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UNIVERSITY AND THE CITY: ULB SOLBOSCH CAMPUS AND SUSTAINABLE (RE)DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRUSSELS UNIVERSITY DISTRICT (BUD).

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN STUDIO, MA-1 BRUFACE – ULB + VUB – 2021/2022

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SUDS-I PROJECT 2021-22

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INTRODUCTION

CHALLENGES AND GUIDELINES

The project for this year's Sustainable Design Studio (SDS) is focused on the theme of "Universities of/in the Future" with the objective of sustainable redevelopment of the University District in Brussels. During the 1st Semester, students work in groups to develop a sustainable urban design framework in the form of a master plan and program on the Campus of Solbosch, in Ixelles. Students work individually in the 2nd semester on a building or cluster within their master plan to develop an architectural project.

The aim of the SDS is to develop a VISION of a University of the Future and a master plan / urban design framework that provides response to transitioning the existing campus area towards:

1.A CO2-NEUTRAL district?

2.A GREEN-PARK with high quality PUBLIC SPACE district?3. A completely CAR-FREE, pedestrian / soft mobility district?

4. A built-up density of +/- 1,5 FAR: questioning the program of learning-hub (services/culture), (student) housing, economic activities/offices/work and public spaces.

5. Innovative ways of maximizing the permeable surfaces, such as NBS (Natural–Based Solutions/Landscape infra– structure) that connect with the larger landscape net– work.

MAIN URBAN CHALLENGES:

 The identity of the Brussels University District (BUD)
 The good layouts of functions and spaces (program, buildings, open spaces, uses) for a University of the Future (UOF).

3.Sustainability challenge of the university for the next 100 years. Studying the metabolism of the University District and more specifically of the Solbosch Campus, to design, build and maintain CO2–NEUTRAL, GREEN, and CAR–FREE district that enhances the environment and wellbeing through the circulation of resources (energy, water, food, materials, etc.) and designing out waste. 4.The challenge of Covid–19: how to envision a campus that can easily adapt.

Rethinking densities, organizing (public) space for openair activities and more inclusive social services and cultural life.

QUESTION TO TACKLE:

•University of the Future (UOF): What can be the university of the future? The learning of the future? The classroom of the future? (analyze the challenges unfolded by the visualization of education during the pandemic and rethink LEARNING, KNOWLEDGE and the role of the UNI-VERSITY).

•UNIVERSITY-CITY: What is the role of a University Campus in nowadays cities? The campus as 'infrastructure'? What is the relationship we would like to see (let us say in 2050 and 2100) of our campus and the surrounding neighborhood / city?

•UNIVERSITY-DISTRICT: How to structure a University District? (ULB+VUB+USQUARE)

What are the challenges in connecting the two campuses (Solbosch and Plein; and the two universities, ULB+VUB) to form a university district in Brussels / a pole of higher education / knowledge economy in Brussels capital region?

•NATURE-CITY: Urban Nature and university relation? The relation of the campus with the biggest urban / metropolitan park (Ter Kameren Bos / Bois de la Cambre)? What is the role of open space? Green Space?

•DENSITY: How to densify, how and where? Can we valorize the existing instead of demolishing and building new?

•PUBLIC SPACE-MOBILITY: a Car-free (a complete transition to soft mobility?) in and around the campus? Thinking about fluxes (mobility) and public spaces: how they allow formality/informality. What space can constitute a contemporary interpretation of the 'large infrastructure' making the large structure for formality (working as 'container' of smaller-scale spontaneity)?

SITE ANALYSIS AND HISTORY

THE BRUSSELS UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD (EXTRACTS FROM DAY 1 PRESENTATION)



"Brussels is the first student city in Belgium. More than 100,000 students are enrolled in higher education institutions and hold around 25,000 jobs. Students contribute to the vitality of the Brussels-Capital Region and its neighborhoods, to their identity, to their creativity, to their economic and social development. Welcoming students better, informing them and helping them on their journey is an essential issue that covers various aspects such as housing, mobility, employment or leisure."

