POLITECNICO DI TORINO
Repository ISTITUZIONALE

The landscapes of Belgian reconstruction: a balance between modernity and tradition

Original
The landscapes of Belgian reconstruction: a balance between modernity and tradition / Franchini, C.. - In: MESTO A DEJINY. - ISSN 1339-0163. - STAMPA. - 3:2(2014), pp. 39-56.

Availability:
This version is available at: 11583/2667523 since: 2017-03-28T10:34:39Z

Publisher:
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

Published
DOI:

Terms of use:

This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

Publisher copyright

(Article begins on next page)

09 November 2026

č. 2, roč. 3, 2014

MESTO a DEJINY

ISSN 1339-0163

Autori a inštitúcie / Authors and institutions

Mgr. Peter Brindza, PhD.
Štátny archív v Bratislave, pobočka Trenčín

Caterina Franchini, Ph.D., M.Sc., Ba/Ma
Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning – DIST,
Politecnico di Torino and University di Torino

Mgr. Veronika Gayer
Kisebbségkutató Intézet, Társadalomtudományi Kutatóközpont,
Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, Budapest

Mgr. Mikuláš Jančura, PhD.
Katedra histórie, Filozofická fakulta,
Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach

Prof. PhDr. Ferdinand Uličný, DrSc.
Ploštín 18, Ploštín

2
ROČNÍK 3.
2014

MESTO a DEJINY

ARTICLES

Uličný, Ferdinand:
The burgher right in Slovakia
in the Middle Ages 6

Brindza, Peter:
The function of Trenčín urban valet
in the 17th century from the perspective
of archontology 23

Franchini, Caterina:
The landscapes of Belgian
reconstruction: a balance between
modernity and tradition 39

Jančura, Mikuláš:
The beginnings of motor sport in Bratislava
and Košice in the years 1921 – 1933 57

HORIZONS

Gayer, Veronika:
The Slovjak Regional Movement
Between 1907 – 1918 68

**CHRONICLE,
REVIEW, ANNOTATIONS** 85

Mesto a dejiny,
roč. 3, 2014, č. 2
ISSN 1339-0163

Redakčná rada:
Ľubomíra Kaminská (Košice)
Patrik Kunec (Banská Bystrica)
Slávka Otčenášová (Košice)
Martin Pekár (Košice, predseda)
Andrea Pokludová (Ostrava)
Štefan Šutaj (Košice)
Peter Švorc (Prešov)

The landscapes of Belgian reconstruction: a balance between modernity and tradition

Caterina Franchini

vol. 3, 2014, 2, pp. 39-56

After World War I, the debate on Belgian reconstruction divided architects. Some claimed that the priority should be the reconstruction of monuments and urban historical centers, others considered the construction of housing more urgent. In the first half of the Twenties, on one hand the well established generation of old architects worked at reconstruction of devastated regions, on the other hand the young „modernist" generation experimented with the construction of garden-suburbs with low-cost housing. The urban planner and landscaper Louis van der Swaelmen and the modernist architect Victor Bourgeois considered a failure the reconstruction „à l'identique" and the reconstruction „in style" that exhibited a sentimentalist and regionalist vision. Indeed, the law on destroyed municipalities (April 8th, 1919) imposed a regional esthetic for reconstruction on pre-existing urbanized sites. By contrast the construction of new garden-suburbs appeared as a great success against the „vieux-neuf". In 1920 the Office of Devastated Regions opened the „Architectural Section" under the responsibility of Jean-Jules Eggericx, and a first settlement of 100 social housing units was created a Roulers and named Batavia. It was inspired, at the same time, by the Belgian beguinage and by the English garden-city; and new materials and building technologies were experimented there.

Key words: Belgian reconstruction. Landscape history. Garden suburbs. Modern vernacular. Van der Swaelmen.

World War I produced a significant devastation of the Belgian landscape. The war front of the Yser river is probably the most well known devastated area. The area razed to the ground was sixty km long and twenty wide – from Nieuport to Warneton, passing through Ypres - but also a large number of municipalities in the middle of the country were damaged by the war.[1] Due to its devastations, Belgium became a „cas clinique" (clinical case) in the international debate on restoration and reconstruction.[2]

„Vieux neuf" reconstruction versus „modern vernacular"

Well established research showed two different approaches to the reconstruction.[3] On one hand, the restoration of historical centers and villages embodied a policy of prestige, on the other the construction of social houses was aimed at solving the practical need for houses for the lower social classes. It was the second action, the construction of entire

1 In the Yser region three cities and 62 villages were damaged. Cities like Aarschot, Termonde, Dinat and Visé, and little villages like Tremelo, Leizele, Havay and Spotin nearly disappeared. The city centre of Louvain, Lierre, Malines, Namur, Herve and Herbeumont were destroyed.

2 The term "cas clinique" was used by Louis Van der Swaelmen in the title of his fundamental theoretical and methodological book: VAN DER SWAELMEN, Louis. *Pour la reconstruction de la Belgique. Préliminaires d'Art Civique mis en relation avec le „cas clinique" de la Belgique.* Leyden : Société d'éditions A. W. Sijthoff, 1916, 298 p.

3 A reference work on the subject is: SMETS, Marcel (Ed.). *Resurgam. La reconstruction de la Belgique après 1914, (catalogue of the exhibition).* Ghent : Crédit Communal de Belgique, 1985, 247 p. On postwar reconstruction in Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, and the Netherlands see: BULLOCK, Nicholas – VERPOEST, Luc (Eds.). *Living With History, 1914 – 1964 : Rebuilding Europe After the First and Second War World.* Leuven : Leuven University Press, 2011, 392 p.

settlements of social housing, near the cities or villages – based on the urban typology of garden suburb – that profoundly changed peri-urban, suburban and rural landscapes of entire regions.

In the first half of the Twenties, the well established generation of old architects worked on the reconstruction of ancient towns and monuments, while the young generation experimented with the construction of garden suburbs with low-cost housing in order to solve the dramatic problems of homelessness. Specialized magazines criticized the „old-new" and too conservative attitude of urban commissions.[4] Among the most critical magazines were: La Cité, L'Art Libre, Clarté, Au Volan, Le Geste, l'Habitation à Bon Marché, and even Le Bulletin de l'Office des Régions Dévastées.

The urban planner and landscaper Louis van der Swaelmen,[5] the engineer and town planner Raphaël Verwilghen[6] and the modernist architect Victor Bourgeois[7] considered the reconstruction „à l'identique", or the so called reconstruction „en style", that exhibited a sentimentalist and historicist vision in urban landscape, to be a failure.

Immediately after the war, Van der Swaelmen already showed a strong reaction against the „vieux-neuf" and in his book Les Preliminaires d'Art Civique (1916) expressed the need to draw on foreign experiences to create a „new" art and organization of urban space, in keeping with the times, needs and the creative expression of the modernists.[8]

In 1925, Van der Swaelmen considered regionalism and „localism" („esprit de clocher") to be responsible of the reconstruction failure and he denounced the lack of modern architecture: „(...) pas un seul ensemble d'esprit moderne témoignage d'un art vivant. Fiasco urbanistique: aucune amélioration du plan des localités. On reconstruit sur les alignement et les lotissements tels quels (...). Le régionalisme et l'esprit de clocher ont tout compromis (...). Quelques édifices isolés d'architecture moderne (...) dû presque tous à Hoste, montrent que l'ont eût pu faire beau, du parfait, si on l'avait voulu".[9]

In 1926, Bourgeois strongly criticized post-war reconstruction, considering it: „(...) victime d'un sentimentalisme irréfléchi et dogmatique (...) exaltation de la copie et de la richesse".[10] His point of view concerning the destroy monuments was clear : „(le) remplacement par des œuvres modernes dont les valeurs plastiques compléteront les ensembles sans heurts et sans peur".[11]

The functional use of regionalism and vernacular versus a sentimental imitation

The law on destroyed municipalities (8th April, 1919) was partially responsible for the „vieux-neuf" approach, in fact it had imposed a regional esthetic for reconstruction

4 Among the others see: FLOUQUET, Pierre Louis. L'action de la Société nationale de Habitations et Logements à Bon Marché. In: *Bâtir,* 1933, no. 5, p. 170.

5 About Van der Swaemen see: STYNEN, Herman. *Louis Van der Swaelmen (1883 – 1929) animateur du mouvement moderne en Belgique.* Bruxelles : Pierre Mardaga, 1979. 139 p.

