



IN HASSELT  
EVERYONE SHARES

AN EXPLORATION OF  
SUSTAINABILITY  
IN HASSELT



HASSELT HEEFT HET.



**Flanders**  
State of the Art



ARCTIC PAPER

**The School**

# IN HASSELT EVERYONE SHARES

## AN EXPLORATION OF SUSTAINABILITY IN HASSELT

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De laatste jaren is de bevolking in de stationsomgeving van Hasselt sterk gegroeid, met als gevolg méér gezinnen, méér auto's, méér fietsen, maar ook méér vraag naar plekken om te ondernemen, te ontmoeten, te spelen, te hangen en te wonen. Om aan al deze vragen op een duurzame manier te voldoen, zijn een aantal Hasselaren ruimte beginnen te delen. Op zoek naar deze duurzame deelpraktijken trokken UHasselt-studenten architectuur, a2o architecten, Architectuurwijzer vzw, Stad Hasselt, the School en een aantal freelance ontwerpers van september tot januari door Runkst en vanaf januari ook door Hasselt. Ze praatten er met bewoners en beleidsmakers en verwerkten hun gesprekken in een aantal toekomstverhalen. Deze worden verwerkt in een tentoonstelling rond delen in Hasselt.

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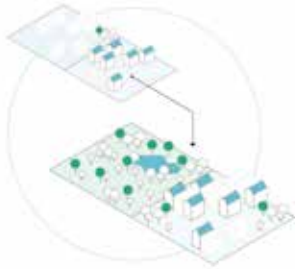
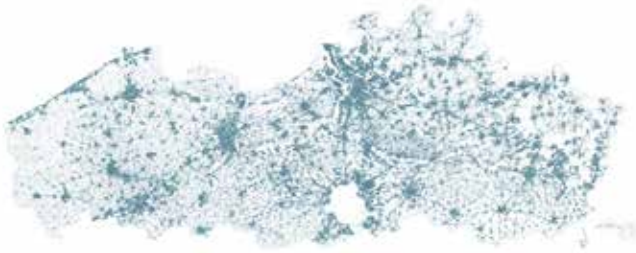
Sustainability is an important topic on the agenda of many cities today, certainly since on the 1st of January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were officially launched. Over the next fifteen years, world leaders have engaged themselves to move countries “to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind”<sup>1</sup>. Interesting is that sustainability is defined as an intense intertwinement between addressing climate change and environmental protection, with ending poverty, strategies that build economic growth and addressing a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities. Ecological, social and economical concerns are thus seen as interrelated.

To further investigate this meaning of sustainability on the level of the city and its citizens, UHasselt, Faculty of Architecture; The School Hasselt, a post-academic artist and research residency, a2o architects, Architectuurwijzer vzw and the city of Hasselt worked together to see how people share (in) their city today and how this contributes to achieve the sustainable development goals.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND SHARING IN FLANDERS

If we look at Flanders, Architectuurwijzer vzw points out that after WW II, the Belgian government strongly encouraged the building of the individually owned home with a garden. Since the 1950s, this has not supported a sustainable way of living, because many of these homes have been spread out over a large part of Flanders. This has led to the second highest building density in Europe (32%). Only the small island of Malta has a higher building rate. In their “Witboek/whitepaper voor Ruimte Vlaanderen” (2017), the Flemish government suggests a different approach. This publication states: "Instead of

1: SEE — [HTTPS://UN.ORG/SUSTAINABLEDEVELOPMENT](https://un.org/sustainabledevelopment)



building on open and unbuilt space to develop new homes, workplaces, facilities and infrastructure, we are transforming spaces that have already been built on." In that philosophy, many old brewery buildings, storage silos, convents, ... have been transformed in recent years, although most often into exclusive residential locations for the 'happy few'. Therefore, in some locations residents have joined forces and have transformed old sites in the city into collective housing projects (examples in Antwerp, Ghent and Leuven).

### Old gendarmerie barracks, Deurne

In De Kazerne in Deurne project, 4 families with children have converted a former gendarmerie barrack into four terraced houses. Besides the private terrace of each house, the large communal garden offers an extra outdoor space for the shared trampoline, chicken coop, ... This is where the children can play together. Indoors they only share a number of spaces in the basement, such as a communal washing place, fridge, workshop, ...

*"How far we actually live together is entirely in the hands of the residents themselves. Each has her/his own house with a normal kitchen. Usually around dinner time, everyone can be found around the own dining table. Privacy is guaranteed in the home."*

QUOTE FROM 'COHOUSING BREAKS OUT OF THE NICHE' ABOUT THE PROJECT DE KAZERNE IN DEURNE. IN: DE TIJD, 1 MAY 2017



FIG. 1,2: WITBOEK BELEIDSPAN RUIMTE VLAANDEREN.  
© DEPARTEMENT OMGEVING, 2017.

FIG. 3-6: OLD GENDARMERIE BARRACKS, DEURNE. © FREDERIK BEYENS.



### Former city school, Leuven

BotaniCo is a collective housing project on the site of the old city school on the Kapucijnenvoer in Leuven. Here 28 nearly-energy neutral homes are being built for a diverse group of families, couples and singles. In addition to the privacy and modern comfort of the individual homes, the residents will be able to use the shared garden of 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, a large kitchen and dining area, a sitting area, a laundry room, a home workspace, an indoor playroom for children, and a few guest rooms. The move is planned for the end of 2018.

ARCHITECTS: 360 ARCHITECTS

*"It is the very first time in the history of Leuven that a building permit was granted to a cohousing project, but this will certainly be followed by others, because cohousing is the living form of the future."*

[HTTP://LEUVENINLEUVEN.BE/TAGS/BOTANICO/](http://leuveninleuven.be/tags/botanico/)



### Last lot in building block, Ghent

On a final piece of building land in Ghent, a group of residents has realised the De Schilders development project. It comprises eight residential units and a common program on the ground floor, adjoining the collective garden. In the basement there is a collective laundry and storage room. At De Schilders in Ghent there are no agreements about eating together or fixed weekend activities. A family with 1 child lives here in a unit of 58 square meters, with a balcony of seven square meters.

ARCHITECTS: HAERYNCK VANMEIRHAEGHE ARCHITECTS

*"If we need more space, for example for a family party, we use the communal kitchen. If someone experiences difficulties, or doesn't find childcare, there is always one another resident who listens or has some time to offer"*

ARTICLE KNACK WEEKEND, "LIVING TOGETHER APART", OCTOBER 10, 2017

FIG. 7-10: FORMER CITY SCHOOL, LEUVEN. 360 ARCHITECTS.

FIG. 11-15: LAST LOT IN BUILDING BLOK, GHEENT.

HAERYNCK VANMEIRHAEGHE ARCHITECTS. © FILIP DUJARDIN.





**Old factory site, Antwerp**  
This former oil-processing factory in the inner area of a building block was transformed into a green residential oasis consisting of an art gallery, a psychotherapeutic center, 11 apartments and 11 lofts. Each home has its own private outdoor space. The communal facilities are limited to the square and the swimming pool.

