REQUALIFYING DROIXHE

Urban Architecture Graduation Studio

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Process

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Historical Research

Expo's in Droixhe: 1930, 1939 Architect's Design Intentions

What were the architect's original architectural focus points?

What were their intentions with regards to the public space?

What can be learned about the character of the district from the expo's hosted in Droixhe?















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Free Forme Londo to Maslausiat Mastausia

EXAMPLE PLACE



A place of great ambitions and examplary architecture



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Observational Research

Playground

Neighborhood Park

How do the inhabitants use the public space designed in the 1950s following modernist urban planning principles?

What are the qualities and issues of the current public space?

How is the current social cohesion of the inhabitants?

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INVISIBLE CITIES P1 Research Group

"For those who pass it without entering, the city is one thing; it is another for those who are trapped by it and never leave. There is the city where you arrive for the first time; and there is another city which you leave never to return. Each deserves a different name." (Calvino, 1997)

What defines the city? Can its essence be captured merely by the unambiguous physical plane of precise numbers and exactitudes? Or does it also exist on a mental plane; compiled from personal, contradicting and shifting layered meanings of geographies, histories, cultures, traditions, and complex webs of relationships? (Lofland, 2009)

- image by Invisible Cities Team P1

AAA B:

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PLANNED VSLIVED



Conceived Space Perceived Space Lived Space

PRODUCTION OF SPACE - HENRI LEFEBVRE



- collage by Invisible Cities Team P1

OW TO READ RITE FREN

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OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH



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OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH



RE-QUALIFICATION OF DROIXHE

Bringing back the Spirit of the Neighborhood

"Re-qualify the neighborhoods image, for and by the inhabitants themselves who internalized the negative stereotypes conveyed by the media." (Pierre Frankignoulle, 2009)



The idea of the re-qualification of Droixhe was proposed in 1995 by

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French consultancy firm Projenor.

The term "re-qualification" called for a Social and Urban diagnosis of the district, encompassing not only physical renovation but also working on public spaces, associative life and the economic fabric.

"Re-qualify the neighborhoods image, for and by the inhabitants themselves who internalized the negative stereotypes conveyed by the media." (Pierre Frankignoulle, 2009)

In 2006, the Quadra & associés office was appointed project manager within the framework of the urban consolidation (PRU) of the plain of Droixhe. In their social analysis of the neighborhood, they came to the same conclusions as the report of Projenor stating that the neighborhood lacked of a social mix and cohesion between its inhabitants. With regards to urban planning, the firm identified 3 weak points, namely the lack of differentiation of spaces, a poor quality layout of these and the excessive proximity between pedestrians and motorized traffic. (Delhez, 2022)

"the city has chosen to provide this infrastructure with a strong symbolism: the building, through its location, its architecture and its design should reflect the image of a City, which, through the reconversion of industrial wastelands and their servicing, gives a decisive impetus, a leverage effect to trigger investments and real estate development. The regualification of the Bressoux station will also serve the public real estate development project in the nearby Droixhe plain

The Halle des Foires will be dedicated to hosting events, professional and consumer fairs, exhibitions, sporting events, seminars or congresses, parties, receptions and corporate events" (Liege2025.be)

Original Requalification plan by Quadra & associes

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Draw your future

An urban district par excellence, major renovation for several years.

urban development, benefits from a complete requalification project. This will ultimately have to take up the challenge of bringing together housing and socio-economic development quality of life. Projects as varied as a nursing home, quality housing, public spaces or shops will thus see the light of day.

RE-QUALIFICATION OF DROIXHE

Bringing back the Spirit of the Neighborhood





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OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH

ECOLOGICAL THINKING THEME 3

Designing examplary ecological architecture in a post-industrial city

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STUDYING MOVEMENT PATTERNS AROUND PLAYGROUND



SATURDAY, 15:30

Pedestrian Walking Paths Waiting Spots

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STUDYING MOVEMENT PATTERNS AROUND PLAYGROUND



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STUDYING MOVEMENT PATTERNS AROUND PLAYGROUND



MONDAY, 12:05

Pedestrian Walking Paths Waiting Spots

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STUDYING MOVEMENT PATTERNS ACROSS PARK OF DROIXHE



Necessary Paths Optional / Social

STUDYING MOVEMENT PATTERNS ACROSS PARK OF DROIXHE

Espace Georges Truffaut Le Collectif Autour de l'Etang Manon

The theater hall provides space for organization of events (techno / concerts / physical activities as after-class for students from the school) and workshops for the residents of the neighborhood. These workshops are designated for people from the neighborhood; people are sharing amongst each other about the organization of a certain workshop such as knitting. There are also workshops for women abuse and French language courses.

The organization receives regwular subsidies from the city council but often rent out the space for events, so that they can cover the monthly rent.

There are a lot of associations in the area and on Wednesday afternoons we meet up at the Parc de Droixhe. There are about 15 associations involved, organizing workshops with the objective of we try to bring people together. We have a very nice park and in the summer we can enjoy the sun and people who are passing by also just join. There is generally around 15-20 ppl at these gatherings. In the winter we go inside the church (Maison de l'étang), also known at the house of the pond, and because of the less visibility there are generally less people. Only the ones who know about it join.

With these gatherings, it allows the <u>inhabitants to have a network</u> and feel comfortable to organize special events such as parties attracting even more people up to 60 adults and even more children.