6 Verwilghen (1885 – 1963) was the chief of the Office des Régions Dévastées, founder member of the Société des Urbanistes Belges and editor of the modern magazines Tekné (1911 – 1913) and La Cité (1919 – 1935).

7 Bourgeois (1897 – 1962) was also the editor of the architectural section of the weekly magazine 7 Arts in which he published several articles on reconstruction.

8 DE RIDDER, André. Un Urbaniste belge : Louis van der Swaelmen. Les "Préliminaires d'Art civique" et l'activité du C.N.B.A.C. In: *La Cité,* 1920, no. 9, p. 180.

9 VAN DER SWAELMEN, Louis. Cité-Jardin de Kapelleveld. In: *7 Arts*, 1925, no. 12.

10 BOURGEOIS, Victor. Bilan, échecs et promesses. L'Architecture Belge de 1918 – 1926. In: *7 Arts*, 1926, no. 1.

11 BOURGEOIS, Victor. L'Urbanisme vivant. Pour le Grand Bruxelles. 2) Les monuments et ensembles historiques (suite). In: *7 Arts*, 1927, no. 17.

of pre-existing urbanized sites. However, the positive side of the law was to force the municipalities to issue hygienic regulations on buildings, and imposing the development of general town planning schemes and schemes for alignment.

The reconstruction of the destroyed cities had to be done on the existing site in compliance with the original roads and the authentic architectural features inspired by traditional regional aesthetics. This regionalist approach was applied by the Municipalities which organized a series of competitions; the winning projects were used as a guide for the reconstruction of the buildings on existing lots. Consequently, making the distinction between the successfully functional use of regionalism and the vernacular tradition, and their sentimental imitation, became the main preoccupation for the modernists involved in post war housing construction.

The construction of new garden suburbs appeared to be a great success in contrast with the „vieux-neuf". In fact, the architects strongly rejected the typical styles of XIX century historicism in favor of a functional approach that took low-cost housing programs, suburban contexts and the physical features of the site as a catalyst for the design.

Modernist architects shared an appreciation of the vernacular tradition that played a significant role in shaping urban and landscape planning. As in the vernacular tradition, modern vernacular responded to the site, its topography, climate and local materials, and urban planning was conceived to foster „communal life" recalling a rural village.

Ruralism, vernacular and folk traditions as sources of modern inspiration

In many cases, modern architecture derived from a process of simplification of the folk building design of the pre-industrialized countryside. In Belgium as in Italy, folk traditions provided formal, esthetic and ideological inspiration in the search for modern cost-efficient housing design. In fact, in Italy in the interbellum period, discussions on the vernacular tradition, primitivism and Mediterraneità „(...) played a vital role in shaping futurism and rationalism".[12] As in Belgium, rural architecture also played an important role in the search for a modern design method. Understated and pragmatic design together with rustic realism appeared to be more coherent with the post-war housing demands.

The Garbatella and Aniene neighborhoods, completed in Rome during the 1920s, showed an ideal of rusticity that was the subject of the Italian debate on modern architecture promoted in the 1930s by the architect Giuseppe Pagano. Together with Daniel Werner, Pagano supported a totally different concept of rural architecture organizing the Exhibition of Italian Rural Architecture at the VI Milan Triennale (1936). Other examples of garden villages near Milan are Gran Sasso, Baravalle, Tiepolo and Campo dei Fiori.[13]

Looking to the vernacular and folk traditions as an inspiration for the construction of garden suburbs was a way of rejecting XIX century academism. In fact, at that time in Europe, the vernacular tradition was not part of the established history of architecture.

International cooperation for Belgian town-planning and housing

In Belgium the extensive construction of garden suburbs after WWI was due to a series of political and cultural reasons. Already before the war, growing industrialization and urbanization across the country was changing the physical, economic and cultural

12 SABATINO, Michelangelo. *Pride in Modesty. Modernist architecture and the Vernacular Tradition in Italy.* Toronto – Buffalo – London : University of Toronto Press, 2010, p. 92.

13 SELVAFOLTA, Ornella. Temi e luoghi della città-giardino in Italia nei primi decenni del Novecento. Themes and places of garden-city in Italia on the first decades of Twenty Century. In: *Ciudades,* 2000 – 2001, no. 6, pp. 75-95.

landscape. WWI generated a political change: Catholics, liberals and socialists formed a National Union, and for the first time, thanks to universal suffrage in 1919, the Parti Ouvrier Belge – P. O. B. participated in the Government struggling for work and housing rights.

War catalyzed international experiences to improve town planning in Belgium and a series of study boards were created: in London the Belgium Town Planning Committee (R. Unwin, president), in Paris the Commission d'étude Franco-Belge and in Amsterdam the Comité Nerlando-Belge d'Art Civique – C.N.B.A.C. directed by Van der Swaelmen, who was soon to become the protagonist of the landscape planning of Brussels garden cities green belt.[14]

The C.N.B.A.C. – president Hendrik Petrus Berlage and Belgian members Huib Hoste and Paul Otlet – had the task of collecting information from various committees to create a center of international documentation on urban planning.

Through the Town Planning Institute, England embarked on a program of continuing education for refugee architects and urban planners. Indeed, among 200.000 Belgian refugees, 200 were architects or surveyors.[15] Many countries participated in the London conference „Pour la Reconstruction de la Belgique" (11th – 15th February 1915). One of the purposes of the conference was „(...) initier (les Belges) à la théorie et aux pratiques du town planning en générale et des Garden Cities en particulier".[16]

The guidelines for Belgian reconstruction introduced the garden city as a response to housing demands. This idea was not new in Belgium. As early as 1913 during the Premier Congrès International et exposition compare des Villes de l'Union Internationales des Villes, in Ghent, the modernists declared their anti-urban attitude and the need to return to nature through the separation of activities in different districts. The anti-urban attitude coincided with the rise of suburban and peri-urban residential neighborhoods for the underprivileged social classes. Housing complexes with gardens to be connected to the city through a network of new roads and public transport were proposed to stop the dramatic degeneration of urban and rural landscapes due to urban sprawl.[17]

In 1913, in Ghent, the architect and urban planner Raymond Moenaert[18] had already identified two types of suburban and peri-urban extensions: the garden city and the industrial village, both based on English models such as Letchworth (1903), Bourneville (1879) and Port-Sunlight (1888). He thought it was possible to solve the problems of residential development and urban sprawl by carrying out regional planning through the application of the two models.

---

14 See: FRANCHINI, Caterina. Garden Cities of Brussels. The Modernity of Tradition. In: KRAUSKOPF, Kai – LIPPERT, Hans-Georg – ZASCHKE, Kerstin (Eds.). *Die Neue Tradition III. – Europäische Architektur im Zeichen von Traditionalismus und Regionalismus.* Dresden : Thelem, 2012, pp. 37-64.

15 PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique. In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine,* 1915, no. 3, p. 58.

16 PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique. In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine,* 1915, no. 4, p. 71. On the subject see: UYTTENHOVE, Pieter. The garden city education of Belgian planners around the First World War. In: *Planning Perspectives*, 1990, vol. V, no. 3, pp. 271-283.

17 On infrastructure and landscape see: PELEMAN, David – UYTTENHOVE, Pieter. Engineering the Rural Idyll : Road Construction and the Peri-urban landscape in Belgium, 1925 – 1940. In: *Landscape Research,* 2012, vol. 37, no. 4, pp. 417-435.

18 R. Moenaert was a member of the Société Centrale d'Architecture de Belgique, and secretary of the Fonds du Roi Albert and of the Union des Architectes des Régions Dévastées.

Differences between Belgian and English landscapes

In 1915, the London conference highlighted the following differences between Belgian and English landscapes that confirmed advantages of the garden city model. Belgium was less industrialized than England, but had a broader transport network, furthermore Belgium had a much more extensive rural life than England.

The relatively small size of Belgian cities was also due to the establishment, from the second half of the XIX century, of rail and tram season tickets, that were promoted by the Catholic party. Indeed, the mining industry and the widespread agricultural activity encouraged a territorial decentralization of housing that other countries did not have.[19] The typical, almost paternalistic industrial villages near the mines were emblematic of the Belgian productive landscape.

In his fundamental book, Smets identified humanitarian industrial settlements as being exceptional: Grand Hornu (near Mons, 1820 – 1832), the Cité de Bosqueville (Bois du Luc, 1836) and the Cité de l'Olive (St. Catherine, 1835). Furthermore, Smets stated that the Belgian industrial villages were not very influential in the social housing debate.[20]

As argued by Bourgeois, in the United Kingdom the transition from the industrial village to the garden city was possibly due to the greater British sensitivity to natural features and landscape.[21] On the other hand, in Belgium the formal transition from the industrial village to the garden city founded its model on the adoption of the worker's garden-village.