ARCHITECTS: B-ARCHITECTS



FIG. 16-18: OLD FACTORY SITE, ANTWERP. B-ARCHITECTS.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND SHARING IN HASSELT

On the city-wide level of Hasselt, Yanina Shevchenko, one of the participants of The School Hasselt, created a survey to look at the state of affairs / perception on sustainability in Hasselt. We defined sustainability as the ability of the city and its inhabitants to make informed choices about the future, respecting the space they share. This space is the result of a balanced relationship between ecology (responsibility of communities to protect and build natural environment), economy (economic activity that serves the common good and builds local assets) and equity (the opportunity for full participation in all activities, benefits, and decision-making of a society). In our survey we asked the residents about how proud they are of their city, how much they like to be part of life in the city and how important they think it is to live in an environmentally friendly city. This survey was divided in three different parts that we all see as part of what sustainability is: (1) proudfness of the city and participation (identification), (2) ecology, green and sharing (sustainability) and (3) community engagement (citizenship). The data collected through this survey, besides exploring public perception of sustainability, aims at revealing different sustainable futures for Hasselt.

We briefly summarise some of the results. The people of Hasselt express that they feel proud of their city because of its rich and diverse culture as well as the green zones it provides. To them a green city pays attention to a good soft mobility network in a green eco-diverse city landscape. Citizens see a prominent role for themselves in contributing to a sustainable city by sharing interests, goods, space and knowledge. They also see these shared interests as their main way to take part in the community.

## THE SITUATION IN HASSELT

How does this perception of sustainability relate to development of the city of Hasselt? In recent years there is an increasing need for this debate and a thorough rethinking how we share space. The population around Hasselt station has grown strongly, resulting in more families, more cars, more bicycles, but also more demand for places to do business, meet, play, hang out and live. In order to meet all these questions in a sustainable manner, a number of 'Hasselaren' have started to share space (in professional terms often referred to as 'commoning'). In order to discover and discuss these sharing practices, our research team (partners mentioned earlier) and students from UHasselt and the School did a participatory design research in the neighbourhood Runkst (September to January) and Hasselt (January to May). They talked to residents and policymakers and processed their conversations in a number of future scenarios. The results are shown in an exhibition about the future of sharing in Hasselt and the need to reveal and possibly strengthen the political potential of the sharing of citizens' practices already set up (in literature referred to as 'institutioning').

We grouped our findings about how people share in the city in 4 types of sharing: (1) care-based sharing practices that focus on how people collaborate in taking care of their surroundings (e.g. maintenance of green), (2) value-based sharing practices that demonstrate how people exchange on values, such as ecological awareness, and how this manifests itself in space (e.g. collaborations between neighbours to increase the eco-diversity of their gardens) (3) trade-based sharing practices that showed how people set up new forms of collaborative trade and business and how this brings communities together and (4) need-based sharing practices that showed how people share in the city based on needs, such as tools, food or knowledge.

## How do you see a more sustainable future for Hasselt?

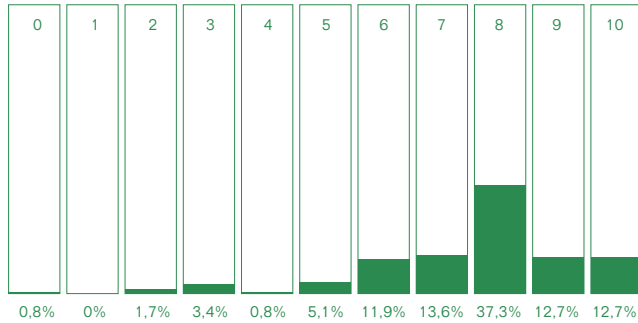
This survey is initiated by participants of The School Hasselt, post-academic artist and research residency. It will take you approximately 10-20 mins to fill it out. This survey will look at the state of affairs / perception on sustainability in Hasselt.

We define sustainability as the ability of the city and its inhabitants to make informed choices, respecting the space they share. This space is the result of a balanced relationship between ecology (responsibility of communities to protect and build natural environment), economy (economic activity should serve the common good and build local assets) and equity (the opportunity for full participation in all activities, benefits, and decision-making of a society).

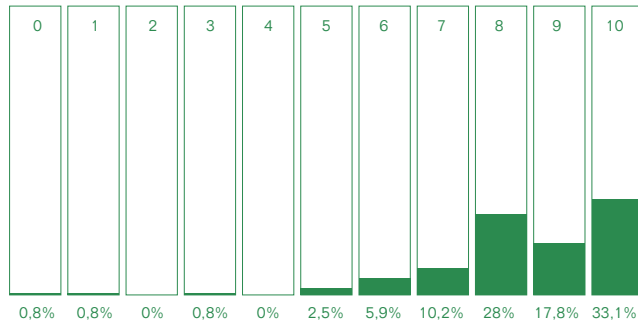
This survey is divided in three different parts that we all see as part of what sustainability is: (1) proudness of the city and participation, (2) ecology, green and sharing (3) community engagement. The data collected through this survey, besides 'feeling' public perception, aims at revealing different sustainable futures for Hasselt.

## PROUDNESS OF THE CITY AND PARTICIPATION

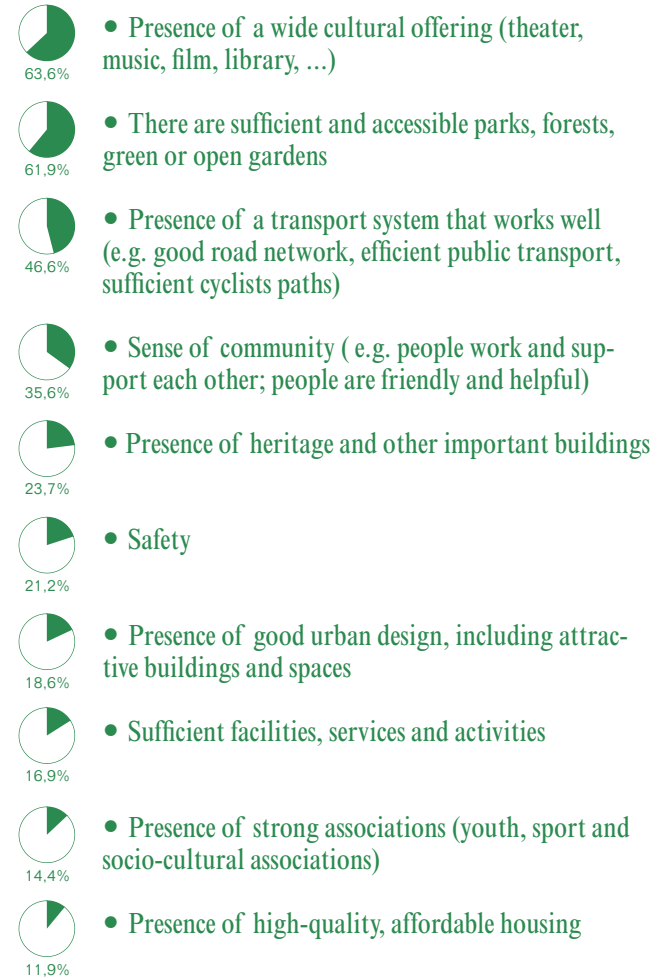
### How important is it for you to feel proud of Hasselt?



### How important is it for you that the community (this includes you) is consulted in decision making in city development?



