

INCLUSIVE URBAN TRANSFORMATION CASESTUDY BRUSSELS NORTH

PETRA PFERDMENGES

Within my current research on INCLUSIVE URBAN TRANSFORMATION, I am working on one side on urban transformation projects Brussels in my practice Alive Architecture, on the other side I expand this research through my teaching practice in the studio BRU.S.L.XL of my Master students at KU Leuven (Campus Sint-Lucas Architectuur). My proposal for the CA2RE conference is based upon the case study BRU.S.L.XL - Brussels North of our student work.

SITE: Brussels north was up to the 60's a very lively neighborhood with cafés and a social life. The area was transformed into an office district. The WTC1, 2 & 3 were vacant until 1992 and the streets lack social life. Among many other actors, some of our students of KU Leuven (Campus Sint Lucas Architectuur) are activating the building since this September 2017.

ACTORS: The actors in the area are extremely diverse: Besides the owners of the buildings that have an interest to reactivate the buildings there are office workers moving in the street, refugees are spending their days in the next by Park Maximilian to ask for Asylum, inhabitants of a series of social housing close by and a farm that has the interest and the necessary subsidies to bring multiple actors together. How is it possible to respond to the existing social, spatial and economic situation to respond to generate encounter among multiple actors and still respond to the needs of each of the actors?

EXHIBITION: The exhibition I propose is a shortened film of our students that involve the observation of multiple spaces of the WTC1 and the surrounding public realm. In the background we can listen to interviews with actors from multiple

le backgrounds. The presentation of this film will be the background of a performance that I wish to realize within the framework of the conference.

PERFORMANCE: While the film will be running in the background, I propose to do a performance around a table on which multiple spaces and actors of the neighborhood are represented through images pasted upon cardboard. Over the period of the performance I will point out key moments in the film while I will move around the images of spaces and actors on a table. As such I wish to reveal how we as socially-engaged architects can reveal an approach of inclusive urban transformation that will lead to a win-win situation of the diverse actors in the neighborhood.

