

ARTS FLANDERS 08
COMPILATION BOX

ARCHITECTURE

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BARAK, STÉPHANE BEEL ARCHITECTS,
BOB 361, COUSSÉE & GORIS, JO CREPAIN,
WIM CUYVERS, XAVEER DE GEYTER ARCHITECTS,
DE SMET VERMEULEN ARCHITECTS, JAN DEVYLDER
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NEUTELINGS-RIEDIJK ARCHITECTS, NOA.ARCHITECTS,
NOLLET&HUYGHE, NU ARCHITECTURE STUDIO,
OFFICE KERSTEN GEERS DAVID VAN SEVEREN,
ROBBRECHT AND DAEM ARCHITECTS,
SSA/XX, URA, MARIE-JOSÉ VAN HEE,
MAARTEN VAN SEVEREN

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B-ARCHITECTS

B-architects was founded in Antwerp in 1997 by a core group of three architects, Evert Crols, Dirk Engelen and Sven Groote, who met when studying architecture at the Henry van de Velde Institute in Antwerp. Their internationally oriented training at the Berlage Institute in the Netherlands revealed a shared interest for design. B-architects seeks inspiration in "camp" and "pulp" and develops an aesthetics that is inspired by pop art. The shop they created for fashion designer Walter Van Beirendonck in 1998 is particularly representative of their work and could serve as a declaration of intent. B-architects also developed shop concepts for Stephan Schneider and Veronique Branquinho; they also designed the large A on top of the KBC tower in Antwerp and the large areas of colour for the fashion project *Landed-Geland* (2001). In the course of time, the team has been invited for more "mature" commissions, in which they import their favourite fancies. In 2003 B-architects teamed up with DHP architects to renovate the Brussels Beursschouwburg. Elements of the renovation comprised the use of diverse colours and materials to create a variety of atmospheres and to lend the various circuits in the building a greater visual prominence. The renovation of the building became one of the most hot topics of the past decade. In 2004 the International Art Centre deSingel organized an exhibition about B-architects. On this occasion, their first publication, *B-architects*, was presented to the public.

B

BARAK

BARAK is an alliance of the architects Carl Bourgeois (b. 1969) and Tjil Vanmeirhaeghe (b. 1976) that started in 2006. Carl Bourgeois studied at the School for Science and Art in Brussels; Tjil Vanmeirhaeghe studied architectural engineering at the University of Ghent. For some time, the two had assisted Wim Cuyvers. Since 2002, Carl Bourgeois has been active as a teacher at the Sint-Lucas School for Science and Art in Ghent. Tjil Vanmeirhaeghe has been teaching seminars at the Department of Architecture and Urban Development of Ghent University since 2001.

In its architecture BARAK confronts the protective outer envelope—the shell, the case, the skin—with the elementary building block of any residence—the room. Room and envelope meet in the evidence of the barracks. BARAK thus tries to develop an authentic architecture that seeks to be a counterpoise for the smooth minimalist "quality architecture" that has come to dominate the architectural landscape in recent years. An architectural "carte blanche", an unlimited budget and/or the sterilization of the interior with the aim to banish life from view, hardly ever result in real architecture. BARAK therefore searches for a solidly constructed shape that easily resists contamination and interference and derives its force from this feature.

STÉPHANE BEEL ARCHITECTS

Stéphane Beel (b. 1955) studied architecture at the Sint-Lucas School for Science and Art (Ghent, 1974-80). He entered in a partnership with various architects to work on a series of villas. The first projects that reveal his particular signature are Villa M in Zedelgem (1992) and a branch office of BACOB bank in Bruges (early 1990s). At first sight, Beel creates an architecture which refers merely to a cleansed modernism, but which in fact is more than that. Through a subtle but often unexpected game of windows, citations, recalcitrant walls and the choice of materials, he comments on the history of architecture, the concept of living and of place itself.

The new housing projects are followed by a series of difficult but brilliant renovations. The conversion of a former dairy factory into offices in Eeklo (1996), the various interventions of a master plan for the International Art Centre deSingel in Antwerp (1996) are like a prelude for large-scale projects such as the museum site in Leuven and the Africa Museum in Tervuren. With the Roger Raveel Museum (1999) he creates an original art space that literally and figuratively exhibits and thematizes both the work of Raveel and the village of Macheien-aan-de-Leie. The museum is the start of a new series of projects, which recently culminated in the Courthouse in Ghent (icw Lieven Achtergael) and the Department of Economy at the University of Ghent (icw Xaveer De Geyter Architects). The recent projects bear witness to a harmonious symbiosis between pragmatism and tactility.

In 1989 and ten years later, in 1999, Beel exhibited his work at the International Art Centre deSingel. On this last occasion, Ludion published a book; *Stéphane Beel - Recent works*. In 2005 a survey appeared of his work in the renowned Spanish journal *Arquitecturas*.

BOB 361

BOB 361 is an architect's association founded by Goedele Desmet (b. 1962), Ivo Vanhamme (b. 1962) and Jean-Michel Culas (b. 1958) with offices in Brussels and Paris. Culas was born in Argentina and studied architecture at the University of South-Western Louisiana (USA) and at the School of Architecture and Urban Development in Versailles (F) (1979-1984). Desmet and Vanhamme studied architectural engineering at the University of Leuven. Having obtained his degree, Desmet went to work as a trainee architect with Massimiliano Fuksas in Rome and Paris. Vanhamme worked with Deleu in Antwerp (1985-1986), Gieselmann in Vienna (1986-1987) and Gwatmeyer-Siegel in New York (1987-1988). Since 2006, both architects also teach part-time at the Department of Architecture and Urban Development at the University of Leuven.

BOB 361 has participated in a variety of projects, but excels in the branch of collective housing. The team is exceptionally good at urban and architectural issues, at taking into account private and public space, and linking individual housing projects in an intelligent manner. The seventeen terraced houses they constructed in Kessel-Lo and the contemporary interpretation of the suburban concept in the project De Mot (Landen, 2006) perfectly illustrate their skills.

BOB 361

17 SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS

KESSEL-LO

PROJECT Heidelberg

PROGRAMME

17 social housing units

CONSTRUCTION 2005

ADDRESS

Heidelbergstraat 79-111

3010 Kessel-Lo

ARCHITECT BOB 361

www.bob361.com

With their sculptural design, consistency of materials and the clear definition of indoor and outdoor spaces, this group of social dwellings forms a striking and homogeneous architectural whole. This is no easy task in an area where every house tries to display its individuality amidst extensions and additions. The architects here illustrate with apparent ease that the planning regulations and stringent conditions for social housing construction do in fact provide the opportunity for morphological and typological innovation.

Sven Sterken, Flanders Architectural Yearbook edition 2006, p. 112



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