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Work. Balancing work and life. A project of doors

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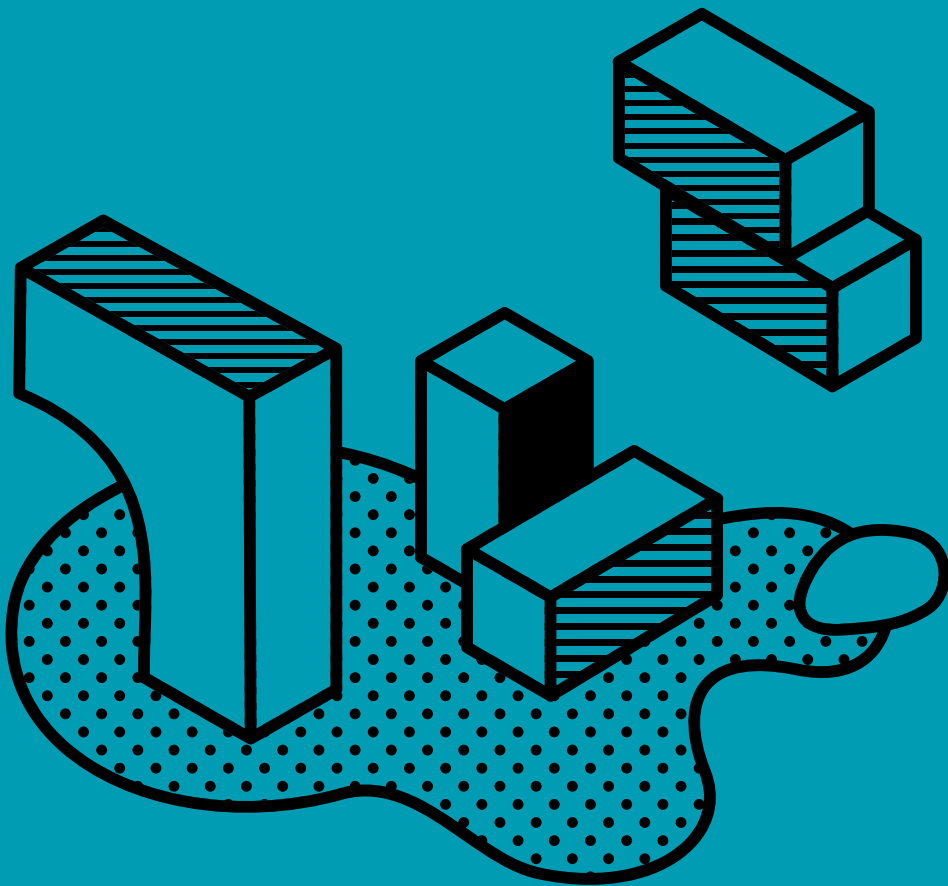
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Designing Brussels Ecosystems

Metrolab Brussels MasterClass II

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Foreword

Exploring urban ecology with Metrolab

Bernard Declève and Geoffrey Grulois

This book presents the results of the second international MasterClass hosted by Metrolab in January and February of 2019, on the theme of urban ecosystems in Brussels. The event was the outcome of a transdisciplinary methodological reflexion on the relations between urban ecologies and urban policies. How can urban ecosystems be approached from a transdisciplinary perspective? How can urban projects such as ERDF be mobilized to initiate a socio-ecological transition? Before delving into these methodological questions, we would first like to put this project back into the Metrolab context.

Metrolab is a transdisciplinary and inter-university laboratory for applied and critical urban research funded by the Brussels-Capital Region through its European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme (2014-2020). This new laboratory, created by UCLouvain (Université Catholique de Louvain) and ULB (Université libre de Bruxelles), is a collaboration between four existing research laboratories: CriDIS (social sciences), LOCI (architecture and urban planning), LoUIsE (urbanism, infrastructure and ecologies), and IGEAT (geography).

Metrolab offers a unique opportunity to experiment with new forms of transdisciplinary urban research, embedded in the practical and institutional setting of the Brussels-Capital Region. The European Regional Development Fund for the Brussels-Capital Region provided Metrolab with the means to conduct action-research studies as part of the 46 projects subsidised in the 2014-2020 programme.

The main objective of this academic support for ERDF is to test the ability of university researchers to offer reflection and coordination for urban policies such as ERDF. The objective is also scientific and epistemological as Metrolab seeks to test new scientific forms of engagement and positioning in urban research.

In terms of the themes covered, Metrolab's scientific programme is structured around three research themes: urban inclusion, urban ecology, and urban production, which follow the focuses of European urban policies and are in line with the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable urban development. In terms of timing, these lines of research form three successive work cycles.

Reflections on the theme of urban inclusion began in December 2015. During the years 2015 and 2016, ethnographic surveys, mapping and co-design workshops were organized around several ERDF

projects in collaboration with local actors. These investigations on urban inclusion and hospitality in Brussels culminated in the In / Out Designing Urban Inclusion Conference and Masterclass organized in January and February 2017. The publication of the results of this Masterclass concluded by emphasizing the importance of the concept of "inclusive enclave" for urban policies.

The theme of urban ecology has been explored since 2017. For two years, it has given rise to seminars exploring the fields of political ecology, human ecology, metropolitan agriculture, urban metabolism, socio-ecological transition, etc. In October 2018, the Brussels Ecosystems international conference foresaw an integrated approach to environmental, social and political ecosystems. The Designing Brussels Ecosystems Masterclass was then planned as a testing ground for this transdisciplinary approach of urban ecosystems.

Each thematic cycle ends with a MasterClass where all members of Metrolab (researchers, coordinators, professors and administrators) apply methodological innovation to real-life situation and case studies in coproduction with stakeholders in the Brussels urban project (including actors in several Brussels ERDF projects). This means that the MasterClass is a unique moment for transdisciplinary experimentation and co-production: it calls upon the skills and knowledge of our researchers; it builds relationships with those in charge of ERDF projects and other urban projects; it experiments new methods for urban analysis, idea development, and urban project improvement. It allows international researchers in various disciplines (sociology, architecture, political science, landscape architecture, urbanism, geography, etc.) to gather in Brussels to reflect on the local ERDF programme and develop new and future-oriented suggestions aimed at improving urban policies.

This second Designing Brussels Ecosystems MasterClass explores the topic of urban ecology as part of a transdisciplinary methodological exploration of urban ecosystems and socio-ecological transition. How can urban ecosystems be approached from a transdisciplinary perspective? How can urban projects such as ERDF be mobilized to initiate a socio-ecological transition? The introduction to this publication defines the Metrolab approach to the concept of urban ecosystem and the methodology for investigating urban ecosystems. This methodology and the themes were defined by a group of researchers from Metrolab (Andrea Bortolotti, Bernard Declève, Geoffrey Grulois, Roselyne de Lestrange and Corentin Sanchez Trenado) in close collaboration with a scientific committee of local and international experts (Elena Cogato-Lanza, Brian McGrath and Serge Kempeneers) and the two Metrolab managers (Sara Cesari and Louise Prouteau). The introduction is followed by a presentation of the four Brussels Ecosystems explored during the Brussels Ecosystems Conference and Masterclass. It was prepared by a larger group of Metrolab researchers also including Marine Declève, Anna Ternon, Chloé Salembier and Stephan Kampelmann.

Following this introduction, the publication presents the design exploration co-produced by thirty researchers with diverse disciplinary and geographical backgrounds (Belgium, Italy, Spain, US, Turkey, France, China, etc.), in close collaboration with key stakeholders from Brussels. The publication closes with critical insights from the researchers at Metrolab and the international experts on the scientific committee (Elena Cogato-Lanza and Brian McGrath). We hope the Designing Brussels Ecosystems MasterClass and this publication are a first step toward building collective knowledge ecology in Brussels Ecosystems.

Introduction

Designing Brussels ecosystems

Geoffrey Grulois, Bernard Declève, Roselyne de Lestrange, Corentin Sanchez Trenado and Andrea Bortolotti

Brussels Ecosystems: conceptual framework
In Brussels the concept of urban ecosystem emerged over forty years ago, in the context of ecological studies conducted by the interdisciplinary teams of Paul Duvigneaud. The goal of Duvigneaud's work was to provide a broad perspective of the interdependencies that exist between the human and non-human worlds. While the positivist project of offering a global ecosystem science was eventually abandoned, the ecosystemic approach is today at the heart of research and innovation in a number of areas of natural sciences, social sciences, engineering, design and the humanities.

Each of them includes the concept of ecosystem in its field of study in order to develop specific methods. Beyond the increasing weight of environmental issues, we suggest that the current ubiquity of the notion of ecosystem is contributing to an epistemological transition where more focus is placed on the interconnectedness of all things (human and non-human). Brussels Ecosystems intends to advance in this direction, experimenting with new interdisciplinary integrative tools for the critical evaluation and support of urban policies and urban projects.

Brussels Ecosystems is centred on a common goal: leveraging various aspects of ecology (natural, social, political and knowledge-building) as a basis for reflection on the interdependence between the components of a city, while taking into account the notions that the world is a finite pool of resources and that humans are an integral part of nature. In this way, Brussels Ecosystems wishes to contribute to forward-looking discussions on the transition of Brussels toward a new socio-environmental and technical regime.

In practice, Brussels Ecosystems included two different events: an international conference held the 18th and 19th of October 2018, and a MasterClass from 28th of January to 8th of February 2019. While the conference was intended to lay the groundwork the conceptual and methodological framework of Brussels Ecosystems, the MasterClass was a first experiment in its application to urban policies and urban projects in Brussels.

A transdisciplinary approach to urban ecosystems

The conference explored various ways in which the concept of ecosystem can be shaped in order to allow the concepts — which are often metaphorical in nature — and the methods derived from them to come together, thus creating an integrated framework for analysis and forward-looking action.

The conference sought to put the topic of Brussels' ecosystems in a transdisciplinary perspective, by asking, 'What is an urban ecosystem?' The variety of scientific approaches to the interaction between society and environment were leveraged as a resource for knowledge, project and policy support. Which dimensions of urban reality do the various aspects of ecosystems reveal to us? What tools do they provide in the various fields of study involved?

To what extent can these additional 'lenses' help us to think about the urban reality, societies and the relationship between human and non-human? To engage in 'transversal' action within and upon society and the environment?

The conference was intended to contribute to an interdisciplinary approach of these questions, exploring four aspects of the concept of ecosystem: natural ecosystems, human ecosystems, political ecosystems, and knowledge ecosystems. Let's briefly go over these four different layers of ecology and ecosystem.
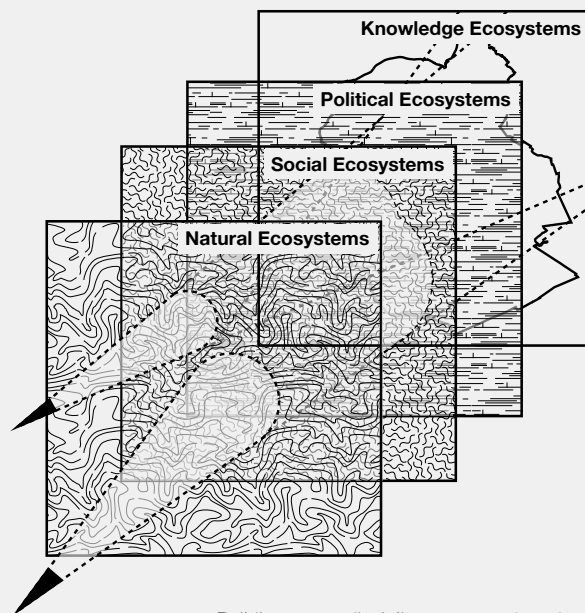
Building a transdisciplinary approach to the study of Brussels ecosystems

Natural ecosystems

Natural sciences define an ecosystem as a dynamic group of living beings that interact with one another and with their environment's biophysical components. This definition refers to the scientific project of ecology, a term coined in 1866 by Ernst Haeckel, from the Greek roots *oikos*, 'house', and *logos*, 'study'). Generally speaking, the ecosystems-based approach relates to the scientific study of relationships between living organisms — including humans — and their environment. More specifically, Metrolab focused here on the patterns that these interactions and their variations produce on the landscape. At the conference, Jacques Baudry and Grégory Mahy discussed the concept of biodiversity and landscape ecology by stressing the interaction between humans and nature. They insisted on the shift from a static notion of nature in equilibrium to a dynamic and process approach of ecosystems including the anthropogenic aspect. One of the interesting outcomes of the discussions was an exploration of how to connect biodiversity and sociodiversity in the Brussels context.

Social ecosystems

A second aspect of the concept of ecosystem is based on the paradigm of human ecology developed by the Chicago School of Sociology, which proposed a theory of human environments that it developed in the context of a city seen as an 'organism' where a number of processes occur that exist in the natural world (competition, distribution, isolation, succession, symbiosis, etc.). The specificity of this approach is that it looks into the interaction between society and its environment, based on concepts and tools that are especially sensitive to the relationships between the groups that make it up (Joseph & Grafmeyer, 2004).

Setting itself apart from the environmentalist approach, human ecology is defined as the study of the relationships between different populations that are affected by the environment in which they coexist (Wirth, 1945; Park, 1953). While also taking into account both the biotic and symbolic dimensions of human environments (Cefaï, 2015), human ecology aims at understanding and describing interdependent relationships between the environments that make up a 'web of life'; these relationships are determined by spatial as well as social factors.