### What are the main reasons for you to be proud of Hasselt?



## Do you have any ideas for improving the citizen involvement in decision making?

*"I have the idea to organise a goal-oriented workshop (co-creation) together with policy-makers, to devise both early problem framing and solutions."*

*"I think that the city could organise more citizen participation platforms that can be used to search for alternatives together."*

*"We should strengthen governments in their roles as listeners as well as stress dialogue with the neighborhood, youth, the elderly, transport, ... Every theme should be branched to the source: the citizen. Not to give a ready idea right away, but to allocate time to the dialogue."*

*"We need street or neighbourhood committees that are informed in advance about decisions and take part in decision making."*

*"Yes: citizen participation should not be limited to questionnaires but should be extended to conversations in which clarification, nuance and verbalisation are possible."*

*"We need to define the target groups in advance, put together a group of right representatives for this target group and permanently involve them in the entire process (not only during the idea phase)."*

## ECOLOGY, GREEN AND SHARING

### What do you think are the most important characteristics of an environmentally friendly city?



- Sustainable mobility: a healthy mobility, free from fossil fuels (CO<sub>2</sub>-poor) that gives priority to cycling, walking and public transport.



- A biodiverse urban environment, provided for a variety of plants and animals.



- Flexible open space with space for nature, recreation and space for growing food.



- A healthy and environmentally friendly food system with local, ecological food production, distribution and sales.



- A city that helps shape a circular economy, where cycles between raw materials, products and waste products are created and therefore new raw materials are not constantly being tapped.



- A city that focuses on sharing, exchange and giving initiatives (sharing bikes, shared cars, collective living, tool sharing, ...)



- Energy-friendly buildings with low energy consumption and the use of renewable energy sources (solar panels, ...)

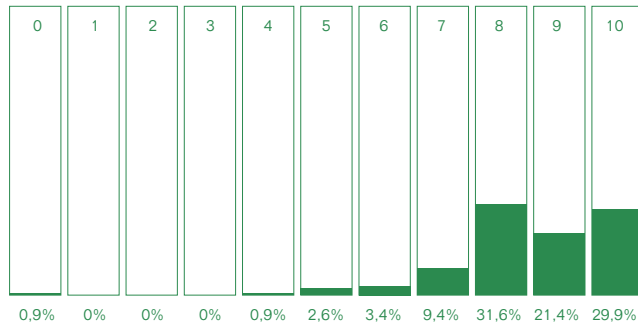


- Projects and actions that support a healthy lifestyle (eg healthy food at school and in the residential care center or 10,000 steps per day).



- A city that gives a place to reprocess waste through recycling and / or upcycling.

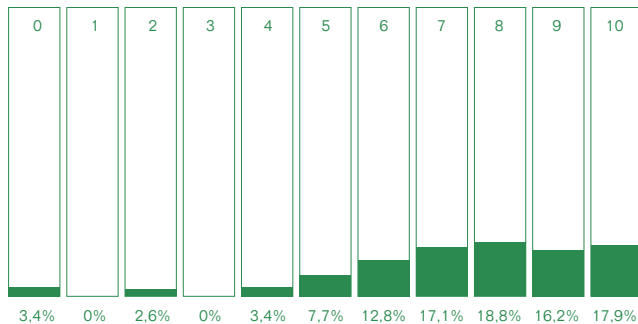
How strongly do you believe that people should take personal responsibility to be more environmentally-friendly?



Are you a believer in the sharing economy?

*“The Sharing Economy is a socio-economic ecosystem built around the sharing of human, physical and intellectual resources. It includes the shared creation, production, distribution, trade and consumption of goods and services by different people and organisations”*

THEPEOPLEWHOSHARE.COM, 2016



Do you have an idea how a culture of sharing and sustainable living can be promoted in Hasselt?

*"Sustainable living should be made cheaper and more accessible."*

*"More public spaces that are vacant can be used for giving and borrowing pop-up spaces."*

*"We should make the center traffic-free."*

*"We should organise large events where there are stalls and people can share. We should make attract students throwing an environmentally friendly party afterwards or just having eco-friendly parties."*

*"We can use local awareness events as an approach, grouped by neighbourhood or even by number of streets, where you hold small roadshows or festivals in which sustainable initiatives provide information and share experiences and practices related to their activity (tangible knowledge without being fluffy)."*

*"Several partners / spaces should be invited one by one to share with the community and to raise awareness through their own temporary sharing initiatives. This way, people can experience what it means to share and can gain insight in the benefits of more environmentally-friendly living. We need to give people an alibi to participate."*

*"We need to offer more free training! We need to stimulate shopping with low-waste (packaging), ecological cooking, car-free living, borrowing systems for tricycle bikes, edible gardens (also in public space!), workshops around including strips of flowers in your boring lawn, bee-friendly gardens, pesticide-free gardening, etc ..."*

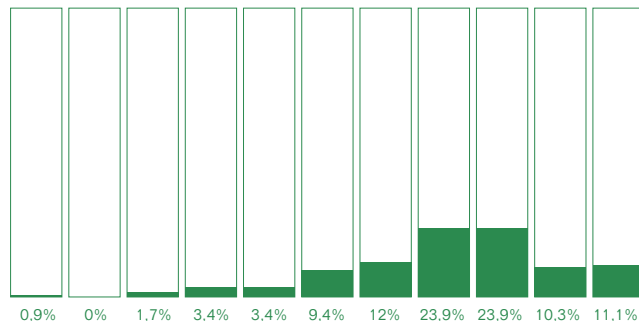
*"The city authorities must have the political courage to give priority to offer citizens sustainable transport modes (bicycles, public transport, ...). They should not opt for pleasing everyone."*

*"We need to make regulations for project developers to include a compulsory location for car-sharing and information sessions around the use of this in building projects. There is a need to include common spaces for shared gardening tools. Also, new apartment blocks should share gardens."*

*"We need to organise initiatives at neighbourhood level with existing neighbourhood associations: local flea markets or garage sales. We can provide a bonus for people who consume and pollute less (instead of paying extra)."*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How important is it for you to have a sense of community in your neighbourhood?



Why the sense of community is important for you?

*"A community provides for more care and respect for each other and less loneliness."*

*"A community ensures that I can contribute to something bigger, a bigger whole. This way I get to really know my neighbours."*

*"A community is key to stimulate new initiatives and eventually create a social safety net."*

*"A city that is not communal is a city that has no contact with itself."*

*"Maybe cliché, but together you can do more."*

*"Because our society evolves more individually and faster, contacts with neighbours, neighbours, fellow citizens are very important."*

*"A community allows us to be in contact with what is happening in the city. It is important to be able to contribute to the community as an individual."*

*"A community is encouraging: it takes people out of their isolation, and inspires them to take action themselves."*

*"A community is important for the social fabric of a city. It creates the feeling to be part of and to work with the city."*

*"We are relational beings. Community is a means against the strong individualisation and -for example - the accompanying loneliness. Community is caring for each other, to share love and suffering."*



### Thinking about community and social networks.

#### What are your preferable ways to connect to community?



72.6%

- Through your hobby or interest group



50.8%

- Through the community or voluntary group



50%

- Through online networks  
(such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.)



44.9%

- In sport clubs



29.7%

- Through the city activists groups



4.2%

- In a spiritual groups or a church

### In your opinion what should be the investment priorities of the council in terms of community and cultural activities?