The key role of the London conference

The conference Pour la Reconstruction de la Belgique was organized, under the presidency of Lord Marie - representative of the City of London – by the International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association and the Union Internationales des Villes. The members of the organizing committee were: H. A. Aldrige, National Housing and Town Planning Council; Jules Brunfaut, vice-director of the Royal Academy of Belgium; J. J. Caluwaers, delegate of the Belgian Ministry of Agriculture and Public Works, member of the Royal Institute of British Architects; Ebenezer Howard, founder of the Garden city movement; Raymond Unwin, president of the Town Planning Committee; senator Emile Vick, president of the Union Internationales des Villes and the Belgian Minister of Public Works, George Helleputte.[22]

The conference program consisted in exhibitions and visits to the garden cities including a guided visit by Howard and Unwin to Letchword garden city (Unwin, 1903) and Hampsted garden suburb (Unwin, 1906). During the visit, Howard, president of the Town Council of Letchword, invited the Belgians to reconstruct their towns adopting the

19 PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine,* 1915, no. 6, pp. 121-128.

20 See: SMETS, Marcel. *L'Avénement de la cité-jardin en Belgique.* Liège : Mardaga, 1977, pp. 13-14, note 2. On 9th August 1889, already, the first law for worker housing was established. The law was the result of the more progressive wing of the Democratic and Liberal parties, and it supported the construction of individual houses based on the model of a small „bourgeois villa" isolated in a green area.

21 FLOUQUET, Pierre Louis. Pour la santé populaire. Les Cités-Jardins. In: *Bâtir,* 1933, no. 5, p. 164.

22 The list of participants was published in: PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique. In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine,* 1915, no. 3, pp. 51-52.

principles of garden city.[23] Howard emphasized the importance of building single-family houses, which were perceived as a symbol of homeland and family.[24]

The Belgians were given the necessary knowledge to implement the British model in its basic principles through a training program. The British confirmed that they did not want to impose an English style but rather they wanted to propose the principles of a universal model which could be applied while respecting national differences.

The conference revealed the intention to interpret and adapt the morphological model of the garden city in accordance with the local context. In fact, the garden city was recognized, even later on as compatible with tradition. Adoplhe Puissat noticed that: „Le principe de la cité-jardin existe depuis des siècles. Les banlieues de nos villes anciennes, la plupart des nos villages ne sont pas autre chose. Nous avons chez nous de merveilleux exemples de faubourgs-jardins : nos vieux béguinages."[25]

The necessity of not repeating the English model was stressed: „La tradition, nous allons la renouer et, comme vous le voyez, elle n'a rien d'incompatible avec le principe de la Cité-Jardin, bien au contraire. Est-ce à dire qu'une Cité-Jardin belge doit être calquée sur la Cité-Jardin anglaise? Evidemment non, et c'est ce qui fait la beauté des principes défendus par le vétéran Ebenezer Howard, c'est que leur application peut varier selon le milieu."[26] Indeed, regional and local rural architectural typologies were largely used in the project of Belgian garden suburbs with a consequent transformation of the Belgian suburban and peri-urban landscapes.

The Belgian Minister of Public Works, Helleputte, appointed Verwilghen – chief of the Office for devastated regions – to pass the resolutions of the London conference in a report on legislative measures to be taken. On the 25th August 1915, a royal decree was issued concerning the rebuilding of devastated municipalities.

A reference for Belgian royal decree was the 1909 British Housing and Town Planning Act. It established public control on city development and gave a strong boost to the construction of the garden city in the United Kingdom. With this law, local authorities were responsible for construction on vacant land in order to guide urban extension and to define the town planning schemes. A similar law was approved in France in 1919. It was the Cornudet's law (14th March 1919) requiring municipalities to prepare town planning schemes, landscaping and planning schemes for extension.

According to the 25th August 1915 royal decree for devastated municipalities, the municipalities were to develop a general town planning scheme for their reconstruction, the enlargement or embellishment, which also allowed for expropriation.[27] In fact, Verwilghen

23 PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine,* 1915, no. 6, p. 127.

24 ROSSIGNON, G. M. J. L'importance du „Home". In: PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 5, p. 102.

25 S. A., Conférence nationale des Sociétés d'Habitations à Bon Marché, compte rendu (suite). In: *L'Habitation à Bon Marché,* 1921, no. 3, p. 64.

26 PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique. In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 4, p. 72.

27 Art. 1. „Les communes sur les territoires desquelles des constructions publiques ou privées ont été détruites par suite de faits de guerre, sont tenues d'établir des plans autorisations de construire ou de reconstruire, à délivrer par le collège échevinal." Art. 4. „L'expropriation des parties de propriété privée qui devront être incorporées à la voirie, ou provisoirement acquises par l'Etat, la province ou la commune, pour l'exécution des plans d'aménagement

– who studied the problem of social housing and visited the garden-cities – understood that the biggest obstacle to the creation of garden suburbs was the fragmentation of land ownership.[28] Furthermore, this fragmentation greatly impeded global landscape planning that was the ultimate goal.

The 1915 decree was the first step towards the adoption of the 8th April 1919, already mentioned, Belgian law that required a general town planning scheme to be adopted by all municipalities for the construction of new housing complexes.

A Park-System to preserve rural and „natural" lands

The creation of a national planning scheme for Belgian reconstruction was seen as a priority by Verwilghen and also by Van der Swaelmen. Both considered Howard and Unwin as „the apostles" of the most generous theory of urbanism that, applied to the reconstruction, became an inexhaustible „source of prosperity".[29]

In his Preliminaries d'Art Civique, Van der Swaelmen considered that the garden suburb could favor both the conservation of urban and rural landscapes around the city. He advised to carefully choose the place for building a garden suburb. The site would have to meet hygienic, picturesque, economic and social features.

Van der Swaelmen stated the need to design the garden city or the garden suburb taking into account the growth of other complexes near the earlier ones, suggesting the possibility of being part of a Park-System that could help to preserve rural and „natural" lands. Following his theory, in order to design the urban plan of a garden suburb it was fundamental to respect the physical and geographical features of the land. The landscaper warned designers: „de concevoir un plan qui *„fasse joli"* sur papier, qu'il soit du reste composé en *„entrelacs-vermicelle"* ou ressemble au dessin d'un *„tapis de pieds"*."[30]

Furthermore, Van der Swaelmen stated that the study of the city is inseparable from the study of rural life, and that the respect of city character is related to the protection of nature. In fact, through his book he wanted lay the foundation for an extremely innovative law named: Tracé de l'Amenagement et de la Construction des Cités ou Loi d'urbanisation et plan pour la protection de la nature.

Starting from the analysis of the fundamental and universal principles of civic art, in his book van der Swaelmen created a method to organize the reconstruction of devastated countries and he defined the biological notion of city. He proposed the Union des Villes et Communes Belges should coordinate the „Civic Development Survey" that would be a preliminary step for reconstruction.

From complexes of temporary shelters to the first garden-suburbs

Despite the fact that at the London conference, a special study board – composed by the Minister Helleputte, the Senator Vinck and the engineer Verwilghen – was against the

---

approuvés, aura lieu selon les règles ordinaires de l'expropriation pour cause d'utilité publique." Art. 5. „Les autorisations de construire et de reconstruire sur le territoire des communes, (...) devront être approuvées par le Ministre de l'Agriculture et des Travaux publics (...)". See: S. A. Texte de l'Arrête-loi du 25 août 1915. In: *La Cité*, 1919, no. 2, pp. 35-36.

28 PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine,* 1915, no. 6, p. 122.

29 VERWILGHEN, Raphael. L'Urbanisme dans les différents pays. In: *La Cité*, 1919, no. 6, p. 97.

30 VAN DER SWAELMEN, L. *Pour la reconstruction...*, p. 128.

reconstruction using temporary prefabricated housing,[31] the Minister Helleputte urgently created the Fonds du Roi Albert. This was an independent public institution, established by the Royal decree 23rd September 1916, that build temporary houses until its closure on 5th January 1925.[32]

Among the missions of the Fonds du Roi Albert were: the consolidation of damaged buildings, the supply of building materials and the construction of temporary shelters. Wooden constructions were built by the allies and transferred to the devastated regions where the town planning and the atmosphere of the English garden city served as a model.

