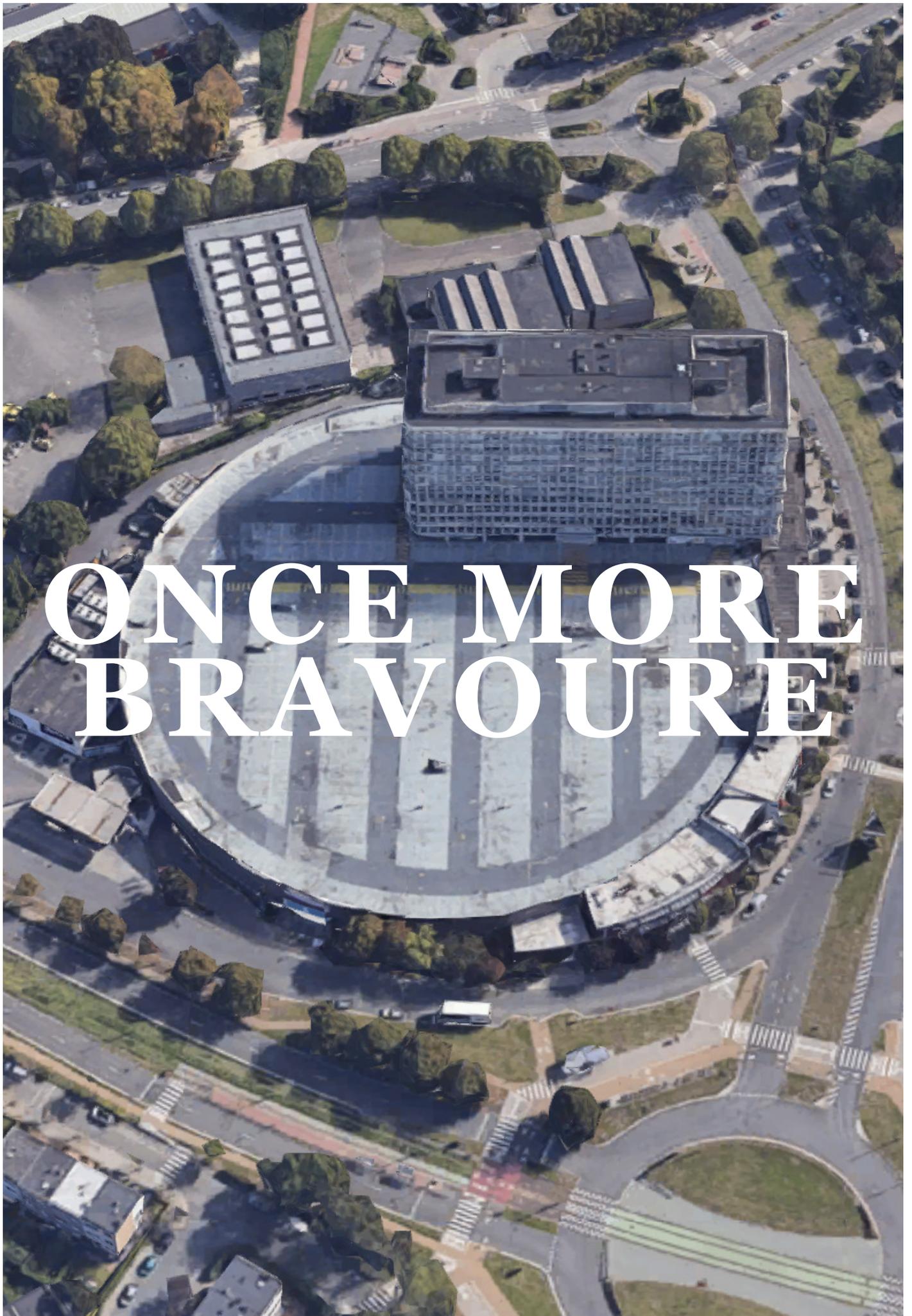


ONCE MORE BRAVOURE

Bram Aerts
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ONCE MORE BRAVOURRE

too strong to divert
too weak to obey

studio theme

In Belgium, there are several buildings dating from the 60s and 70s, expressing brave ambitions, some with brutalist aspirations, some with latent modernist residue, that are entering a crucial phase in their existence. They are often threatened by generic transformations only ensuring regulatory compliance or simply by demolition.

These buildings need a new start, not only making sure they can survive in a performance driven reality. There are also opportunities in their shaky status. Opportunities to devise a new spring that will bring about more fundamental changes than a performance upgrade or preservation of the status quo. Corrective action is needed to address their shortcomings.



method - semester 1

In the first semester of the master's dissertation, we draw up an assessment framework, trace, map and document these often forgotten buildings. Brussels will be our context.

This phase is a collaborative undertaking.

You will then choose a site and document it further.

