

Studio Architecture & Territory

CITY AND UNIVERSITY

MARG 14 - 2023|2024

Bart Van Gassen en Ignacio Galán Fernández

Architecture & Territory

“... architects and urban designers have to take into account the material condition of a wider territory. Architects have to make contact with the territory: they have to measure, modify, redouble, situate and utilise the territory.” Vittorio Gregotti

Architecture of Resistance

A focus on: urbanity as a driver, the multisensory, specificity of place, the human and the non-human...

To resist: the one-dimensional character of architectural extravaganza and of technical works (in engineering, ecology ...), top down approaches.



Studio Architecture & Territory forms part of the engagement Urban Cultures and is framed by the ADO Landscape, Ecology and Design.

“The restored Aire river and its landscape are made vivid by sustaining the sense of tension between past and present forms, as if to resist the temptation to create a seamless new reality. **The project affirms that landscape regeneration is a profound cultural act as well as an ecological process.** The site’s natural and cultural histories are critically engaged – not as stylistic or formal references but as a source of meaning and identity, expressed through the sensuous materiality of landscape.” Elissa Rosenberg on the river Aire

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in three key points



sea ranch - lawrence halprin

1. Studio Architecture & Territory considers the (constructed) site – and not the program! – as the driver of the design. Every intervention starts from what is already there, on the site and in the larger territory: real and imaginary, material and immaterial, physical and social...

“Without underestimating the importance of functional analysis or program performance standards, the landscape architectural reading of sites is not limited to quantities and capacities. Rather, **it views the land and public space as an expression of ancient culture, or as a palimpsest that evidences all of the activities that contributed to the shaping of that particular landscape and no other.** Upon the tracks overlaid by the march of time, site interpretation detects potentialities to be nurtured and passed on. The reading is thus that of an inheritance and the eventual project a bequest.” Sébastien Marot in “The reclaiming of sites”, Recovering Landscape, p50

1. Studio Architecture & Territory considers the (constructed) site – and not the program! – as the driver of the design. Every intervention starts from what is already there, on the site and in the larger territory: real and imaginary, material and immaterial, physical and social...



2. Studio Architecture & Territory designs punctual and precise architectural interventions that can transform a given urbanized territory. The focus is thus not on the development of an over-all masterplan but on elementary interventions that initiate a sustainable transition of a given site.

“... a new hypothesis that enables us to take full responsibility of the landscape on the basis of its signifying contents and with a minimum of modifications thanks to an optimal figurative economy of interventions. The preponderant presence of nature makes it easier to evaluate the effectiveness of human interventions: **the first type of intervention in the environment coincided with the desire to only bring about minimal changes in order to encounter as little resistance as possible; this modus operandi left only fragile remnants that are, however, perfectly characteristic as they involved the most essential options.** But even when we are confronted with a heavily manipulated geographical space, the problem is always a question of locating the tender spot, the minimal operation. Evidence of this can be found in the modification of the horizon and its highest points, the ground plan of the main connecting axes and the dimensional and chromatic modulation of surfaces.”

Vittorio Gregotti in The Form of the Territory

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3. Studio Architecture & Territory develops true “landscapes for living”. By improving spatial structures – water and ecological systems, public space, green infrastructure, neighbourhoods ... – and by offering space for a re-imagination of social/cultural practices in the city.



