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LIVED SPACE

HOW TO STIMULATE THE APPROPRIATION OF THE PUBLIC REALM ?



URBAN TRANSITION IN MOLENBEEK

IN 2017 MY PRACTICE ALIVE ARCHITECTURE - IN COLLABORATION WITH TAKTYK & 51N4E - WON THE COMPETITION OF A MASTERPLAN ON A SITE OF 13HA IN BRUSSELS (MOLENBEEK). OUR ROLE IS TO DESIGN THE SOCIO-SPATIAL PROCESS OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION FROM TODAY UP TO 2040. HOW CAN WE INTRODUCE DURATIONAL LIVED SPACE WITHIN SUCH A LONG TERM URBAN PROJECT?



INCLUSIVE BRUSSELS NORTH

IN 2017 WE MOVED ALIVE ARCHITECTURE'S OFFICE SPACE TO THE PREVIOUSLY VACANT WORLD TRADE CENTER IN BRUSSELS BUSINESS DISTRICT. PRACTICING ON THE 26TH FLOOR AND TEACHING ON THE 24TH FLOOR AT SINT LUCAS ARCHITECTUUR, WE ARE JOINING ENERGIES TO DESIGN AND CO-PRODUCE LIVED SPACE IN THE PUBLIC REALM. HOW CAN WE INITIATE APPROPRIATION OF A BUSINESS DISTRICT THAT LACKS ANY KIND OF IDENTITY?



PARCKDESIGN 2014 - PARCKFARM

IN 2014 ALIVE ARCHITECTURE INITIATED LIVED SPACE AS A CO-CURATOR OF THE BIENNALE PARCKDESIGN 2014: PARCKFARM. WE ENABLED THE LOCAL TO CO-PRODUCE AND TO CO-MAINTAIN THE PUBLIC REALM. BECAUSE OF ITS SUCCESS THE BIENNALE WAS EXPANDED FROM AN EPHEMERAL EVENT TO A DURATIONAL PROJECT THAT BECAME OFFICIALLY PERMANENT IN 2018. THE PROJECT WON THE PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SPACE 2015 IN BELGIUM. HOW DID WE STIMULATE LIVED SPACE IN THIS CASESTUDY IN THE CENTER OF MOLENBEEK ?

EXHIBITION

3 projects - 3 films - 3 territories

ABSTRACT ON EXHIBITION

By LOVED SPACE I consider public space that is appropriated by people.

In 2012 I produced LOVED SPACE in Brussels red light district. Based upon the observation of the needs of prostitutes that were asking for better clients, I intended to launch an informal flowershop in the rue d'Aerschot. As no flowershop in Brussels was interested to do so, I offered flowers to the bypassing sex-workers to improve the relationship between them and the sex-workers. As such, unfortunately the project generated only an ephemeral impact.

In 2014 I initiated LOVED SPACE as a co-curator of the biennale Parckdesign 2014: Parckfarm. I enabled the local to co-produce and to co-maintain the public realm which lead to an appropriation of the public realm. Since then the community is welcoming the guest in the urban transformation process on the Tour & Taxis site. Because of its success the biennale was expanded from an ephemeral event to a durational urban project that became officially permanent in 2018. The project won the prize for public space 2015 in Belgium.

Since the beginning of 2018 I am researching upon how to launch durational LOVED SPACE in the business district in Brussels North. The area is situated between Brussels red light district and the Parckfarm. Having moved my office space on the 26th floor and teaching at KU Leuven on the 24th floor in the previously vacant World Trade Center 1, our students and the Alive Architecture team are joining energies to reveal and strengthen the identity of the district.

What are the means to generate LOVED SPACE in a business district that lacks any kind of identity? Can the spatial link to the red light district and the Parckfarm be expanded to generate a social link to its surroundings? Could such social link not only generate encounter but also give a durational meaning to the area for people?

By projecting three films - one of each project - during the CA2RE conference at TU Berlin I wish to raise awareness upon a previously forgotten area of Brussels. Further, based upon a couple of urban interventions, I wish to reveal some first hunches of how to inject LOVED SPACE in the district. Finally I will compare the approaches and reveal some means on how to generate durational LOVED SPACE that can be applied in business districts or elsewhere!