31.4%

- Community events (gatherings, communal walks, neighbourhood festivals, etc)



30.5%

- Entertainment (theater, music, art, cinema)



13.6%

- Events for families with children



13.6%

- Local markets



7.6%

- Educational events (workshops, conferences, etc)

### Any other comments or suggestions you would like to share?

*"We need to invest in art, in inspiration, the weird, the unusual, in culture experience. All this supports our own activation, our being inspired not only to do 'something' but also to do something culturally more profound. In addition to education, art and culture should be the main focus of a sustainable city."*





## 1) CARE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES

Care-based sharing practices (re)define people's engagement in the organisation of how they take care of their surroundings and services.

### 1a. CARE-BASED SHARING DETECTED IN THE COMMUNITY

We mapped some examples of these practices in the field:

Small hidden Parks: Runkst and by extension Hasselt is full of small green public areas hidden behind walls or houses. Although accessible to everyone, these parks are mainly used as common gardens by a few people or groups. These parks are maintained together in-between inhabitants, neighbouring schools or daycares. The immediate neighbours appreciate the hidden character, because they see it as an extension of their private space and fear vandalism or noise and new building projects occupying or changing the open space.

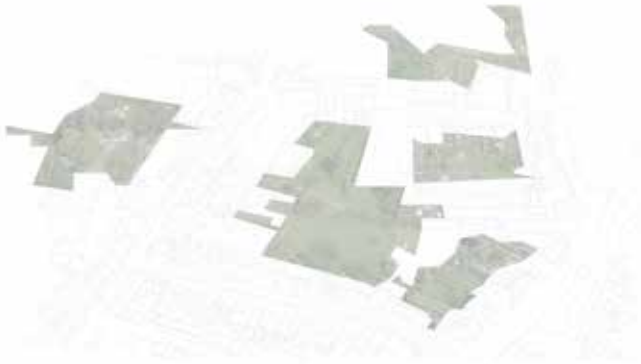


FIG. 37,38: IMAGES OF HIDDEN PARKS.

FIG. 39: MAPS OF HIDDEN PARKS.



FIG. 40-43: VIDEO STILLS OF HIDDEN PARKS.



Fietsfront Hasselt: Fietsfront Hasselt is a group of independent and enthusiastic Hasselaren who aim to motivate more people to bike safer and more often.

#### 1b. OTHER DYNAMICS INTERACTING WITH THESE SHARING PRACTICES

Some dynamics of densification by policy and project developers have interacted with these sharing practices:

- A project for the development of an apartment building in the Rongesplein, one of the green enclosed gardens, will change the park's enclosed character and the population.

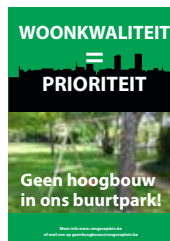


FIG. 44-46: FIETSFRONT HASSELT. © FIETSFRONT HASSELT FACEBOOK PAGE.  
FIG. 47-50: BUILDING PROJECTS ROGENPLEIN.





A growing number of initiatives on mobility by policy makers is interacting with the ambitions of groups like Fietsfront:

- Mobit is the second bike sharing initiative in the city

[HTTPS://WWW.MOBIT.EU/](https://www.mobit.eu/)

There is an increasing dynamic of citizens who share gardens to grow food, which is supported by both the city and citizens.

- Wij(k)tuin De Tesch

- Notelarelaan tuin



### 1c. DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF CARE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES IN HASSELT

To reveal the future public potential of the care-based sharing practices of green spaces and mobility in the city, three types of design actions were taken. First, we visualised the gardens, then we networked them to enhance communication on sharing practices between the individual gardens, and later we involved a more diverse group of actors in several debates on how these sharing practices around the taking care of the gardens need to be further developed in the future. This redefined and hybridised is public and private.



## GREEN BEHIND THE TRACKS. A BICYCLE NETWORK FOR A MORE ACCESSIBLE AND GREEN RUNKST

Stiene Jehoul, Elke Rutten, Michaël Vannes

At first glance, Runkst is a neighborhood dedicated to cars, in which walking paths, cycle lanes and green areas are sacrificed to the benefit of parking spaces. The streets are grey, monofunctional and beautiful parks are enclosed by walls and are not visible. Even residents, often born and raised in Runkst, were surprised when showing them the map visualising all the green zones that are present in this neighborhood. These parks are mainly used as common gardens by few people. By self-documenting the routes between these parks using different modes of transport (foot, bicycle, wheelchair), we proposed to connect these parks in new ways. We see the possibility for a future scenario to design a green belt and connect these smaller green spaces along the tracks into one large high-quality park. In this way we try to strengthen the accessibility of Runkst on a safe and pleasant way, both at scale of the inhabitant and the commuter. The existing sharing practices of the community were matched with the building plans to create more housing for the growing city community and the desire to open up the public green park for this larger and more diverse community. At the same time, these building plans were redefined so they would develop a more respectful relation with the existing sharing practices by the current community around the green spaces.

FIG. 56,57: GREEN BEHIND THE TRACKS.



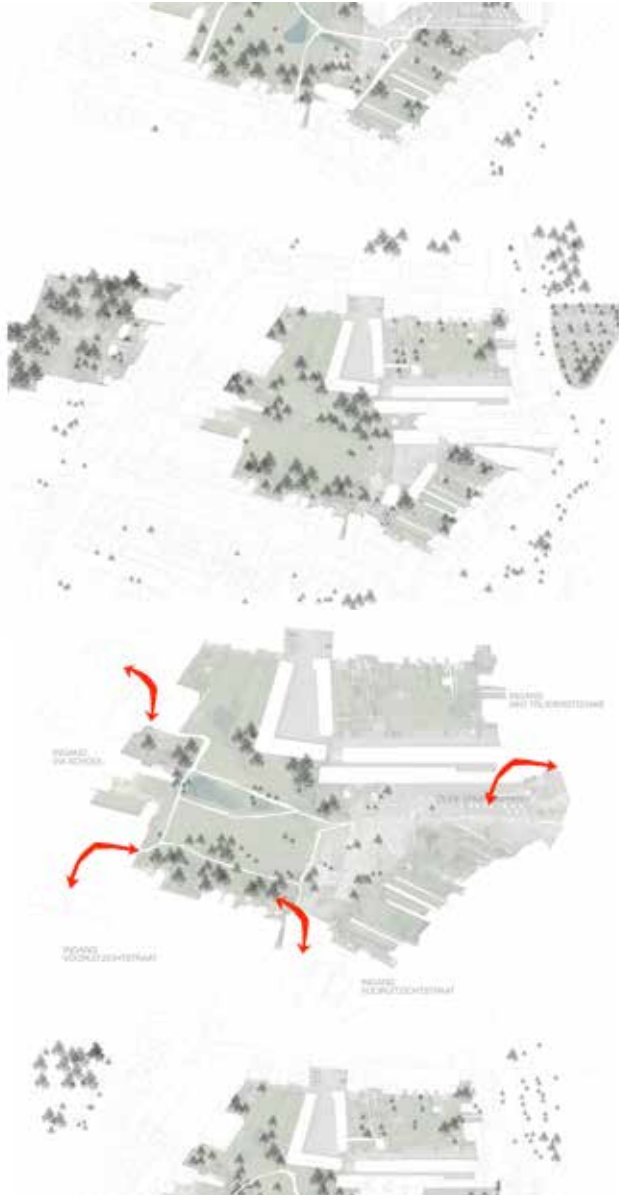


FIG. 58-59: GREEN BEHIND THE TRACKS.