During the conference, a thematic session on social ecosystems brought together contributions by Francis Chateauraynaud and Joëlle Zask. While Joëlle Zask reminded us of the ecology of democratic space, Francis Chateauraynaud explored methods for investigating environmental crises and technological risks.

Political ecosystems

A third aspect of the concept of ecosystem takes into account political ecology, examining the kinds of issues that might be raised by a 'human government that takes non-humans into account'. The issue here is not knowing the environment or describing the interdependence between its components, but rather questioning human actions within the environment (Augagneur, 2015).

The Metrolab conference focused on one branch of urban political ecology. Inspired by the eco-Marxist discourse of authors such as Henri Lefebvre, André Gorz and Ivan Illich, it is based on the idea that nature is itself a social and cultural construct. In turn, it has inspired Piers Blaikie and David Harvey's classical concept of 'political ecology', as well as Erik Swyngedouw's and Matthew Gandy's 'urban political ecology' (Swyngedouw, 2006; Gandy, 2004). Urban political ecology builds upon the eco-Marxist discourse by calling upon more recent notions such as hybridization, collectives and the actor network theory, proposed by authors such as Michel Callon, Bruno Latour and John Law, and popularised in the English-speaking world by Donna J. Haraway and Sarah Whatmore. This branch has also reappropriated the concept of metabolism, including the work of Erik Swyngedouw and Matthew Gandy on urban networks. Matthew Gandy and David Wachsmuth contributed to the Political Ecosystems session of the Metrolab conference by fundamentally questioning the concept of socio-nature and urban metabolism.

Knowledge ecosystems

The fourth aspect of this reflection links the concept of ecosystem to the process of knowledge-building. Here, the quest for innovation is based on the idea that humans are not only part of an environment whose reproduction they are associated with — together with non-human species — but they are also completely permeated by the environment. A major publication in this field is Gregory Bateson's book "Steps to an Ecology of Mind", which sets the foundations of the interactional approach based on the idea that the environment inhabits both individuals and communities, and that it determines the systems through which meaning is produced at every level of society's structure. Authors such as Félix Guattari, François Cooren, Laurence Kaufmann and Cynthia Fleury have contributed to opening this perspective of ecology: in this context, it is no longer only about the environment, but about an epistemological system based on building healthy relationships between humans and the environment that they inhabit and that inhabits them. This fourth aspect relates more to the role of culture as a process generating ecosystems of individual, collective and social subjectivities that display varying degrees of resilience to the alienation of individuals from their environment.

A panel discussion was organized for the conference to foresee how Metrolab can contribute to the Brussels knowledge ecosystems in relation to urban projects and urban policy.

Themes connected to Brussels ecosystems

The Brussels Ecosystems conference also initiated – in collaboration with public, associative and private stakeholders – an analysis of the issues linked to the ecologies of urban policies in Brussels and in particular the ERDF programme and its urban projects. This first analysis went through the description of a few ERDF projects and their environmental, social and political ecosystems. The discussion helped to identify some paradoxes that emerge from a lack of connections between those dimensions. Alongside the exploration of the four

dimensions of ecosystems, four key themes related to urban policy in the Brussels-Capital Region were problematize with local stakeholders. During the discussions, the four themes pointed toward four different socio-spatial and socio-technical systems that may play a key role for the transition of Brussels Ecosystems. These themes and the associated socio-spatial and technical agencies are:

1.   Agriculture and city
2.   Density and open spaces
3.   Work and territory
4.   Circularity and resources

MasterClass methodology

The MasterClass's purpose was to put the transdisciplinary ecosystem approach to the test, starting with the realities of Brussels and the intercultural profiles of the participants. The MasterClass continued with the multi-layer analysis of the issues and paradoxes of urban policies previously identified with a focus on different cases including innovative projects funded by the ERDF programme for 2014-2020. These innovative projects were identified in relation to contextual situations that could act as catalysts to initiate the transition of Brussels Ecosystems. The aim of this two-week workshop was thus to contribute to drawing up an atlas of Brussels' innovative projects and their contextual situations pointing toward socio-ecological transition through:

—   the understanding, description and mapping of the spatio-environmental and socio-political ecosystems in these different situations/projects;
—   the identification of challenges and opportunities emerging from these situations/projects;
—   the elaboration of design scenarios and proposals aimed at enhancing these situations and ecosystems and guiding the transition of Brussels ecosystems.

During the MasterClass, participants were divided into four thematic groups identified during the conference: agriculture – agro-landscape; density – transitionary occupation, work – third places, and circularity – hotspot of material flows. Each theme is related to an ecosystem of an innovative project and the contextual situations of socio-ecological transitions, which means spaces of experimentation and their related stakeholders as well as potential sites and actors that could play a key role in the ecosystems' transitions.

Designing Brussels Ecosystems was approached with a twofold method: first, a descriptive atlas of Brussels' innovative project and contextual situations and, second, scenarios and proposals to guide the transition of the Brussels-Capital Region. (See p.13)

Atlas of Brussels Ecosystems

The main task during the first week of the MasterClass was to carry out an investigation on the spatio-environmental and socio-political patterns that characterize the ecosystem of innovative projects and their contextual situations in Brussels. A field trip to collect data and meet the stakeholders enabled the participants to explore this socio-spatial description.

The groups organised a continuous back and forth between urban scales on the community, neighbourhood, urban, regional, metropolitan and global levels. On the one hand, they attempted to describe the ecosystems of actors and their relationships with their socio-political environment (top of the diagram). On the other, they had to describe the 'sites', their relationships with their spatial-environment and the flows (i.e. metabolism) generated by the activities (bottom of the diagram).

Each group combined different description and design tools: spatio-environmental mapping, socio-political diagram, metrics and typologies of situations, etc., in order to understand the patterns of interdependencies at stake for each theme.
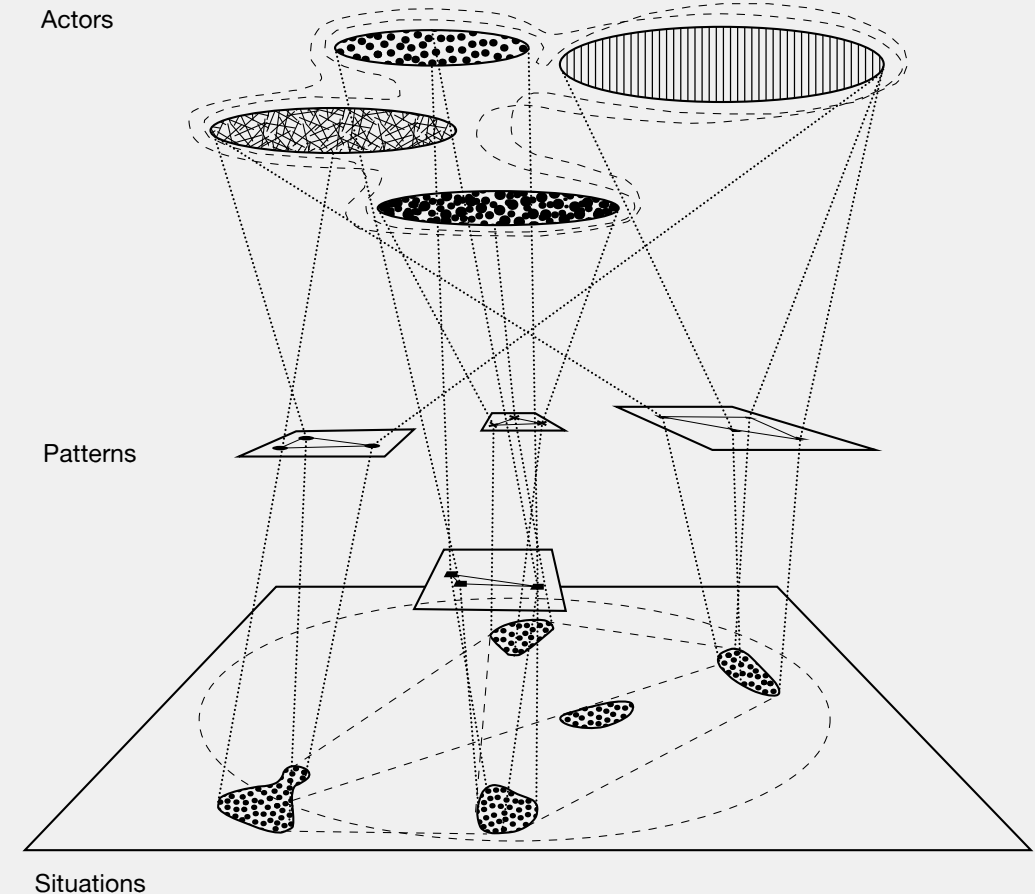
Methodological diagram proposed for the study of the Brussels Ecosystems by the MasterClass

Participants used the communication system and graphic matrix crafted for this workshop in all the representations they produced during the MasterClass. In the second part of this publication (Design Exploration), dedicated to the work and reflexion produced during the MasterClass, the reader will find a summary of the graphic material prepared by the group of researchers.

While identifying the patterns of interdependencies among innovative projects and between them and the contextual situation, the teams discussed and negotiated existing spatio-environmental and socio-political links and missing connections between and across the aforementioned scales.

The results of the first week of the MasterClass is an innovative contribution to an atlas of Brussels Ecosystems. The participants had the opportunity to present their progress during a mid-term presentation and discussion with the stakeholders they met with during the week. This was an opportunity to compare the patterns identified and to discuss the hypotheses of the forward-looking scenarios to be developed during the second week. The teams were then ready to move toward developing their scenarios and design for guiding the transition of Brussels ecosystems.

Designing the transition of Brussels ecosystems

During the second week of the MasterClass, participants designed scenarios and projects for the transition of Brussels ecosystems. The scenarios addressed interdependencies, missing links and new relations between ecosystems and innovative projects, asking the question: what would happen if these missing/new links were to be activated? With the scenarios, the groups were now asked to design and propose a plan of action aimed at transforming existing situations and ecosystems following the common values identified on the first week.

Design scenarios are a set of structured visions that aim to catalyse the capabilities of the various actors and agencies involved in the process of framing the ecosystem transition.

Participants were given a few days to use their initial findings from the first week to formulate alternative social, economic and political frameworks that served as bases for new design scenarios. Groups developed a series of scripts and diagrams that represent connections and interfaces, potentially generating the transition of ecosystems. Most importantly, the groups were asked to articulate and negotiate spatio-environmental and socio-political dynamics between and across the initially assigned analytical scales, boundaries and thresholds, with the idea that it is not only physical things that are being designed here, but also the protocols and policies that will ensure the ecosystem transition.

During the last two days of the MasterClass, the final step in this process was to design and develop specific projects. Assuming that a team's design scenario proposes the many artefacts ('things') and systems (interdependencies) needed for the transition to work, each team member then focused on one such artefact and system. In doing so, we assumed that the project, as a heuristic device (logic of invention), defines relations among: practices (of the actors identified in the research, 'the stakeholders'), processes (that bring them together in forms of interaction and possibly collaboration and co-production), resources (both the available resources and those needed for the proposal to work) and outcomes (the desired outcomes of the proposed project as defined by team's design scenario). The goal of the MasterClass was to strengthen interdependencies and ecosystems that allow all of these characteristics to work together in a way that promotes local resource renewal, social inclusion and ecosystem transition. This means that the projects must generate an ecosystem transition that is both socio-natural-political and geographical at the same time.

For this, the different thematic groups formalised design tools (graphs, diagrams) to reflect on the possible innovative relations between the different elements needed for the ecosystem transition.

The results were presented and discussed during the last afternoon, at the end of the two-week MasterClass. Stakeholders were invited to give a final comment on the proposals drawn up in collaboration with them. The presentations were followed by an intense debate with local stakeholders and academics. These comments were taken into consideration by the four groups in order to submit the final contribution to this publication.

### Structure of this publication

In order to contextualize the work of the four groups of researchers in the MasterClass, this general introduction is followed by a more detailed presentation of the four thematic ecosystems: Agriculture, Work, Density and Circularity. These thematic introductions lay the groundwork for each theme in the context of the Brussels-Capital Region. What are the current challenges that concern these themes in terms of urban transformation and urban policies? What are the situations, projects and potentialities of change related with each of them? And lastly, what is the conceptual framework required to analyse them in a forward-looking way?

A cartographic atlas displays some of the important layers concerning the four themes in order to illustrate how they are developing in the Brussels-Capital Region. The atlas acts also as an introduction to the graphic material prepared by each group in the following section.

Following the four thematic introductions, the reader will find four design and narrative contributions produced by MasterClass participants and a set of short reflections by the urban project stakeholders. These design contributions and presentations are followed by a reflection by Metrolab about what compass is needed for navigating the socio-ecological transition.