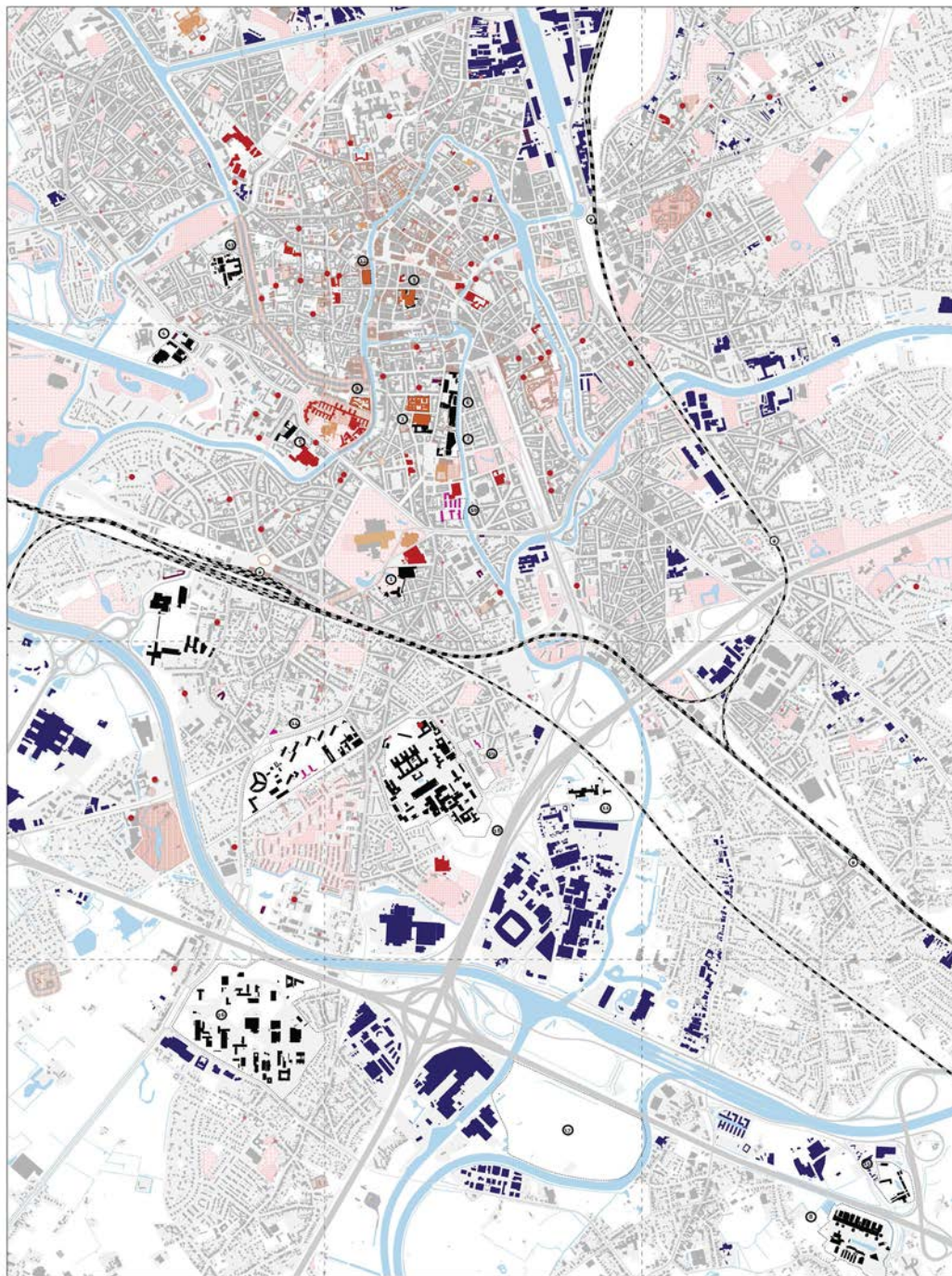
“To produce **comprehensive “site-space” designs that will address human needs and yet respect the constraints and opportunities of the processes of nature.**” Reuben M. Rainy in Garrett Eckbo’s Landscape for Living

“ ..., by setting a site in motion or registering changes over time, landscape architects translated their ecological environmental values into a new design language that was dynamic, fluctuating, and process oriented. **The open-ended nature of this work, not completed when construction was done but constantly modified by the flow of people and natural processes through the site...**” Elizabeth Meyer in The Post-Earth Day Conundrum: Translating Environmental Values into Landscape Design