The "student housing" market is spread over the whole of the residential housing stock in Brussels. The "traditional" segments (flat and 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms houses) of the housing market are also concerned, which can create competition with other applicant profiles. The significant presence of students on the 'traditional' residential market is partly the result of a shortage of housing offers specific to this type of population (too limited number of places in student residences, or even a total absence for most of the universities and colleges of arts). 32% of students live in shared flats, 21% in individual "kot" type studios.

Source:

Source: https://perspective.brussels/fr/enjeux-urbains/vie-etudiante

BRUXELLES, C'EST AUSSI

CONVERSITES

- 20 MARTER COMPLETE COMPLEX SUPPLICATION OF ANY
- 59 INPLATATION REPARTIES OUR 14 COMMUNES









The ULB Solbosch Campus (source: Solbosch Plan Guide LOUISE, La Cambre, 2016)



Historical evolutions: a gradual saturation with functions made the open space structure the result of leftovers unbuilt spaces. (source: Solbosch Plan Guide LOUISE, La Cambre, 2016)



The ULB Solbosch Campus (source: Solbosch Plan Guide LOUISE, La Cambre, 2016)

In red, building listed in the Regional Inventory of relevant historical architecture heritage

(source: https://monument.heritage.brussels/fr/ streets/9003)



- Nº 50 avenue Franklin Roosevett.
 Biblionent [®], Facultés de Droit et de Philosophie et Lettres, bibliothèque et administration de l'Université.
- Bittiment
 construction
 Copouliet, Institut botanique
 N° 57 aserue Adopte Bust.
- W Sr. Annound Adopting Duyl.
 Bålimmert Ø, Constructoris civiles.
 Nº 30-42 avenue Antoine Depage.
- Bétment 0, l'acuté de Sciences Psychologiques et de l'Éducation. • Bétiment 0, institut supérieur
- Balanieri W, notur supereo d'Education physique at de Kinésthérapie.
- Bibiment . Institut supérieur d'Éducation physique et de Kinissithérapie.
- + N° 8-26 avenue Paul Héger. Settment ©, Citi Paul Héger
- Nº 29 avenue des Courses. Bitiment ⁶, Cité des Courses. Nº 2-6 avenue Paul Höger.
- Oktiment
 R,
 N' 48 avenue Franklin Roosevelt.
- Bitiment [®], auditoini Paul-Émile Jacson et sale Van Buren. • Eltiment [®], service médical

- N° 91 avenue Adolphie Buyi.
 Bătiment [®], Centre de calcul.
- Batamenta 6, 9, 6 et 6.
- K^o 44 avenue Jeanne. Bâtiment B, Institut de Socialogie.
- Bâtiment 9, Faculté des Sciences appliquées.



The forest of "Solbosch", Ferraris map ,1777 (source: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solbosch)



Solbosch world expo 1910 (source: http://lisaserver.ulb.ac.be/tabledutemps/periode4-T1-1937.php?titre=0&desc=1&icones=1&vents=0&pos=1)



Urbanization of the area after the Expo 1910:

The exhibition served as a pretext for the implementation of a development plan for a new district. It provided the opportunity for Brussels to annex the land in Ixelles necessary for the construction of the Avenue des Nations (future Avenue Franklin Roosevelt), the backbone of the future district. In 1907, Ixelles ceded a 62-hectare strip of land to Brussels.

The construction of the exhibition was equivalent to the construction of a large urban district in record time. Its operation promoted the future urbanisation of this part of the city.

