Théo Braekman
Architecture Portfolio
Academic Works

4 - 11
Cohousing in Mons
BSc3 - 2018

12 - 19
Theatre in Saint-Gilles
BSc2 - 2018

20 - 27
Calder Foundation
BSc2 - 2017

28 - 29
Workshop on Villa Alem
BSc1 - 2016
This housing project takes place in the medieval center of Mons, just beside grand place and the main streets. First of all, an urbanistic proposition was designed by a group of students and myself. Then each students investigate a part of it (the red block) to the smaller architectural scale. This cohousing articulate the entry of the parc while facing a public space and a gouvernemntal institution. The main idea of this projet is to replace the common and functional staircase by a perambulation through shared spaces. Therefore, inhabitants would cross a series of common spaces before going in their privates units. The common space are located in front of the exterior public place whereas privates appartements are facing a quiet parc. Appartements are compacts units, surrounded by a shared space with same floor's units. The plan is cross shaped. Thus, the common space has four different natural lights sources (north, east, west, south). This allow to have several uses of the same cross space. For example we usually get up on the east side and we might work on our computer on the north side. In the end, there is a strong relation between appartement floor and common spaces because of the half level connections.

Bird's view of the site (Drawing I made)
Circulation through the common space in order to reach each cohousing units. (1:100 model)
Perspective section showing relationship between private units and common spaces.
Bird's view on the close context. 1:100 Model
Structural system composed by laminated timber posts and beams

Bracing system with CLT walls
This project has several intentions depending on the scale we focus on. Firstly, it addresses the city by creating a public space that extend the existing one known as «parvis de Saint Gilles». Secondly, it addresses the public place «carré de moscou» as a lot of functions are outsourced from the theatre. For instance, the cafe-restaurant extends its south terrace on the public place. The decoration workshop also has the ability to open its doors on the street and extend its work on the sidewalk. Third, the interior organisation is divided into two floors. The ground floor is public (restaurant, theatre,...) and the first floor is private. These two floors are linked by a central patio in order to mix all the workers with the public. The patio acts as an exterior public space inside the theatre. Finally, the structure is composed by posts and beams made of steal wich supports a large zinc roof. This structure is independant from space organisation and allows this public building to reconsider another program whether it is needed.
Main Entry of the theatre facing the public space

Perspective inside the workshop dedicated to decoration
View from the main entry. Showing connection between public space and interior patio.
This document shows the relationship between the public ground floor and the private first floor. The patio create a meeting point between all the workers, artists, administration, and the public.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level and Date</th>
<th>BA2 11.2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Artistic Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Virtual Japanese city</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal/Group</td>
<td>Personal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>D. Linze (<a href="mailto:Daniel.Linze@ulb.ac.be">Daniel.Linze@ulb.ac.be</a>)</td>
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The main issue of this project was to manage the very close context. In fact, we had to create a foundation with a residential part in a context inspired by Japanese cities. Because the context was virtual without any function, I decided to put the main living room above the general skyline. As a result, it emphasizes the importance of a cultural building in a bared context and it allows living spaces to get out of a too close environnement.
In order to deal with the residential part and the public part (library), I decided to realise two separate ways to circulate in the foundation. One is public (red) and one is private (grey). This double revolution staircase comes from the “Chambord castle” (16th century) and was invented by Leonardo da Vinci. It allows the separation of these two ways by not meeting each other until the top. The library addresses the front street by its lower volume facing covering the entry. The common spaces (where researchers live) are in the highest volume at the back of the plot. Both library and commons are double height spaces in order to give generosity for spaces where we spent most of the time.
Top floor’s view, showing common spaces on double height
Third Floor

Last Floor and Rooftop
Views of the 1:50 Model
This analysis was the first contact I had with architecture. Firstly, we made a series of documents investigating major topics. Our topic was the relationship between interior and exterior. In order to understand the project on this point of view, we made a section model of the house. This model is very particular as it allows to look in the box on a travelling and follow from one side to the other, all the way between interior and exterior. Making the model made us find multiple architectural elements that creates a transition between exterior and interior. Secondly, we decided to recompose a picture from Olgiati’s book by constructing a 1:1 scale model. This construction would be able to be translated along a travelling, and then we would recompose the whole picture with photoshop. In the end, we made a publication of our work and we sent it to Olgiati. He found it interesting and decided to travel to Brussels in order to visit our exhibition. I have participated in organizing the exhibition and his lecture in Brussels faculty of Architecture La Cambre Horta.

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**Documents selected by the jury for the publication. The bottom left one is a personal work**
Picture taken at the exhibition while I was explaining to V. Olgiati what we learned from our model.

1:1 scale model made by our group of student.

Villa Alem study Section Model made by Zloic Pit and me (1:50) A V. Olgiati’s project.
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