

# master dissertation studio presentation

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## A REGENERATIVE FUTURE FOR THE CITY OF GHENT

### Healing the City

#### **1. INTRODUCTION:**

We urgently need new future prospects. A collective ecological utopia that we can believe in together. A view of a better, healthier, and safer environment for all of us. Do you dare to search for this ecological utopia and regenerative future of Ghent?

*Climate breakdown, mass extinctions, and extreme inequality threaten the earth's rich tapestry of life and leave our own fate increasingly uncertain. At a time of such social, political, and ecological upheaval, it's natural to dream of a utopian world in which these problems are no more – in fact, people have been doing it for centuries. The Conversation – utopia isn't just idealistic fantasy*

<https://theconversation.com/utopia-isnt-just-idealistic-fantasy-it-inspires-people-to-change-the-world-118962>

#### **2. STUDENT CALL 2022**

This is a call for several small student teams who like to work and design together in different ways. That is why this year I am looking for a few teams of 2 to 3 students who dare to think together about the future of the city. We will start in October 2022 with various short workshops that form the basis for further research. Every small group will investigate a theme to improve living and working in the city. From February 2023 we decide which projects will be finally worked out. This can be both a building and a vision of a specific aspect of the city.

By doing research together and working out certain aspects personally, you will be well prepared for the job of the architect. The power of cooperation is combined with personal insight in this studio. I hope that this means that the long way to the final jury should be taken less alone but more shoulder to shoulder.

#### **3. BEYOND SUSTAINABILITY > REGENERATIVE DESIGN**

Regenerative design is all about thinking ahead, where architects must design with the future in mind every step of the way. As opposed to sustainably designed buildings, which are based on the concept of only using the minimum resources you need, regenerative buildings are designed and operated to reverse the damage and have a net-positive impact on the environment.

<https://hmcarchitects.com/news/regenerative-architecture-principles-a-departure-from-modern-sustainable-design-2019-04-12/>

#### **4. RESEARCH: DESIGN BY KNOWLEDGE**

A vision for the future arises from specific research. Research points to today's urgent questions. The solutions show us the path to tomorrow. Do you dare to research for a better future and make a design through knowledge?



Lois Weinberger, untitled 2010 / TAKE CARE OF OUR PLANET, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

## **5. RESEARCH AND CLIMATE**

Climate change is the fundamental design problem of our time, not style, not education, not community, not health, not justice. All other concerns, many of them profoundly important, are nonetheless ancillary. The threat climate change poses is existential, and buildings are hugely complicit.

[https://www.architectmagazine.com/design/editorial/the-climate-is-changing-so-must-architecture\\_o](https://www.architectmagazine.com/design/editorial/the-climate-is-changing-so-must-architecture_o)

## **6. CLIMATE CHANGE NEEDS SYSTEM CHANGE**

Humanity's 21<sup>st</sup>-century challenge is to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet. In other words, to ensure that no one falls short on life's essentials (from food and housing to healthcare and political voice), while ensuring that collectively we do not overshoot our pressure on Earth's life-supporting systems, on which we fundamentally depend – such as a stable climate, fertile soils, and a protective ozone layer.

<https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>

## **7. NATURE IS COMING BACK**

Poorly conceived design divides us into urban areas from our wilds and has contributed to seeing nature as something isolated from us. Yet reinvigorating our bond with nature is a challenge architecture and urban design are well placed to address.

Architects and designers have control over our built environment; by changing the way we design cities and buildings to connect to rather than disconnect from nature, we can change our proximity to nature and shift our physical relationship to the environment.

<https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/nature-view-nature-design-reconnecting-people-nature-through-design/1069371/>



Thomas-Struth PARADISE 14, YAKUSHIMA, JAPAN, 1999

## **8. The Ghent Principles**

In this studio, we work within a clear framework, by applying the Ghent Principles, we change possible solutions. The Ghent principles will make your ecological utopia future proof. Start by reading and studying the 10 Ghent principles.

- #1 Start the future now: learn, innovate, experiment
- #2 Create the new healthy default for 2040 - 2100
- #3 Strengthen the commons, move from me to we
- #4 Put nature first - nature becomes the key player
- #5 Interconnect your project with the urban fabric
- #6 Create proximity and design super locality
- #7 Plan change, design for the future
- #8 Encourage function mix and mixed-use
- #9 Close cycles and avoid waste
- #10 Create a cascade of positive impact

## **9. Examples of an Ecological Utopia**

Existing utopian examples show us the way. They tell us that we must dare to think radically and innovate. We are looking for ways to do things differently, especially for daily needs such as energy, water, food, nature, materials, or mobility.

## **10. Links, Books, Articles**

It is not possible to succeed without your personal research and without building your personal vision. So, start your research today. It will change your life and your vision of life forever.

Luc Eeckhout

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<https://regenerativedesign.world>