archiweek 2022

Bruxelles la mi(en)ne
Mijn Brussel
Brussels is mine
Organised since 2019 by Urban in the Brussels-Capital Region, archiweek aims to raise awareness and introduce the public to quality contemporary architecture. For this third edition, which will take place from 10 to 23 October 2022, guided tours, walking and cycling tours, open doors of architectural agencies, colloquia, workshops for families and conferences, organised by Urban and its partners, will be accessible to everyone free of charge.
The highlight of archiweek will be the multilingual (FR, NL, EN) tours of some twenty contemporary buildings, which will take place this year on the weekend of 15 and 23 October 2022 and will be organised by the non-profit organisations Arkadia and Korei.

On the same weekend, Urban will also open the doors of recently completed buildings, some of which offer exceptional views of the city.

The public will also be able to enter a number of architectural offices in the Brussels Region, which will open their doors especially for archiweek in order to present their best achievements and the architectural profession.

This year again, three "sustainable architecture" days, organised in collaboration with Archi Urbain, will allow the public to visit sustainable projects or building sites in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Pascal Smet, Secretary of State responsible for Urbanism:

"Brussels has the potential to become a world player in the field of architecture. Both in terms of projects in Brussels and in terms of the strong architectural firms that our city is rich in. We have to be proud of that and we have to play it more internationally.

One of the ways we are doing this is by organising 'archiweek', in which we put the spotlight on the contemporary architectural landscape of Brussels."

Bety Waknine, Directrice générale d'Urban :

« Through historical and contemporary projects, the BC team, curator of this edition of archiweek, demonstrates that Brussels offers a variety of available natural resources, whether extracted or reused, which contribute to creating sustainable, qualitative living spaces in connection with their environment. In times of climate crisis and scarcity of natural resources, this edition invites us to question the management of these material resources. »

The theme – Brussels is mine

The city as a quarry replete with building materials

In these times of climate crisis and resource scarcity, there is an urgent need to take a critical look at the use of materials in contemporary architecture. Many material extraction techniques and production processes are energy-intensive and polluting, and the construction sector is a huge contributor to the climate change we are now experiencing. New visions for the future are required and architecture has to come up with sustainable alternatives in order to help make a difference.

Brussels has a rich history (and a promising future!) in the management of its raw materials. There used to be quarries for sand, clay and stone in various parts of the region: the placename Sablon/Zavel, for example, refers to a fine-grained sand.
During archiweek 2022, we want to spotlight projects past and present that can provide inspiration for the circular and local use of materials. A fine example is Rouge-Cloître/Rood Klooster Abbey, which was built on a spot where water, wood and stone as well as sand, clay and lime were available in the immediate vicinity.

By highlighting the raw materials and construction methods present in Brussels, our aim is to point the way towards potential solutions for an ecological and social transition. In other words, we want to make it possible to 'read' Brussels in terms of these raw materials and building methods. With that in mind, we urge you to explore the city, its built environment and the surrounding landscapes and to see them as one giant material repository and a melting pot of social interaction. Along the way, you'll discover historical and contemporary architectural projects that fully incorporate local raw materials, put people first and offer a win-win combination of beauty and sustainability.

**Projects to visit**

Sustainable building materials can be divided into three categories.

**Geo-sourcing**

Geo-sourced materials consist of mineral raw materials found naturally in the ground, such as sand, clay and stone. In the past, these locally extracted substances were the main building materials. Today too, soil excavated from Brussels building sites can be recovered and used as a construction material. These raw materials are available locally, and local producers can transform them into building materials with a low environmental impact. For example, Brussels is built on large geological strata containing valuable Brusselian sand and Yperian clay.

**Bio-sourcing**

Bio-based materials are building materials derived from renewable biological resources. These raw materials can be cultivated and harvested in a short time; they grow continuously and are naturally abundant. Examples include wood, straw, grass, hemp and algae. If we manage this 'wood mine' carefully, we have at our disposal a local 'quarry' offering a steady surplus of high-quality materials.