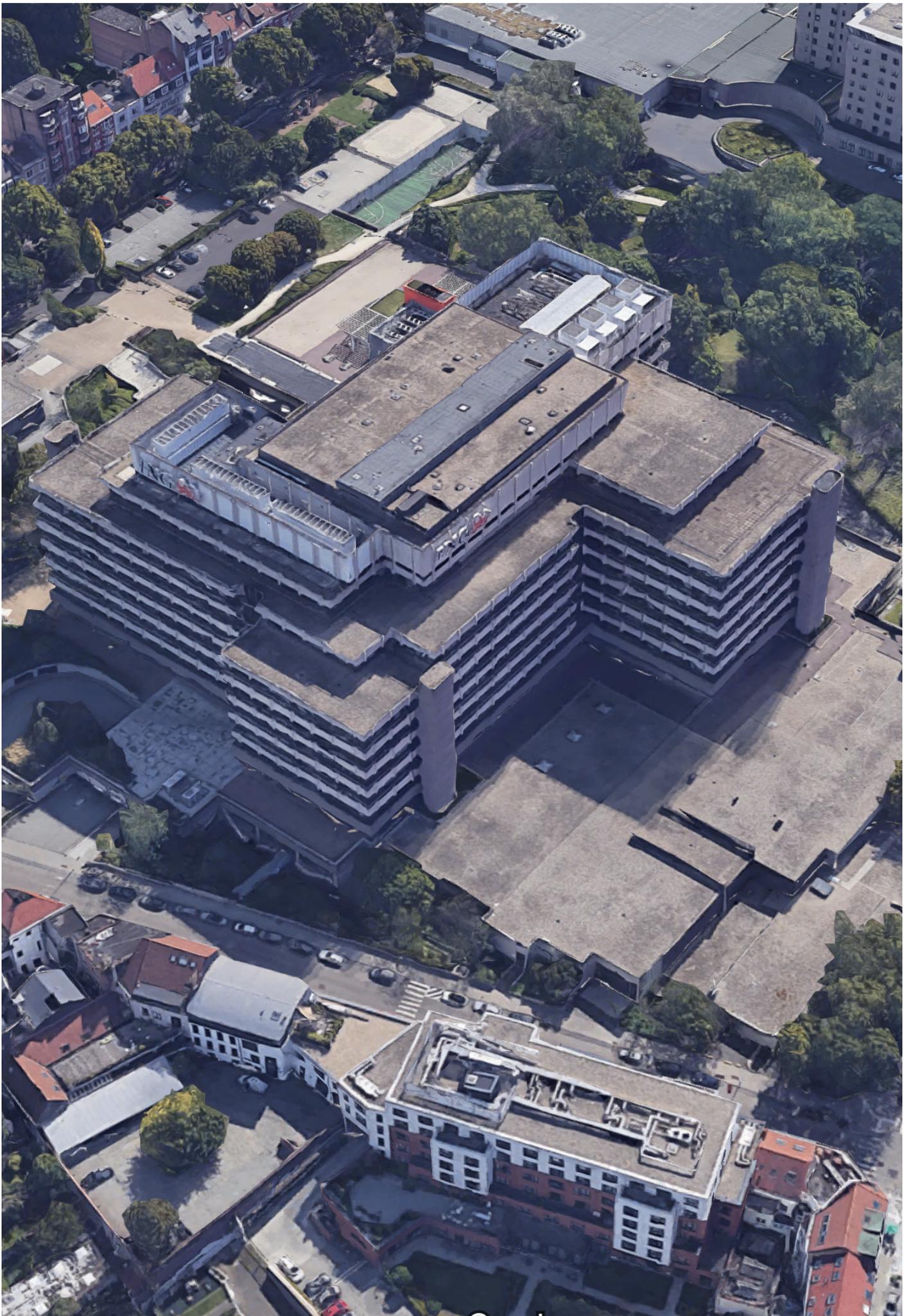
That's individual work and also the start of your reflexive essay.

method - semester 2

Subsequently, you will explore new possibilities in terms of design.

Starting from the hypothesis of (partial) preservation as an ecologically sound choice, the studio searches for an architecture that is built up from the residue of qualities that are determined, without avoiding the objectively measurable performance that is expected of each transformed building.

Again, individual work.



ambition

Much emphasis will be placed on understanding the existing architecture and continuing, converting, adapting and complementing these constructions, which are both strong and fragile at the same time. Strong in the sense that their qualities speak for themselves, fragile because any intervention, even very limited, can dismantle the qualities of the construction rather than make them resound.

Without falling back on a wide range of historical examples or similar precedents, we will look for a relevant architecture that can give these buildings, which are both loved and vilified at the same time, a new place in our cities.

THE OFFICE

- Design driven. Drawing & model making.
- We will setup a permanent office space in Ghent, Bomastraat 10, for research, debate and reflexion.
- Covid proof.
- Max. 10 students.
- Cross-over sessions with Master Studio 'Silent Servants'
- Lectures to be announced.
- Publication



Tutor

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KU Leuven
Faculty of Architecture
Master thesis 2020-2021
Campus: Ghent
Master dissertation

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