

Architecture & Territory

De Dendervallei

MARG 34 - 2022|2023

Steven Geeraert en Bart Van Gassen



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, technical works (in engineering, ecology ...), top down approaches.



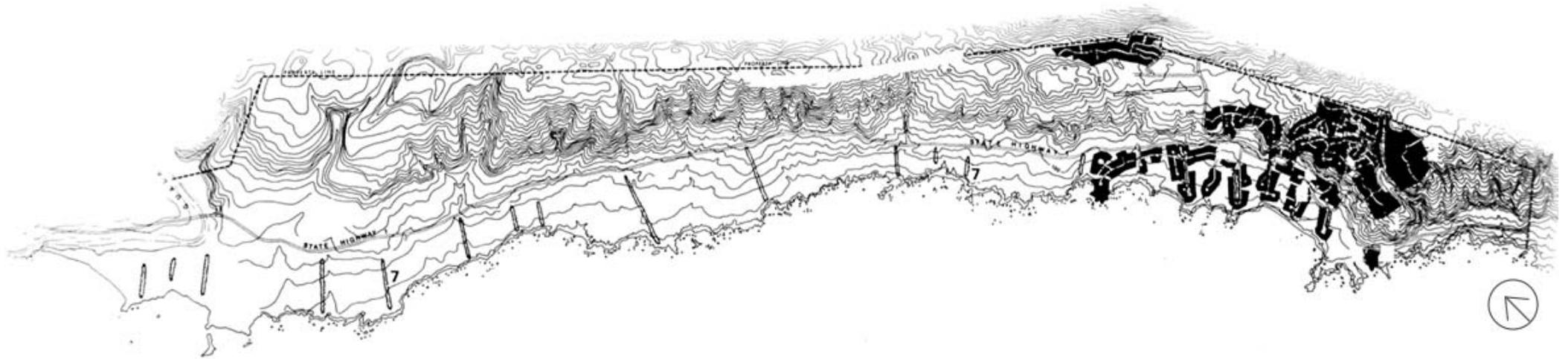
Studio Architecture & Territory forms part of the engagement Urban Cultures and is framed by the ADO Landscape, Ecology and Design.

“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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Studio Architecture & Territory