**Urban sourcing**

Urban-sourced materials are materials that are already present in existing buildings. A lot of energy has already been used to produce, transport and install them. Brussels has a rich building heritage containing a vast quantity of high-quality materials. By 'harvesting' these during renovation or demolition projects, we have direct access to locally available building materials without the need to open new quarries or launch production processes. This bank of materials contains 'vintage' building components and elements with a much lower environmental impact than new materials.
— organisers: Urban
— curators: BC - Chloë Ballyn, Laurens Bekemans, Anton Maertens, Henri Uijtterhaegen, Jasper Van der Linden
— dates: from 15 to 23 October 2022
— venue: everywhere in the Brussels Region
— online: archiweek.urban.brussels

→ BC materials production facility: geo/bio/urban sourcing

→ House at Chaussée d'Alsemberg/Alsembergsesteenweg 951: geo/urban sourcing

→ Decoster 27 residence: geo/bio sourcing

→ Karper House: geo/bio/urban sourcing

→ Natura Mater: geo/bio/urban sourcing

→ House at Chaussée d'Alsemberg/Alsembergsesteenweg 1366: geo/bio sourcing

→ Usquare Feder: geo/bio/urban sourcing

→ Ambassade: geo/bio/urban sourcing

→ Parckfarm: geo/bio/urban sourcing

→ Rotor Deconstruction: urban sourcing

→ Gare Maritime: bio sourcing

→ Hainaut quay: bio sourcing

→ Jupiter House: geo/bio sourcing

→ Brunfaut tower: bio sourcing

→ Cité Moderne / Moderne Wijk: geo/bio sourcing
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→ Cygnes: geo/bio/urban sourcing
→ MolenWest Square: urban sourcing
→ Circularium: bio/urban sourcing
→ La Mémé: urban sourcing
→ Anderlecht Beguinage: geo/bio sourcing
→ Rouge-Cloître/Rood Klooster: geo/bio sourcing
→ Dieleghem / Dielegem Abbey: geo/bio sourcing
The curatorial team

BC – short for Brussels Cooperation – is BC architects & studies & materials.

BC is a hybrid practice consisting of an architecture firm (BC Architects), an experimental and educational lab (BC Studies) and a cooperative producing circular materials (BC materials) from waste and residue streams. BC aims to reshape the construction process by experimenting and building in different contexts and with different programmes, actors, techniques and partnerships. The team always works in direct symbiosis with the environment, local resources, residue streams, craftspeople, workers and designers. BC aims to continually push the boundaries of building culture while incorporating geographical contexts, processes and techniques.

Founded and based in Brussels (but enriched by experiences and insights from abroad), BC believes that cities – and this city in particular – should be more than just ‘consumers’, importing materials from far-away places and dumping them in far-away places after use. BC is also a producer (the productive city) and a recycler that recovers and creates value from its assets (so-called ‘waste’), fostering prosperity and well-being for people and society and having a positive impact on the environment.

Core team for archiweek 2022:

Chloë Ballyn, Laurens Bekemans, Anton Maertens, Henri Uijterhaegen, Jasper Van der Linden
Activities related to the theme

Evening event on 20 October 2022
The theme of “Brussels is mine” will be explored in greater depth on 20 October during a debate bringing together architects, historians, entrepreneurs and politicians to hear their views on the future of architecture and construction using local and low-impact materials.

Bike tours on 22 and 23 October 2022
The curators and the Pro Velo association are offering two free bilingual guided bike tours of the architectural projects selected by the curators.

Intergenerational workshops La (FA)brique on 22 and 23 October 2022
What is living? What materials are our houses made of? Why do we build with such and such materials in Belgium? Where do we find these materials? How are they made? What are their architectural qualities and constraints?
The curators and the CIVA’s educational department invite participants from 6 to 99 years of age to question the use of local natural materials and to create a participative work site to make bricks together and assemble them to form a wall.

Walking brochure
Throughout archiweek, take a family walk through “Brussels the mine” with the leaflet produced by the Wallonia-Brussels Cultural Institute of Architecture in collaboration with the curators!
New in town

For the first time Urban will open the doors of recently completed buildings to the public, some of which offer exceptional views of the city.

→ Iris Tower (2020, Accarain-Bouillot Architectes Associés / Atelier d'architecture de Genval)

→ Amal Amjahid sports centre (2021, Bodgan & Van Broeck)

→ Montagne du Parc, headquarters of BNP Paribas Fortis (2021, Baumschlager Eberle Architekten, Styhals & Partners et Jaspers-Eyers Architects)

→ Mobilis (chantier en cours, XDGA)

Architectural offices open their doors

Urban is once again giving architecture agencies the opportunity to open their doors to the public during the weekend of 22 and 23 October 2022, in order to showcase their best work and to present the profession of architecture. Agencies will organise guided and free tours, exhibitions and events as part of archiweek.

Around 30 agencies will be open to the public for this edition.
**Sustainable Architecture Days**

archiweek is also an opportunity for the public to discover sustainable architectural projects of different typologies, whether they are still under construction or recently completed. Six projects will be presented by their architects, their owners or the contractors/craftsmen involved in their execution.


