Master of Architecture
international program, taught in English
Sint-Lucas School of Architecture offers a two year master program in English which leads to the degree of Master of Architecture. Our renowned institution believes in practical, artistic and inspired designing. We don’t want to stay on the safe side. Instead we dare to be innovating, critical and open minded. At Sint-Lucas School of Architecture arts and sciences go hand in hand. As an architect it is fundamental to have scientific knowledge when designing buildings or an environment. On the other hand an architect needs to be creative and has to think outside the box. Sciences make sure there is methodology and objectivity. Arts can change the world. For Sint-Lucas School of Architecture the arts are a way to communicate. They translate what happens around us into a new, creative language. The design studio is the centre of the study program. Here, sciences and arts come together in the work the student carries out.
For Sint-Lucas School of Architecture internationalization is a core element of the institution. We strongly believe that international experience is an added value when graduating. Therefore we stimulate all our students, including the students of the international Master of Architecture, to participate in the international opportunities we offer.

The School’s international activities are extensive and diversified: student mobility on a European and intercontinental level, internationally oriented English-taught programs for incoming students, international workshops, international research projects, international internships, development cooperation etc. We have an extensive network of partner institutions in Europe, the USA, Latin-America, Africa and Asia. When studying at Sint-Lucas students have access to this network.

We consider international relations a stimulation for creativity and an added value for the student’s academic and professional career.
Master of Architecture Program

* international group dynamics: foreign and local students enroll in a 2-year international program
* international expertise: teachers with international experience
* multi-faceted international curriculum:
  - core courses (history and theory, building management and building technology)
  - design studios with integrated theory courses
  - workshops
  - conferences and lectures
  - exhibitions
  - excursions
Master of Architecture Program

120 credits

4 semesters of 30 credits, in English

The master program explores architecture from a research by design and design by research perspective. Students are educated and trained in a multicultural and international context. Our international Master of Architecture combines an academic with an artistic - explorative approach. It is characterized by a fully integrated design methodology, providing students with solid skills in the contemporary discipline of design and the art of building. Sint Lucas School of Architecture offers the international Master of Architecture on both campuses, though with a different orientation:
- At campus Brussels the program is urban architectural design based.
- At campus Ghent the program is advanced architectural design based.
Situated in the heart of Europe, Brussels and Ghent are two culturally vibrant and diverse European cities. Located within the immediate proximity of Paris, London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Cologne,… both cities can easily be accessed from anywhere in Europe or beyond.

One of the obvious, though often underestimated, aspects of international programs in the field of architecture, is the exposure of one’s own socio-cultural and architectural background against the one of the host country. In this regard, the city of Ghent, the historic heart of Flanders, and Brussels, capital of Europe, provide students with a particularly invigorating environment, combining the most diverse aspects of architecture with unexpected cultural opportunities to widen one’s own frame of reference. Brussels and Ghent are steeped in history while at the same time vibrant, modern architectural and cultural centers, offering a full-option action field.

**Campus Ghent** is housed in a 17th century monastery that was recently renovated, but where you still feel the atmosphere of ancient times.

With its 65,000 students, Ghent is the largest city of students in Belgium. Thanks to its unique combination of first class education and many leisure activities, the city attracts a very large number of students. The city boasts a unique mixture of historical architecture and contemporary events, museums of international repute, impressive gastronomic choice, and spectacularly good nightlife. Therefore Ghent is a city where everyone will find something to like.

**Campus Brussels** is housed in a former concrete warehouse. The building was constructed around 1950 and was originally used as a furniture store. Recently it has been renovated, combining the old structures of the building with its new function as a school of architecture.

Brussels is a city with many faces and a strong international character. The 134 different languages are only one example of the cities variety. Brussels is not only the centre of Belgium but also the heart of Europe, hosting institutions like the European Commission and the European Parliament. Being a city with a history of more than a thousand years, Brussels shows several architectural styles, from Romanesque to Modernism over Gothic, Renaissance, Art Nouveau and Art Deco. In brief Brussels is a city to endlessly discover and explore.
Sustainability
Campus Gent

(int)
Master of Architecture
international program, taught in English
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30 SP
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**A. volgtijdlijn:**
De volgorde waarin men zich mag inschrijven voor opleidingsonderdelen in functie van het gevolgd hebben van of gestaagd zijn voor één of meerdere andere opleidingsonderdelen. *Er zijn drie mogelijke vormen van volgtijdlijn:*

- **streng volgtijdlijn (st):** De student is gestaagd, gedeblokked of geëxameneerd voor de opgesomde opleidingsonderdelen.
- **soepel volgtijdlijn (so):** De student heeft de opgesomde opleidingsonderdelen vroeger gevolgd (maar is er niet noodzakelijkwijzer voor gestaagd);
- **geëxameneerd (ge):** De student heeft de opgesomde opleidingsonderdelen vroeger gevolgd of schrijft er zich minstens gelijkstijdig voor in.

