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1 Analysis Brussels
1 Analysis Brussels

City with huge contrasts
Disbalance between the east and west part
The west suffers from social and urban underdevelopment
Landscape / Topography
1 Analysis Brussels
1 Analysis Brussels
1 Analysis Brussels
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1 Analysis Brussels

977 AD First buildings
The first presence of Brussels is typical for cities in Europe: a small settlement on an island in the river, providing water and protection against possible enemies.

1200 Trading
In the middle ages Brussels develops into a trading post, making the market square the most important place in the city.

1830 Royalty
In the 19th century Brussels becomes the capital of an independent Belgium. The king builds a city that is to represent his power.

1880 Nation Capital (Cinqantenaire)
The role of the capital as a representation of the power and independence of the nationstate becomes more important. Monuments are erected to celebrated the national identity.

1970 Politics
Brussels its new status as capital of Europe ask for new ways of representation. The city expands further to the east, but lacks a clear plan represent its identity.
1 Analysis Brussels

Industry
1 Analysis Brussels

Victor Besme infrastructure

Proposed
1 Analysis Brussels

Victor Besme infrastructure
1 Analysis Brussels

Landscape

Industry

Besme structure
1 Analysis Brussels

Underdeveloped area
2 Hypothesis
2 Hypothesis

Focus areas
   The western canal zone
   The EU quarter
2 Hypothesis

Western canal zone
2 Hypothesis

EU quarter
2 Hypothesis

BALANCE IN THE CITY DEVELOPMENT
THE RING OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT
LOCATIONS + CONNECTIONS
LOCATIONS + NETWORK
3 Urban Strategy
3 Urban Strategy

The EU quarter consists of a collection of large office buildings, surrounded by smaller offices filled with lobbyists, embassadors, diplomats, etc. constituting an image of bureaucracy, conflicts of interest and detachment of society. Thus, the current situation embodies all that is wrong about the EU, instead of showing its good side.

By taking out the EU parliament and bringing it to the other side of the city, it becomes a visible symbol of democracy. It is no longer encapsulated by bureaucrats and lobbyists, but by the people who are at last in control of the power. Dividing legislative and constitutive power shows the independence of the parliament and at the same time relieves the Leopold quarter from the pressure of the EU bureaucracy.

Relocating the EU parliament to the more informal west side of Brussels is a first step to create a more equal relationship between the EU and its citizens. The next step is to reflect the idea of Europe. The way to do this will be to establish an image of Europe through a chain of buildings which together tell the story of Europe its history, its present and its future. These institutions again hold strong relations with the local community through their program and thus reflect the European identity. The form a triangle to symbolize their mutual dependence and to define a European microcosmos within the existing urban fabric.
3 Urban Strategy

By taking out the EU parliament and bringing it to the other side of the city, it becomes a visible symbol of democracy for the people.

It is no longer encapsulated by bureaucrats and lobbyists, but by the people living in this folk area.

Physically dividing the EU institutions shows the independence of the parliament and at the same time relieves the EU quarter from the pressure of the EU bureaucracy.
3 Urban Strategy

The EU and the everyday

The relocating is a first step to create a more equal relationship between the EU and its citizens. The next step is to reflect the idea of Europe.

The way to do this will be to create an image of Europe through a network of buildings which together tell the story of Europe its past, present and future.

These institutions again hold strong relations with the local community through their public program and thus reflect the European identity.

The form a triangle to symbolize their mutual dependence and to define a European microcosmos within the existing urban fabric.
3 Urban Strategy

4 locations linked together in a network. On these locations we propose public squares combined with public functions related to both Europe and Brussels.