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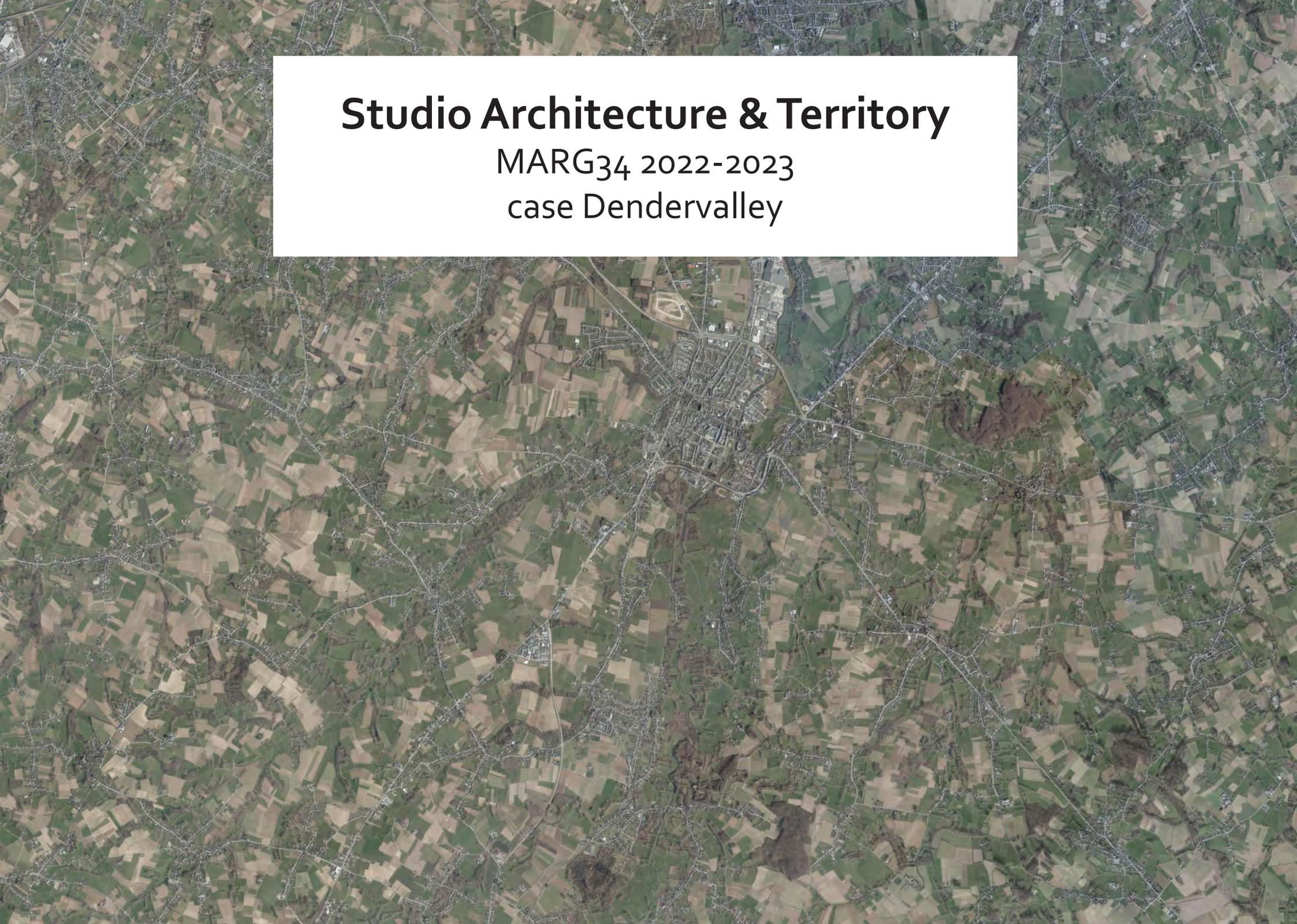
3. Studio Architecture & Territory develops true “landscapes for living”. By improving spatial structures – water and ecological systems, public space, green infrastructure, neighbourhoods ... – and by offering space for a re-imagination of social/cultural practices in the city.