Source:

http://lisaserver.ulb.ac.be/tabledutemps/periode4-T1-1937.php?titre=0&desc=1&icones=1&vents=0&pos=1







Solbosch world expo 1910 (source: http://lisaserver.ulb.ac.be/tabledutemps/periode4-T1-1937.php?titre=0&desc=1&icones=1&vents=0&pos=1)

1922–24, the first buildings of the Solbosch Campus:

In the 1920s, the Free University of Brussels began to establish its main campus here, which became known as the 'Solbosch campus', covering an area of 12 hectares. Historic Evolution of the Solbosch Campus of the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Building U, building L and Villa Capouillet (source: http://lisaserver.ulb.ac.be/tabledutemps/periode4-T1-1937.php?titre=0&desc=1&icones=1&vents=0&pos=1)





Built on an industrial model designed in 1922 by the engineer Eugène François a professor at the University, building shocked some of its contemporaries.



The specifications for the design of the building A two years later are particularly explicit about the need to hide the ugly U-building. U building, whose ugliness was now unanimously acknowledged. The faculties of Law, Philosophy, Arts and Letters, as well as the library and administration of the building were to be grouped together. Building A was built with American funds, like some of the buildings at the University of Leuven. In return for full funding, the Americans demanded absolute compliance with certain conditions, the most astonishing of which is undoubtedly (for 1924) the inspiration from a "national style" for the for the facades. Submitted to five architects, the project was won by Alexis DUMONT, who who succeeded in combining functionality with a baroque remake.

Following this first success, Dumont became the University's architect for ten years, designing two more outstanding buildings, albeit in completely different styles. On the one hand, he designed the part of the current building facing Franklin Roosevelt Avenue in 1928 (the present building J) in 1928, where the architect again drew on the national architectural heritage architectural heritage while stylising it.



La façade principale de la nouvelle Université au Solbosch, du côté du bois de la Cambre.



1924–28, a new elevation towards the boulevard:

Construction of Building A, by Alexis Dumont in the "Flemish neo-renaissance style / remake baroque" (source: http://lisaserver.ulb.ac.be/tabledutemps/periode4-T1-1937.php?titre=0&desc=1&icones=1&vents=0&pos=1)









In 1931, Dumont began work on the design of the Cité Paul Héger (now building F1), which, through renovations and the addition of annexes had lost much of its initial plastic strength. Putting into modernist principles and forms, the subtly asymmetrical city stretched like an ocean liner along like an ocean liner along Avenue Paul Héger. It was initially intended to house 52 rooms for female students, 108 for male students and a 150-seat restaurant.

1931, Cité Paul Héger (now building F1) by Dumont.







Evolutions in the '70s.





Sports facilities:

View of building E "edication physique" and of building F "cite Paul Héger".

(source: http://lisaserver.ulb.ac.be/tabledutemps/periode4-T1-1937. php?titre=0&desc=1&icones=1&vents=0&pos=1)



Elevation of the Campus in the 30's until the beginning of the 50's.





1966–67, a new evelation towards av. Jeanne: Building S "Social sciences", by Robert Puttemans in "international style". Building renewed in 1993.



1953–57, a new elevation on av. Buyl:

Building C "Construction and Civil Engineering", by Marcel van Goethem in "international style". Building renewed in a post-modern style in the '90s.



BUILDING D "Physics" built in 1959–64 by Pierre Gullissem "international style"

BUILDING H "Law" built in 1968–71 by Marcel Lambrichs "brutalist style"







Samedi dernier a eu lieu l'inauguration des nouveaux locaux de l'Institut Botanique Léo Errera, trans, dre avenue des Nations, dans l'ancienne Maison des Etudiants. Au cours de la cérémonie inaugurale à laquelle assistèrent de nombreuses personnalités, MM. Servais et Bomer ont fait l'éloge de l'homme d'élite et du grand savant que fut Léo Errera, dont le buste est au seuil du nouvel Institut (3 droite).

BUILDING J "Maison étudiante" built in 1928 by Dumont.