The last part of the book brings together some reflections on both the methodological approach and the results of the MasterClass by members of the scientific committee (Elena Cogato-Lanza and Brian McGrath). The general conclusion by Mathieu Berger presents the entire process implemented over these two years in the perspective of an ecology of knowledge, for which he gives an overview of the challenges posed in terms of epistemology and the bridges between disciplines.
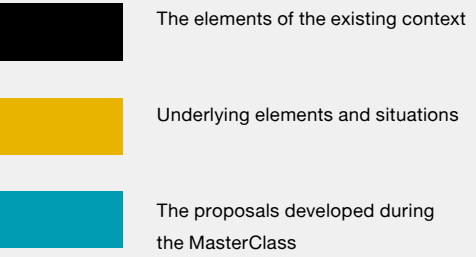
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Graphic protocol

The elements of the existing context

Underlying elements and situations

The proposals developed during the MasterClass

Work

Balancing work and life
A project of doors

Lucile Ado
Romina Cornejo (stakeholder)
Elsa Coslado (stakeholder)
Stéphane Damsin (stakeholder)
Bernard Declève (tutor)
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Lieza Dessein (stakeholder)
Verena Lenna

Dima Mannoun
Luis Antonio Martin Sanchez
Gijs Teerlijck (stakeholder)
Sandrine Tonnoir (stakeholder)
Chloé Salembier (tutor)
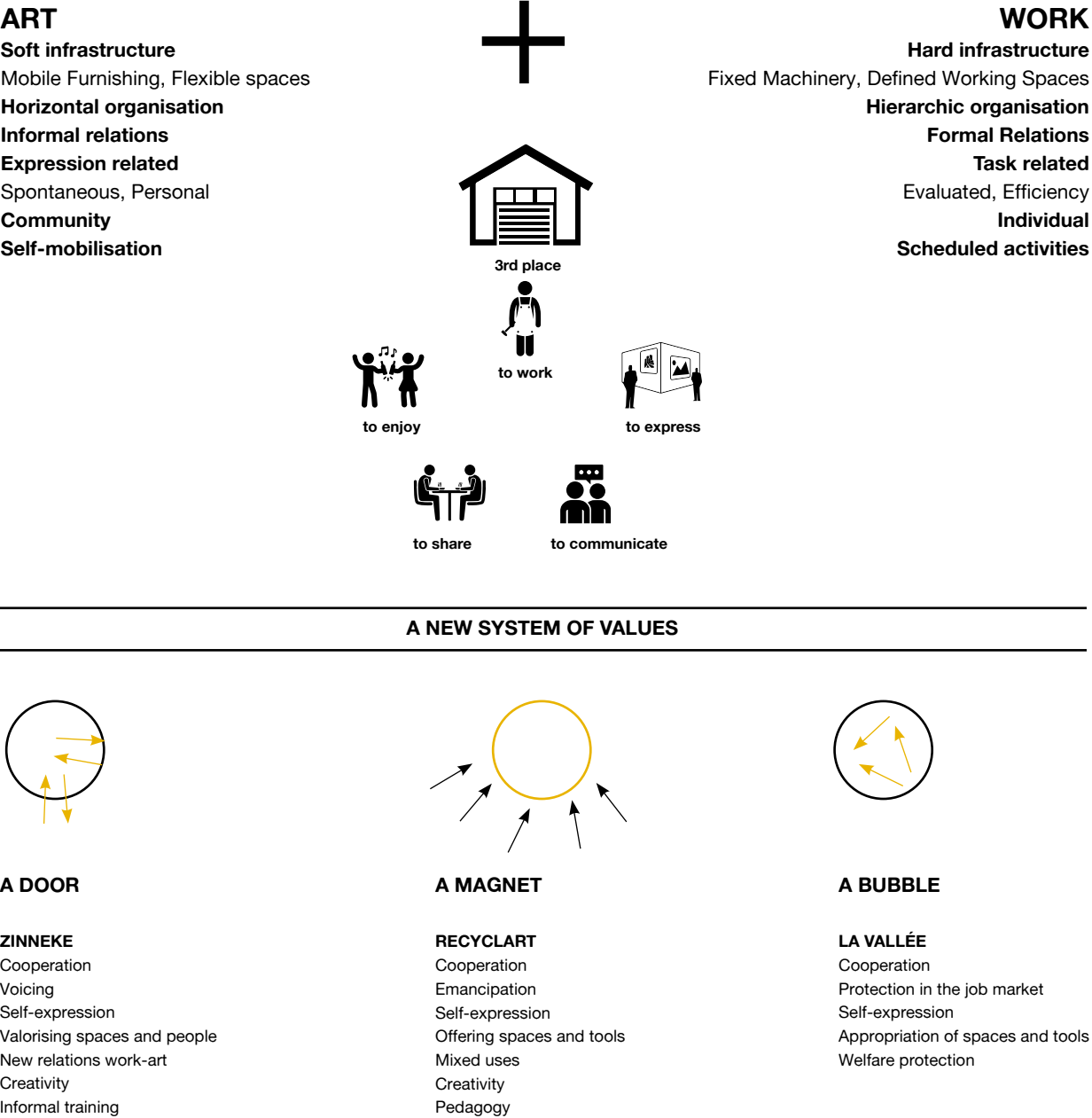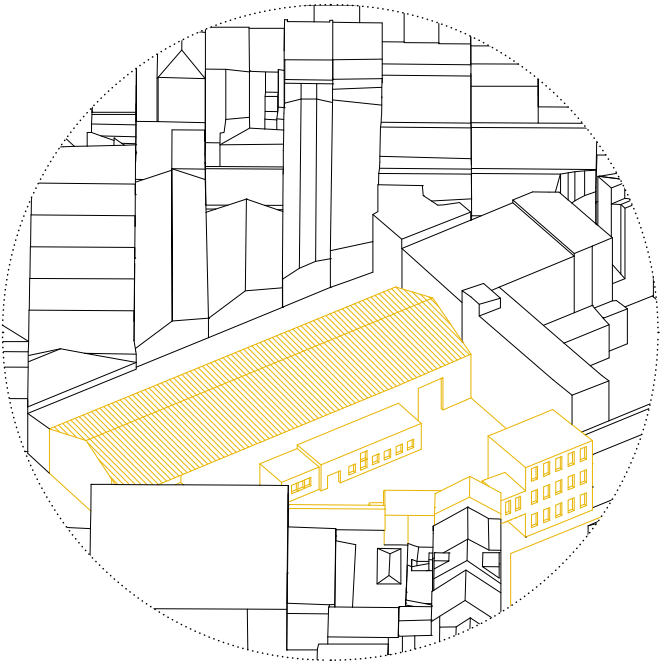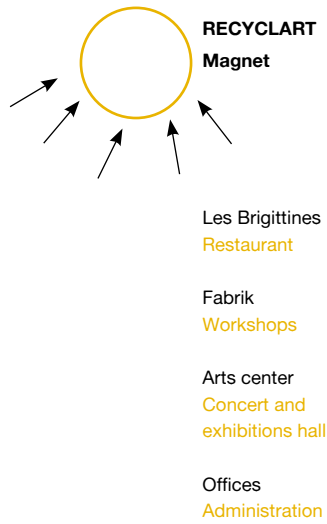Alberto Squizzato
Natalia Vera Vigaray

Introduction

Brussels is still dealing with what remains of a not so distant industrial past. Bringing back production to the city cannot be only a matter of competitiveness, demand and supply, or a matter of efficient organisation of the material and infrastructural supports. It is also a matter of working conditions and work spaces. As a group, we consider that working today should not be about making money but about remaking life.

A variety of situations — including those illustrated in the three case studies we consider here — suggests and experiments a different approach to the concept of work. The concept of 'a third place' could provide a pertinent entry point for describing emergent work spaces, by allowing to question the balance between work and other activities, e.g. between work and life. What seems to be at stake and at the core of the current transformations is not only the compatibility of these two realms, but also the fertility of their interweaving, in terms of both socio-spatial conditions and individual needs. What if work was about collective emancipation rather than just wages? What spatial conditions would be involved? Flexibility — and the resulting precarity — is as much about time as it is about space. And if we live while working and work while living, this requires appropriate conditions — as much as they have an impact — that go beyond the physical boundaries of a building. It is a matter of ecosystems, generated by the inter-weaving — in the same building or in the same neighbourhood — of the flows and rhythms of a different approach to work — or a different approach to life. The ecosystems approach is therefore understood as the relationship between work and life fuelled by a different system of values that generates specific spatial and social patterns and embedded different scales of analysis. As designers, we hence explored the work-life relationship looking at the different spatial implications, at the different scales and their atmospheres, from architectural to urban. We have observed that the balance between work and life is no longer about segregating, but rather about negotiating, playing, exploring. It is a project of doors, regulating compatibilities and incompatibilities, engendering the exchange of expertise, making possible the emergence of new solidarities. It is a matter of urbanity.

Ecosystems & situations
Attracting, protecting and voicing

The three case studies of Recyclart, LaVallée and Zinneke are different, both in terms of new values and rights and of socio-spatial characters. Recyclart is an art centre, a workshop for the manufacturing of metal and wood objects called 'Fabrik' and a restaurant. Started as a reclamation of the space of Chapelle railway station, where various art projects and cultural activities have been successfully developed for 20 years in collaboration with the Brussels-Capital Region, Recyclart supports a work training programme allowing vulnerable individuals to become self-sufficient by developing skills and starting a professional path. In terms of socio-spatial dynamics, Recyclart works as a magnet, attracting people and having a powerful impact on the perception of the surrounding urban fabric. LaVallée provides not only a co-working space but also legal, tax-related and financial support to freelancers and small organisations. While maintaining friendly relationships with the neighbouring activities, LaVallée is an 'introverted' space, working as a bubble of protection, spatially enclosing and providing an alternative form of security to flexible — and precarious — workers. Zinneke is a non-profit association mainly working around the production of a biennial parade — ongoing since 2000 — but also agglomerating projects such as 'l'Atelier Métal', for the training of those interested in special skills for the creation of metal artefacts; or 'Matos', for the collection and the recycling of waste materials. In the spirit of 'love for humanity' and 'curiosity towards the unknown', Zinneke celebrates solidarity and stimulates the public space to allow free expression. After a long nomadic life across the available vacant buildings in the city, Zinneke has finally gained the opportunity to occupy a former stamp factory for 20 years in the Masui neighbourhood, thanks to an ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded project. The challenge today is to embed the life of the organisation in the neighbourhood, while involving its inhabitants in the governance of the building. The articulation of the needs of different actors around the same space is a matter of rhythms, accessibility, compatibility of different activities and requires what Zinneke's team defined as a 'project of doors'.

ART
Soft infrastructure
Mobile Furnishing, Flexible spaces
Horizontal organisation
Informal relations
Expression related
Spontaneous, Personal
Community
Self-mobilisation

WORK
Hard infrastructure
Fixed Machinery, Defined Working Spaces
Hierarchic organisation
Formal Relations
Task related
Evaluated, Efficiency
Individual
Scheduled activities

3rd place

to work

to enjoy

to express

to share   to communicate

A NEW SYSTEM OF VALUES

A DOOR

ZINNEKE
Cooperation
Voicing
Self-expression
Valorising spaces and people
New relations work-art
Creativity
Informal training

A MAGNET

RECYCLART
Cooperation
Emancipation
Self-expression
Offering spaces and tools
Mixed uses
Creativity
Pedagogy

A BUBBLE

LA VALLÉE
Cooperation
Protection in the job market
Self-expression
Appropriation of spaces and tools
Welfare protection

Third places as a new system of values
Working places are often characterised by fixed spaces and scheduled activities. Time and work have no quality, are only a part of the same equation in which profit is the only goal. Third places seek to impose a new system of values. Each of the three situations we have investigated act in different ways with different levels of reformism or radicalness. They are three situations of resistance that redefine rights and values around the concepts of protection, voicing and emancipation as they redefine the relationship between work spaces and the ecosystem of the city around the figures of the magnet, the bubble and the door.

RECYCLART
Magnet

Les Brigittines
Restaurant

Fabrik
Workshops

Arts center
Concert and
exhibitions hall

Offices
Administration

Re-centralisation of the project
In the Chapelle railway station, Recyclart has been a successful experience interacting and impacting the neighbourhood. Nowadays, the project is scattered across different places. Moving to Rue Manchester can be an opportunity for the project to re-centralise all its activities. This new location generates a new condition of accessibility (from the city and from the street) and of integration within the urban tissue.
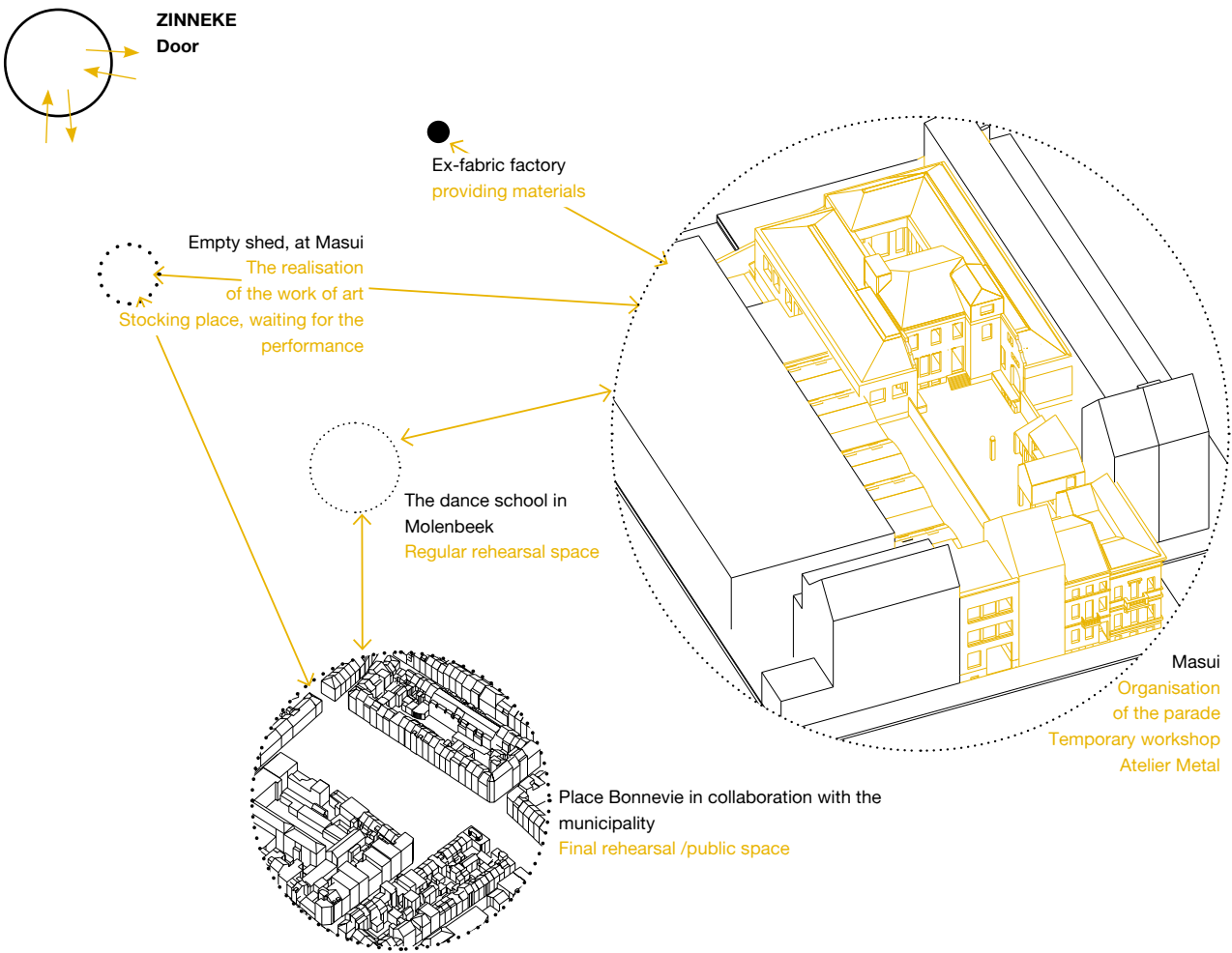

