confirmed
    c. Confirmation of acceptance: 30 March 2018
    d. Deadline for confirmed participation: 15 May 2018
  - For candidates not enrolled at CU or KU Leuven:
    a. Deadline for application: 15 March 2018
    b. Confirmation of acceptance: 20 May 2018 (to be confirmed)
    c. Deadline for payment of registration fee: 19 June 2018 (to be confirmed)
- Summer School: 27 July – 5 August 2018

For more information: koen.dewandeler@kuleuven.be