“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

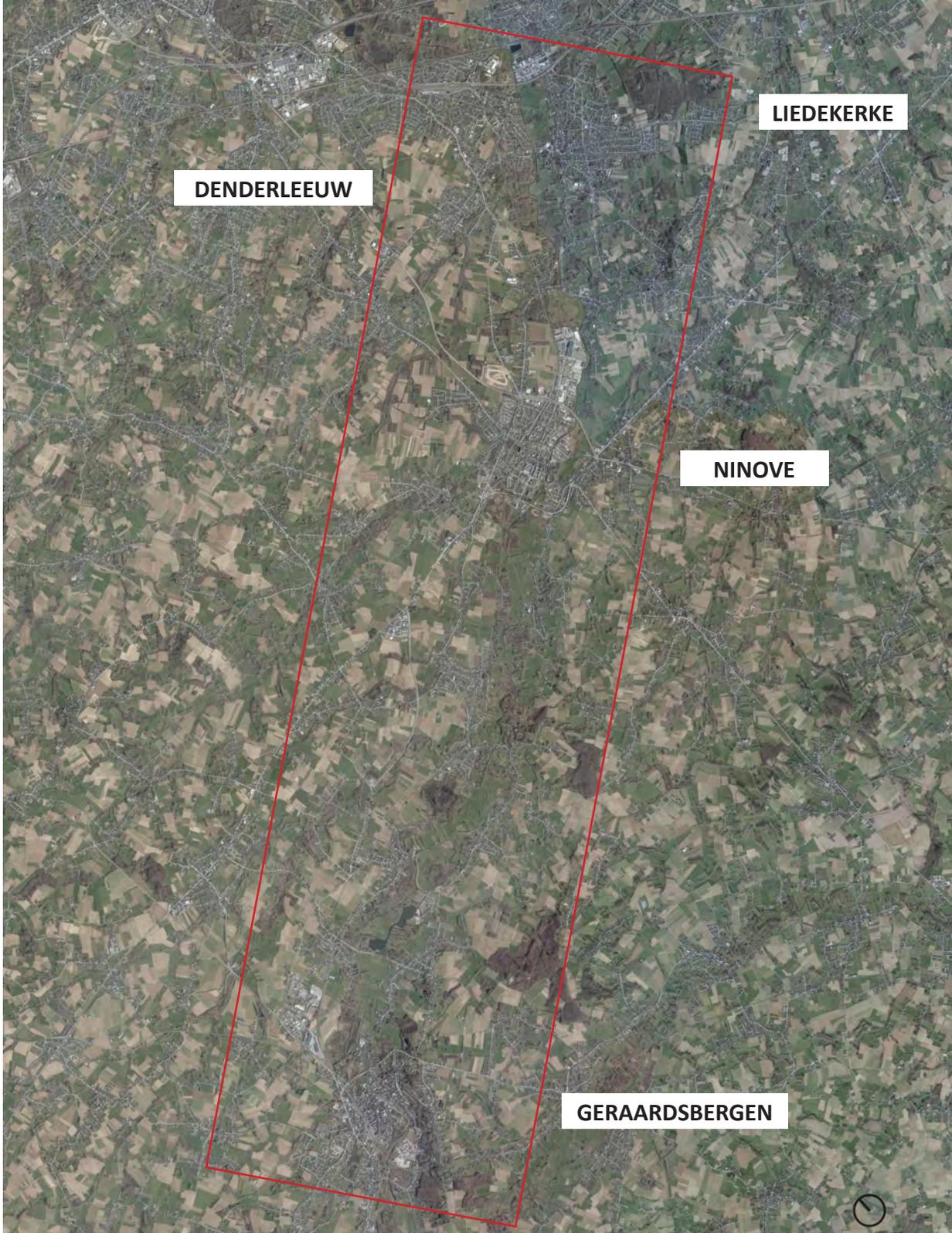
“ ..., by setting a site in motion or registering changes over time, landscape architects translated their ecological environmental values into a new design language that was dynamic, fluctuating, and process oriented. **The open-ended nature of this work, not completed when construction was done but 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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An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, likely in the Dender valley. The image shows a central village with a dense network of buildings and streets, surrounded by a vast expanse of agricultural fields. The fields are divided into numerous small, irregular plots, some of which are green, suggesting active cultivation, while others are brown or tan, possibly indicating fallow land or harvested crops. A network of roads and paths crisscrosses the landscape, connecting the fields and the central village. The overall scene depicts a typical rural settlement in a valley.

Studio Architecture & Territory

MARG₃₄ 2022-2023
case Dendervalley



DENDERLEEUV

LIEDEKERKE

NINOVE

GERAARDSBERGEN





LIEDEKERKE

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NINOVE



GERAARDSBERGEN

























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



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

- Silent table Targu - Constantin Brancusi -

- Fireplace Kortrijk Weide - Tractebel -



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

- Sun tunnels - Nancy Holt -

- Watertransformator, Amsterdam - Pavel Houten -



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



GROUND_Transformation of the ground to address the need for play

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

- Playground Plain de Plainpalais, Geneve - Carmen Perrin -



(RAIN)GARDENS_The introduction of (rain)gardens to create space for water, biodiversity and play