Recyclart (a magnet)
This picture was taken on January 28, 2019 around 5 p.m. It shows the new entrance of the Recyclart project recently displaced near the canal, in a former printing factory located on Rue Manchester in Molenbeek. On the left side, the showcase is used to promote the production made by Recyclart Fabrik currently still located in the Marolles neighbourhood.
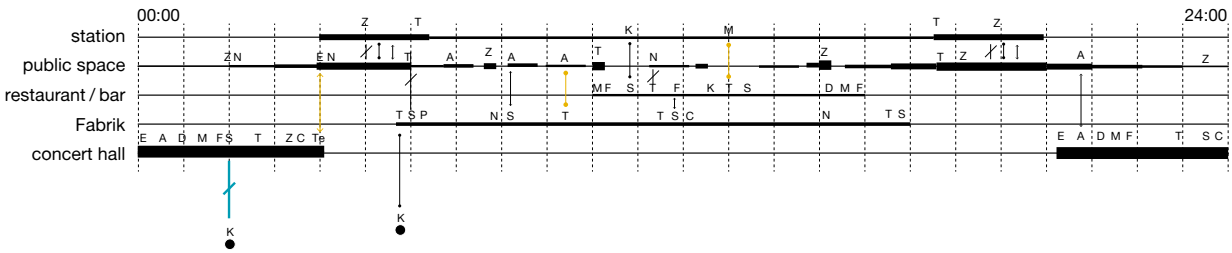
Exchanges

Conflicts

Transactions

Transmissions

Z	Neighbour
E	Entrepreneur
T	Trainee
S	Staff
A	Artist
D	Designer
M	Media
F	Food
K	Stakeholder
P	Provider
C	Craftsman
Z	Citizen

Describing a specific ecosystem, 'One working day at Recyclart'
The diagram shows the multiple uses of the place and the social interactions through a day. The lines represent the spaces while the columns are the hours of the day. The arrows are the three types of exchanges between the agents. We highlighted here the conflict that opposed the railway company and the project regarding security issues.

ZINNEKE
Door

Ex-fabric factory
providing materials

Empty shed, at Masui
The realisation
of the work of art
Stocking place, waiting for the
performance

The dance school in
Molenbeek
Regular rehearsal space

Masui
Organisation
of the parade
Temporary workshop
Atelier Metal

Place Bonnevie in collaboration with the
municipality
Final rehearsal /public space

00:00   24:00
Storage
Courtyard
Flexible space
Workshops
Office

00:00   24:00
Storage
Courtyard
Flexible space
Workshops
Office

MuZ A ND Te T P C S

The rhizomatic spatial pattern of a Zinnode
A Zinnode is a group composed of various partners creating a common
artistic project. Through workshops they develop a theatrical concept
around the Parade's theme (www.zinneke.org). For each biennale around
20 Zinnodes are composed and interact with various places and public
spaces in the city at different stage of the creation process.

| Exchanges			
	Conflicts	**Z**	Neighbour
		E	Entrepreneur
	Transactions	**T**	Trainee
		S	Staff
	Transmissions	**A**	Artist
		D	Designer
		M	Media
		F	Food
		K	Stakeholder
		P	Provider
		C	Craftsman
		Z	Citizen

Zinneke (a door)
This picture was taken on January 29, 2019 around 11 a.m. The Zinneke
association is transforming a former general stamp factory into a large
permanent space for meeting, creation, training and production adapted
to the needs of the Zinneke project and, more broadly, to those of the
city and its neighbourhoods. The transformation of the building is a pilot
project for the development of infrastructure through the reuse of building
materials, with maximum respect for the existing building. As much
as possible, the work is carried out by people trained in the versatile
trajectories of artisanal reconstruction work.
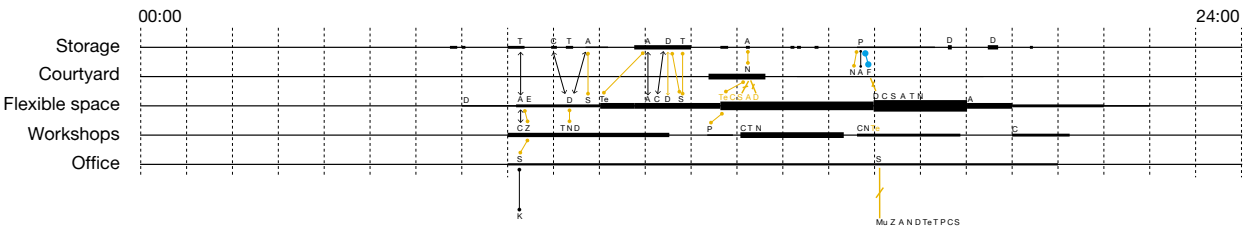
Describing a specific ecosystem 'One working day at Zinneke'
Showing the different uses of the spaces, we highlighted how this
new place can impact the local economy becoming for example a client
for the food providers settled in the neighbourhood.
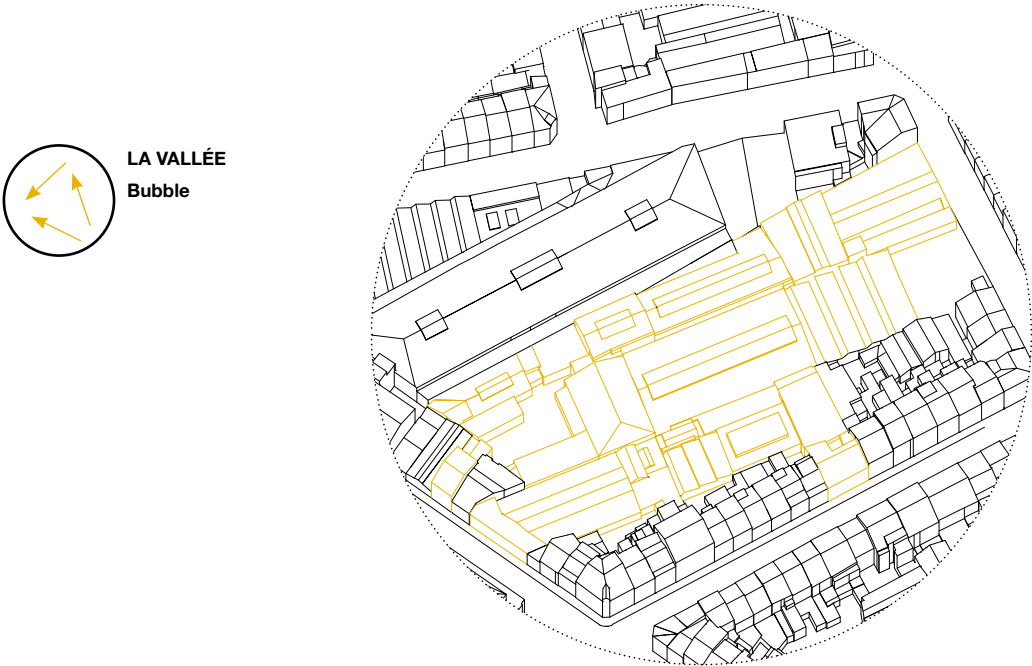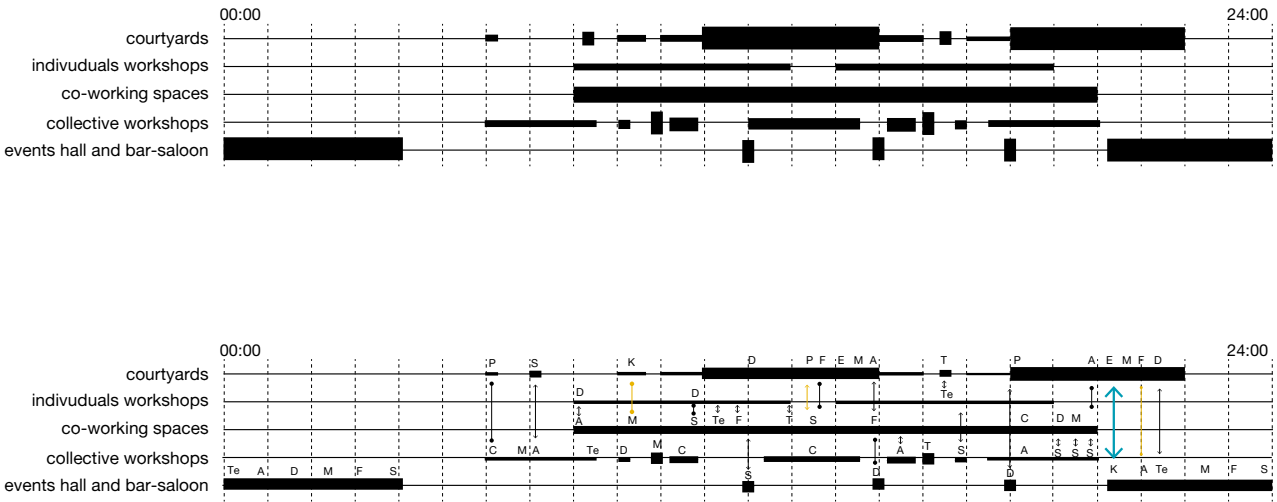
LA VALLÉE
Bubble

A specialised equipment
LaVallée is a specialized equipment from Smart (which headquarter is in Saint-Gilles) that integrates different kind of co-working spaces and ateliers. Individuals or collective workshops and working spaces for creative activities are organizing around two courtyards and a big event hall that can host all kind of activities.

LaVallée (a bubble)
This picture was taken on January 30, 2019 around 12 p.m. at LaVallée in Molenbeek. LaVallée is a shared space provided by Smart. As a mutual society for artists, Smart has been the largest cooperative in Europe since 2016. Its objective is to relieve artists, creators and technicians of administrative burdens related to their professional activities. LaVallée is based in a former laundry building and is organised around several common spaces that foster intimate interactions (such as kitchens, salons, courtyards, terraces).

Exchanges

Conflicts

Transactions

Transmissions

Z	Neighbour
E	Entrepreneur
T	Trainee
S	Staff
A	Artist
D	Designer
M	Media
F	Food
K	Stakeholder
P	Provider
C	Craftsman
Z	Citizen

Describing a specific ecosystem 'One working day at LaVallée'
The space favours the proximity and exchanges between autonomous workers having complementary activities to work together on a project or working in the same sector in order to mutualise functional costs.

Designing ecosystem transition
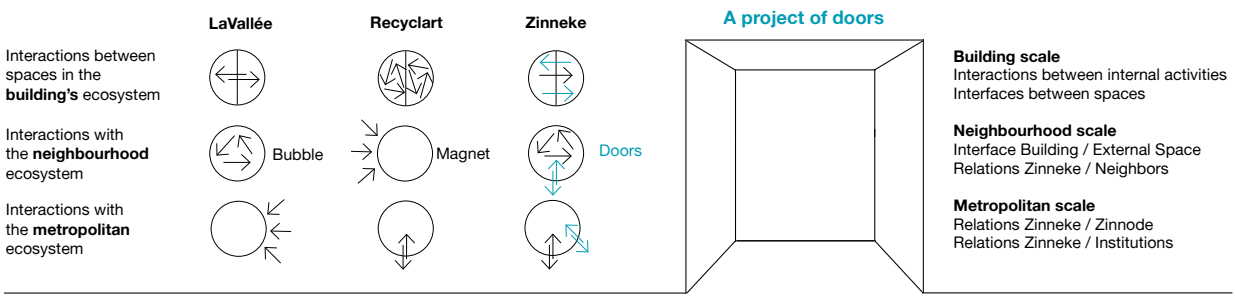# A project of doors

The combination of the socio-spatial framework within which Zinneke operates and of the challenge this actor set itself in terms of governance and relationships with the neighbourhood defines an interesting situation to be explored from a design perspective. The project of doors of Zinneke, by involving other local actors in the governance of the building promises to expand beyond the walls of the building, having the potential to transform the ecosystem of the whole neighbourhood. The concept of doors can be read as a metaphor rather than an operation.[1] Doors can refer to the entrance of a home, the security gate of a city or a neighbourhood but also to a psychological barrier or a way to isolate oneself. The coexistence of life and work in this part of the city allowed us to identify three possible relational situations concerning actors and the character of spaces. Conflict situations are those where some kind of friction is perhaps inevitable, requiring acknowledgment more than pacification. Transactions describe forms of material exchanges such as those of a market, implying a temporary shift in the role of the space, allowing the interweaving of life and work. Transmissions are about filtering and hybridisations, of spaces and expertise: from the private to the public, through semi-public and semi-private conditions, allowing to experiment different work rhythms and mixed forms of governance.