Also in France, around Paris, the Office Public d'Habitation à Bon Marché de la Senne - established on 18th July 1915 – built some temporary garden neighborhoods made up of prefabricated buildings like the Belgian ones.[33] Indeed, the design of two models for disassembling houses was made in Paris in 1917 by the engineer Zanen – director of the Ministry of Public Works and former director of Ponts et Chaussées – and the Belgian architect Moenaert – member of the Société Centrale des Habitations à Bon Marché. The first type of construction had three bedrooms with a total surface of 6x6 m., while the second had two rooms and a total surface of 4x4 m.

In Belgium, initially, the arrangement of the housing was conceived as a temporary military camp set up for refugees, but with the intervention of Van der Swaelmen, secretary-general of C.N.B.A.C., the Netherlands was taken as reference. There, millions of temporary shelters had already been allocated and aggregated into sets of coherent harmonious schemes, clearly inspired by the garden city and traditional cottages.

As the price of temporary housing was very high, in 1920, the public authorities encouraged the construction with durable materials. Verwilghen – Head of Construction – was against individual houses and in favor of testing durable and economical materials.[34] Since the construction in wood logs, as had been proposed at the beginning by the municipality, provided a lower quality if compared with the pisé construction, at his own expense Verwilghen experimented a house model (for 8000 Fb.) made out of pisé mixed with lime and cement, in Ypres in 1920.

The temporary prefabricated housing on one hand displayed a regionalist design, and on the other hand, were a great example of pre-industrialized housing.

Hoste, as a modernist architect, believed that temporary accommodation offered a unique opportunity to monitor new construction processes. He proposed evaluating the idea of an adaptable „cell based" shelter that could be changed over time to meet new requirements in accordance with an „organic" vision of growth of the house.

Van der Swaelmen saw a natural transition from temporary prefabricated housing to little cottages, garden suburbs and garden cities and he analyzed the possibilities of combining different types of houses into a communitarian urban complex through a coherent landscape planning.

In 1917 the Commission Centrale des Abris Provisoires et de la Reconstruction of the l'Union des Villes et Communes Belges organized a first competition to rebuild a worker

31 CALLUWAERS, Jean-Joseph. Reconstruction et reconstitution des agglomérations? Villages et villes détruites ou dévastées en Belgique, (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 4, p. 74.

32 Up to 1918, the Fonds du Roi Albert remained an organization on paper, with no funding, no building materials and no workers. In February 1919 it received some government subsidies, but only in May 1919 did it receive the first means of transport which enabled the achievement of the planned program.

33 France started the post-WWI reconstruction before Belgium. See: CHEMETOV, Paul – DUMONT, Marie-Jeanne – MARREY, Bernard. *Paris-Banlieue, 1919 – 1939. Architectures domestiques.* Nancy : Dunot, 1989, p. 136.

34 *Bulletin de l'Office des régions dévastées*, 1919, no. 3, pp. 115-126.

district and, at the same time, to extend the city of Coulliet.[35] The organizers decided to propose the garden city concept.[36] According to the competition program, streets were to follow existing traces and special attention was to be placed on the heliothermic orientation. To ensure the garden city appearance, five ares were to be left to gardens. Low cost houses were to be conceived following modern construction principles: hygienic, comfortable, esthetic and economic.

First of all, the new complex had to be subordinate to the existing landscape. The most important criteria set by the competition were the respect of the original picturesque and irregular land and the conservation of the existing creek. The respect of these criteria was useful to avoid expensive terraces work on the ground. Consequentially, regular and symmetric urban plans were eliminated by the jury. The winner was the architect O. Francotte, but the urban plan was considered by Verwilghen as being: „morcelé et incoherent".[37]

In 1919 – 1920 the Ministry of the Interior-Office of Devastated Regions, de Broqueville opened the Architectural Section under the responsibility of Jean-Jules Eggericx, and the same year a first settlement of 100 workers' houses were created near Roulers and named Batavia.[38]

Between 1919 and 1925, the Office des Région Devastées and the Société Nationale des Habitations à Bon Marché – S.N.H.B.M.[39] built some other little garden neighborhoods in the suburbs of devastated cities situated in the front war area where, at the end of 1919, beginning of 1920, the housing crisis had become dramatic. Near Ypres were built Ligny (1922, R. Verwilghen) and Kalfaart (1921, R. Acke); and fifty houses were built in Commines (1920, J. J. Eggericx).

The Cité jardin pour ouvriers – Tuin-wyk voor arbeiders named Batavia and the above mentioned settlements became a reference for the reconstruction of other municipalities.

Batavia had to put into practice some points of view expressed at the London conference.[40] It was inspired, at the same time, by the Belgian beguinage and by the English garden city; here new materials and building technologies were tested. The construction of this complex was to allow the cost of a home that was able to meet the minimum standards of hygiene and dramatically reduce state intervention to be quantified.

---

35 *Commission Centrale des Abris Provisoires et de la Reconstruction. Concours pour les plans d'une cité-jardin et de maisons à bon marché à Couillet. Rapport du jury.* Bruxelles : Union des Villes et Communes Belges, 1918.

36 The idea of adopting the conception of garden city was not new. Adrien Blomme signed the first project of a garden city in Belgium, which dates back to 1912, for the coal village of Winterslag. Just before WWI a competition for Campine was organized, but the project was not realized due to the war. Puissant considered Winterslag to be a veritable garden-city, because of its autonomy. Nevertheless, due to its exclusive economic dependence on the factory it should be considered an industrial garden village. S. A. Cités de travailleurs dans un Centre Minier, Eysden Sainte-Barbe et Winterslag. In: *L'art de Bâtir,* Mai-Déc, 1944, no. special, pp. 97-112.

37 VERWILGHEN, Raphael. Le concours pour la cité-jardin de Seventhem, Scheerbeek. In: *La Cité*, 1921, p. 265.

38 See: SMETS, Marcel – MAES, Jean. La ricostruzione nel primo dopoguerra : un terreno di esperienze per l'edilizia sociale. In: *Storia Urbana,* 1983, no. 22-23, pp. 275-303.

39 The creation of the S.N.H.B.M. (11th October 1919) was due to a new socialist policy on social housing promoted by Hector Denis and Louis Bertrand in the frame of Parti Ouvrier Belge – P. O. B. Established by Joseph Wauters, the S.N.H.B.M. became an active regional and federal administrative institution thanks to the entrance of P.O.B. in the Government of National Union (1919 – 1921). The S.N.H.B.M. mission was about housing for all social classes with low income and not just for workers. The first president was Emile Vinck, already director of the Union International des Villes. For the program of S.N.H.B.M. See: S. A. Extrait du compte rendu de l'activité de la Société Nationale des Habitations et Logements à bon marché pendant l'exercice 1928. In: *L'Habitation à Bon Marché,* 1929, no. 9, p. 149.

40 On Batavia see: *Archives d'Architecture Moderne. Cités-Jardins 1920 – 1940 en Belgique.* Bruxelles : Archives d'architecture moderne, 1994, pp. 42-45.

To achieve this purpose, Verwilghen suggested not only the use of new materials such as cement mixtures manufactured on site, and new manufacturing processes, but also a new concept of urban landscape.

Verwilghen was the urban planner and the local architects René Doom and Jérome Vermeersch designed fifty houses following a regional and traditional style, while on other fifty houses were planned by the architects Fernand Bodson and his associate Antoine Pompe from Brussels, who extensively studied new morphologies for worker's houses.[41]

For Batavia the urban designer Verwilghen – who was the head of the Service de Construction of the Office des Région Devastées and a specialist on workers' houses – was inspired by Unwin's vernacular scheme urban plan. He hierarchized the circulation scheme to reduce costs by 15% and to ensure the security and tranquility of the neighborhood. Fast traffic was concentrated on the major roads, while the narrow streets led to houses that, to save money, were arranged in groups of two, four or six and set back from the road. Public spaces, gardens and „reserves of air and light" were provided in the middle of groups of houses.

The objective of this kind of urban plan was to create a healthy and hygienic living environment on the border of the city in a rural and pleasant environment. While on one hand, the urban plan was reminiscent of the traditional villages of the English countryside, on the other hand it was very modern because it was highly functional to the purpose.

Different building types were conceived by the architects to reduce the cost of a house to 10.000 Belgian francs, which explains the minimum dimensions of surfaces and volumes and the choice of building processes that reduced the use of brick walls.