- Tours & Taxis
  “European Parliament and Media Center”

- West Station - “Past”
  Library / Memorial park / Sport Center

- South Station - “Present”
  Tolerance Square / Bazar / Transport Hub

- Ninove Gate - “Future”
  European University
3 Urban Strategy

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3 Urban Strategy
4 Architectural Programming
4 Architectural Programming

Initial brief: House of European History

“Media is the first draft of history” (Alan Barth, editor Washington Post, 1943)

One of the key elements of a democracy is free media
4 Architectural Programming
4 Architectural Programming
4 Architectural Programming

Media:
- News Editing Space
- TV Studios
- Recording Platforms
- Archive

Public:
- Event / Protest Square
- Media Event Hall
- Media Exhibition
- Viewing Balcony
- Restaurant

Extra:
- NGO Offices
5 Architectural Concept
5 Architectural Concept
5 Architectural Concept
5 Architectural Concept

- WTC towers
- North Station
- Parliament
5 Architectural Concept

Opposing

EU Parliament

Media Center
5 Architectural Concept

EU Parliament

Production
People
Archive
5 Architectural Concept
5 Architectural Concept
5 Architectural Concept

EU Parliament

Production
People
Archive

Public Square
Lobby
Atrium
Restaurant
News Room
Black Box
View
Circulation
Private
Public
Studios
Low Foyer
NGO
Offices
Upper Foyer
Studios
Media Event Hall
5 Architectural Concept
6 Site Strategy
6 Site Strategy

The stages can work in different scenarios

Protest square
6 Site Strategy

2 Facing stages with the canal as a floating performance stage
6 Site Strategy

One big setup with flytower above the stage
6 Site Strategy

Smaller stage with the building as a backdrop where projections can be made
6 Site Strategy
6 Site Strategy
7 Programatical Organisation
7 Programatical Organisation

Massing
7 Programmatical Organisation

Square & Stages
7 Programatical Organisation

Core
7 Programatical Organisation

Archive
7 Programatical Organisation

Entrance Lobby
7 Programatical Organisation

Atrium
7 Programatical Organisation

Administration & NGO Offices
7 Programatical Organisation

Foyer & Restaurant
7 Programatical Organisation

Production space
7 Programatical Organisation

News Rooms, workspace platforms
7 Programatical Organisation

Media Event Hall
7 Programatical Organisation

TV Studios, Recording platforms
7 Programatrical Organisation

Lobby
7 Programatical Organisation

Atrium
7 Programatical Organisation

Higher Foyer
7 Programatical Organisation

Tribune
7 Programatical Organisation

News Room
7 Programatical Organisation

Media Event Hall  
scenario 1: no event

- No private event in the Media Event Hall
- Public can use the tribune freely
- Access from lower and upper foyer
- Black box studio
- Accessible through lower foyer
7 Programatical Organisation

Media Event Hall scenario 2: big event

- No private event in the Media Event Hall
- Public can use the tribune freely
- Access from lower and upper foyer
- Black box studio
  - Accessable through lower foyer

Large event using the whole tribune
- Public access through both foyers
- Large fins rotate to close the large glass facade
7 Programatical Organisation

Media Event Hall scenario 3: small event

- Small event using 2/3 of the Media Event Hall
- Bottom part is pushed out to create a stage
- Screen/Curtain comes down to define the space
- Access to event from upper foyer only
- Lower part of tribune freely accessible for public from lower foyer
8 Structure
8 Structure

The building is structurally based on a crane

It starts with the platform which has a normal column-beam structure
8 Structure

Then a concrete core erects with walls of 500mm
8 Structure

Over which the cantilevering floor is placed
8 Structure

The cantilevering floor is held up by cable bracings
A steel structure balances the cantilever out with tension
8 Structure

Columns erect from the cantilevering floor
To hold up the roof
The programatic distribution is based on the structure as it has an ideal weight distribution on the structure.
The building is structurally based on a crane.
The program is based on the structure as it has an ideal weight distribution inside the building.
9 Materialization
9 Materialization
9 Materialization

The front cantilever facade has a 14 level high glass facade with 3.6m deep revolving fins.
The front facade has a 4-level high glass facade with 3.6m deep revolving fins.
The front facade has a 4 level high glass facade with 3.6m deep revolving fins.
9 Materialization

The back facade with the offices, foyer and atrium is a glass facade with 1m deep fins that work as structure and as shading.
9 Materialization
10 Climate
10 Climate
10 Climate
Thank You For Your Attention