We asked ourselves how doors could intervene on these three different situations, and we tested three possible 'door sites' and related to their nature, three possible actions developed as part of Zinneke's spatial-relational strategy. The first is about invading the heavily industrialised front of the canal for unusual walks or 'disruptive' events, thus taking

advantage of the industrial landscape. The second is about negotiating along the Parc de La Senne, still under construction, as an alternative marketplace, while establishing some forms of collective life — e.g. community gardens and workshops for arts and crafts — along the long corridor of the park. The third is about experimenting theatrical performances in Place Masui, as an occasion to extend Zinneke's operational space beyond the walls of its building.

While reflecting on the governance and the spatial impact related to the activities of Zinneke, based on the understanding of the modus operandi of this organisation, two scenarios seem to combine: the first of temporary activation of local actors and sites, responding to short-term actions and initiatives, more or less related to the organisation of the parade. The second is the long-term establishment of a neighbourhood governance, which would concern Zinneke's former stamp factory and other surrounding vacant sites and buildings, for example, in the form of a Community Land Trust.
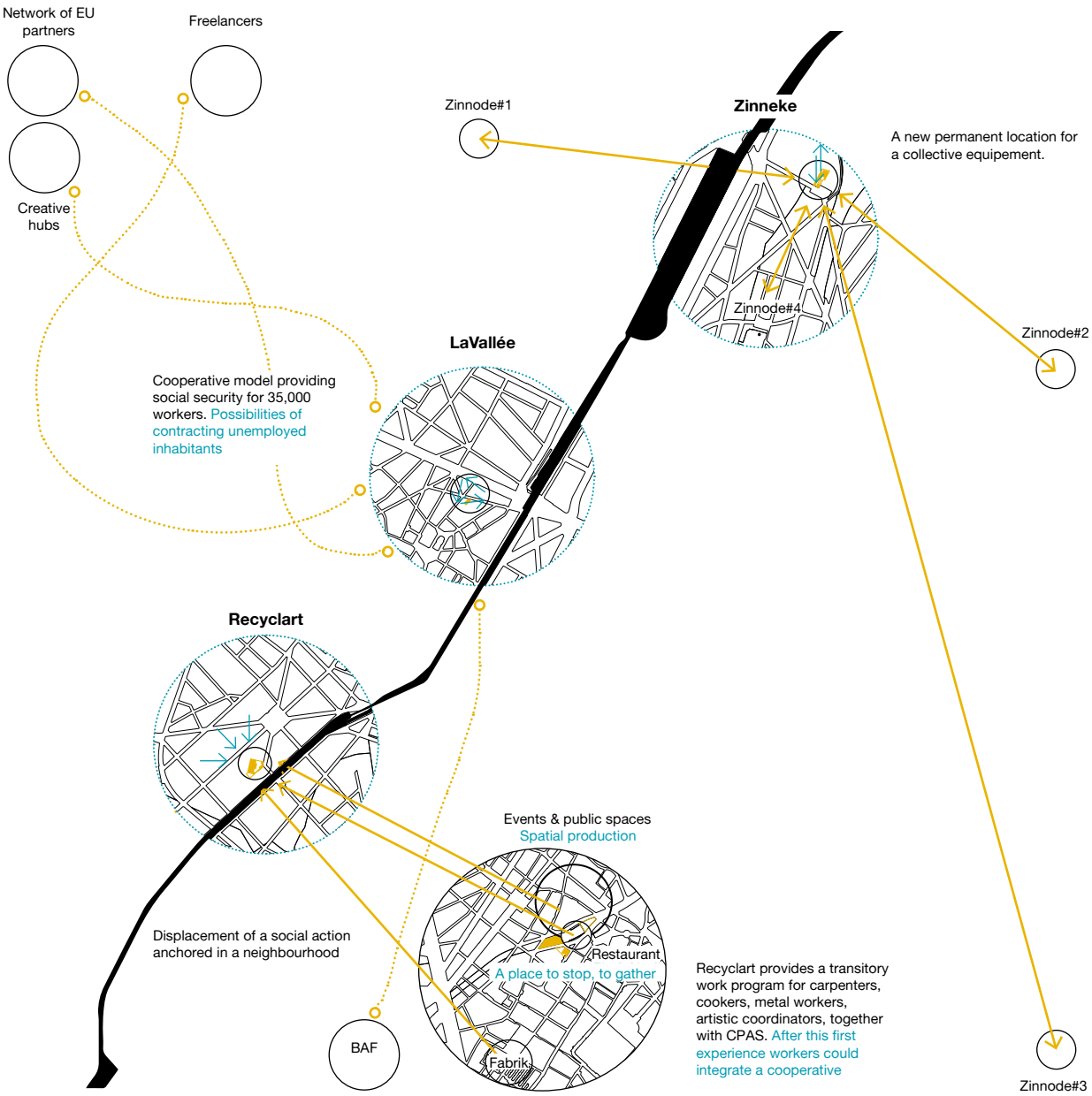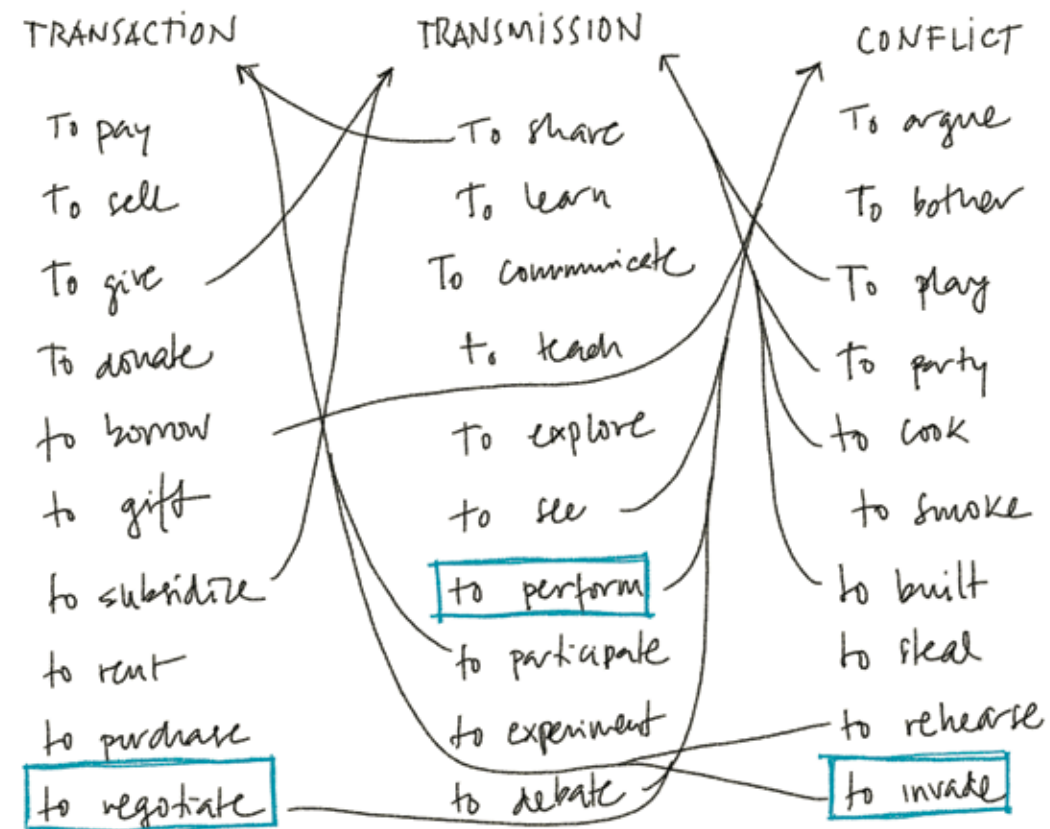
1.   The third place as a door answers the statement raised in Elements of architecture by Koolhaas, Westcott and Petermann (2017, p. 257): 'Door. A traditional element once invested with physical heft and graphic iconography has turned into a dematerialized zone, a gradual transition between conditions registered by ephemeral technologies (metal detector, card readers, body scanners) rather than physical objects. The transformation took place concurrently with a transformation in society: whereas isolation was once the desired condition, our aspirations now are for movement, flow, transparency, accessibility — which the door, by definition, stands in the way of'.

A project of doors

LaVallée   Recyclart   Zinneke

Interactions between spaces in the **building's** ecosystem

Interactions with the **neighbourhood** ecosystem   Bubble   Magnet   Doors

Interactions with the **metropolitan** ecosystem

Building scale
Interactions between internal activities
Interfaces between spaces

Neighbourhood scale
Interface Building / External Space
Relations Zinneke / Neighbors

Metropolitan scale
Relations Zinneke / Zinnode
Relations Zinneke / Institutions

A matrix of ecosystem interactions
The interactions between the projects and the city is complex and changes in relation to the various scales. However, by analysing the projects at the scale of the neighbourhood, it is possible to understand three different ways in which the ecosystems of LaVallée, Recyclart and Zinneke interact with the wider ecosystem of the city.

Network of EU partners

Freelancers

Creative hubs

Zinnode#1

Zinneke

A new permanent location for a collective equipement.

Zinnode#4

Zinnode#2

LaVallée

Cooperative model providing social security for 35,000 workers. Possibilities of contracting unemployed inhabitants

Recyclart

Events & public spaces
Spatial production

Displacement of a social action anchored in a neighbourhood

Restaurant

A place to stop, to gather

Recyclart provides a transitory work program for carpenters, cookers, metal workers, artistic coordinators, together with CPAS. After this first experience workers could integrate a cooperative

BAF

Fabrik

Zinnode#3

TRANSACTION   TRANSMISSION   CONFLICT

To pay   To share   To argue
to sell   To learn   To bother
To give   To communicate   To play
To donate   to teach   to party
to borrow   To explore   to cook
to gift   to see   to smoke
to subsidize   to perform   to built
to rent   to participate   to steal
to purchase   to experiment   to rehearse
to negotiate   to debate   to invade

Building up Masui Zinnode | Invading Canal Banks | Negociating The Parc de la Senne | Performing The Square Masui | CLT Masui

Feb. 2019 — May 2020 — Dec. 2020

Tomorrow   Parade   New fund

Conflicts itineraries | Transactions itineraries | Transmissions itineraries

The new coalition of actors integrates the building in a community land trust or a cooperative

Door-to-door#1: involving local actors in the new coalition
Door-to-door#2: thematic reading of the neighbourhood
Door-to-door#3: involving manpower in the local actions

Verbing the actions
In the process of designing, we brainstormed how to turn the three types of exchanges into actions. The results are a list of verbs that can interact in the three types. As the idea was to attract people to collective events, we choose to keep the verbs that express some radicalness but stay positive.
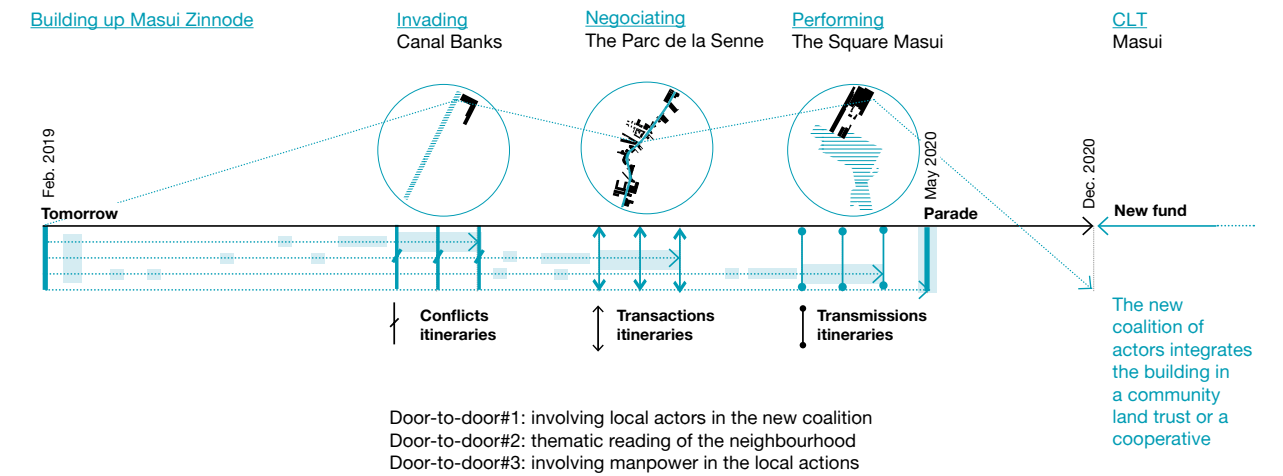
Short-terms actions
The short-term project is an ecosystem of actions that precedes the project of community land trust and the Masui cooperative. Each type of exchange is challenged in a cycle of three itineraries through the neighbourhood that ends up in a collective action (and festive event), which aims at revealing the synergies Zinneke can have with other economic, social actors and inhabitants present in the neighbourhood. In the long term, the cooperative becomes the manager of the three public spaces that have been activated (banks of the canal, Parc de la Senne, Place Masui).

