



ARCHITECTURE_MEDIA_POLITICS_SOCIETY
Amps

TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S): AN INTERPLAY OF DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

GIVE THE LANDMARK A SECOND LIFE AS A RUIN FOR THE POPULATION

- **Format(s):**

Pre-recorded Film / In-person presentation / Written paper

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

This article questions the decision to demolish one of the Brutalist masterpieces in Belgium: the Ostend Swimming Pool. In a *zeitgeist* where adaptive reuse of all sort of buildings plays a central role in architecture and urban renewal the (almost evident) question arises, why not to consider a new use?

Firstly, we discuss the building's history and architectural potentials, especially focusing on its conception as a public interior. Taking, the social program of the building as an inspiration, we secondly reference projects in which the transformation and reuse of a building has been initiated through public action in a spontaneous and uncontrolled way, e.g. Kunsthaus Tacheles in Mitte, Berlin. Thirdly, we reflect on a possible future approach for the Ostend swimming pool through the concept of 'counter-preservation'

and ruination. To conclude, we reflect on the tension between the traditional conservational approach towards heritage buildings and sites versus spontaneous public action on the build environment. We search to strike a balance between degradation and restoration – although a ruin is 'irretrievable' and thereby some heritage values will be lost, the concept still fits into the 'structural integrity' of the 'brutalist thought'.

Is the concept of the ruin therefore not the perfect compromise between the demolition plan of the municipality and a full renovation? Is it not possible that this landmark's best moment is yet to come?

Selected references:

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- Plevoets, B., & Van Cleempoel, K. (2013). Adaptive reuse as an emerging discipline: an historic survey. In G. Cairns (Ed.), *Reinventing architecture and interiors: a socio-political view on building adaptation* (pp. 13-32). London: Libri Publishers.
- Sandler, D. (2011). Counterpreservation: Decrepitude and memory in post-unification Berlin. *Third Text*, 25(6), 687-697.
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• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Marie Moors (°1994) studied Architecture at Hasselt University (BE) from 2012 until 2017. In 2015, she did an Erasmus stay in Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Saint Etienne, France. In her master's she followed the seminar *genius loci*, which focusses on adaptive reuse of heritage. Her master project and supporting thesis deals with a strip of land at the Belgium coast site and the integration of several protected monuments within this zone. She developed a cultural program for the site, which could become a public place for local people and refugees who try to integrate in a new society. With this project she was selected for the 27th Euregional Prize for Architecture, European Architectural Medals – Best Diploma Projects and the Young Talent Award. Moreover, she was laureate of the Architectural Academic Award 2017, organized by Vitra. Currently, Marie is doing an internship at the office TeamvanMeer! in Hasselt. The architecture office is specialized in restoration projects and heritage all over Belgium.

Dr. Bie Plevoets (°1985) studied Interior Architecture in Hasselt (BE) and Conservation of Monuments and Sites at the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation in Leuven (BE). In 2014, she obtained a PhD in architecture at Hasselt University. She is

currently part of the research group TRACE of the Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University (BE) and is part of the teaching staff in the International Master of Interior Architecture Adaptive Reuse – 'Exploring Spatial Potentialities & the Poetics of the existing' in the same university. The research group is specialized in the adaptive reuse of religious heritage. By the end of 2017, TRACE will present the first volume of their cahier, entitled 'Trace: Notes on Adaptive Reuse', in which they present the theoretical framework and results of the first year of the International Master of Interior Architecture on Adaptive Reuse (2016-2017). Her current research focuses on the theory of adaptive reuse, and preservation of spirit of place. She is currently working on a book entitled 'Adaptive Reuse of the Built Heritage: Concepts and Cases of an Emerging Discipline', co-authored with Koenraad Van Cleempoel, which will be published by Routledge in 2019.