I don't know how it will be with the re-qualification of the neighborhood. I will just wait and see. They are already completely renovating this (building 16) and it is not social housing. For Droixhe, these are quite expensive apartments, so I wonder how it will sell.













Interviews

Policeman

Droixhe is not more dangerous than other parts of Liege. It is a high multi-ethnic area, and it is also has a high concentration of young people. This can lead to some wrong preconceptions for the area. Also, if something does happen, the whole neighborhood becomes gets a reputation.

Espace Georges Truffaut Coordinator

I don't live in Droixhe, but I come here everyday to work here. I don't think its unsafe. It gets a bad reputation because its a poor neighborhood and it has a lot of people from different ethnicities with different mentalities. There can be people that might do trouble, but everyone else is completely normal and fine.

Despite of that, <u>people from other parts of Liege still come to</u> <u>Droixhe</u>. They come here to Espace Georges Truffaut for the concerts and in Droixhe there are 1 or 2 high quality restaurants that is often very busy. The theater hall has good acoustics with capacity of 800 standing and 300 seating places;

There is also the <u>Halles de Foires currently being built together with</u> <u>the tram. That will bring a lot of people, businesses and trade from</u> <u>other parts of Liege</u> to happen in Droixhe. This is part of the requalification project, which <u>can cause Droixhe to have more mixture</u> <u>of people which can be good for the neighborhood</u>.

Boxing Gym | Cocktail Boxing Club Riccardo

The club was founded in 1998. It <u>contributed to bring young people</u> into sports and managed to stop their inactive state as well allow them to distance themselves from illegal activities. It is not open everyday, only three times per week with limited operating hours. Nevertheless, it has a good reputation since there were some boxers from this gym that eventually became Belgian boxing champions. Now there are different sport centers which emerged in Droixhe/ Bressoux over time.

DESIGN APPROACH LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS - JAN GEHL

Life

Space

Building







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DESIGN APPROACH LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS - JAN GEHL

Life

Who (what types of people) will inhabit each space?

How will they circulate?

Where do they bump into each other?

How will they connect? or not?



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DECICVI VDDDUVCH H ial Housing B Children Playground Ð **Target Groups** Business / Middle / High Class How will they circulate? Where do they bump into each other? PARENG EXPLOITANT first impression of Droixhe and worth a

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DESIGN APPROACH LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS - JAN GEHL

Space

What are the characters of the space I want?

What are the qualities and issues of the current public space?

What functions should be linked to the public space?







Requalifying Droixhe 08.11.2023 | p. 36 DECICKI ADDONACH Socialth Residential Local shops Children Private Playground Residentia **Functions** Business / Middle / High Class en/School Bib. What functions should be Food Hall linked to the public space? Greenhouse **Private Housing** Hotel Creche Hote tion Food Hall Food Production Parking Lot 0 Children Special Needs

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Peace **Rustle** Commotion

Zones types as described by the Guiding Principles Metromix of the Rijksadvieur can be applied to this location.

Commontion is for wide opening times and space for dynamics and social security. It connects neighborhood to the city's main infrastructure.

Rustle has to do with activity, logistics, space for noise and smells.

Peace asks for calmness, quiet.



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DESIGN APPROACH LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS - JAN GEHL

Building

What formal design choices allow the designation of character of the space?

What are the current design language of buildings? (north island vs modernist language) (vs how i want to design)













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DECICKI VDDDUVCH

Level 2







Li

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DECICKI VDDOVCH

Level 3







Li

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DECICNI VDDDUVCH

Level 4







O ______ 20 m







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CRECHE

DECICNI VDDDUVCH

Playing with Permeability

By extruding the hotel volume with full glazing at the plinth, it brings in the visitor immediatly into the building.

Then as the pedestrian walks through the food hall, they first get hints of possible activities taking place throught the walls of the facade



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DESIGNI VDDOVCH

Playing Perme

By extruding the hotel volu the plinth, it brings in the vi the building.

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DECICNI VDDOVCH

Closed Corner

At this corner, the separation in walking lines between current inhabitants and visitors was crucial. By closing the corner, allowing only the entrance of a public bycicle parking, it forces both to follow their intended paths ahead.



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DECICNI VDDOVCH

1×3

CRECHE

Residence 3 Entrance

Around the corner is an intimate function, the creche. The children might need rest and sleep during the day, requiring a peaceful environment. Connecting one of the residential entrances towards this function helps ensure a quieter area. Moreover, these two functions gives and entrance to the residential of the neighborhood.



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DECICNI VDDDUVCH

Community Space

Entering further into the neighborhood, the community space is visible. The space is towards the children's playground, showing the neighborhood that the space is for everyone and not only the residents of the building the space lies within.

With full glazing at the corner, it invites the community to enter the square and eventually into the park.



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DECICNI VDDDUVCH

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DECICNI VDDDUVCH

Colonade Local Shops

Through a colonade, it invites the visitor to walk by, inbetween entering the park and the building itself.

With spaces open for setting shops of or miscellaneuous, it creates a reconnection with the exisiting and currently isolated building block of bressoux.

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DECICKI VDDDOVCH LI Throu visito the p With of or recor curre bress

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Materialization

What formal design choices allow the designation of character of the space?

What are the current design language of buildings? (north island vs modernist language) (vs how i want to design) How is the current social cohesion of the inhabitants?



Materialization









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SECTION 3 SPACES



0 2 4 10 20 m



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FOOD HALL AND PRODUCTION



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FOOD HALL AND PRODUCTION





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SECTION CROSS VENTILATION





0 2 4 10 20 m







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