→ **Wiels Marsh**: ParkLab project, renovation of the Metropole building, development of the site between the Wiels and the Brass into a public space, construction of new housing.

→ **Brunfaut Tower** (A229 and Dethier Architecture): Renovation of the Brunfaut tower and its 97 dwellings, creation of common spaces including a roof terrace. be.exemplary 2016 laureate.

→ **Modular housing for homeless people - Sweet Home** (street nurses, citydev.brussels): installation of 6 sustainable and modular housing units.


→ **AG Campus** (evr-architecten): Renovation of a ground floor into a modern learning and meeting centre in an office building. be.exemplary 2019 laureate.
Urban's programme and its partners

On Saturday 15 October, take part in the festive launch evening of the archiweek at Halles Saint-Géry around sound as a medium for architecture: Grégoire Houcke (Chouette architects) will propose a multiphonic performance to create movement in space, which will be followed by a DJ set by Brussels architects!

On the same day, follow two circular workshop/project visits organised by Embuild.brussels, two 101% walking tours in Laeken and Jette proposed by the SLRB, to discover unique contemporary artworks made on social housing sites, but also a guided tour dedicated to sustainable urban development in Brussels, and the challenges of post-war housing estates focused on the Amelinckx/Etrimo building complex, offered by BRAL (to be confirmed).

On Saturday 15 and Sunday 16, don't miss the final days of d'Homo Urbanus, an exhibition by Bêka & Lemoine, exploring the urban world with their characteristic wit and humour, inviting us to take a closer look at the multiple forms and complex interactions that exist every day between people and their urban environments. An event organised by the non-profit organisation Le p'tit ciné, as part of the activities of the year-long festival En ville! and in collaboration with the Galeries cinema.

On Sunday 16, the ARTONOV festival invites us to the performance "All the stars are suns" at the Belgian Comic Strip Centre to answer the question "Can art free architecture from its utilitarian function?"

On Sunday 16, Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 October, join Urban's urban renewal department and Mister Emma from Archi Urbain to visit sustainable projects or building sites in the Brussels Region, presented by architects, project owners and/or contractors.

At the end of the day on the same day, the archiweek curators will present the archiweek programme and discuss the theme of 'Brussels the middle' during a debate bringing together architects, historians, entrepreneurs and politicians to hear their views on the future of architecture and construction using local and low-impact materials.
On the weekend of 22 and 23 October, discover the **23 architectural locations** selected by the archiweek curators and the **4 "new in town" projects**.

**Enter the architectural agencies** that are opening their doors especially for archiweek to present their best achievements and the profession of architect.

**Get on your bike for two visits**, with **Pro Velo**, to a dozen architectural sites, among those selected by the curators.

Take part in the **intergenerational workshops** "La (FA)brique", organised by the **CIVA** in collaboration with the curators, at the initiative of Urban, which invites you to create a participative building site and to question yourself about local natural materials.

Throughout archiweek, discover the **exhibitions** "Institutions & the City: The Role of Architecture" produced by the **Faculty of Architecture of UCLouvain** and **BNP Paribas Fortis** at the headquarters of BNP Paribas Fortis, "Queering Brussels" and "Taking the Country's Side" at the **Halles Saint-Géry**, which will also be open on the occasion of **Museum Night Fever** on 22 October, not forgetting "PREFIGURATIONS: An Exhibition on Architecture and Transitions' proposed by **Architecture Workroom Brussels** and 'Dispositions by AgwA' organised by **A+**!

With the documentary series 'De Architecte', produced in collaboration with **Klara (VRT)**, the **VAi** offers you the opportunity to watch two short videos presenting the work and vision of two women architects with a close link to Brussels: Simone Guillissen-Hoa and An Fonteyne. Finally, take a family tour of "Brussels the mine" with the **leaflet** produced in collaboration with the **Wallonia-Brussels Cultural Institute of Architecture**!
Share your archiweek experience and win prizes!

A competition organised by A+ in collaboration with Urban

Throughout Archiweek, the public is invited to post a photo, video or story of their favourite building or event on Instagram, tagged #archiweek @urban_brussels and @aplusarchitectureinbelgium. The winners whose photos are drawn will receive books, tickets to conferences, exhibitions and a one-year subscription to A+!

In practice

The programme of archiweek 2021 is available in French, Dutch and English on the website archiweek.urban.brussels.
architecture and culture for the city.