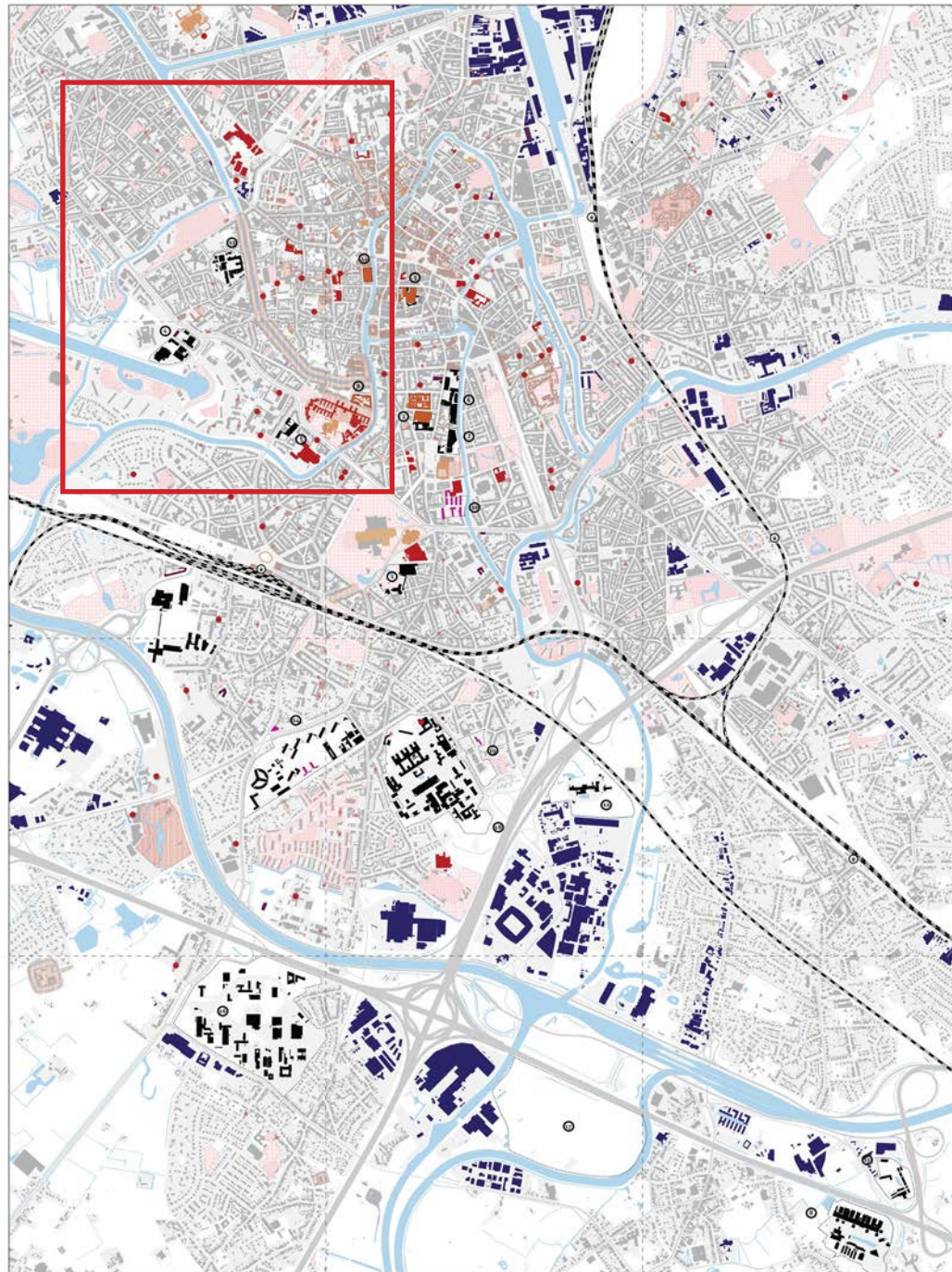
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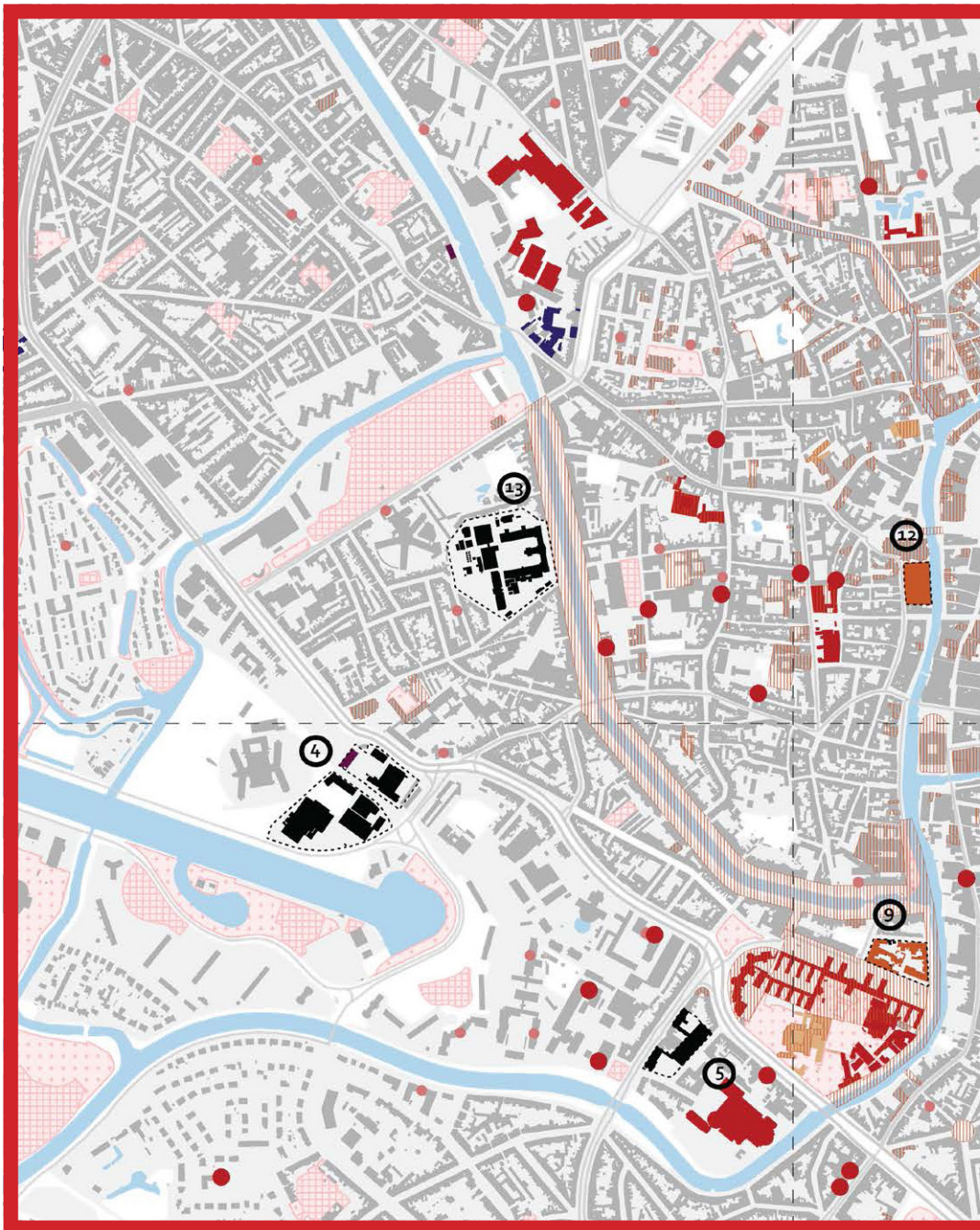