FIG. 60-62: GREEN BEHIND THE TRACKS STOP MOTION.



## COMPOSITION FOR A GARDEN

Pepa Ivanova, Ann Delbeke, Elias Ghekiere, Mia Bac, Nina Jørgensen, Pepa Ivanova, Guillaume Slizewicz, Jeroen Boogaerts

When exploring the situation of green spaces in the larger city of Hasselt, outside of the neighbourhood Runkst, it appeared there are many other 'hidden green spaces'. In contrast to the gardens we found in Runkst, they are often managed by institutions. Whereas in Runkst gardens are directly managed by communities, in the centre of Hasselt the institutions are often looking for new ways to open them up to the community and transform them in green spaces that can actively be used by the citizens. To address this, a team of residents of the design residency The School and freelance artists and designers studied and occupied the garden of the Stadsmus. By dividing the garden in small parts to be temporary occupied by the artists and designers, they opened it up for debate its potential uses in the future. This happened in close collaboration with the museum and the surroundings.

FIG. 63-65: COMPOSITION FOR A GARDEN.

FIG. 64: © PEPA IVANOVA.

FIG. 65:

© MIA BAC & PEPA IVANOVA.



## 2) VALUE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES

Value-based sharing practices are based on common values, locally shared, that influence the way people collectively behave, use space, resources etc.

### 2a. VALUE-BASED SHARING DETECTED IN THE COMMUNITY

We mapped some examples of these practices in the field:

Ecology as a shared value: During the conversations with the inhabitants of Runkst quite a few of them appeared to have a strong ecological consciousness. Some of them try to reduce the use of their car to prioritise the use of bike or walking as means of transportation. Others plant indigenous plants in their gardens to safeguard the local flora and fauna and remove the garden fences to allow animals to pass through (ecological corridors). And in general, people respect and try to valorise green in their neighbourhood. Despite the fact that ecology is a local common value and people are working or willing to work to improve the ecological quality of the neighbourhood, they are not always aware that they are sharing this belief and willingness with many others in Runkst and Hasselt.

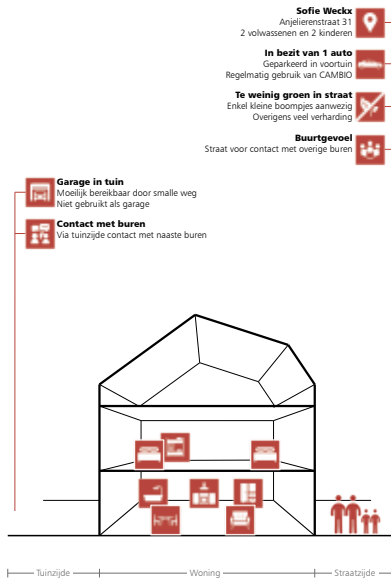


**AN:** Ann thinks that there are not enough green spaces in Runkst. At the moment she doesn't have a parking space, therefore she and her husband park in the already crowded street. Because of this reason she tries to use the bicycle as much as possible (like the children) and in some cases she will also walk (short distances). In the street she does not meet many hikers or cyclists. This was different in the past because the bicycle route network ran through the street. Ann has a lot of contact with her neighbours and wants to maintain it. At the back of the house she has a garden where she likes to relax and enjoy her privacy.

**MIRELLA:** Mirella tries to use the car as little as possible and walks or bikes instead. Mirella and her husband are very interested in the local flora and fauna and they have a green, animal friendly garden. They preserve certain plants in the garden because they are used by indigenous insects. By doing so they hope one day to bring back the local insects that are slowly disappearing. For example a species of butterflies disappeared because local plants are being pruned too early in the season. Since her garden is animal friendly she doesn't have any problem with mosquitos, because local plants welcome the bats that eat the mosquitos.

**SOFIE:** Sofie is a young woman who is currently taking a career break. She likes to walk or bike with her children to the playground. Sophie and her husband consciously went from owning two cars to sharing one car, because they realised that they seldomly use the car at the same time. When the car use overlaps, Sofie's husband uses the Cambio car sharing system. Sophie and her husband try to live, as they call it, "small", that is with only what they need, in a small house.

SOFIE



ARNO & LOTTE

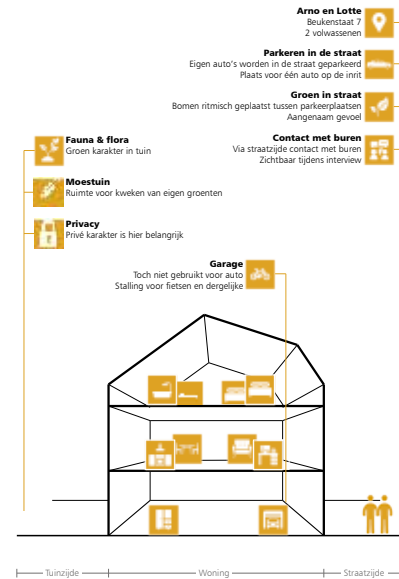
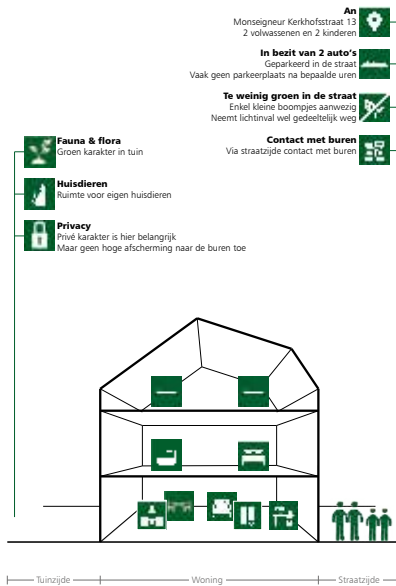


FIG. 69.70: SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS.

AN



MIRELLA

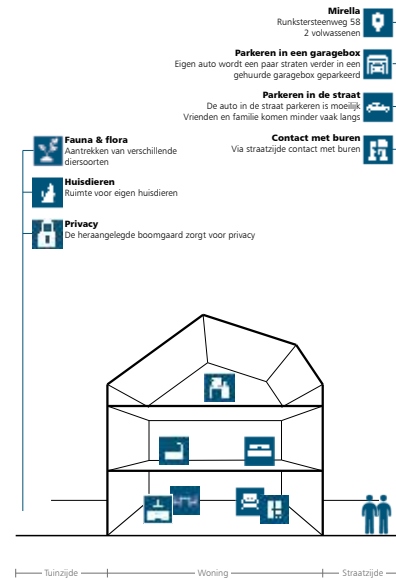
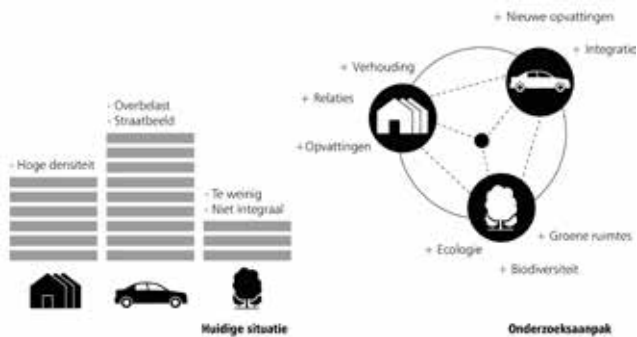


FIG. 71.72: SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS.