Batavia, as many other settlements of the same type, became the centre for a new expansion. From 1921 one hundred new houses were built by Jean-Jules Eggericx,[42] Flor Van Reeth and A. Smet. The architecture of the urban expansion was traditionalist because Van Reeth was one of the main supporters of the Flemish regional style, indeed already in 1908 he was among the founders of the magazine De Bowgids that spread a regional Flemish architectural style, strongly inspired by the Brabant tradition. Van Reeth was also sympathetic towards the symbolist and mystique movements and he was commissioned to build the garden cities of Zuid Australië in Lierre (West Flanders, 1923)[43] where, as in Vredensburg (Kalmthout, 1925), he tried to recreate the intimate atmosphere of ancient Belgian beguinages.[44]

The tiny city-garden of Zuid Australië – destroyed during WWII – was built with Australian funding of 200.000 Belgian francs. The arrangement of traditional houses, which were gathered around a garden square where a small monument stood, recalled the intimate space of a cloister. As with most of the garden cities the construction of Zuid

41 STOKEL, G. Les Cités-jardin en Belgique. In: *Le Home*, 1924, no. 3, pp. 39-41.

42 In the same years Eggericx (Brussels 1884 – 1963) worked for the Office des Régions Dévastées to conceive urban plans and housing-types for many garden cities in Comines, Zonnebeke and Elverdinge. For more than twenty years, he was professor of architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning at the Institut Supérieur d'Arts Décoratif – La Cambre.

43 Zuid Australiä see: *Archives d'Architecture Moderne...*, pp. 96-97.

44 During the War, Flor van Reeth (Antwerpen 1884 – Lierre 1975) was exiled to England and he visited many garden-cities. On the influence of beguinages see: MEGANCK, Leen – VAN SANTVOORT, Linda. „Such a magnificent farmstead in my opinion asks for a muddy pool" : rural buildings and the search for a „regional" architecture in Belgium. In: BALLANTYNE, Andrew (Ed.). *Rural and Urban: Architecture Between Two Cultures.* Abingdon : Routledge, 2010, pp. 118-121.

Australië was also entrusted to a local cooperative society that, for economic reasons, managed to make only the 70 of 111 planned houses.

The peri-urban landscape as an emanation of the urban landscape

Immediately after the positive experience of Batavia, the High Commissary of the Region decided to completely rebuild the unhealthy Zaalhof and Saint-Pierre workers neighborhoods in the South of Ypres. These neighborhoods were intended to become models for the reconstruction of the entire region. Their urban setting, inspired by the progressive spirit of the garden city, were to characterize the regional landscape.

The land was expropriated to build 300 houses and the Advisory Committee for Architecture selected three architects to design one hundred houses: Richard Acke of Countrai, Henri Derée[45] and Adolphe Puissant from Brussels. Puissant was also entrusted with the urban plan and his plan integrated the new neighborhood into the existing urban structure through roads connected with the ringroad. The lots structure of the working-class neighborhood was slightly modified, while the surface of the houses and the width of the facades remained almost the same. The final result was that the peri-urban landscape became an emanation of the urban landscape.

Despite the choice of a traditional architecture, the neighborhood was violently opposed by the population that wanted the city to be rebuilt where it was and as it was. Due to the local opposition, the reconstruction of Zaalhof and Saint-Pierre was never realized, whereas in 1921, Kalfvaart, a settlement of one hundred houses situated on the outskirts of Ypres was built. The project of Kalfvaart reproduced a rural landscape. The architecture and urban design were not inspired by the English garden city but by the rural regional villages. The architectures by Acke showed regional types that were more appreciated by people. Indeed, under the Minister of the Interior Charles de Broqueville the reconstruction was inspired by the worker house and farm typologies.

Conclusion

The agglomeration of suburban and peri-urban houses built in accordance with the criteria of hygiene and cost effectiveness became a modus operandi. This opened the road to the construction of suburban complexes where new building materials could be experimented and where the theories of urban planning and landscape materialized.

In the frame of post war reconstruction, garden neighborhoods with their vernacular urban design and regionalist architecture, showed the attention towards building a community setting. This explain the reason why the architectures were not conceived individually but as part of a whole. Indeed, the suburban landscape of garden suburbs produced an impression of coherent and „picturesque" environment that was reminiscent of rural atmosphere of the regional villages.

The young generation of architects working on garden suburbs focused its attention on the primitive character of the vernacular forms that infused the „modernist" dimension of mechanistic aesthetics with organic, expressive and communitarian qualities. Thus, modernist architects were favored function but not at the expense of tradition and local identity.

45 Henri Derée (Brussels 1888 – 1974) was a traditionalist and never entered the modern movement. He worked extensively on the construction of social housing and garden-cities in Belgium. He built the garden-neighborhood of Verregat (1923 – 1925) in Brussels.

In conclusion, we can consider a simplification of the vernacular tradition to be one of the sources of Belgian modernism. Starting from garden-suburbs, the established division of Belgian architectural history into sharply delineated modernist and traditionalist trends can be reviewed, the garden-suburbs set in motion the process that integrated rural and urban ideals into a new modern urban planning.

After 1925, public authorities no longer encouraged the restoration or the construction of garden neighborhoods in the devastated regions. However, less than ten years were enough to change the landscape of suburban and peri-urban areas. After WWII the garden suburb model continued to redesign the Belgian peri-urban landscape, testifying to the success of the model.[46]

The choice of adopting the garden city model for Belgian reconstruction needs also to be read, as an early attempt to integrate urban and landscape planning with the ultimate and still relevant purpose of stopping city sprawl and protecting nature.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archives d'Architecture Moderne. Cités-Jardins 1920 – 1940 en Belgique. Bruxelles : Archives d'architecture moderne, 1994. 109 p.

BOURGEOIS, Victor. Bilan, échecs et promesses. L'Architecture Belge de 1918 – 1926. In: *7 Arts*, 1926, no. 1.

BOURGEOIS, Victor. L'Urbanisme vivant. Pour le Grand Bruxelles. 2) Les monuments et ensembles historiques (suite). In: *7 Arts*, 1927, no. 17.

Bulletin de l'Office des régions dévastées, 1919, no. 3, pp. 115-126.

BULLOCK, Nicholas – VERPOEST, Luc (Eds.). *Living With History, 1914 – 1964 : Rebuilding Europe After the First and Second War World.* Leuven : Leuven University Press, 2011. 392 p.

CALLUWAERS, Jean-Joseph. Reconstruction et reconstitution des agglomérations? Villages et villes détruites ou dévastées en Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 4, p. 74.

Commission Centrale des Abris Provisoires et de la Reconstruction. Concours pour les plans d'une cité-jardin et de maisons à bon marché à Couillet. Rapport du jury. Bruxelles : Union des Villes et Communes Belges, 1918.

DE RIDDER, André. Un Urbaniste belge : Louis van der Swaelmen. Les „Préliminaires d'Art civique" et l'activité du C.N.B.A.C. In: *La Cité*, 1920, no. 9, p. 180.

FLOUQUET, Pierre Louis. L'action de la Société nationale de Habitations et Logements à Bon Marché. In: *Bâtir*, l933, no. 5, p. 170.

FLOUQUET, Pierre Louis. Pour la santé populaire. Les Cités-Jardins. In: *Bâtir*, 1933, no. 5, p. 164.

FRANCHINI, Caterina. Garden Cities of Brussels. The Modernity of Tradition. In: KRAUSKOPF, Kai – LIPPERT, Hans-Georg – ZASCHKE, Kerstin (Eds.). *Die Neue Tradition III. – Europäische Architektur im Zeichen von Traditionalismus und Regionalismus*. Dresden : Thelem, 2012, p. 37-64.

CHEMETOV, Paul – DUMONT, Marie-Jeanne – MARREY, Bernard. *Paris-Banlieue, 1919 – 1939. Architectures domestiques*. Nancy : Dunot, 1989. 136 p.

IMBERT, Dorothée. *Between Garden and City: Jean Canneel-Claes and Landscape Modernism.* Pittsburgh : University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009, pp. 166-169.

MEGANCK, Leen – VAN SANTVOORT, Linda. „Such a magnificent farmstead in my opinion asks for a muddy pool" : rural buildings and the search for a „regional" architecture in Belgium.

46 See: IMBERT, Dorothée. *Between Garden and City : Jean Canneel-Claes and Landscape Modernism.* Pittsburgh : University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009, pp. 166-169.