Poster campain
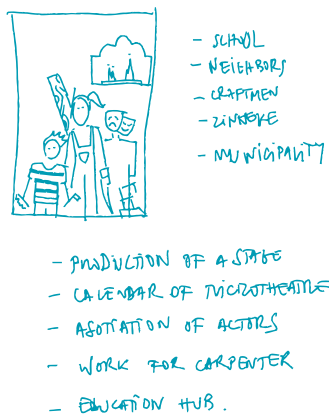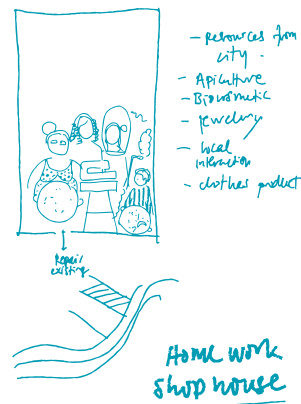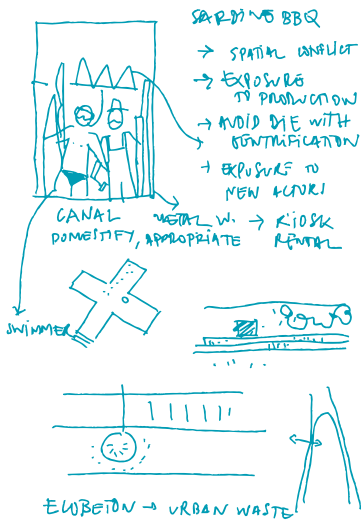
Actions

Itineraries

Invading **The Canal Banks**

This action aims at allowing the appropriation of the canal banks for activities related to metal transformation. It aims at creating a synergy between a metal recycling factory, the metal workshop in Zinneke and skilled migrants.
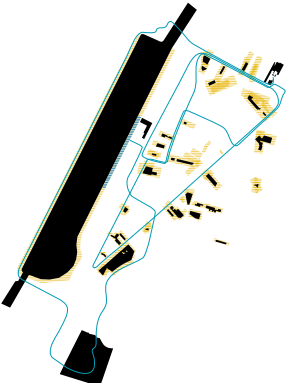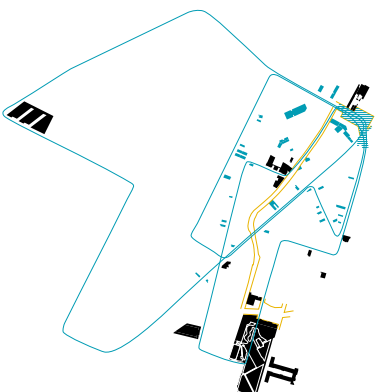
Door-to-door#1: Involving A.Stevens & Co
Door-to-door#2: Fluxes of material. Metal in the neigbourhood
**Door-to-door#3:** Energy flow. Manpower from Parc Maximilien

Negociating **The Parc de la Senne**

This action aims at allowing the residents living along the parc de la Senne to open their doors and sell homemade food, crafts or offering a service for repairing objects, clothes etc.

Door-to-door#1: Involving the residents from Parc de la Senne
Door-to-door#2: Fluxes of material. Food, clothes, objects...
Door-to-door#3: Energy flow. Unemployed people and local shops

Performing **The Place Masui**

This final action aims at bringing the activities of Zinneke on the Place Masui. A small theater built by students from a carpentry high school will stage a play with the children involve in the associations of the neighbourhood. The vacant buildings and working sites are activated by the activities.

Door-to-door#1: Involving schools and social actors
Door-to-door#2: Fluxes of material. Wood transformation
Door-to-door#3: Energy flow. Students and wood workers
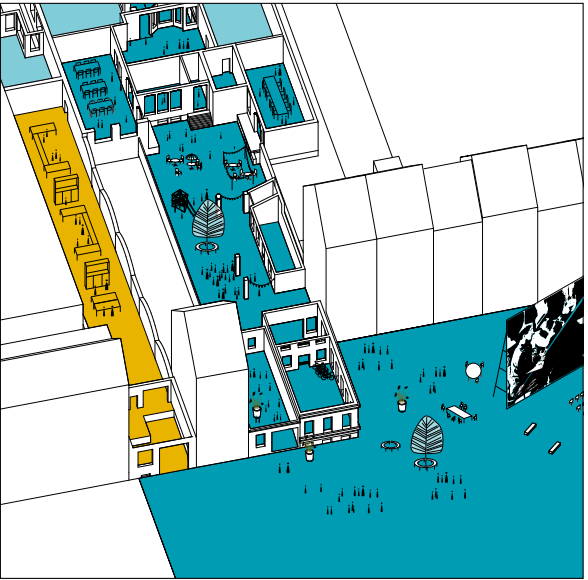
To invade: Doors for Invading
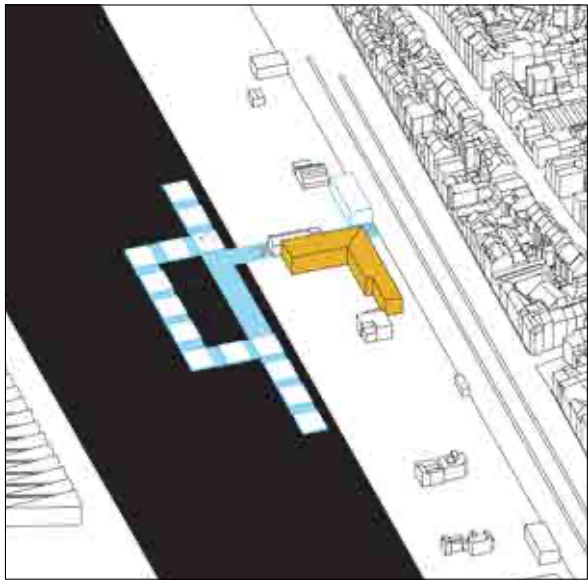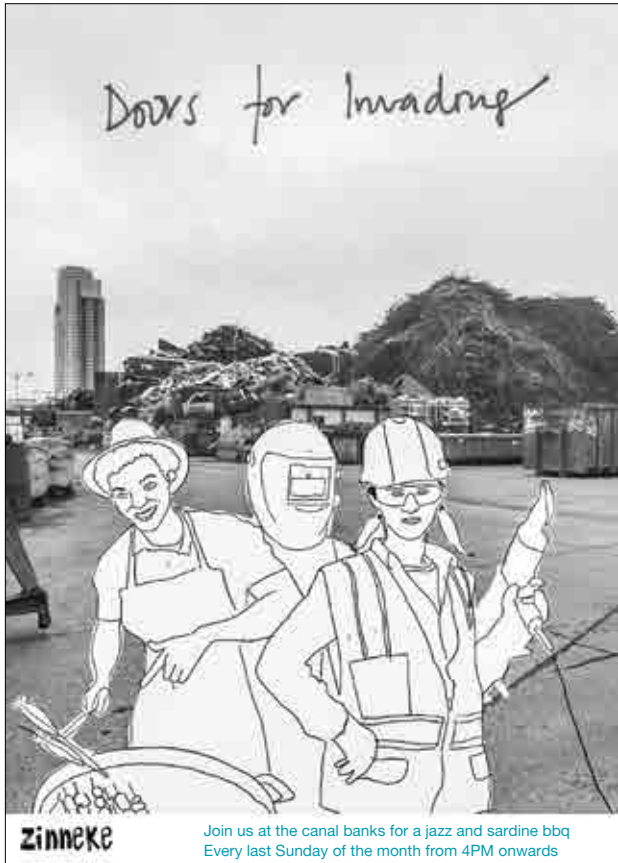
Enterprises door opened on the canal banks

To perform: Doors for Performing

Associative door opened on the square

Doors for invading
For each type of exchange, we identified a public space to be activated through an action that characterised a socio-political change, a specific material to work with and the manpower it needed in order for the cooperative to provide work. Here, we turn the conflict exchange into the action of invading. This action aims at appropriating the canal banks for activities related to the transformation of metal. It intends to create a synergy between a metal recycling factory, the metal workshop in Zinneke and skilled migrants from the Parc Maximilien. The poster promotes the event as a festive time (barbecue and party) showing the public it intends to attract. The axon shows the principle and the potential setting of the partying event.
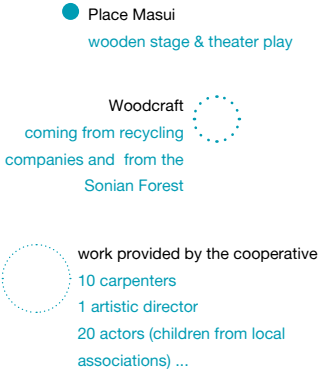
• canal banks
  metal workshop, barbecue and party

  Metal
  coming from recycling companies and car repairing activities

  work provided by the cooperative
  5 bike fixers, 5 jewellers, 20 welders ...

Doors for performing
For each type of exchange, we identified a public space to be activated through an action that characterised a socio-political change, a specific material to work with and the manpower it needed in order for the cooperative to provide work. Here we turn the transmission exchange into the action of performing. This action aims at activating the square in front of the Zinneke building to overflow the associative live inside the public on the public space. A small theatre built by students from a carpentry high school will stage a play with the children involve in the associations of the neighbourhood. The poster promotes the event showing the public it intends to attract. The axon shows the principle and the potential setting of the theatre.
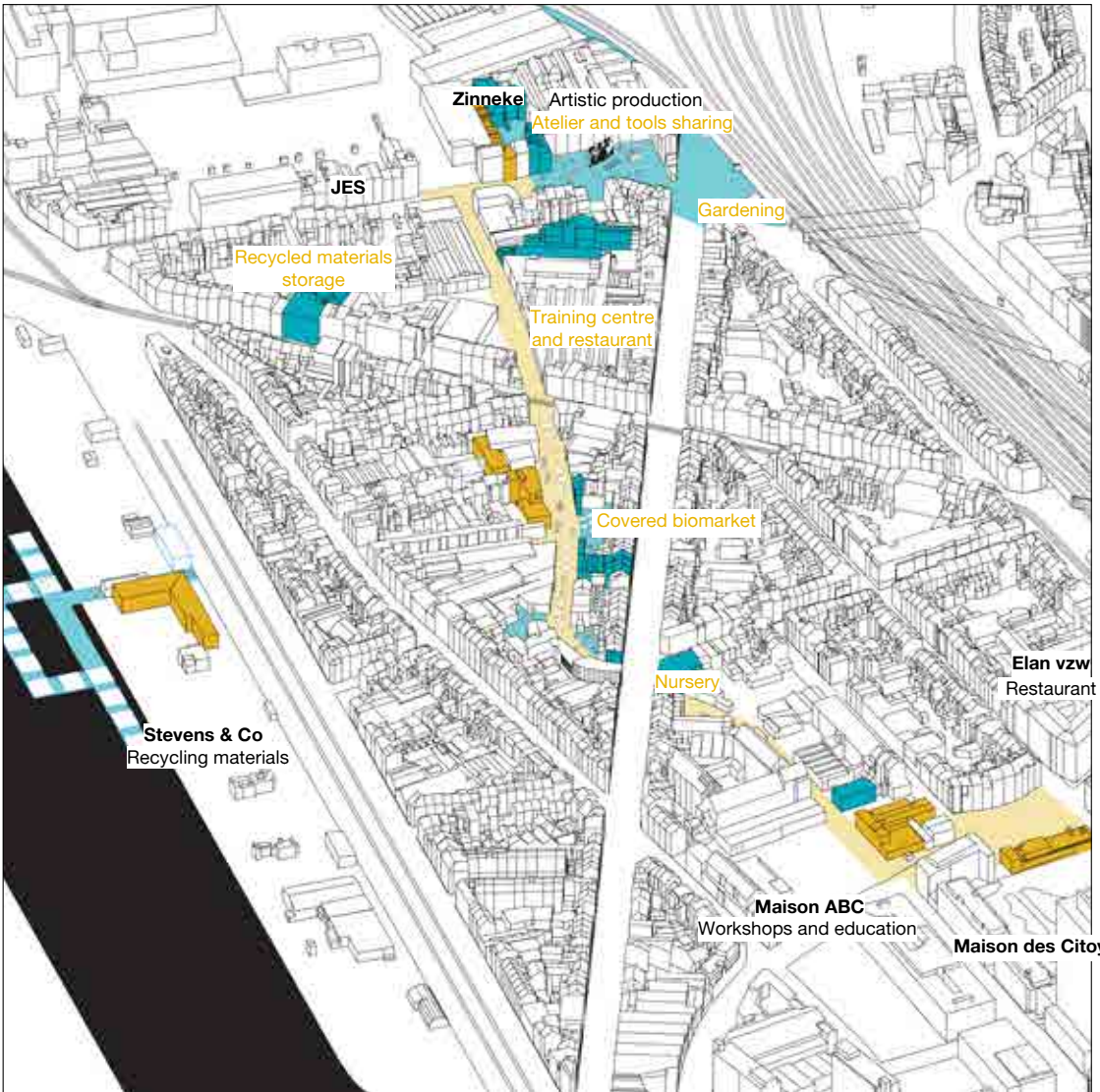
• Place Masui
  wooden stage & theater play

  Woodcraft
  coming from recycling companies and from the Sonian Forest

  work provided by the cooperative
  10 carpenters
  1 artistic director
  20 actors (children from local associations) ...