- Reflection Garden, Bloedel Reserve - Richard Haag -

- Water garden Kortrijk Weide - Tractebel -

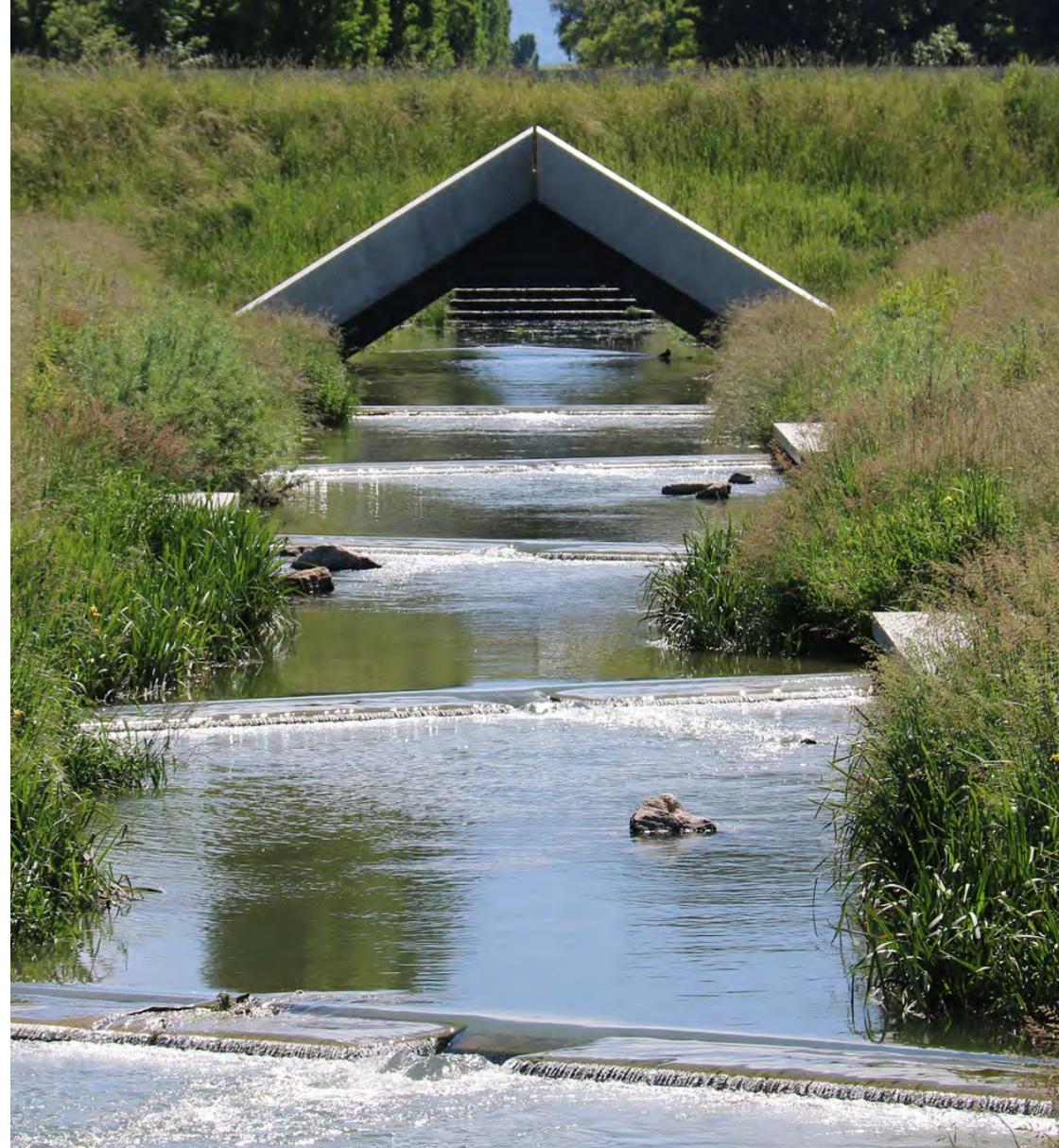


CONNECTIONS_ Interventions related to organizing accessibility in the area for human and non-human agents



(RE)FRAMING WATER_Improving ecological and civic infrastructure related to the watersystem.