Buildings by Art and Build : "Library"1993–94 "Solvay School" 2009–10

2009–11 Building K "Auditorium" by Montois Partner





2020–2022 Extension of building U by A2RC ARCHITECTS

LECTURE SERIES

ORGANISED BY THE STUDIO TEACHING TEAM



Sustainable Urban Design Studio Lecture Series 2021-22 ULB+VUB BRUFACE



University and the City: Questing the sustainable (re)development of the Brussels University District

#1 'PLAN-GUIDE SOLBOSCH' Tuesday 21st SEPT. 2021 [17–18h] Geoffrey Grulois and Hubert Lionnez (ULB) on webinar & in person. location: building C room C2.223. Solbosch Campus

#2 "THE BECOMING OF ULB;' Tuesday 28th of SEPT. 2021 [16.30-18h] Central & BUUR/Sweco on webinar & in person, location: La Cambre, Auditroium Pace Hagey

#3 'USQUARE, LA PLAINE & STUDENTS' LIFE' Tuesday 5th of OCT. 2021 [16.30-18h] Milène Deneubourg & Alice Gloire (Perspective.brussels) nn webinar & in person, location: building C room C4.219, Solbosch Campus

#4 'BRUSSELS UNIVERSITY DISTRICT' Tuesday 12th OCT. 2021 [17-18h] on webinar & in person Michael Ryckewaert (VUB) on webinar & in person location: building C room C4.219, Sofbesch Campus

To subscribe to one or more lectures and receive the link to the webinar please send an email to giulia.caterina.verga@ub.be Organised by the Chair Sustainable Architecture & Urbanism (prof. A. Z. Khan, BATir, ULB).

#5 'BUILDING FOR UNIVERSITIES' Tuesday 19th OCT. 2021 [17-18h]

Michał Sikorski (TEO architecture & urbanism) on webmar & in person, location: building: C room C4.219, Solbosch Campus

#6 'LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN URBAN PROJECTS' Tuesday 26th OCT. 2021 [17-18h] Steven Petit (OMGEVING - landscape architecture urbanism) on webinar it in person. location: building K room K5.501, Solbosch Campus

#7 'DESIGNING (WITH) METABOLISM'

Tuesday 9th NOV. 2021 [16:30-18h] Marco Ranzato (Universita Roma Tre), Nadia Casabella (ULB & 1010 architecture urbanism) on volumer & in person. Incation: building K room K3.601, Solbesch Campus

#8 'URBAN LANDSCAPE ECOSYSTEMS'

Tuesday 23rd NOV. 2021 [16:30-18h] Sarah Van de Velde (BSS) and Philip Stessens (ULB) on webnar & in person, location: building K room K3.601, Sofborch Campus







UNIBODY

TEAM: NELLY ALARDIN, LENA JENART, NICK MENS, MICHELE MONINA, AURELIE VERHELST







VISION BUD

CAMPUSES IN THE BUD









COMMUNITY





VISION SOLBOSCH



GREEN SPACES




















1. LITTLE FOREST

2. PARK JANSON





4. GATHERING SHELTER

.















BUILDING S

RETROFIT BUILDING S











365 CAMPUS

TEAM:

CÉLINE CLARYSSE, ROMANE LAUWERS, NEEL VERHAVERT, NICOLA DI BARI, ALEKSANDAR STENOS-EVIC, ODAI HAMEED THAMER



Existing situation



Concept



A university should be a place of connection and meeting. It is a place where a continuous interaction exists between students, educators, researchers, and even local inhabitants. Not only this will create a livelier place to be, but it will also improve the existing environment in a space-efficient way. The university area will not only be used by day and during the academic year, but will be used by night, during weekends and during academic holiday periods as well: that way we envision a 365-days, 24/7 campus where classrooms and auditoria co-exist with cultural exhibitions, movie theaters and research workshops. Central in this idea, stands the connection to the neighbourhood and the city of Brussels. To survive, the university needs the city and its inhabitants. However, this is a mutual relationship: the university also offers what the city cannot provide. Finally, as the 365 campus aims to bring people from every category together, it provides an opportunity to improve the area in a sustainable way.