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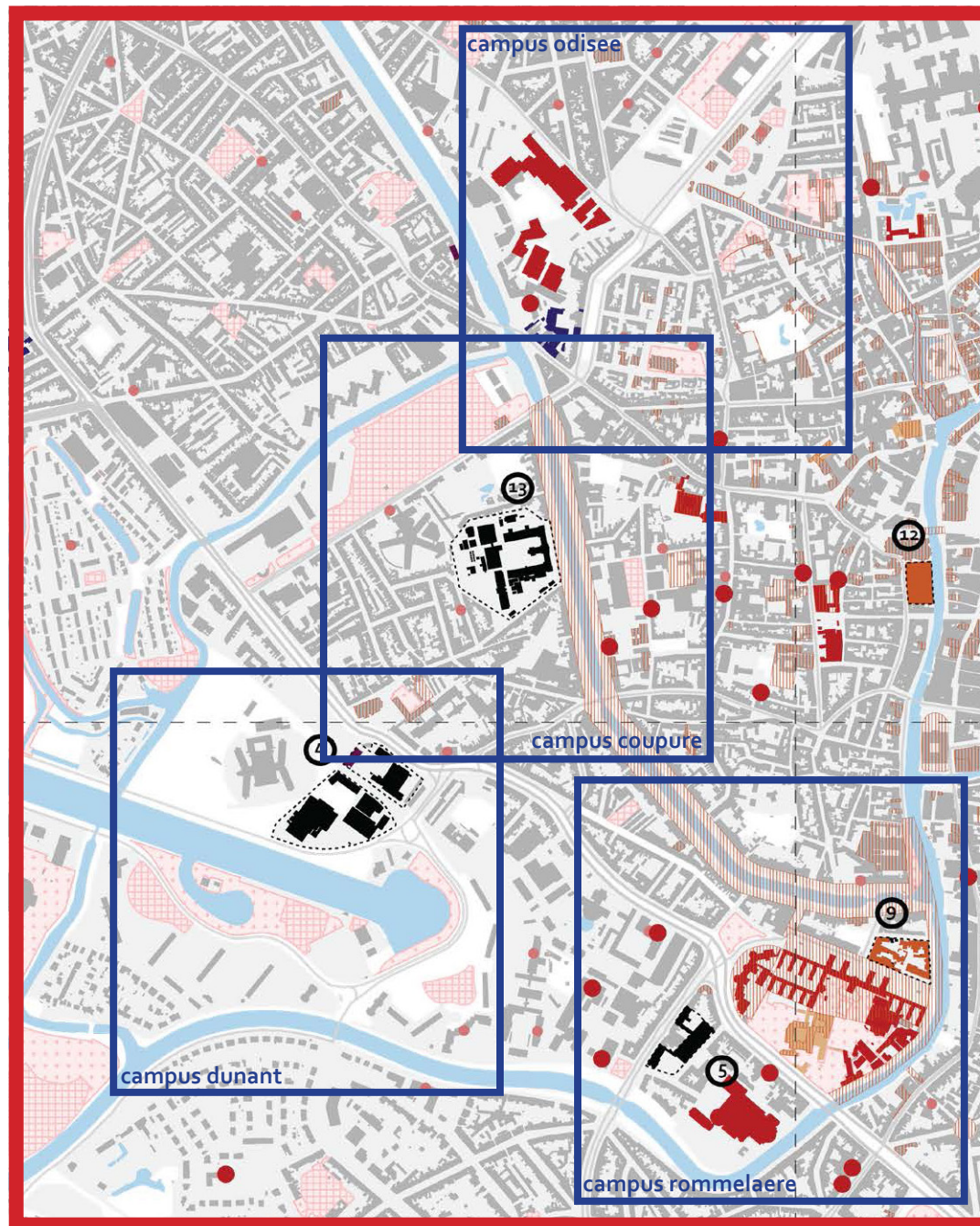
The educational landscape in Ghent