- Stone Water divider in Yemen -



- Renaturalisation of the Aire - Georges Descombes -



NATURAL ENCLAVES_Interventions related to making certain areas inaccessible for people to improve ecological values

We expect you to design TWIN INTERVENTIONS: two similar interventions on two distinctly different sites. The two interventions are related in one way or the other: in material, in typology, in atmosphere, in shape, in configuration...At the same time the two interventions can vary in character: be more permanent or more temporary, more structural or more fragile, a quick win or a more long term intervention.



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



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



- PLATFORM Canal Swimmer's Club, Bruges - Atelier Bow Wow -



- PLATFORM Tuinen van Stene, Oostende - Tractebel/Descombes -



- FIRE PLACE SESC Pompeia, Sao Paulo - Lina Bo Bardi



- FIRE PLACE Stadshal, Gent - Robbrecht&Daem+MJ Van Hee -



- PATH around Acropolis, Athens- Dimitri Pikionis -



- WALL around Acropolis, Athens- Dimitri Pikionis -

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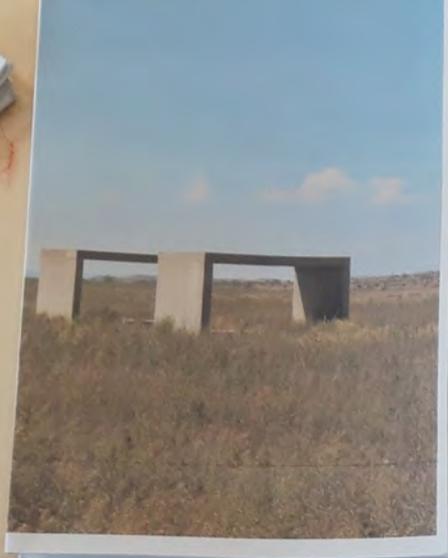
elements of the way we work

Three steps

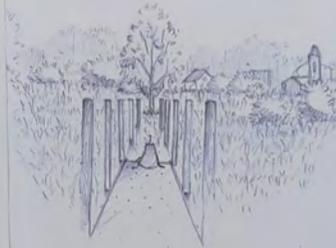
Step 1: Exploring the territory on site (week 1 - 3)

Step 2: Design experiments on two selected sites (week 4-7)

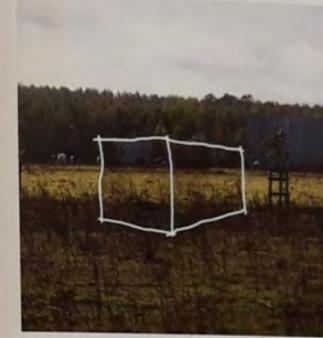
Step 3: Detailed design of two punctual interventions (week 8 - 12)



2 By incorporating a vegetal component to metal scaffolding and other construction materials, a living, breathing building is formed. Over time, as the trees age, their fused joints continue to strengthen, providing further load bearing support.



resting counterpoint develops between the continuous rhythm of movement and the discontinuous visual rhythm. There is a complex interplay in how space is lived through the body and the eye.



SITE DESIGN

04



SKETCH

Semi open gathering space, outdoor gathering in a more intimate way.

ANCE - "CULTURAL LANDSCAPE DAYCARE CENTER ST. PETRI"

of the daycare center was experienced in a social conflictual and is distinct. The concept intervenes context of south lower saxony as rural low mountain range region. If the landscape's overall concept rich to the nature are climb hills native types of plants that are original fruits and are typical for this are mainly chosen for the cultivation: apple, blueberry, woodland strawberry. arboriculture was taken into y, establishing allotment gardens, then can be active by themselves.