To implement this concept on to the existing campus, problems on various aspects were defined. For example, due to the physical border around the campus, mostly present in the form of obstacle slopes, large edges and high-rise buildings forming walls. Another spatial problem is the presence of multiple narrow alleys, nonfunctional spaces, and randomly placed buildings. Moreover, the current program at Solbosch does hardly offer opportunities that you cannot find in the close neighborhood, which causes the university to be empty when students are not present. Making this program more attractive, in a sustainable way, and creating a more porous and transparent campus is therefore the aim of our project.

Specifically, several "friction squares" were defined throughout the campus and the Brussels University District. This is a network of squares, with a large possibility of creating interaction between students and inhabitants, for example next to a library. These squares will be the "hearts" of campus. Moreover, the functions around these squares will also enhance this aspect, by putting a lot of attention into creating lively ground floors, since this is mostly where the interaction between city and campus will happen. Finally, by adding the functions in retro-fitted and renovated buildings, we aim to optimize the use of space. Multi-functionality will therefore be a keyword in the built strategy. New buildings are inevitable keeping in mind the growth of ULB and the increase of provided program but are designed in a modular and circular way. This way the multi-functionality is also possible there. After all, needs of the neighborhood will change, and to keep the ecosystem of neighborhood and campus alive, campus will have to adapt. Using the network of squares and modular building, we hope to redesign a plan that can be applied gradually and is flexible for the future. What people need will not remain the same, and what we want is to keep this in mind for the future and be able to base our design on this aspect.

Masterplan – Brussels University District



Masterplan – Solbosch campus



Strategies



-

Building strategy



P

Section AA



Functions





A walk around the campus















UNI-FY

TEAM: CAMILLE ANAF, EMMELINE BROUWERS, FLEUR DILIËN, SARA BUELLENS, MEDIHA LOCKE, SAMAR ESLHOBAKY



Analysis

Brussels University District





Vision

Reinforce the urban fabric by creating a sequence of urban figures and link them through an urban axis



Soft-mobility oriented Chocked with cars, not bicycle-friendly, unpleasant for pedestrian No cars on campus Designated bicycle infrastructure Clear hierarchy of walkways Safe connection with the city

Enhance green areas Scattered green, large impermeable areas, neglected spaces Increase permeable areas for water infiltration Connect scattered green for biodiversity Diversity of natural qualities

Improve campus life Monofunctionality, inefficient use of space, no night-time activities Readable campus with a variety of atmospheres Strengthen Solbosch identity Multi-purpose and accessible buildings Community and after-work activities

Environmental management

No overall flow strategies Collect rainwater and re-use it Lower energy consumption and provide 50 % on campus Maximize re-use of construction waste and composte organic waste

Spatial strategy

Brussels University District

Solbosch campus







Readability



P 2 200

New and modified buildings

Removed buildings



Programming

Masterplan



Detailed urban axis

















Program



Portal buildings



Roosevelt entrance



Sections South-North



Detailed strategies

Open space strategy







Local market day



Janson Park

Rooftop sport court

Forest



Green theater



Terrace



Bioswales





Janson seating area

Event square





Detailed strategies

Mobility



Roofplan

Water management

Water collection strategy



Detailed strategies

Solar analysis





Solar strategies



Colonnade

Thermal strategies

 Heat loss
 Glass extention
 Green roof
 Geothermal – winter
 Geothermal – summer

Phases

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3



LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

TEAM: KAJ-WOLF DEPUYDT, HANNE DIERCKX, LUCAS VANHUFFLEN, MOHAMED AYOUB ES-SELMOUNI, XANTIPPE VAN SCHOOR



Vision scheme



Ambitions





A DEMOCRATIC ECO-SYSTEM



ECOSYSTEM

A GREEN ECOSYSTEM

A DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM

Through the analysis of the campus of Solbosch and the Brussels University District it can be concluded that the main issue on the campus and in this neighborhood is the serious loss of space and quality.