Situating our research area in Ghent



Focus of the design research



Four areas of intervention. Each area is tackled by a different group of students. Each area takes a campus as starting point. But the design reflection and architectural interventions will consider the whole urban area within the blue frame.



Campus Rommelaere



Campus Coupure



Campus Odisee



Campus Dunant

In the studio we aim to develop site specific punctual architectural interventions for different sites. Spatial configurations addressing human and non-human actors and forces present on the site.



GATHERING PLACES_ to organise outdoor gatherings (in the personal or professional sphere, for working and for teaching, sheltered or not).



OBSERVATORIES_ to better perceive and understand the site, nature, people, sky, water, soil...

- Sun tunnels - Nancy Holt -



- Watertransformator, Amsterdam - Pavel Houten -



PLATFORMS_ to strengthen the relation between people, animals, plants and water



TOPOGRAPHIES_ to create diverse grounds for enjoyment and play

- Riverside Drive Park, New York - Isamu Noguchi and Louis Kahn -

- Playground Plain de Plainpalais, Geneve - Carmen Perrin -



(RAIN)GARDENS_ to create space for water, biodiversity, rest and play

- Reflection Garden, Bloedel Reserve - Richard Haag -

- Water garden Kortrijk Weide - Tractebel -



LINES_ to organise accessibility for human and non-human agents



WATER ELEMENTS_ to improve ecological and civic infrastructure related to capturing, reusing, infiltrating water.



NATURAL ENCLAVES_to make certain areas inaccessible for people to improve ecological values



OPEN AIRE THEATRES_ to create places for public outdoor stage performances: dance, music, theatre ...