LANDSCAPING
Landschaftsarchitektur und Umweltplanung G+H+L, BDLA

CLIENT
City of Göttingen

COMPLETION
2008

REGION
Göttingen, Germany



to remove the paths through the dense forests and supplement them with tunnels, made by directing the young vegetation through, for example, thin rods to which the are attached. These tunnels can be kept open through regular maintenance. For the tunnel forms a covering from the rain, while the surrounding forest is shielded. Note who maneuver through it. Here and there it offers insight into the surrounding ending on the density of the vegetation or openings made in the construction.



Addition of elements for gathering, a circle mimics the shape of the space and creates options for gathering in groups or alone.



Step 1: Exploring the territory on site (week 1 - 3)



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



GROUND_ Transformation of the ground to adapt to address the need for play



(RAIN)GARDENS_ The introduction of (rain)gardens to create space for water, biodiversity and play



CONNECTIONS_ Interventions related to organizing accessibility in the area for human and non-human agents

Step 1: Exploring the territory on site (week 1 - 3)



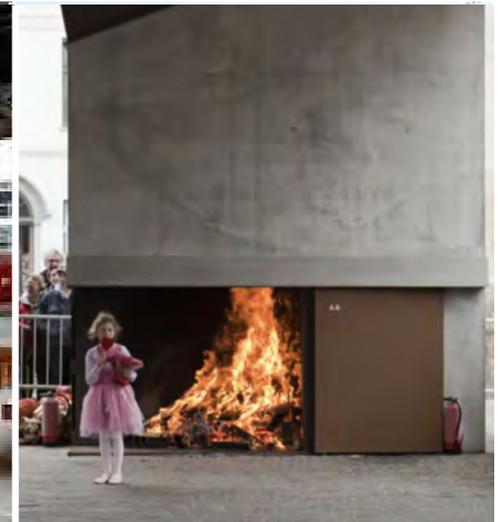
-Open air theatre, Arhus - C.Th.Sorensen -



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



- fire place SESC Pompeia, Sao Paulo - Lina Bo Bardi -



-Stadshal, Gent - Robbrecht&Daem+MJ Van Hee-



-Canal Swimmer's Club, Bruges - Atelier Bow Wow -



- Tuinen van Stene, Oostende - Tractebel/ADR/Descombes -



-Path around Acropolis, Athens- Dimitri Pikionis -



- Wall around Acropolis, Athens- Dimitri Pikionis -

Step 2: Design experiments on two selected sites (week 3-8)

ALONGSIDE THE RIDGE
Architecture & Territory
Case Gentbrugse Meersen

NARRATIVE

The site in the Gentbrugse Meersen, there are several spots that get naturally flooded during the change of seasons. This phenomenon occurs because of the low-lying agricultural area. Also, the Scheldt river used to be a meandering river. The old overflow for banks and is that way, the landscape has a meandering pattern. At the end of the nineteenth century, the meander was being straightened. To leave the area wet and fertile, there was a system of ditches all over the meadows. Nowadays, we can still see the remains of the old meander in topographical maps and names such as 'Dochte Schelling' and 'Bogendammer'. The ditches are still visible. The main one that runs through the Meersen is called the 'Berghout'.

Meadows are generally dry during summer, the areas are almost completely flooded during the winter months. This means that people have limited access to them. At the same time, a higher biodiversity is being created by the changing tides. This area of limited accessibility and biodiversity has been my starting point for my interventions. There are not situated along a spontaneously formed pathway that runs next to certain areas that get flooded. The movement of the water level gives the site a dynamic, being a way to interact with this changing water landscape, while respecting the species that live there.