In: BALLANTYNE, Andrew (Ed.). *Rural and Urban: Architecture Between Two Cultures*. Abingdon : Routledge, 2010, pp. 118-121.
PELEMAN, David – UYTTENHOVE, Pieter. Engineering the Rural Idyll : Road Construction and the Peri-urban landscape in Belgium, 1925 – 1940. In: *Landscape Research*, 2012, vol. 37, no. 4, pp. 417-435.
PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique. In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 3, pp. 51-58.
PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 4, pp. 71-72.
PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 6, pp. 121-128.
ROSSIGNON, G. M. J. L'importance du „Home". In: PORTIELJE, A. J. V. Compte rendu du Congrés organisé par la „International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association" : concernant la reconstruction de la Belgique (suite). In: *Garden Cities and Town Planning Magazine*, 1915, no. 5, p. 102.
S. A. Cités de travailleurs dans un Centre Minier, Eysden Sainte-Barbe et Winterslag. In: *L'art de Bâtir*, Mai-Déc. 1944, no. special, pp. 97-112.
S. A. Conférence nationale des Sociétés d'Habitations à Bon Marché, compte rendu (suite). In: *L'Habitation à Bon Marché*, 1921, no. 3, p. 64.
S. A. Extrait du compte rendu de l'activité de la Société Nationale des Habitations et Logements à bon marché pendant l'exercice 1928. In: *L'Habitation à Bon Marché*, 1929, no. 9, p. 149.
S. A. Texte de l'Arrête-loi du 25 août 1915. In: *La Cité*, 1919, no. 2, pp. 35-36.
SABATINO, Michelangelo. *Pride in Modesty. Modernist architecture and the Vernacular Tradition in Italy.* Toronto – Buffalo – London : University of Toronto Press, 2010. 368 p.
SELVAFOLTA, Ornella. Temi e luoghi della città-giardino in Italia nei primi decenni del Novecento. Themes and places of garden-city in Italia on the first decades of Twenty Century. In: *Ciudades*, 2000 – 2001, no. 6, pp. 75-95.
SMETS, Marcel. *L'Avénement de la cité-jardin en Belgique*. Liège : Mardaga, 1977. 223 p.
SMETS, Marcel (Ed.). *Resurgam. La reconstruction de la Belgique après 1914, (catalogue of the exhibition)*. Ghent : Crédit Communal de Belgique, 1985. 247 p.
SMETS, Marcel – MAES, Jean. La ricostruzione nel primo dopoguerra : un terreno di esperienze per l'edilizia sociale. In: *Storia Urbana*, 1983, no. 22-23, pp. 275-303.
STOKEL, G. Les Cités-jardin en Belgique. In: *Le Home*, 1924, no. 3, pp. 39-41.
STYNEN, Herman. *Louis Van der Swaelmen (1883 – 1929) animateur du mouvement moderne en Belgique*. Bruxelles : Pierre Mardaga, 1979. 139 p.
UYTTENHOVE, Pieter. The garden city education of Belgian planners around the First World War. In: *Planning Perspectives*, 1990, vol. V, no. 3, pp. 271-283.
VAN DER SWAELMEN, Louis. Cité-Jardin de Kapelleveld. In: *7 Arts*, 1925, no. 12.
VAN DER SWAELMEN, Louis. *Pour la reconstruction de la Belgique. Préliminaires d'Art Civique mis en relation avec le „cas clinique" de la Belgique*. Leyden : Société d'éditions A. W. Sijthoff, 1916. 298 p.
VERWILGHEN, Raphaël. L'Urbanisme dans les différents pays. In: *La Cité*, 1919, no. 6, p. 97.
VERWILGHEN, Raphaël. Le concours pour la cité-jardin de Seventhem, Scheerbeek. In: *La Cité*, 1921, p. 265.

Fig. 1: Advertising of Kapelleveld garden-city showing a primitive hut in a natural landscape.

Fig. 2: The garden suburb of Moortebeek, picture of the „Rue Van Soust (sous la neige)" displaying a rural atmosphere (Photo by H. Baré published in the advertising booklet on Moortebeek, *Les Foyers Collectif*, Bruxelles, 1929).

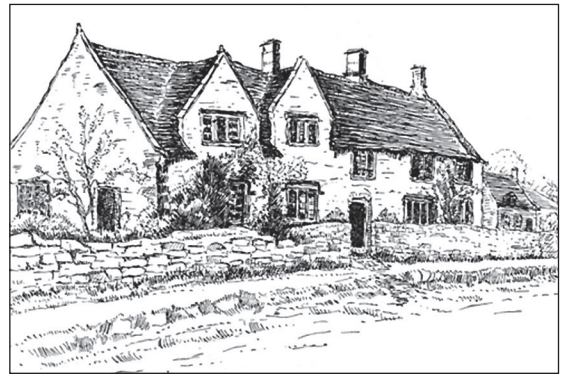


Fig. 3: Regional rural English houses as a source of modern housing (*L'Habitation à Bon Marché*, 1921, n. 1).

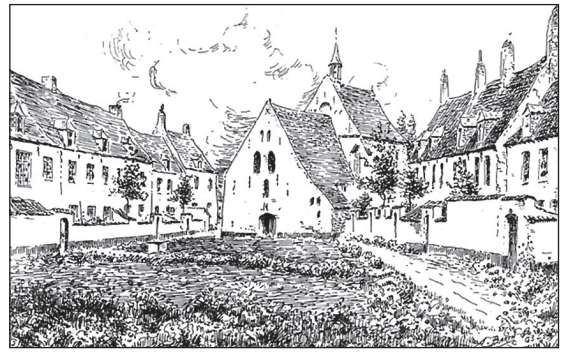


Fig. 4: View of Dixmude beguinage suggested as an example for modern garden city (*L'Habitation à Bon Marché*, 1921, n. 1).

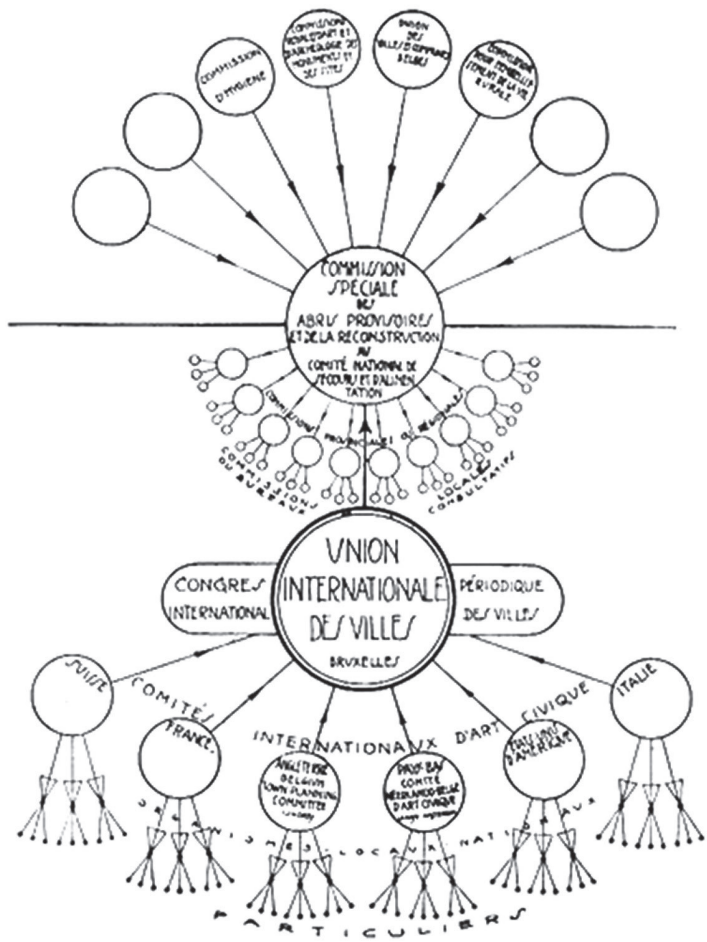
Fig. 5: Hampstead garden suburb near London a model for Belgian-garden suburbs (*L'Habitation à Bon Marché*, 1921, n. 1, p. 14).

ORGANISATION DE LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE A L'ÉTUDE DE LA RECONSTRUCTION DES CITÉS DÉTRUITES OU ENDOMMAGÉES PAR LA GUERRE DE 1914 EN BELGIQUE.

EXPLICATION DE LA PLANCHE.

