

Position Statement Department of Architecture KU Leuven

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KU Leuven's **Department of Architecture** brings together researchers from the Faculty of Engineering Science and the Faculty of Architecture with offices in Leuven, Brussels and Ghent. With over 40 full time professors, 30 guest professors, 14 postdoc and 180 other researchers, this is Flanders' largest research department in the field of Architecture. The department is situated at the crossroads of a variety of research methodologies and traditions. It has its roots in both polytechnics and artistic tradition, and is enriched by perspectives from the social sciences.

In **Flanders** we aim to be the standard for policy-oriented, applied research and research by design. The research performed by the department is intended to have a positive impact on urban and spatial planning policies, encouraging the advancement of architecture in Flanders. Keeping sustainability, social innovation and quality high on the political agenda for the near future and in the long run remains the paramount objective of the department. In addition to this, the department plays its part in fortifying the research base for the practice of interior architecture, architecture, conservation and urbanism and spatial planning. This is achieved by developing close working relationships with a variety of different actors, to include public institutions, social organisations and architectural and design firms.

On an **international level**, the department has solid, permanent representation in a number of key areas: architectural theory and history, conservation, urbanism and spatial planning (including human settlements, research by design and sustainable construction). In each of these areas, the department aims to lead the way by directing European projects, supporting international organisations and promoting the exchange of researchers. In the case of architectural theory and history, conservation, urbanism and spatial planning, the department plans to reinforce its current position as an authority in the field. Research by design is a relatively young field of research, and the department thus far has been at the forefront of recent European developments. In the area of sustainable construction, interdisciplinary partnerships with technical fields and the social sciences are of paramount importance.

KU Leuven's **Department of Architecture** is organized in the following sub departments :

- . History, Theory & Criticism of Architecture
- . Urban Design, Urbanism, Landscape & Planning
- . Constructing Architecture & Materialisation
- . Architecture and Design

The sub department Architecture and Design aims to raise spatial awareness and intelligence by identifying, developing and honing design strategies which facilitate a deeper understanding of the time and person-related processes of imagining, re-thinking, creating and experiencing space and contains the following research groups ([https://architectuur.kuleuven.be/departmentarchitectuur/english/research/onderzoeksdomeinen/d esign-driven-research](https://architectuur.kuleuven.be/departmentarchitectuur/english/research/onderzoeksdomeinen/d%20esign-driven-research)):

- . Architecture & Wicked Matters
- . Architectural Engineering

- . Architecture, Culture and Sustainability
- . Radical Materiality
- . Research by Design
- . Leuven&Learning/Architecture/Project&Practice
- . The Drawing and The Space
- . Architecture in Practice

These research groups regularly provide contributions to the CA2RE+ events (papers, artefacts and abstracts, panel members and members of the scientific committee). The research group The Drawing and The Space has been one of the initiators of this Erasmus+ project.