## 2b. OTHER DYNAMICS INTERACTING WITH THESE SHARING PRACTICES

Some dynamics of densification by policy and project developers have interacted with these sharing practices:

Based on studies by the government, we see that there is dynamic of densification, meaning that the population is rapidly growing in Runkst. With this, the amount of cars is rapidly increasing and open green space is threatened. Governments are now trying to understand how to deal with building regulations and green in this changing context.

There is also an interesting dynamic in development of policy aims, to pay close attention to safeguarding green in the city. In the coming three years, the city is introducing small pop-up gardens, being 21 mobile ecosystems, since the city can currently not answer to the increasing need for green space in a rapidly densifying city.<sup>(2)</sup>



## 2c. DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF VALUE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES IN HASSELT

To envision the future of value-based sharing practices in our everyday surroundings, we experimented with ways of making local values on sustainability public and available for debate. We do this in order to enhance the city's ability to contribute to the development of a more livable environment.

### THE POLITICS OF GREEN. HOW GAMES CAN HELP TO BALANCE DENSIFICATION AND ECOLOGICAL VALUES

Laura Paolino, Sandrine Peulen

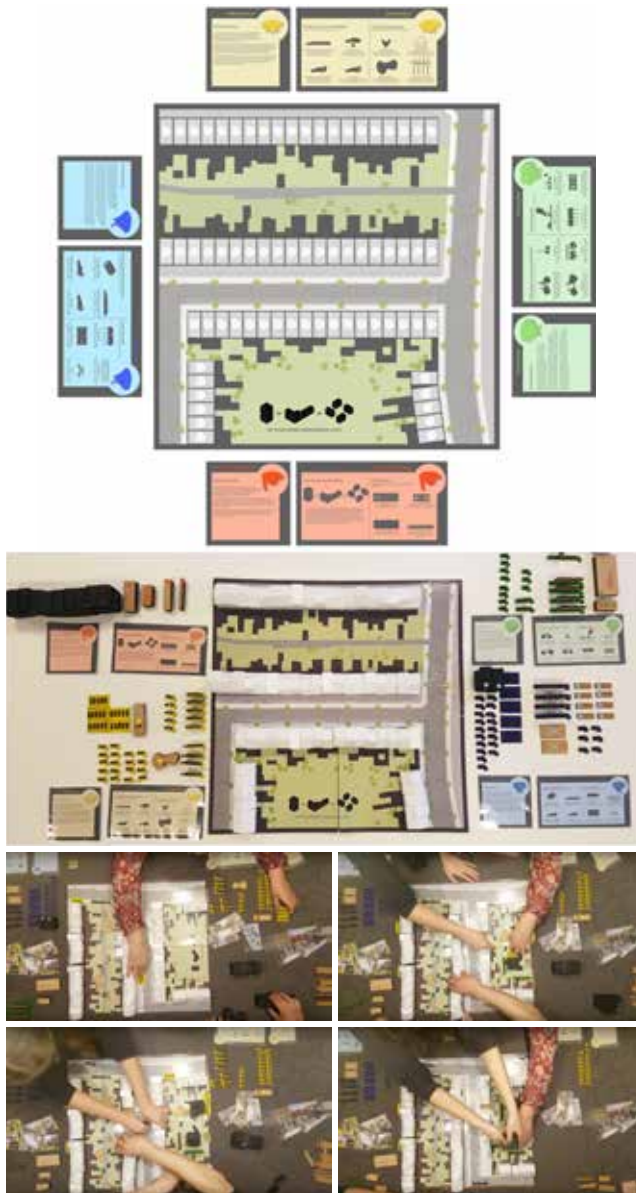


FIG. 76-81: THE POLITICS OF GREEN.

Quite a few people from Runkst are willing to or are already working on improving the ecological quality of their neighborhood, often without knowing mutual awareness. What would happen if the residents would know they share the same ecological sensibility, consciousness and vision? In this project we developed a game in which people can share and discuss their ideas on ecology with each other, bearing in mind the substantial growth of the population. The ongoing population growth in Runkst requires a thorough rethinking on how to balance between space for housing, cars and green. The game involves residents, policy makers, developers and local organisations that often have conflicting interests and visions. The aim of the game is to search, through negotiating, innovative ways to share the available space between the car and the cyclist, between man and nature.



## HERKENRODEBOS: WILDEBOS

Kristiof Vrancken, Jeroen Boogaerts, Nina Jørgensen, Pepa Ivanova, Gina Meyers

The Herkenrode forests form a large, but highly fragmented nature reserve between the Hasselt municipalities of Kermt, Stevoort and Spalbeek. The formerly extensive forest was owned by the Abbey of Herkenrode and was known under the name "Grotenbos". Here the abbey's cattle grazed. A mosaic of forests and farmland determines the view of the landscape. In 2008 the area was protected as a European nature reserve, due to its habitat to many endangered plant and animal species. A city needs green zones to offer its residents a way out of the hectic everyday life. The woods can become a place for the residents of Hasselt and surroundings. Not just a forest where nature is seen as merely a recreation spot, but a place with meaning and symbolism. "A mystical cave with space to limitless fantasy and wonder". A place to break away from the usual predictable structures and algorithms to make room for unpredictability and chaos. A place for a community. The challenge for the designers of The School was therefore to initiate this transformation of the forest by mapping out the different values that people attach to it and connect them to new futures for the forest. A first moment to start this movement fell on 28 April. This period of the year was traditionally marked by fertility in old customs. Plants begin to bloom everywhere, blossoms decorate trees, and the insects drink their nectar. Popular celebrations were mainly about the transfer of this natural virility to society. In our current modern way of life, the traditional ties with nature are very detached, but even the most down-to-earth people cannot resist the spring feeling. The residents were inspired by old customs, legends and myths and used only local, natural, organic materials and dyes to bring these historical and contemporary values that we attach to the forest back to life.





### 3) TRADE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES

Trade-based sharing practices are practices that involve the trading of goods, services, knowledge between citizens based on monetary or non-monetary exchange.

#### 3a. TRADE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES DETECTED IN THE COMMUNITY

In the field we observed some examples:

- Sharing of private gardens: During our exploration of Runkst we discovered that some people share their backyard with the neighbours to let children play and relax.

*"We have a large garden that is divided in three parts. Here we come together and the children of the neighbours play."*

FUNDA BOLAT

- Sharing of underused space: Through our conversations with people from Runkst we discovered that some people that live close to the Sint Hubertus Plein share their underused space, for instance with students.

*"Her boyfriend is making two flats for students in the backyard / garden."*

*"My daughter started to share her home, and that's how she got to know her boyfriend."*

MARINA & PAUL

*"I am single and have long been looking for housing where sharing is possible."*

MARLEEN

FIG. 84-88: TRADE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES DETECTED IN THE COMMUNITY STOP MOTION.

- Exchange between different cultures: We discovered that, even though exchange between cultures is not very common in Runkst, everybody likes to buy bread from the Turkish bakery on the Sint-Hubertusplein, and in this way the shops support people from different background to communicate.