En dessous du Centre International constitué par l'Union Internationale des Villes (Siège à Bruxelles — Organisation permanente issue du Congrès périodique international des Villes en vertu d'une Résolution du 1er Congrès, à Gand, le 31 juillet 1913):

Des Comités Internationaux d'Art civique „pour la Belgique" (formés de Délégations des organismes locaux nationaux tels que Unions de Villes et Communes ou Associations techniques et esthétiques de toute nature, ainsi que de particuliers qualifiés, Techniciens spécialistes et Artistes) sont fondés en connexion avec l'Union Internationale des Villes. (Lorsqu'ils auront accompli leur œuvre „pour la Belgique" ils pourront, moyennant quelque réorganisation et des adjonctions ultérieures, demeurer le cas échéant des Sections nationales de l'Union Internationale des Villes). Ce sont notamment: le Belgium Town-Planning Committee-Londres, pour les Iles Britanniques; le Comité Néerlando-Belge d'Art civique-La Haye-Amsterdam pour les Pays-Bas et d'autres Comités similaires en France, en Suisse, en Italie, en Espagne, en Suède et Norwège, au Danemark, en Finlande, en Russie, aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique, au Canada, en Amérique du Sud, aux Indes Britanniques, en Australie, etc., etc., etc. Ces Comités rassembleront et élaborent les Matériaux documentaires universels et les centralisent au Siège provisoire assumé à La Haye pour la durée de la guerre par l'Union Internationale des Villes. L'Union transportera ultérieurement ces Documents, complètement organisés, au Siège central de l'Union Internationale des Villes à Bruxelles.



Vers le Nord:

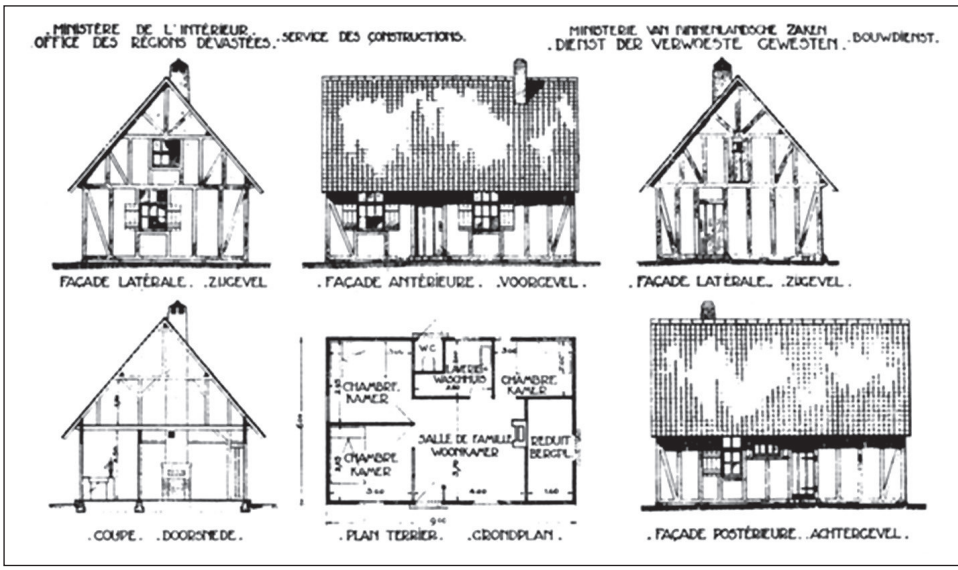
L'U. I. V. destine l'appoint de cette Documentation à l'Union des Villes et Communes Belges, à laquelle se sont jointes les Commissions royales des Monuments et les Sites, celle pour l'Embellissement de la Vie rurale, etc., etc., pour constituer une Commission spéciale en vue d'étudier le problème de la Reconstruction en Belgique. Cette Commission spéciale s'attache à promouvoir la constitution de Sous-Commissions provinciales et régionales ou locales et de Bureaux consultatifs locaux.

Au Siège de l'Union Internationale des Villes à Bruxelles sera consigné après la guerre le Dépôt central de la Documentation universelle et internationale rassemblée par les divers Organismes d'étude. Elle y sera constamment développée et tenue à jour.

La paix signée la Commission spéciale devra être organisée de manière à représenter tous les Organismes officiels nationaux dont l'activité intéresse le Développement civique des Localités. (Voyez la Figure ci-après).

Préliminaires. 8

Fig. 6: Louis Van der Swaelmen, scheme for the international cooperation for the study of Belgian reconstruction (VAN DER SWAELMEN, Louis. *Preliminaires d'Art Civique*, Leyden, 1916).



SEMI-PERMANENTE WONING

Fig. 7: Demountable wood shelters, Ministry of the Interior, Office of devastated regions (*Bulletin de l'Office des Régions Dévastées*, 1920, n. 7).

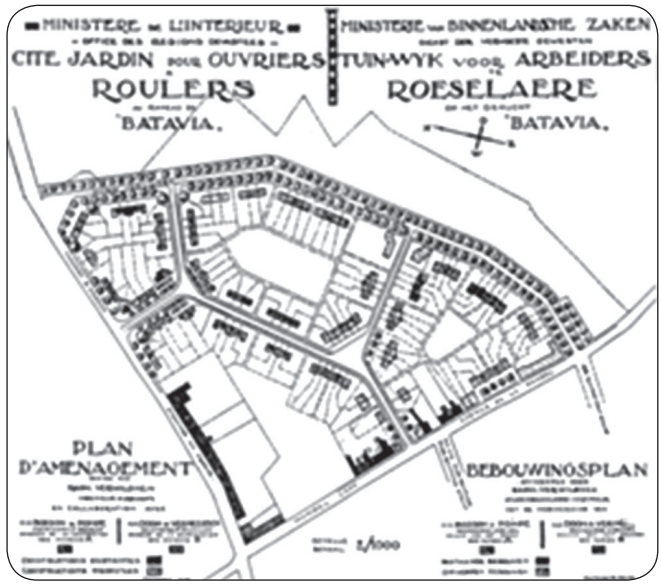


Fig. 8: R. Verwilghen, urban plan of the gardencity Batavia in Roulers, 1919 (*Bulletin de l'Office des Régions Dévastées*, 1919, n. 4).

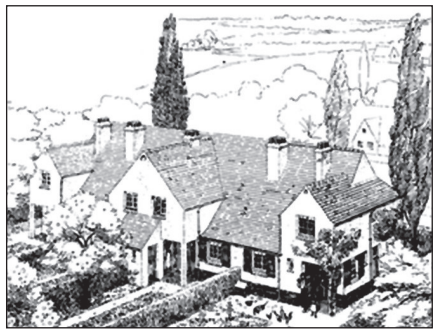


Fig. 9: Antoine Pompe and Fernand Bodson, perspective of the houses type A1 A2 for the garden city Batavia in Roulers, 1919 (*Bulletin de l'Office des Régions Dévastées*, 1919, n. 4).