Doors for Nagotiating

Private doors and public equipments
opened on the green walk

Interface 3

■ Vacant plots, transformed by temporary and long term uses

■ Existing associations and local actors, involved in the CLT project

Doors for negotiating

For each type of exchange, we identified a public space to be activated through
an action that characterised a socio-political change, a specific material to
work with and the manpower it needed in order for the cooperative to provide
work. Here, we turn the transaction exchange into the action of negotiating. This
action aims at activating the Parc de la Senne (going from Place Masui to Place
Gaucheret) to allow the residents living along the park to open their doors and sell
homemade food, crafts or offering a service for repairing objects, clothes, etc.
The poster promotes the event showing the public it intends to attract. The axon
shows the principle and the potential setting of the local market.

● Parc de la Senne
   local market

Clothes, objects, food
homemade and second hand

work provided by the cooperative
50 street traders, 1 jeweller, 2
welders, 1 carpenter, 15 cookers
6 sewers, 1 shoemaker...

Community land trust and the Masui cooperative

The community land trust is built on the long term at the scale of the neighbourhood.
The actors and spaces we identified as resources are either public, associative or
private. The cooperative manages public spaces and activates some vacant plots
providing equipment, facilities and work for the neighbourhood and its inhabitants in
gardening services, building maintenance, food market, cultural activities, training and
educational services, in which they would have the opportunity to invest in order to
reduce their time at work and spend more time at life.

Conclusion

**Lucile Ado, Marine Declève, Verena Lenna, Dima Mannoun,
Luis Antonio Martin Sanchez, Alberto Squizzato, Natalia Vera Vigaray**

**The project of doors has been designed based on Zinneke's
purpose and project and is based on a double move:
to embed in the neighbourhood while involving local actors
in the building's governance.**

However, this could be tested in relation to other territorial conditions and adapted to the needs of the related actors. LaVallée creates an 'introverted' dimension of protection that also suggests the relevance of a project of doors. The ability of Recyclart to establish conditions of accessibility in the dense urban fabric of Molenbeek will be the result of the identifying doors and rhythms so that culture could become part of the daily lives of the inhabitants of this municipality, while transforming the very idea of work. A door is not only about opening: it is also about closing, regulating, protecting. Especially in consideration of the fact that most of these initiatives are established in neglected neighbourhoods, hence having a gentrifying potential. In a similar perspective, a project of doors provides the occasion to address the governance of a neighbourhood: to regulate accessibility and uses according to the needs and rights of the communities involved. The Community Land Trust model that we suggest is only one among other possible examples of a form of governance acknowledging the right to decide on different converging communities — the inhabitants, the local actors, the administration — and enabling the interweaving of different scales and their related concerns and responsibilities. And most importantly, allowing to resist gentrification processes. Still, the intuition and our working hypothesis is that more broadly, a horizontal, plural governance is a matter of increasing the capacity of resilience of an ecosystem, allowing to draw on the site-specific resources of a neighbourhood and the communities involved, not to mention their motivation to preserve their living environment. At the moment of looking at the balance between work and life, it looks like the reflection goes beyond labour conditions or the concept of work. It looks like an ecosystemic approach is what is needed to come to terms with the complexity implied by a more human-friendly approach to work. To come to terms with the city as what it is by definition: the natural environment where work and life intersect

and synergise, beyond functionalist attitudes. As a result, the city is reclaimed on the grounds of a capacity to re-establish urbanity, thus resisting the alienating processes increasingly triggered by the interventions of multinational corporations and their speculative interests. As a project of doors, third places appear to make a political statement and can be read chronologically as exit doors from the current system (they may prefigure an alternative that is no longer an alternative), as gateways (between two modes with contradictions), as doors to enter another world.

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Stakeholder insights – Smart

**Lieza Dessein, Strategic project manager
formerly working at Smart**

Social interactions and work dynamics are increasingly digitised and automated, which results in a hyper-individualisation of society. This process is intensified by a lack of diverse spaces offering adequate environments for socialisation and work. This is why we need to design inclusive gathering spaces. The work undertaken during the MasterClass has been a boost to express this issue.

Many buildings that were formerly used by industries or transportation infrastructures that are now shrinking could be repurposed. These buildings are often located near city centres, and their surrounding neighbourhoods suffer from this lack of proper repurposing. Additionally, there is a need for cities to attract (creative) entrepreneurship. In Brussels, creative hubs could provide a wide array of possibilities to do so.

Creative hubs bring back a collective dynamic to a scattered workforce, by hosting artists, freelancers and SMEs. This unique environment creates a resilient ecosystem for entrepreneurship. Creative hubs have a positive social impact on their environment, but political support is essential to fostering an inclusive regeneration of neighbourhoods.

The positive impact that hubs have on their communities is strongly linked to their business models. Granting precarious occupation too often results in gentrification. Private initiatives struggle to adopt a social approach, while top-down public initiatives often fail to be economically sustainable or to reach their target audience. Inclusive creative hubs can emerge through long-term ventures involving multiple stakeholders. We need to design economic models that take into account the needs and contributions of cities, inhabitants, workers and hub managers.

Stakeholder insights – Zinneke

Sandrine Tonnoir, Coordination of Masui site renovation

We used to say amongst ourselves that renovating a building is actually a project of doors. Referring to this expression, the contribution of the MasterClass has been fruitful because it is a topic we want to further explore. While the door has been more studied as an abstract concept in the contribution, we could also approach it as an actual physical object. This is especially true in terms of chronology. Indeed, as physical objects, doors are really one of the last parts of the construction process.

Only at the very end do we think about how to place them, how to reflect on the dynamics of extreme openness or confidentiality. For the Zinneke organisation, this question is important because as much as we want to remain as open as possible, there are also questions of management and security.

As long as the doors are open, you need to care about what is outside. It is a question of management, but also one of logistics. You offer a public space and provide something to it, but this raises the question of how you work and how you manage the underlying logistics of your activity. Even though we don't see it, this requires as much energy as the event itself.

In Masui, we interact with the neighbourhood in order to integrate our activities into the local life. Meanwhile, the place we intend to create is a place where people from the neighbourhood can meet people from other parts of Brussels and build something together. It is a general dynamic geared not just towards events in Masui, but also towards something bigger in the entire city of Brussels.

Profiles

Guest professors

Elena Cogato Lanza, architect and PhD, is a *maître d'enseignement et de recherche* (senior teacher and researcher) at EPFL Lausanne's Laboratory of Urbanism. Her field of research is characterised by a continuous intersection between the history of urbanism and the theory of urban and landscape design. She is also highly active in the publishing sector, as director of the vuesDensemble collection at publishing house Metispresses and a member of several international publishing committees. Since 2015, she has been Chairwoman of the Board of the Braillard Architectes Foundation in Geneva.

Brian McGrath is Professor of Urban Design and former Dean of the School of Constructed Environments at Parsons School of Design. His books include: *Urban Design Ecologies Reader* (2012), *Resilience in Ecology and Urban Design* (2012), *Digital Modelling for Urban Design* (2008), *Cinemetrics* (2007) and *Transparent Cities* (1994). McGrath is a Principal Investigator in the Baltimore Ecosystem Study. He has served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Thailand in 1998-99 and was an India China Institute fellow in 2006–2008.

Miodrag Mitrašinović is an architect, urbanist and author. Miodrag Mitrašinović is a Professor of Urbanism and Architecture at Parsons School of Design, The New School University. His scholarly work focuses on the role design plays as an agent of social and political change, and as catalyst for critical urban transformations; his research argues for the centrality of designing in the conceptualization, production, and representation of democratic and participatory urban space. His work also focuses on the generative capacity and infrastructural dimensions of public space, specifically at the intersections of public policy, urban and public design, and processes of privatization of public resources. He is the editor of Concurrent Urbanities: Designing Infrastructures of Inclusion (Routledge 2016), co-editor of Travel, Space, Architecture (Routledge 2009) and author of Total Landscape, Theme Parks, Public Space (Routledge 2006).

Guest researchers

Chloé Salembier is an ethnologist and lecturer at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). She teaches social sciences and co-coordinates the 'Uses&Spaces' research team. She conducts research on housing at different scales based on qualitative methodologies at the crossroads of human sciences, architecture and urban planning. These current research topics focus on precariousness, gender and the commons.

Stephan Kampelmann is passionate about reconciling contemporary urban life with the restoration of nature, and has had the chance to lead cutting-edge research and hands-on projects related to various areas of urban ecology such as circular economy, resource management, local production systems and nature-based solutions. Stephan is currently teaching urban economics at L, where he was appointed as Chair of **circular economy and urban metabolism**.

Participants

Lucile Ado is an architect (ENSAPVS/2011) and urbanist (IUAV – KU Leuven – UPC Barcelona EMU/2014). She has worked on urban planning and design projects with international firms in France and Switzerland. After winning an international competition in 2018 (Europan 14), she co-founded 'Platform-archi', an open platform dedicated to supporting both professionals and researchers in the fields of architecture and urbanism and whose goal is to offer a flexible framework to all those who want to reflect, design or be engaged in the sustainable construction of the city.

Alice Bassan (23) is from Italy. She is currently attending the last year of a Double Degree programme in 'Green Economy and Sustainability' with the University of Ferrara (IT) and the University of Southern Denmark. She has also completed a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Trade at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. During this Masterclass, she had the opportunity to exchange views with students with different backgrounds from hers and put her academic knowledge into practice in a real-world context.

Jolein Bergers (31) is a PhD researcher at KU Leuven. She investigates the agency of social practices in the development of Brussels' ecological network. Jolein is trained as an engineer-architect (KU Leuven, 2011/University of Ghent, 2013), but has developed a strong affinity for urban and systemic design questions at think-and-do tank Architecture Workroom Brussels, architecture practice 51N4E, and in the University of Antwerp's Research Group for Urban Development.

Valentina Bonello is an urban anthropologist with an MA in Cultural Anthropology (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and a PhD in Anthropology and History (University of Verona). Her latest work is centered on the aftermath of deindustrialization in inland Venice in terms of new forms of entrepreneurship and labour patterns. Her main research interest is the gap in knowledge and agency between experts and non-experts in the context of social production and construction.

Rafael Consolmagno (34) is a biologist and student in the Master's in Urban Studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). He is currently researching Nature-based Solutions for Cities through Urban Metabolisms and Ecosystems multidisciplinary perspective, and holds a Master's degree in Ecology & Evolution from the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP) as well as a Bachelor's in Biology from São Paulo State University (UNESP). Previously, Rafael was a researcher on tropical amphibians' behavioural ecology at UNESP's Herpetology Lab.

Stefania D'Alterio is an urban planner and PhD candidate in urban planning at the University of Naples Federico II. She is currently a visiting PhD student at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Her research interest lies in the emerging issue of green and blue infrastructures in the redesign of contemporary cities. Before starting her PhD, she gained professional experience in a planning and urban design firm.

Géraldine de Neuville is an architect and urbanist. She has studied in Brussels (UCL 2012), Barcelona (UPC 2014), and Delft (TU Delft 2015), and worked in various offices in Belgium and Holland. Since 2017, she has been pursuing personals design and architecture projects and working at the Université Catholique de Louvain as a teaching assistant and PhD candidate (2018). Her interests and research focus on informality and solid waste as a common resource in Northern cities, from the perspective of Southern theories and practices.

Ernesto Diez is an urban planner (KU Leuven – MaHS-MaUSP) and an engineer-architect (ETSA Madrid) based in Brussels, who has broadened his education to the field of the anthropology (UC Madrid). His research primarily focuses on topics related to urban sociology, inclusion, and co-design processes. His Master's thesis was dedicated to inclusive urban design strategies in the neighbourhood of Annessens in Brussels. He currently works as an urban architect and takes part in workshops and debates on urban topics.

Elena Ferrari studied in Milan where she received an MA in architecture. After working at Politecnico di Milano as a teaching assistant and in publishing at Domus magazine, she moved to Berlin in 2013 where she worked as a landscape architect in several offices. She is currently a PhD student in Urbanism at IUAV (Venice) and her research focuses on the ecological and sociological aspects of marginal spaces and urban nature with a particular focus on the city of Berlin.

Johans Figueroa is an architect (UCHILE) and urban planner (UNIGE). During his years of academic and professional development, he has developed a deep interest in the concept of research by design. By using architectural design, urban design, and large-scale interventions as infrastructures, he researches processes that converge in the development of cities. He focuses on the activation of social space as a catalyst for sustainable development processes.

Ophélie Goemaere started her studies in Geography at ULB, and finished in 2012 at UGent. She then worked for 4 years at Escaut sans Frontières, promoting integrated and transboundary management of water in the Scheldt Basin, considering that river management is regionalised in Belgium. In 2017, she joined CIVA's Landscape Department and is now working on coordinating a cultural programme related to the work of Paul Duvigneaud and his concept of Urban Ecosystem.