*"I often buy bread from the Turkish bakery, and then I go to the Turkish supermarket to get peppers."*

MAGGIE

*"People coming from different cultures buy bread from the Turkish bakery."*

MARLEEN

*"There is not much interaction between different cultures. They prefer to be on their own. It would be interesting to have new activities that could bring people together."*

OLUYOMI



FIG. 89: TRADE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES DETECTED IN THE COMMUNITY POSTER WITH SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS.



### 3b. OTHER DYNAMICS INTERACTING WITH THESE SHARING PRACTICES

In Hasselt there has been a debate going on about the dynamics of underused spaces.



- There is an intense discussion going on underused churches and more particularly on the Sint-Hubertus church. The modern Heilig-Kruiskerk will become the main church of Runkst, so the late-Gothic Sint-Hubertus church of Runkst will be empty starting from September and will not be able to be developed for two years. As was indicated by the architectural organisation Architectuurwijzer in an article <sup>(3)</sup>, the church is not classified as a monument, but it is included in the Inventory of Architectural Heritage, which allows for funding for 30% for restorations, renovations, extensions and ancillary use. Restoration remains expensive, so other options are explored. When the church becomes classified, a funding of 80% is possible for protected religious buildings. If the church does not become classified, more budget-friendly means can be explored to save (parts of) the church. Many community members, public organisations and policy members are now trying to explore ways to protect and re-use the public value of the site, since it is loaded with memories and strategically located centrally in the neighbourhood of Runkst.

- Also underused public squares are a current concern, such as the Sint-Hubertusplein, which is a overdimensioned square where not a lot of activities happen on a daily basis.



FIG. 93-101: OTHER DYNAMICS INTERACTING WITH THESE SHARING PRACTICES.

The city and the citizens are increasingly exploring the dynamics of car sharing (even if it remains modest).

In Sint-Hubertusplein people can find one Cambio car sharing station and on the group 'Runkst Deelt' the idea grew to organise a car sharing evening for all people from Hasselt who want to get to know alternative models of care sharing.<sup>(4)</sup>

Based on studies by the government, we see that there is dynamic of densification, meaning that the population is rapidly growing in Runkst.

Along the edges of the Sint-Hubertusplein exist an economic dynamic, with small shops, supermarkets, a photostudio, a bakery and fast food restaurants amongst others.

4: [HTTPS://FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/787829964759351](https://facebook.com/events/787829964759351)



### 3c. DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF TRADE-BASED SHARING PRACTICES IN HASSELT

To design the future of trade-based sharing practices in the city, we experimented with spaces that promote and support exchange between people and that make sharing economies more accessible and pivotal to the public life of a city.

#### SHARING ECONOMIES REVISITED. HOW UNDERUSED PUBLIC SPACE CAN BE REVIVED BY SHARING-ECONOMIES

Cente Van Hout, Eva Vanheusden, Roel Vlaminck

Sharing spaces and objects is part of the DNA of Runkst. On the Sint-Hubertus square we discovered how people from Runkst share gardens and houses, cars and washing tips at the laundrette. We discovered how local entrepreneurs, like the Turkish bakery, allow people to meet across cultures. However, we also saw a deserted and unattractive square. So we started looking for ways to translate the dynamics of sharing and entrepreneurship into the square itself. We designed a scenario for a flexible structure, where entrepreneurs and residents from the neighborhood can sell their products and services. With this strategy we free spaces in the buildings on the edge of the square, where the growing population of Runkst can be hosted. Furthermore we observed that the Saint Hubertus Church is often empty. We propose to accommodate production workshops in the church and to connect the church to the Sint-Hubertus square through a park. As a result, in this area, the pressure of traffic decreases, public space is revitalized by centrally placing sharing-economies and the housing shortage is also tackled. We see these transformations as a bottom-up process that slowly grows with and through the residents of Runkst.



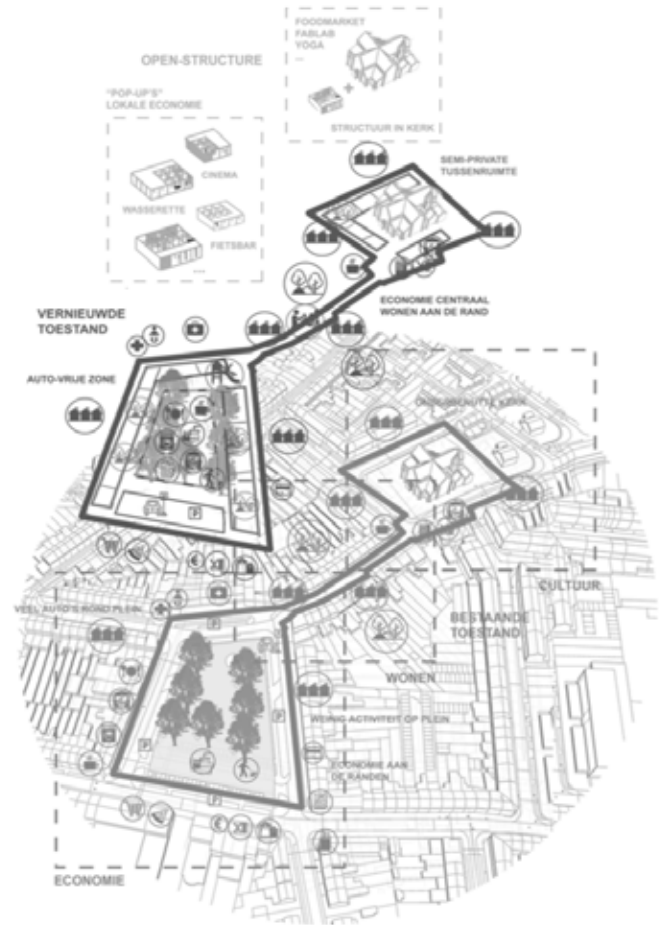


FIG. 103-105: SHARING ECONOMIES REVISITED REFERENCES.  
 FIG. 106: SHARING ECONOMIES REVISITED MASTERPLAN.

FIG. 107: SHARING ECONOMIES REVISITED ANALYSIS.