**B. voortgangsvereiste:**
De student kan het opleidingsonderdeel maar opnemen wanneer hij minder dan 66 SP verwijderd is van het behalen van het diploma.

Om praktische en pedagogische redenen kan de student niet meer dan 15 SP per semester opnemen uit de volgende groep OPO's: BA AR 15, 16, 25, 26, 35, 36, 45, 55, 65 en MA AR 14, 24, 34.

120 SP
Advanced Architectural Design and Sustainability (campus Ghent)

At our campus in Ghent, the Master of Architecture is concerned with the current theory and practice of sustainability.

The Brundtland report (United Nations, 1987) defines sustainable development as ‘development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. The United Nations in 2005 referred to the ‘interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars’ of sustainable development as economic development, social development and environmental protection. Translating these three pillars for sustainable architecture, they would entail: providing access to high quality and healthy living and working environments for all, finding ways to create socially sustainable environments at different scales and a wise use of natural resources. Technical considerations, together with more conceptual or strategic issues, are dealt with in this two-year program about architecture and sustainability.

Central in the program of the international Master of Architecture is a critical reflection about architecture and its social, cultural and environmental role for society.

Based on a highly interdisciplinary learning process of integrated research and ‘research by design’, students are expected to determine a theoretical stance on current issues with particular emphasis on how aspects of sustainability, universal design, urban ecology and energy-efficient technologies may contribute to the development of more sustainable human settlements.
Project Waalse Krook, design studio 2010-2011
Project Waalse Krook, design studio 2010-2011
social cohesion

five dimensions of social cohesion (see to sources):

material conditions
passive relationships
active relationships
inclusion
equality

"Social cohesion is a term used in social policy, sociology and political science to describe the bonds or glue that bring people together in society, particularly in the context of cultural diversity. Social cohesion is a multi-faceted notion covering many different kinds of social phenomena." (Wikipedia)

"A cohousing community is a type of intentional community composed of private homes supplemented by shared facilities. The community is planned, owned and managed by the residents – who also share activities which may include cooking, dining, child care, gardening and governance of the community." (Wikipedia)

social filter refers to an ability of a space to filter certain social group. (for example a playground could filter children and their supervising persons)

we can suggest that social filters are necessary in the process of unintentional contacts, which are fundamental to a good public space (ref. to J. Jacobs) and are a counterpart to "social condensers"

"For the Co-housing project that was developed by MVRDV (welcome in my backyard) as part of the International Building Exhibition Hougarden, a new urban concept was developed. The concept was not only to propose the idea that a community is an individual with a communal position, but also to create a new collective space within the contemporary city.

Especially for students, all houses were recently extended that all have their own music room. Most of the music rooms are placed in a collective mountain. The individual music rooms all have their own light pyramid that protrudes through the green mountain.

The authors, architecture"

Project induces a community through a very rigid social filter (music). While successful in increasing the possibility of interactions, the project suffers from the rigidity and social sufficiency. The identity is established through occupants and activity (which is correct), but this activity couldn't be exposed - no concert hall allowing interaction with neighbourhood. The genius loci (so desired in artist communities) is also questionable. The project is an example of straightforward thinking that should be avoided in the future.

It is only a housing with a rehearsal room and the social structure is too narrow for this scale (58 houses). The only unintended interaction happens in circulation space.

"Casa building, Madrid, MVRDV. "The given volume of the city block was divided into 50 small blocks of apartments. The blocks are positioned in a checkerboard pattern and on top of each other, leaving wide-openings for communal patios throughout the building. 34 apartments, two- and three-bedroom apartments are all accessed via these communal spaces. Most apartments have additional private outdoor space in the shape of a balcony behind the front door. Inhabitants have the possibility to gather in the communal high-rise patios which offer views towards the city and the recreation and provide natural ventilation in summer. Opening the front doors connects the private outdoor areas to the communal area."

