

POWER

NATO's
New Neighbors

The ongoing segregation of housing, industry, service economy and (public) transport remains one of the most pressing metropolitan matters at hand. This incremental tendency causes undesirable spatial sprawl as well as an untenable pressure on public funding. Hence, socio-economic cohabitation remains a prime concern for contemporary metropolitan policies.

Our site is located in the northern outskirts of Brussels. The Bordet Crossing presents itself as a no-man's land flanked with big boxes, suburban housing and "pastoral" business parks. Perhaps the most exceptional player within this generic field is the new NATO headquarters, a gargantuan compound overthrowing any ruling theory of spatial integration.

Brussels is planning to fundamentally redevelop Bordet Crossing, offering a serious potential for devising architectural concepts of socio-economic cohabitation and peripheral densification. How can NATO's near-future neighbors start to produce actual metropolitan life? One thing we know for sure: NATO won't be pulling off this challenge.

Our architectural *leitmotiv* revolves around multi-tenant infrastructures, merging i.a. collective housing, manufacturing industry and multimodal transit. What to learn from collective models such as Dom-Komuna, Phalanstère, Rotterdam Groothandelsgebouw, Chicago Merchandise Mart or even the Zürich Kalkbreite development? And how to eventually surpass them?

From week 1 onwards we will actively join forces with the Brussels *Baumeister*, who supervises the quality of architecture and city development projects in Brussels. Being an independent advisor to the Brussels' Government he subsequently holds a key position as "policy whisperer". In the end all our architectural projects will be synthesized into an inspirational green paper co-produced with the Brussels *Baumeister* Team.

Studio Swinnen ETH

Calendar 2017

Week 1
Week 2
Week 3
Week 4-7

Week 8
Week 9
Week 10-12
Week 13
Week 14

Semester build-up

Introduction
Cooperative housing visit
Site visit and context analysis/workshop
Architectural design iterations + first attempt policy whisper (text)
Intermediate crit
Text workshop
Architectural design iterations
Green paper
Final crit - the political project

Introduction: Tuesday 19.09.2017, 10:00

Pavilion HIP C1, ETH Höggerberg
Gastdozent: Peter Swinnen
Assistants: Philippe Nathan, Mélissa Vrolixs
Site visit in Brussels 3-4.10.17: cost range A
Students responsible for transportation
Places: 18 students - team work (grp. of 2)
For more information please visit the website www.einschreibung.arch.ethz.ch and www.studioswinneneth.com or email us at vrolixs@arch.ethz.ch

NATO complex and
Bordet Crossing
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