-Open air theatre, city of Arhus - C.Th.Sorensen -

- Open air theatre, village of Boeslunde - C.Th.Sorensen -

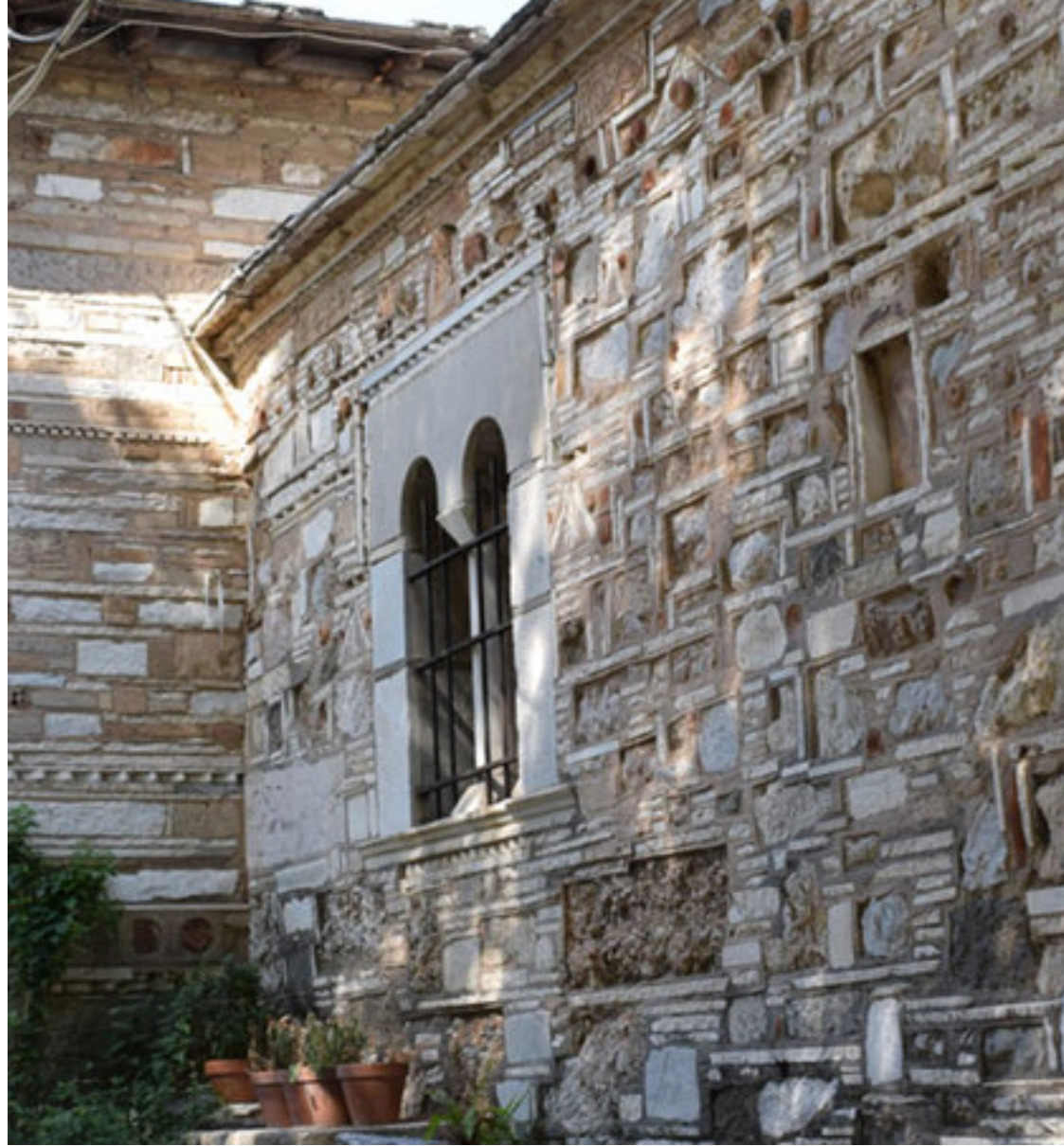


FIRE PLACES_ to create warmth and atmosphere in the public space.



TEXTURED SURFACES_ to express meaning and to enhance sensible experiences

- PATH around Acropolis, Athens- Dimitri Pikionis -



- WALL around Acropolis, Athens- Dimitri Pikionis -

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elements of the way we work

Four steps

Step 1: Exploring the territory on site (week 2 - 4)

Step 2: Develop design experiments (week 4-6)

Step 3: Workshopweek in collaboration with other studios (week 7)

Step 4: Detailed design of architectural intervention (week 8 - 13)

