The Super Grid: the Social Injection in West Brussels

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Content

1) Position
2) Situation
3) Hypothesis
4) Site
5) Urban strategy
6) Concept/Design
   - Urban
   - Architectural
7) Structure/Materiality
8) Building performance
9) Urban plan
1) Position
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The 3 main forces in uniting Europe: Political, economic, and social forces.

Unbalanced forces

Unbalanced social force
City’s unbalanced forces
-Manuel Castells
The emergence of a city as a global city often caused political, and economic disconnection with the city. The balancing of the fundamental divides between local cultures, European institutions, and global economy is crucial for cities to reach out to the world.

Confrontations
The disconnection of the local communities with the global network become a major destabilizing force in European cities, ushering in a new type of urban crisis.
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Topography differences
Strong existence of historical power
Confrontation of urban structure
Forces of Development

Effect of Global City and Capital of Europe
- Bring in high income expatriates
- Pushing the local and weaker group out of the periphery
- Causing housing and property bubble.
- Social segregation.

Forces of Gentrification
Excessive office spaces
The lack of urban public spaces
Non-homogeneous culture  Homogeneous culture

Fundamental urban dualism

The dualism of urban social structure of the increasingly older native population and a younger population of newcomers and immigrants. Which leads to cultural identity crisis and creates social tension.
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Balancing forces in the unity of Europe

Balancing the fundamental forces in the unity of Europe. Social force needs to be enforced to create a synergy between the three.
Balancing forces in the City of Brussels by bringing up the status and identity of the nation state, and followed by the status and identity of the locality and culture.
Developing the west
Injecting more public spaces
Aggressive Urban approach/
Delicate city fabric
European cities will have to cope with its new global economic role while accommodating to a multi-ethnic society.
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The canal as a split of east and west
Less defined urban structure
Strong existence of locality
Disbalanced programmatic distribution
Disconnection of existing urban public spaces
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To develop the west, an urban renewal plan is needed. By adapting the existing grid structures, projecting the grid onto the site, at the extension of the Leopold II axis to the west, to strengthen the status of the development.
A slight rotation to accommodate the organisation of the neighbourhood. Also to disorientate from the orientation of the axis.
Confrontations
These urban blocks are positioned to stimulate confrontation with the existing urban fabric. They aim to balance the urban equilibrium in the city.

Superimposition
Adapting the existing grid structure, projecting onto the site. Using the grid to raise the status of social forces.
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Urban blocks + Urban fabric = ?

Aggressive Urban approach/Delicate city fabric
The buffer zone will soothe the confrontation.
+80m

Proposed tower

+55m
Height of Arch

+25m
Topographic difference

+0m

Triumphal Arch
Parc Cinquantenaire

Political Line
Responsive development

Development greed

Political line

Responsive Development forces
Social status

Public
Aggressive Confrontations
These urban blocks are positioned to stimulate confrontation with the existing urban fabric.
The towers are further shaped by the surrounding, aiming to balance the urban equilibrium in the city.
Connection on the ground

The towers provide better connection with the existing urban spaces, concealing the division.
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Program distribution
Public layer
- sky lobby
- event spaces
- temporary display
- bar
- viewing loop
Education/offices
- administration offices
- interchangeable
- event spaces/lecture rooms
Gallery 1&2
1500m²
exhibition spaces
-screening rooms
Gallery 3&4
1080m² exhibition spaces
- screening room
- viewing deck
Gym
250m² community gym
Roof Cafe 1
at 25m height
Daycare centre
440m$^2$ daycare facility
Roof Cafe2
at 13m height
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A Collage of components
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Vertical circulation

5am-8pm

8pm-6am
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**Building Capacity (person):**
- Public box: 400
- Education: 150
- Gallery: 400
- Gym: 75
- Daycare centre: 80
- Cafes: 80
- Mini theaters: 120

**Total capacity (person):** 1400

**Beneficial household:** 1000-1500

**Affected radius:** 100-200m

**Estimated household benefited:** 1000
i would really like to get f*cked tonight but the problem with this is
i am on my period and as my friend justin knows that is one thing that i am not into
the other thing?

F*cking

the idea makes me nauseous period like
i can only do it when someone i really love

once

put his finger in a part of my body that was so very very bad
and then put it into his mouth
after that i had to impress me and

i am

when i first met him i had to try to

not

but

and
Thank you for your attention.
Appendixes.
Social force. Any effective urge or impulse that leads to social action. Specifically, a social force is a consensus on the part of a sufficient number of the members of society to bring about social action or social change of some sort. In the plural, the social forces are the typical basic drives, or motives, which lead to the fundamental types of association and group relationship.

---- Fairchild, 1970

Read more: http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_a_social_force#ixzz1BKtwzuU5