The authors, architects, photo author"

Despite the fact this building fails to interact with neighbourhood (problem of masterplan), it's potential of internal social interactions is much higher. The communal spaces are indeed the condensers, very intelligent. Instead of using identity as the social filter, this building operates on rather rational level. Instead of trying to imprint predefined identity, it successfully satisfies a very rational need of shadow and ventilation. Such space then is attractive for any inhabitant and after almost a year after completion, we can see several "subcommunities" emerging. People simply "use" those spaces, while also meet each other with "unintended" result of community creation. Of course, such a project is not about cohousing and the level of interaction and sharing of space is lower than in the "orthodox" cohousing communities. On the other hand, such attitude much more meets the mainstream desire, is much denser and versatile, the social structure and concept allows mistakes (you don't have to be necessarily something very specific, like musician, to live here). The lack of identity could be a problem and program consisting of lower and medium (low budget project) is questionable too.

Do we need communities?

Historically, we can clearly see that the instrument of social cohesion has been highly rational. For instance, certain societies had to share a limited number of resources, tools etc. Socialising as a tool to survive and reproduce. Reading society as an intentional and rational device, one can see that, not good material conditions are fundamental to create a community, but, usually unfavorable conditions create community. If we see public space as the space of representation and a space for claiming power, wealth and sophisticated power mechanisms, as democracy and law, decrease the DESIRE for common spaces, even if there is a NEED for them.

Thus, in order to enable social interactions, rather than imitating and regulating order of the space (read by the 5 dimensions), we cannot do that in large scale without participants sharing the DESIRE for creating a community. Popular tools are "social filters", as children playground, which are certainly desired, but their downside is, the more they are effective, the less they flexible.

Current co-housing experiments try to increase the desire for the community by deliberately decreasing the power of exclusion of the inhabitants, by sharing facilities which act as the social condensers. Such a program indeed results in increased level of unintended social interactions, effective energy consumption and effective financial economy, thus resulting in a more sustainable model of decentralised and more independent society.

The problem is, the scale of application of such a co-housing model is extremely small to objectively verify the efficiency and adaptability. Such experimental projects rarely represent the mainstream of the society and could represent rather the more social-oriented and adaptable persons, who are willing to decrease their power of exclusion for other benefits.

Sustainable society cannot consist of at most 20% of the willing participants for such a model of living. Such model could technically be sustainable, but in the end still unsustainable. Truly sustainable model has to be desired by the majority, thus cannot rely on eco-social awareness and willing to participation. If we are to restore the desire for community living, we have to restore the INDIVIDUAL NEED for it (in opposition to known collective need), only individual need creates individual desire. What could such a need be? Historically, it has always been facilities, but deliberately decreasing standard is not a good solution. For the individual, the benefits of power of exclusion (independence) are more desired and thus stronger than economical effectiveness or social cohesion. 200 years ago, such effectiveness was a question of life and death and one's power was far lower (due to different power relationship model of society). Communities - family-based, or not were a way to survive. Today, such individual needs for cohesion are not relevant, therefore we have to find new ones. If possible, or acceptable.

Michal Janák
Urban Architectural design and Urban Cultures
Campus Brussels

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Master of Architecture
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- **Gelijktaalighheid (ge):** de student heeft de opgesomde opleidingsonderdelen vroeger gevolgd of schrijft er zich minstens gelijkwaardig voor in.

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Urban Architectural Design
and Urban Cultures
(campus Brussels)

In the field of Architecture and Urban Planning, a global awareness is growing, questioning established
development and settlement patterns in regard to future societal needs and ensuing planning
strategies and architectural interventions. Whereas until now, Western society could take its
advantageous position for granted, the current fast-forward global development increasingly strains
the western and European model, inducing a whole range of urban planning and architectural
challenges.

Facing the consequences of an ageing society and a post-industrial and knowledge-based economy,
these developments stand in stark contrast with rapidly developing economies and a still expanding
population worldwide. Instigating important and unchartered societal shifts, our conception of
urbanity and the city is fundamentally affected. Traditional urban planning methods and architectural
strategies might not offer the necessary tools to recognize and address these future challenges and
therefore need to be reconsidered.