Our vision is that we perceive the BUD and the Campus as a learning ecosystem. Our University of the Future is an university which embraces new kinds of learning, e.g. flexible learning. The BUD is perceived as a composition/system of different campuses or learning centers. In this way the BUD can act as a sort of mediator between these centers. The district is the extension of the campuses, on many levels: mobility, exchange, learning space, synergy.

Analysis



SOLBOSCH: HISTORICAL ANALYSIS



BUD: HISTORICAL ANALYSIS



SOLBOSCH: PEDESTRIAN & TRANSPORT







BUD: CAR

Our main ambition is to create a clear, qualitative landscape that supports the students learning, with room for diversity/mixity and collaboration/individuality. Keeping in mind the importance of the relation campus-city and city-campus.

The series of strategies implemented to succeed in our ambitions, effectively come down into a reprogramming of the campus to a dominantly 'learning'/education based typology. However the term 'learning' has to be regarded in a broader context than just school and books. We envision a campus which is divided in certain zones: diverse zones with an accentuated learning. For example in the calm forest, one can learn about himself through self-reflection. The main notion that was presented in the beginning of this abstract was the loss of space and quality. This is also why large part of our strategies concern the connecting and structuring of space.

Detailed strategies concern very practical matters like arranging mobility in order to improve the connectivity and safety or water-retention systems which help to establish a sustainable relation with nature. In the end our project needs to be understand in the way that it was already framed: it wants to create a well environment for people to learn but also an environment that pushes people to learn through interaction.

BUD: spatial strategies



VERTICAL AND

HORIZONTAL AXIS

PROGRAM



SHUTTLE



CIRCULATION PLAN



GREEN WALK BETWEEN CAMPUSES



SOLBOSCH: Spatial strategies



REGROUP FUNCTIONS



BIKE & CAR PARK



REMOVED / ADDED / RENOVATED BUILDINGS



VERTICAL & LATERAL AXIS



NEW PROGRAM



INTERIOR / EXTERIOR



ACCENTUATED LEARNING



WATER RETENTION SYSTEMS

Masterplan Solbosch





Program Solbosch

Туре	Total Area [m²]	Percentage	Increase
Educational		47,5%	+ 7%
Classrooms & Auditoria	79 682	27,5%	
Work & Study spaces	41 359	14,2%	
Research	16 894	5,8%	
Services		24,2%	+ 126%
Culture	28 904	10,0%	
Health	5 300	1,8%	
Sport	8 718	3,0%	
Food	8 513	2,9%	
Daycare	2 088	0,7%	
Parking	16 764	5,8%	
Administration		9,5%	+ 2%
	27 681		
Student Unions		4,2%	- 10%
Party	892	0,3%	
Offices	11 229	3,9%	
Housing		8,9%	+ 20%
	25 769		
Technical		5,7%	+ 12%
Workshops	2 856	1,0%	
Technical	13 666	4,7%	





Program BUD



BUSINESS DISTRICT



STUDENT SERVICES

SOCIAL DISTRICT



S



SPORT DISTRICT





SECTION AA'



SECTION BB'

Accentuated learning





Bike + car access/parking on campus



Circulation plan bud — local traffic zoning





Street typology



Parking Hubs

POTENTIAL PARKING SPOTS:

Etterbeek station (1 – level: 1100), Delta (3 – levels: 1350)

Water management & Green roofs







WATER RETENTION



WADI







CAMPUS SOLBOSCH: 160 000 M²

PERMEABLE SURFACES: 48 6000 M² IMPERMEABLE SURFACES: 59400 M²







JEAN SERVAIS SQUARE



PAUL HEGER AVENUE

PHOTOS

FINAL JURY AND 3D MODEL



















SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN STUDIO, MA-1 BRUFACE - ULB + VUB - 2021/2022