Animals and people
There is a great diversity of species in the Meersen. The water moves in a path. To make you more aware of the interventions, animals also hold focus in the Meersen, the pathways are named after some of these animals, there is for example the 'Wildegoed' and the 'Donscheep'. You can also observe the big variety of birds and small mammals. And if you take a great chance, the allometric garden is the place to be in the Meersen. I wanted to create a way to let people experience nature as much as possible, by either interacting with the animals, or by being very close to the water and see the changing tides.

A specific material design
Because of the fact that I am talking about a piece of the territory that belongs to the animals, I wanted to make

gentle for birds. It is an ideal landing area for porcupins, rabbits, ducks, lapwings and many more. When exploring the site, I've noticed that there are cows grazing in a variety of types of landscapes. They walk over grasslands, but there are also fields in the young forests. The main focus 'Bos' zone, you can interact with the cows and gather for the water point of the shallow fish and plants who want to play. This even invites people to play. This intervention also offers a space for the rain in the public open landscape.

"The case for the forest"
In the end, Gert-Jan Van der Grinten explains that the intervention starts from the meadow to design for the animals, as well for the people at the same time. In my mental intervention, I've created an open forest by being willing to take only the concrete, stone, and wood. This shows that you don't need a big intervention to give life to forests, maybe even thousands of words. My intervention intervention is a lot of variations, where the birds can create a nest and build without getting disturbed too much by people, it was therefore important for me to locate the intervention in a rather dark to reach place for people. The accessibility of the intervention is being very close to the shallow side of the water as the area. For my complex intervention I wanted to make sure to give a big part of the site to be used back to the river, which are being grazing in this area. That is why I've created a shelter as well for people as for the cows, when the cows get the possibility to drink and rest, while staying close to the site. The shelter brings both species together, while respecting each other's space.

Creating space for integration
My intervention of take a minimal and simple design. In this way, they can get the possibility to drink and rest, while staying close to the site. The shelter brings both species together, while respecting each other's space. My intervention of take a minimal and simple design. In this way, they can get the possibility to drink and rest, while staying close to the site. The shelter brings both species together, while respecting each other's space. There is a possibility to go further to be down, to play, to walk on and with the intervention, in my mental intervention you can see by the water.



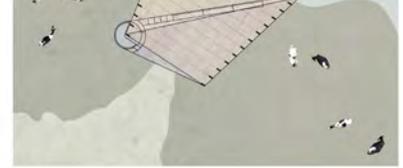
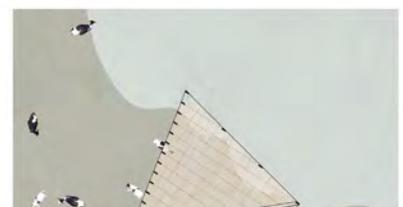
The shelter is the centerpiece of the Meersen as we know today. In each case of my interventions, the shelter not only functions as a structural element, it combines this architectural function with an aspect of use for people as well as animals, a function for recreational use could be. The shelter also interacts with the water on site. As the water rises, cooling areas are being created or become impossible for people to reach. In my complex intervention, the shelter that falls from the roof is being caught by a water basin in the shelter. This basin

is an element of play for people and gives a look to the cows to drink. Here, the shelter brings people and animals together as always.