Dongxue Lei is a PhD student in Architecture from Nanjing University, China. Her main research focuses on theories of place, data visualisation, and urban-rural interfaces. She also has an interested in research on the history and theory of architecture and the city. For her doctoral research, she is focusing on the representation of place by providing empirical evidence from written sources, interviews, and fieldwork in a specific Chinese rural area.

A graduate in Architecture in Venice, **Verena Lenna** continued her studies in urbanism at KU Leuven and Parsons — The New School (New York). She has worked in Venice, Rome, Milan, and Brussels, exploring among other topics the interweaving of art, culture, and daily life and their role in the making of territories. She is currently finishing her PhD dissertation on the role of the design process in the implementation of Community Land Trust projects in Brussels. As an activist, she is a co-founder and member of community platform Commons Josaphat.

Maria Leonardi is an architect and PhD student in urban planning at IUAV University of Architecture in Venice. Since 2016, she has been an assistant professor in various urbanism courses at IUAV University. She has also worked on a research project funded by the European Social Fund, entitled 'New life cycles for the Pedemonte Veneto', where she had the chance to explore the reuse of existing cultural/productive heritage. In addition,she has worked at architecture firms 70F Architecture in the Netherlands (2015) and João Luís Carrilho da Graça in Portugal (2013). She

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Dima Mannoun is Syrian architect with a Bachelor's degree from Damascus University. Most of her education on urban development comes from her enrolment in a joint Master's programme in Sustainable Urban Development, between the University of Damascus & the University of Paris-Est Marne La-Vallée (France) during which she conducted research on compact cities, from theories to implementations. During the Syrian war, she worked in the humanitarian field, rehabilitating communal collective shelters for internally displaced people. She is currently completing an Advanced Master in Transition Urbanism at ULB's Faculty of Architecture. Her dissertation focuses on privatisation and its impact on urban development.

Luis Martin graduated from Politecnico di Torino in 2015, with a thesis on spatial inequalities in Marseille. Since 2016, he has been conducting PhD research at IUAV University in Venice on the relationship between production and territory in post-crisis Italy. He is also a member of the City &

Production Lab, a research group of Politecnico di Torino, since 2017. Luis Martin collaborates started collaborating in 2016 in urban planning courses at Politecnico di Torino's Faculty of Architecture. He is currently a visiting PhD student in Tongji University and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (China).

Sylvie Nguyen is an aspiring urbanist with teaching and working experience in urban design, architecture, landscape and regional planning. In 2014, she joined Hong Kong University as an assistant lecturer in the Master of Urban Design. Last year, she started her PhD as part of the Laboratory of Urbanism at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Under the direction of Prof. Paola Vigano, her research deals with water transformations of peri-urban territories in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.

Luca Nicoletto is an architect and PhD student in Urbanism at IUAV University in Venice. He graduated in architecture in 2013 (under the supervision of Maria Chiara Tosi and Stefano Munarin), and has been working as a teaching assistant since 2014. In Venice, he has been involved

in various transdisciplinary research groups on urban studies. His research and practice focus on public spaces, common goods, and urban regeneration.

Daniel Otero Peña is a Venezuelan architect living in Brussels. He is a co-founder of architecture collective *ADJKM* and works as a research and teaching assistant at the Université Catholique de Louvain. In 2006, he received his Architecture degree from the Universidad Central de Venezuela, and a post-Master's degree in urbanism in 2009 from the École Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris. His main research interest is the study of topography, landscape, and their relationship to architecture and public spaces.

Marine Spor (1993, Marseille) is a PhD student with a Master's degree from Sciences Po Toulouse (2017) and a Bachelor's degree in Geography / Regional Planning (2015). She has started her PhD studies in January 2018 in the Sasha laboratory (ULB), under the supervision of Ludivine Damay. Her PhD focuses on circular economy consumers, their motivations, knowledge, and spatial practices through

a bottom-up perspective and focusing on empowering consumers.

Alberto Squizzato is an architect and PhD candidate at the Faculty of Architecture La Cambre-Horta, Université libre de Bruxelles. He completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Architecture at IUAV University in Venice. After a few years of professional activity, he started academic research at ULB. Alberto's research is centred on urban regeneration, with a focus on the role of professionals and citizens in bottom-up projects.

Erdem Üngür is an architect from Turkey. He graduated from Istanbul Technical University in 2008 and holds a PhD in architectural design from the same university. He worked as a research assistant at Istanbul Kültür University's Faculty of Architecture between 2008 and 2017, and as a part-time lecturer at Istanbul Okan University in 2017–2018. He is a member of Turkish NPO Architecture for All (Herkes İçin Mimarlık). Currently, he is working at the Université Libre de Bruxelles with ULB's solidarity fellowship as a postdoctoral researcher.

Natalia Vera Vigaray is an architect and urban designer who graduated from ETSAM in 2012 and has completed several academic programmes at TUDelft, ETSAV, and Vastu Shilpa foundation. She is a founding partner at OfficeShophouse, focusing in design and creation, from objects to urban scales. She has also worked as an adjunct professor in Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. From 2015 to 2018, she conducted teaching and research along various topics and methodologies; from construction and documentation workshops to studio projects.

Ivana Vukelić was born in Belgrade, Serbia. She completed a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in architecture in 2016, at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Architecture, which included student internships in architecture offices in Chennai, India and Foshan, China. Besides, She has worked as a project coordinator on restoration and conservation projects in Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo. She is currently studying in a Master's programme in Urban Studies at VUB and ULB in Brussels, Belgium.

Metrolab

Mathieu Berger is a researcher and professor of sociology at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL). He teaches urban sociology, theories of power, and qualitative research methods, among other things. His research deals, on the one hand, with the theories of democratic public spaces and political participation, and on the other, with the social aspects of city planning and urban policies in Europe and the US.

Andrea Bortolotti is an architect and urbanist, currently a PhD candidate at the Université libre de Bruxelles' Faculty of Architecture. He is conducting his research on the politics of waste management and recycling through the lens of urban metabolism, within the framework of Metrolab and various studies sponsored by Bruxelles Environnement.

Louise Carlier is a researcher at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL). Her PhD in social and political sciences (2015) focused on cosmopolitanism, and more specifically on the relationship between its urban and political dimensions. Her research interests are the relations of cohabitation and co-presence in urban public spaces, from the perspective of human ecology.

Sara Cesari is a professional project manager specialised in the cultural and social fields. Before joining Metrolab, she worked as a project manager in various institutions and NGOs in Morocco, Italy, and Belgium. Her professional background combines experience in the public management of culture and strategic know-how in the field of human rights. Sara holds a master's degree in cultural anthropology from the University of Bologna (Italy) and a post graduate master in peace studies from the University of Rome (Roma Tre).

After completing a Master in Geography at the Université libre de Bruxelles, **Simon Debersaques** started a PhD at Institute for Environmental Management and Land-use Planning (IGEAT) in 2016. His interests and research questions focus on urban, social, and cultural geography (or the geography of art/culture), in particular on the evolution processes of urban spaces related to cultural and artistic actors, activities, places and institutions.

Bernard Declève is an architectural engineer and an urban designer. He is a full professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), where he heads the School of Urbanism located in the Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and Urban Planning. His area of research is the evolution of the living conditions in large cities and its influence on the urban and territorial project as a spatial concept and as a collaborative scope of action. He has an extensive international experience in Europe, Africa, and Latin America, with expertise in the collaborative urban research processes that involve public operators, economic actors, NGOs, and researchers.

Marine Declève (BE) is an urbanist (KULeuven-IUAV EMU 2015) and art historian (UCL 2009), PhD candidate at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) with Metrolab (UCL-LOCI). She is conducting research on the territories of Brussels economic activities, using historical analysis and prospective design to investigate the possibility of reconciling habitat and economic activity at the heart of the metropolis.

Jean-Michel Decroly is a professor of human geography and tourism at the Université libre de Bruxelles, where he leads the research unit 'Applied geography and geo-marketing' (GAG). While pursuing research on the spatial variations of demographic behaviour in Belgium and Europe, he also focuses on the contemporary transformations of urban spaces, the modes of insertion and influence of some singular groups (elites, artists, expats) in the Brussels area and how tourism shapes territories.

Christian Dessouroux is a researcher in urban geography at the Institute for Environmental Management and Land-use Planning (IGEAT). After examining the role of public spaces in contemporary urban policies in Europe during his doctoral thesis, he is conducting research on the urban development of Brussels the 19th and 20th centuries. Interested in cartographic analysis as well as urban history and economy, he has contributed to several publications on urban policies, transportation, and the history of Brussels. His recent work focuses on the social and demographic challenges of residential real estate dynamics.

Natasha Fischer holds an architecture Master's degree in Architecture from ULB. During her final year, she worked as an assistant professor for first-year students, both for architecture workshops and lecture classes. She has taken part in various workshops conducting in-depth analyses of urban situations and specific architectural projects. During the MasterClass, Natasha has been providing logistics assistance and, later in the preparation of the maps of Brussels, case studies and photographs for the publication. She also started working for ARCH, in charge of the project's coordination.

Geoffrey Grulois holds a master in engineering and architecture (FPMs & Tokyo University) and a PhD in urbanism (ULB). He has been teaching at La Cambre school of Architecture since 2004, and at ULB's Faculty of Architecture since 2011. Since 2012 he is the coordinator of LOUISE — research Laboratory on Urbanism, Infrastructure and Ecologies.

Roselyne de Lestrange is an architect and landscape designer. She has worked as a project leader in public administrations and private offices in France, Belgium, and Argentina. Her PhD in urbanism focused on landscape as a driver of reterritorialisation from a mesological perspective. She collaborates with the Université Catholique de Louvain both as a teacher and a researcher. Her research interests are bioregional dynamics, transition landscapes, and metropolitan agro-ecological networks.

Benoit Moritz graduated in architecture (ISACF-La Cambre) and urban planning (UPC Barcelona). In 2001, he cofounded MSA office in Brussels with Jean-Marc Simon. He also developed a teaching and prospective research activity at the Faculty of Architecture (ULB), where he coordinates the Laboratory on Urbanism, Infrastructures and Ecologies (LOUISE). His research focuses on urban projects currently developed in Belgian cities and the players involved. Benoit Moritz is also the author of many articles on the topic of urbanism.
In 2017, Benoit Moritz received the MIES AWARD in the category of the 'Emerging Architect'. Since 2017, he is a member of the Académie Royale de Belgique.

Louise Prouteau graduated in Political Sciences, with a major in European Policies, after studying in France and Germany. Before joining Metrolab, she gained experience collaborating with European cultural NGOs as well as networks in France, the Netherlands, and Belgium. In addition to project management, she has worked on communication and on the strategic monitoring of European policies.

Marco Ranzato is an architect and holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering. He has worked and collaborated with various academic institutions such as the Delft University of Technology, Tongji University (China) and the Université libre de Bruxelles. His research interests are ecology in urban design and, co-design processes, and the co-production of services.

After completing a Master in Geography at the Université libre de Bruxelles, **Corentin Sanchez Trenado** started a PhD at the Institute for Environmental Management and Land-use Planning (IGEAT), in 2017. His interests and research questions focus on urban and social transformations of city centres, and in particular on gentrification and urban renewal processes.

Anna Ternon graduated in architecture at UCL-LOCI in 2015, and in urban planning at UCL-LOCI in 2016. Since September 2016, she has been a teaching assistant for the Master's in Urban and Regional Planning at UCL-LOCI. Since April 2017, she has also been working as a researcher and doctoral student in the LOCI team at Metrolab.brussels. Her dissertation focuses on the spatial impact of the evolution of the relationship between players involved in territorial transformation processes.

Sarah Van Hollebeke is a PhD student in sociology (with a grant from Fresh-FNRS) at the Université Catholique de Louvain (as a member of the interdisciplinary research centre Democracy, Institutions, Subjectivity, CriDIS) and also a PhD student in urbanism at the Grenoble School of Architecture (as a member of the Research Centre on sound space and urban environment, CRESSON). Her work focuses both on official and more experimental observation tools of urban mutations in the context of urban renewal policies.

Pauline Varloteaux (FR) is an architect. She is graduated in 2012 from ENSAP Bordeaux, where she was an assistant professor in 2011. She has participated in several international workshops in Belgium and Japan and collaborated with such high-profile practices as Bureau Bas Smets in 2010, Studio Secchi-Vigano in 2012-14, and 51N4E in 2014-15. Since 2016, she is a PhD candidate in the Laboratory on Urbanism, Infrastructures and Ecologies (LoUIsE). Her research focuses on urban projects currently developed in Belgian cities and the players involved.

Baptiste Veroone graduated in Sociology and Political Science at the University of Lille. He enrolled as a PhD student at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) at the end of 2014, and joined Metrolab.brussels in October of 2016. His scientific interests are social movements, civic participation and empowerment processes, and the politics of sustainable food. Using ethnographic methods and interactionist theories, he is looking at how urban agriculture reveals insights on Brussels' urban democracy, and in particular at how this topic supports civic participation and democratic values. He also takes part in grassroots initiatives related to food justice.

Maguelone Vignes graduated in Political Science (Rennes, France) in 2001 and holds a master in sociology of local development (Paris I – Pantheon Sorbonne) since 2002. She has worked in research-action organisations in Morocco and Indonesia on poverty issues, agriculture in rural and suburban areas. Her PhD in sociology (2015) addressed urban health pathways of people living with a chronic illness. At Metrolab, she focuses on the city as a supportive environment for health. She is also in charge of the scientific support in a Belgian non-profit organisation in the field of health services for people with complex needs.

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