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international references



SPEELPLEIN, AMSTERDAM | Aldo Van Eyck



SPORTCOMPLEX, BELLINZONA | Aurelio Galfetti



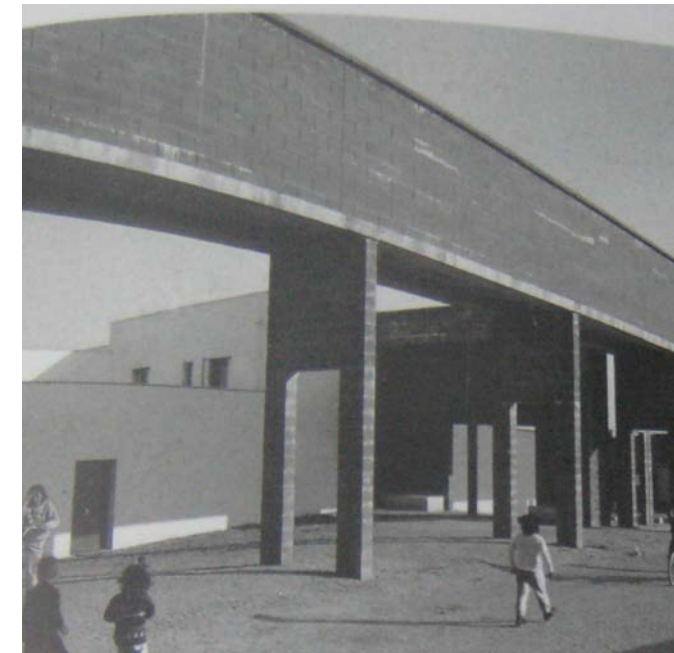
FLOWER PAVILION, MALMO | Sigurd Lewerentz



PROMENADE, LJUBLJANA | Joze Plecnik



PARC LANCY, GENEVE | Georges Descombes



MALLEGUIRA, EVORA | Alvaro Siza



PLATFORM, BRUGGE | Atelier BOW WOW



STADSHAL, GENT | M.J. Van Hee en Robbrecht en Daem



SERPENTINE | Peter Zumthor



HD 400, Gent | Ann Veronica Janssens



VOIE SUISSE | Georges Descombes



PARK DUISBURG NOORD | Peter Latz

Studio Architecture & Territory

studio teachers

Bart Van Gassen

Ignacio Galán Fernández

Bart Van Gassen (KUL/Tractebel) instagram spatialedesigntractebel



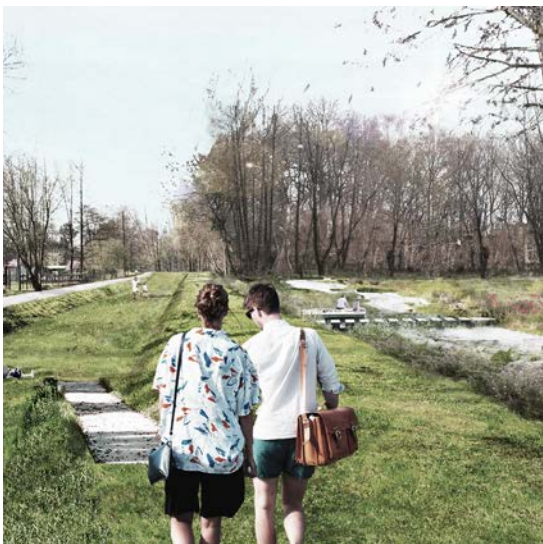
TUINEN VAN STENE, OOSTENDE | Bart Van Gassen voor Tractebel (foto: Dieter Van Caneghem)



GENTBRUGSE MEERSEN, GENT | Bart Van Gassen voor Tractebel



IGLO, ANTWERPEN | Bart Van Gassen voor Tractebel (Foto: Filip Dujardin)



STIEMERVALLEI, GENK | Bart Van Gassen voor Tractebel



KORTRIJK WEIDE | Bart Van Gassen voor Tractebel (foto: Dieter Van Caneghem)



DOK ZUID, ANTWERPEN | Bart Van Gassen voor Tractebel

Referenties Ignacio Galán Fernández (KUL)



RUA DA CARAMONIÑA, SANTIAGO COMPOSTELA |
Ignacio Galan & Marina Alvarez



SOCIALE WIJK, WILLEBROEK |
Ignacio Galan voor Abscis Architecten



MUDAKKERS, LOMMEL |
Ignacio Galan voor Abscis Architecten



HUERTAS, VILLAJOYOSA |
Ignacio Galan & Marina Alvarez



FACULTY ATRIUM, ZARAGOZA |
Ignacio Galan



SAN PEDRO, OLITE |
Ignacio Galan & Marina Alvarez

core team

Architecture & Territory

Landscape, Ecology & Design

bart.vangassen@kuleuven.be

ignacio.galan@kuleuven.be

bruno.notteboom@kuleuven.be