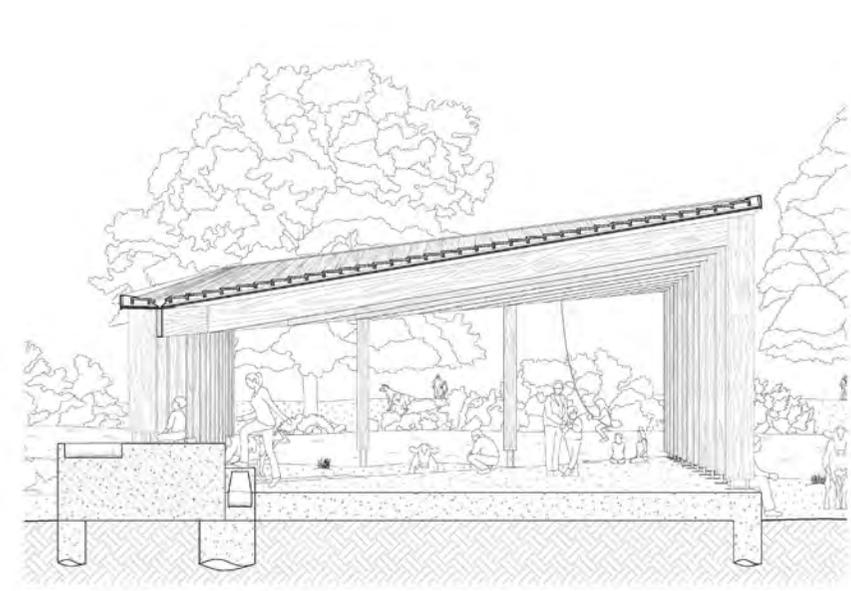
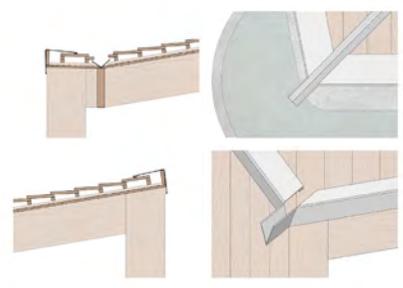
The shelter
The concrete elements in my interventions represent me of the structure of ancient Greek architecture. The element is the stepped platform upon which interventions of temples are placed. This created a small structure all around the building for sitting purposes, there is a clear distinction between these. The shelter is a clear distinction between these. The shelter is a clear distinction between these. The shelter is a clear distinction between these.

COWS AND PEOPLE'S SHELTER INTERVENTION

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Elise Bonny
MARG 34
2020 - 2021



Track 3: Detailed design of two punctual interventions (week 8 - 14)

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MARG₃₄ 2020-2021

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



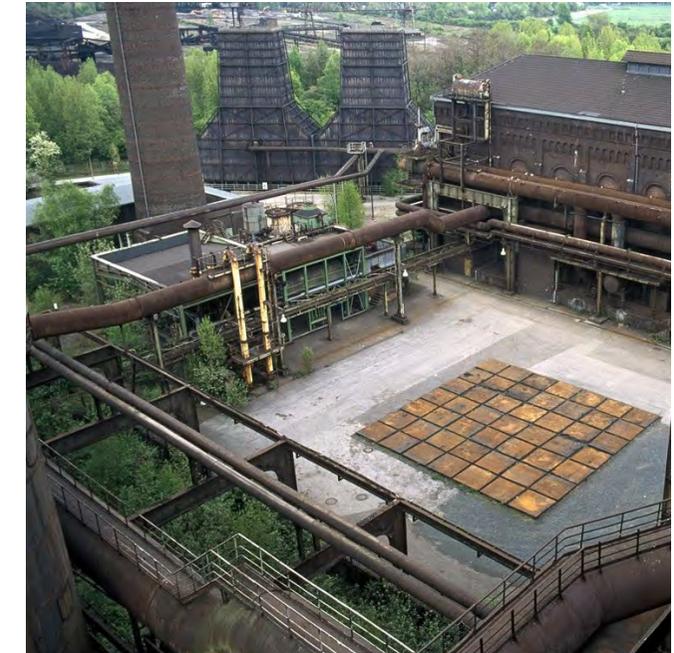
SERPENTINE | Peter Zumthor



HD 400, Gent | Ann Veronica Janssens



VOIE SUISSE | Georges Descombes



PARK DUISBURG NOORD | Peter Latz

Studio Architecture & Territory

MARG₃₄ 2020-2021

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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

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OPEN OPROEP WEVELGEM | Steven Geeraert voor MAARCH



PM800 Post Metabolic City | Steven Geeraert voor MAARCH



OVER DE RING ANTWERPEN | Steven Geeraert voor MAARCH



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