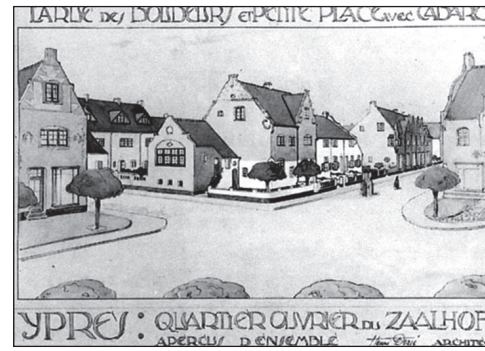
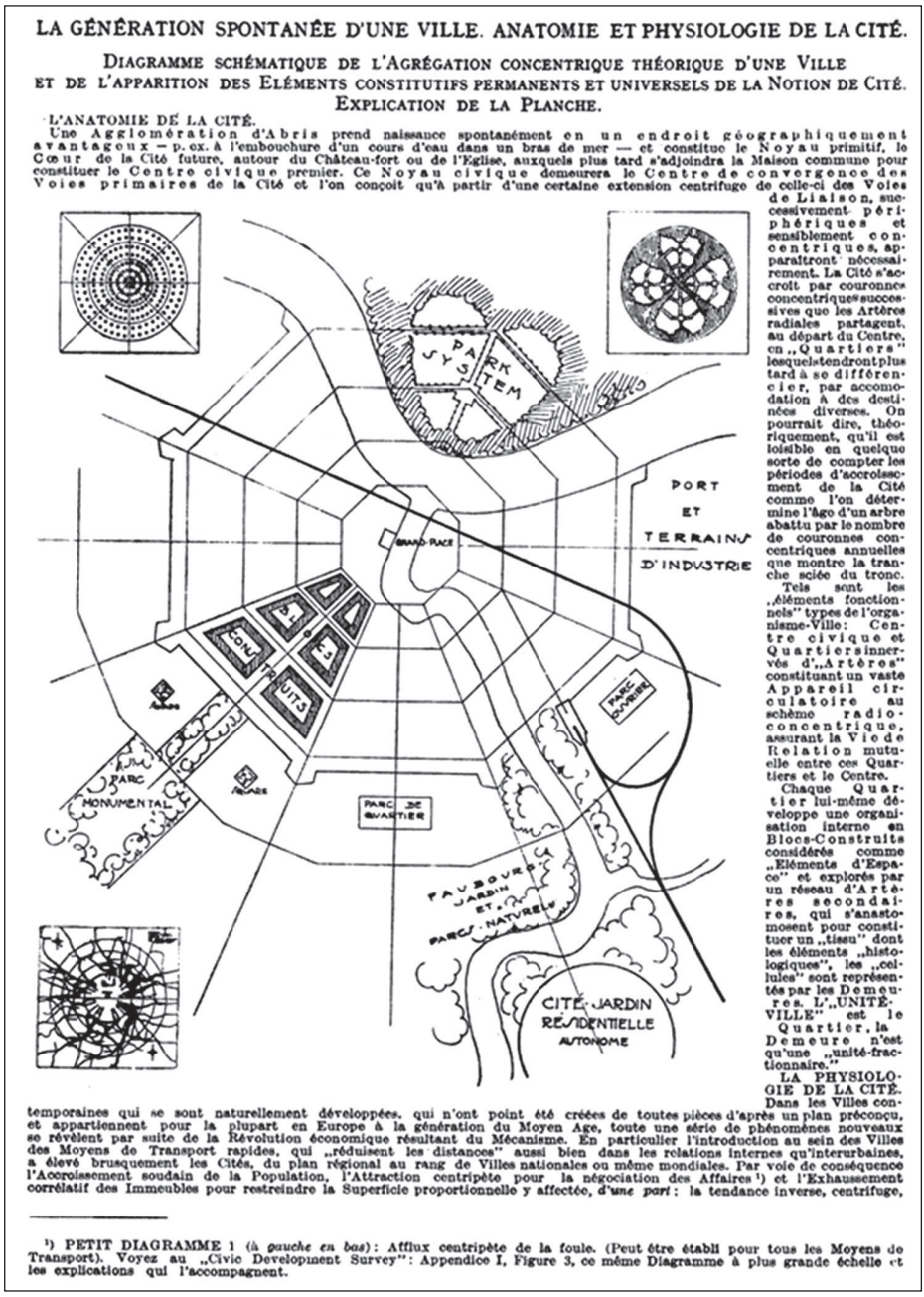


Fig. 11: Henri Derée, project of Zaalhof worker village in Ypres, 1920.

Fig. 10: Floor Van Reeth, project for the garden city Zuid-Australië in Lierre.

Fig. 12: Louis Van der Swaelmen, „biological" growing of a city (VAN DER SWAELMEN, Louis. *Preliminaires d'Art Civique*. Leyden, 1916, p. 38)



LA GÉNÉRATION SPONTANÉE D'UNE VILLE. ANATOMIE ET PHYSIOLOGIE DE LA CITÉ.

DIAGRAMME SCHÉMATIQUE DE L'AGRÉGATION CONCENTRIQUE THÉORIQUE D'UNE VILLE ET DE L'APPARITION DES ELÉMENTS CONSTITUTIFS PERMANENTS ET UNIVERSELS DE LA NOTION DE CITÉ.

EXPLICATION DE LA PLANCHE.

L'ANATOMIE DE LA CITÉ.

Une Agglomération d'Abris prend naissance spontanément en un endroit géographiquement avantageux — p. ex. à l'embouchure d'un cours d'eau dans un bras de mer — et constitue le Noyau primitif, le Cœur de la Cité future, autour du Château-fort ou de l'Eglise, auxquels plus tard s'adjoindra la Maison commune pour constituer le Centre civique demeurera le Centre de convergence des Voies primaires de la Cité et l'on conçoit qu'à partir d'une certaine extension centrifuge de celle-ci des Voies de Liaison, successivement périphériques et sensiblement concentriques, apparaîtront nécessairement. La Cité s'accroît par couronnes concentriques successives que les Artères radiales partagent, au départ du Centre, en „Quartiers" lesquels tendront plus tard à se différencier, par accomodation à des destinées diverses. On pourrait dire, théoriquement, qu'il est loisible en quelque sorte de compter les périodes d'accroissement de la Cité comme l'on détermine l'âge d'un arbre abattu par le nombre de couronnes concentriques annuelles que montre la tranche sciée du tronc.

Tels sont les „éléments fonctionnels" types de l'organisme-Ville: Centre civique et Quartiers innervés d'„Artères" constituant un vaste Appareil circulatoire au schème radio-concentrique, assurant la Vie de Relation mutuelle entre ces Quartiers et le Centre.

Chaque Quartier lui-même développe une organisation interne en Blocs-Constructs considérés comme „Eléments d'Espace" et explorés par un réseau d'Artères secondaires, qui s'anastomosent pour constituer un „tissu" dont les éléments „histologiques", les „cellules" sont représentés par les Demeures. L'„UNITÉ-VILLE" est le Quartier, la Demeure n'est qu'une „unité-fractionnaire."

LA PHYSIOLOGIE DE LA CITÉ.

Dans les Villes contemporaines qui se sont naturellement développées, qui n'ont point été créées de toutes pièces d'après un plan préconçu, et appartiennent pour la plupart en Europe à la génération du Moyen Age, toute une série de phénomènes nouveaux se révèlent par suite de la Révolution économique résultant du Mécanisme. En particulier l'introduction au sein des Villes des Moyens de Transport rapides, qui „réduisent les distances" aussi bien dans les relations internes qu'interurbaines, a élevé brusquement les Cités, du plan régional au rang de Villes nationales ou même mondiales. Par voie de conséquence l'Accroissement soudain de la Population, l'Attraction centripète pour la négociation des Affaires [1]) et l'Exhaussement corrélatif des Immeubles pour restreindre la Superficie proportionnelle y affectée, d'*une part*: la tendance inverse, centrifuge,

[1]) PETIT DIAGRAMME 1 (*à gauche en bas*): Afflux centripète de la foule. (Peut être établi pour tous les Moyens de Transport). Voyez au „Civic Development Survey": Appendice I, Figure 3, ce même Diagramme à plus grande échelle et les explications qui l'accompagnent.

Fig. 13: Modern vernacular in the peri-urban landscape of Brussels, view of Het Heideken garden suburb, Ganshoren 1920 – 1925 (orthophoto 13/04/96).

OBSAH / CONTENTS

ŠTÚDIE

Uličný, Ferdinand:
Meštianske právo na Slovensku
v stredoveku 6

Brindza, Peter:
Funkcia trenčianskeho mestského
komorníka v 17. storočí z pohľadu
archontológie 23

Franchini, Caterina:
Podoby rekonštrukcie Belgicka:
rovnováha medzi modernosťou
a tradíciou 39

Jančura, Mikuláš:
Počiatky motoristického športu v Bratislave
a Košiciach v rokoch 1921 – 1933 57

ROZHĽADY

Gayer, Veronika:
Slovjacké regionálne hnutie
v rokoch 1907 – 1918 68

KRONIKA,
RECENZIE, ANOTÁCIE 85

Vydavateľ
Univerzita P. J. Šafárika
v Košiciach, Šrobárova 2,
Košice
IČO vydavateľa:
00 397 768

Sadzba
UNIVERSUM-EU, s. r. o.,
Javorinská 26, Prešov
(www.universum-eu.sk)

Tlač
Equilibria, s. r. o.,
Letná 42, Košice

Šéfredaktor
Martin Pekár

Výkonný redaktor
Peter Fedorčák
(peter.fedorcak@upjs.sk)

Redakcia
Nikola Regináčová
Zuzana Tokárová

Adresa redakcie
Katedra histórie FF UPJŠ
v Košiciach, Petzvalova 4, Košice
(tel. 055-234 7110)

Periodicita
dvakrát ročne
(redakčná uzávierka vždy
vo februári a v auguste)

Náklad
250 ks

Reg. číslo MK SR 4699/12

ISSN 1339-0163

© KH FF UPJŠ, autori, 2014