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## Learning in Lockdown

How the pandemic redefines Architectural Education

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*Faculty of Architecture/Engagement:*

## The Brussels Way

Curated by Patrick Moyersoen

*GOING PUBLIC Lecture Series Nr. 29*

Online Debate:

Thursday April 29th

18:30-20:00 (GMT +1)

The GOING PUBLIC program of the Faculty of Architecture is a series of lectures, exhibitions and publications organized throughout the year highlighting certain themes and topics that are important within each of the 4+1 Engagements: Urban Cultures, Mediating Tactics, Craftsmanship, Legacy and The Brussels Way.

Follow the GOING PUBLIC series lectures on social media so you don't miss the next lectures!



## ONLINE DEBATE

An online debate in the Brussels Way engagement, organized and moderated by:  
Dag Boutsen  
Gideon Boie  
Patrick Moyersoien  
Léa Deniele  
Eneida Berisha

We are eager to hear about your experiences during the three semesters of lockdown education. What are the inconveniences and frustrations of corona teaching? What were the great moments? Any benefits? We are equally eager to hear reflections on architectural education after Corona. Is the period of lockdown education one to forget as soon as possible? Or did unforeseen lines of flight emerge in the midst of permanent exception?

"If we disregard the fact that students have been confined to depressingly small rooms for weeks on end, the last twelve months have been acutely forward-looking. It was often overwhelming to experience how much could be done at a distance, digitally interacting with other teachers and students behind a computer screen.

Guess what: we can have a productive one-hour meeting with fifteen staff members without time-consuming travel."



*"Vulnerable communities and people in our cities are negatively affected by the ongoing exclusive, capital- focused policies creating health crises on one side, structural discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, political stance, income levels on the other. Together with the emerging spread and normalization of racism, these concerns are amplified and made visible by the COVID-19 pandemic."*

*"Studying and working permanently from home brought the question of sharing the residential space for more than just residential purpose with people we are or are not intimate with."*

*"In the Covid Crisis we all were pushed into alternative channels to organize communication between students and teachers, and somehow we also became much more aware of the impact of the medium on the message or mission."*

## HIGHLIGHT PROJECT / PUBLICATION

### WTC TOWER TEACHING BOOK

'WTC Tower Teachings' is a pile of texts on the one and a half years of WTC24, the temporary setting of the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture at the 24th floor of the WTC complex in Brussels. It was a great period that allowed the tutors and students to reflect upon architecture education, staying at a bare office tower floor, without the typical school apparatus of partition walls, auditorium seats and back office rooms, and realising somehow the dream of what one has called a 'publicness of education'. The book brings together contributions by professors, students, participants and stakeholders.

Sharing Space Story - Book Page 66



## PERMANENT RESPONSIBILITY AND TEMPORAL USE

I think that the importance of the 'new' in particular should not be underestimated. I spent three semesters here, and they were three very different experiences. From an exciting and eventful beginning to a messy and chaotic end.

## DEBATE

"If teaching at WTC (WTC Tower Teachings 1) was the last and grandiose manifestation of a 'real' architecture school, teaching 'real' architecture in a ballroom setting, then COVID-teaching must be the first manifestation of a 'virtual' architecture school, teaching 'digital' architecture in a screen size setting."

The architectural discipline has been deeply affected by the pandemic. Suddenly questions are raised over architectural concepts and uses that were previously so self-evident. The city as we know is no more. Also architectural education was shaken in the pandemic. We have been coping in the urgency of the moment, it has taken a lot of energy. And yet there is a need for reflection which is why we want to bring together experiences and reflections in a debate and book

Student statement on WTC tower teaching