Within these changing context and transition processes, the International Urban Architectural Design
and Urban Cultures Master seeks to research, develop and teach alternative architectural and urban
planning tools, not so much aimed at reinventing urban landscapes, but as it were to edit the given
condition from within.

A critical and coherent attitude towards recent urban phenomena is considered the base for research
and design on different levels.
Networks in the canal quarter – by K. Dhaene, H. Sigmarsdottir, E. Bologna
David Barrero - Kanal
Urban scape beside the brussels canal – by D. Laguia, W. Salach, S. Murai
POTENTIAL PLACES
In the first step to design the masterplan, vacant plots were located and further expanded with undervowed areas of large housing plots. The rules were to reduce the plots by a maximum of 33% by respecting a minimal offset of 10 meters to the house. To connect the new areas, possible crossings were drawn. As a few houses could block our following strategy, they are thought to change their function.

EMBEDDING OF A CAMPUS
Instead of marking out one big spot for one big building, the strategy is to embed the campus over the entire area of Hoog Linden to guard the spatial qualities of an embedded suburban settlement. As from the start, the university provides some student accommodations, and also sport facilities, all spread over the neighbourhood.

FOREST ATMOSPHERE
One of the main qualities of Hoog Linden is the presence of the forest. Nevertheless, some parts of the neighbourhood are missing this interaction. This lack offers the opportunity to connect the forests, also regarding a compensation of CO2-emissions.

TRANSPORT SYSTEM
In order to establish a fast and sustainable connection to Leuven, the 2 existing bus lines, who are the result of a governmental rule, are replaced by one fast connection to Leuven. This line, at the same time makes the internal connection of Hoog Linden and also the connection between Hoog Linden and Linden. Becoming more important, the bus stops are now designed as interaction points providing functions such as a bar or a public meeting place.

AGEING ORIGINAL INHABITANTS
The original inhabitants, being retired now suffer from boredom and loneliness, and at times are in need of care. Embedding a university offers new voluntary jobs such as gardener, bartender or librarian, but also the possibility of visiting or participating in the lectures, using the restaurants and cafes, and also the sport facilities such as the swimming pool. Living in large houses, the owners can make small conversions of their houses to offer a broad range of student accommodations and several different forms of living together and maintaining the houses and gardens. This gives a stronger social relation between the inhabitants.

SECONDARY PATHWAY SYSTEM
By following the aim of reducing car traffic and establish stronger walking and cycling routes, a secondary pathway system, connecting the different facilities is planned.

UNUSED PLOTS STRATEGY
Since there are plenty unused plots since 40 years, a temporary use such as sports field or a pathway, or even a vegetable garden can be established as an intermediate use.
Design studio 2010-2011: Empowering Suburbia, how a student campus can integrate into an existing suburb
Design studio 2010-2011: Empowering Suburbia, how a student campus can integrate into an existing suburb
Design studio 2010-2011: Empowering Suburbia, how a student campus can integrate into an existing suburb, Klaas Dhaene
General requirements for admission

Only graduated academic bachelors in Architecture or equivalent are admitted. Relevance of academic records will be compared for each university and/or country of origin. A diploma in English of previous studies is required.

Applicants who do not have English as their native language must give evidence of a good written and spoken knowledge of English, by presenting one of the following documents, with a minimum grade of:
- IELTS: 6.5
- TOEFL: iBT 83 or CBT 220 or PBT 560
- SAT: Reasoning Test Critical Reading 500 + Writing 500
- ACT: English 20 + Reading 20
- Certificate in Advanced English (CAE): grade A, B or C
- Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): grade A, B or C

Students whose knowledge of English is insufficient may be obliged to follow an English language course. Non-native speakers are strongly advised to follow the course ‘Academic English’ prior to the start of the academic year.

A letter of motivation, a portfolio and two recommendation letters are required in your application. Please note that non-EHEA citizens need a visa or an authorisation to reside in Belgium.

Application deadline for non-EHEA students: end of April.
Application deadline for EHEA students: end of June.
Applications can be sent to: international@architectuur.sintlucas.wenk.be

Tuition fee: students who register for at least 54 and a maximum of 66 ECTS-credits pay a fixed amount of approximately 578,8 euro.

Scholarships: students wishing to apply for a scholarship are strongly advised to contact their local government to explore the possibilities.
For more information on the application check www.architectuur.sintlucas.wenk.be or contact international@architectuur.sintlucas.wenk.be
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