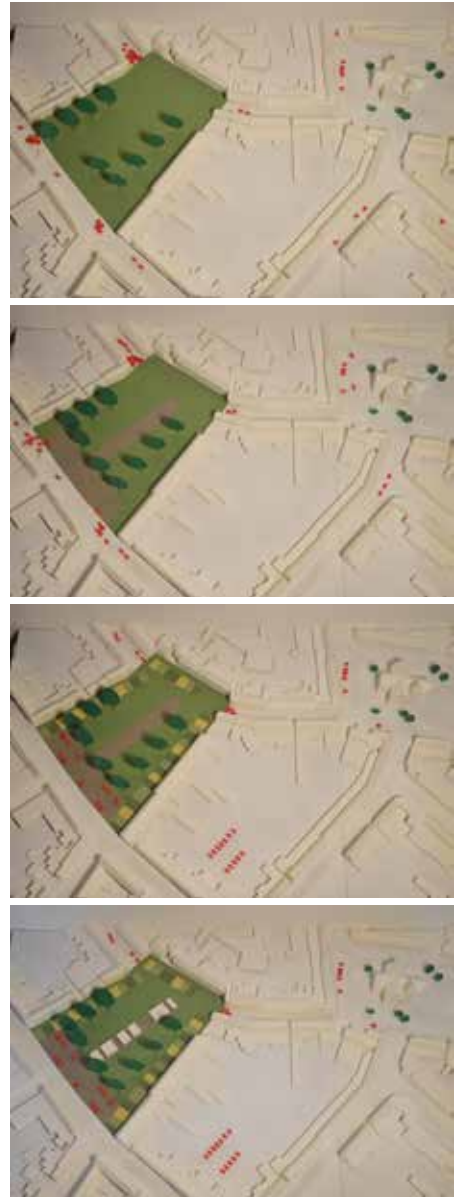
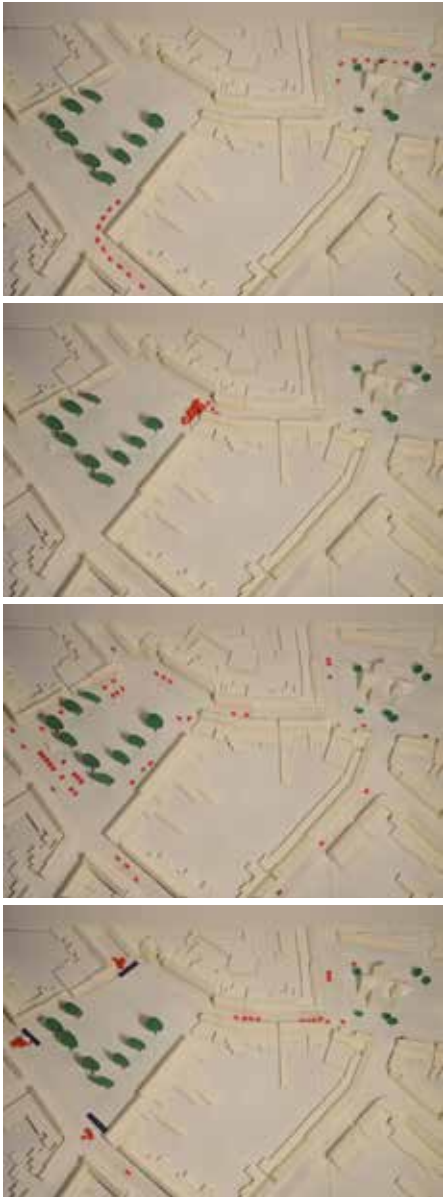


FIG. 108-115:SHARING ECONOMIES REVISITED STOP MOTION.

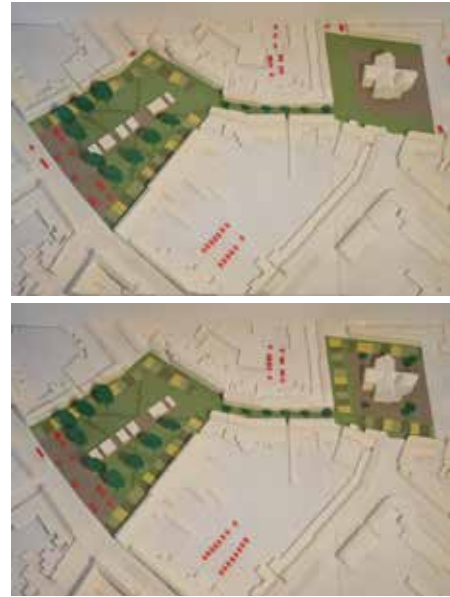
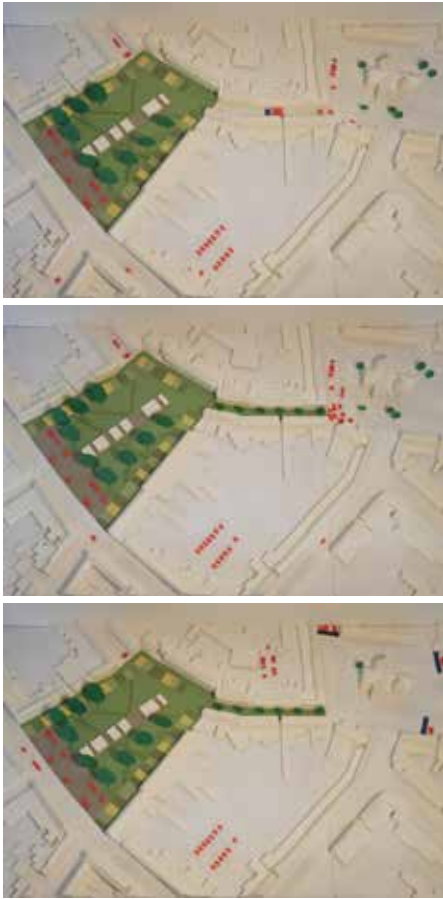


FIG. 116-120:SHARING ECONOMIES REVISITED STOP MOTION.



FIG. 121: WORKSHOP (14.04.'18) INVITING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BRING OBJECTS FOR KUNST/RUNKST SALON.

FIG. 122: FACEBOOK GROUP ABOUT KUNST/RUNKST SALON.

## KUNST/RUNKST SALON. EEN GEDEELDE CULTURELE RUIMTE VOOR RUNKST

Shun-Ying Lu (ShunMade), Jeroen Boogaerts, Jessie Georges en Pablo Hannon (The School), Jeroen Dries (aRound Table Hasselt), Tinne Luyten (Studio Tinne Luyten)

During Tournée Locale, we are experimenting with the idea that Runkst and by extension Hasselt has a shared "salon" where people can make and experience culture together. We live in Runkst, all closely together. That is also sustainable, because in the city we save energy and space by sharing space. Consequently, however, we have little room to organise small performances, show art projects, and join them all together at the table. In the process that works towards the moment in September when the church in Runkst is vacant, we collect objects from Hasselaren that they connect to a "salon". These objects are exhibited in the closing exhibition in May 2018. The dream is that we can later take them to the church or the place of the church to start a joint salon, for and by the Runkstenaar. The church of Runkst is the perfect place for this, because it has played a community-connecting role for years and is centrally located in Runkst. The exhibition therefore already opens the minds for a debate about the necessity of this kind of shared, public spaces in the city and where we could develop them.







FIG. 123: NEED BASED SHARING PRACTICES DETECTED IN THE COMMUNITY, RUNKST DEELT FACEBOOK PAGE.

FIG. 124-125: LITTLE FREE LIBRARY, © LITTLE FREE LIBRARY RUNKST FACEBOOK PAGE.

#### 4) NEED-BASED SHARING PRACTICES

Need-based sharing practices are bottom-up initiatives that grow from urgencies and existing needs present in the community in order to collectively find solutions to fulfill them.

##### 4a. NEED-BASED SHARING PRACTICES DETECTED IN THE COMMUNITY

During our exploration of Runkst and Hasselt we discovered that Runkstenaren and Hasselaren have set up or are participating in a number of bottom-up initiatives to share objects, spaces, skills etc.:

- Runkst Deelt Facebook page: ‘Runkst Deelt’ (Runkst Shares) is a Facebook page set up to exchange or give away second hand items and share informations. Indirectly ‘Runkst Deelt’ tries to strengthen social contacts between the inhabitants of Runkst.

*"The facebook page was created spontaneously. I have been living in Runkst only since last year, and here I always meet the same residents. I prefer to share items I don't use anymore with people from the neighborhood than bringing them to a second-hand shop. I also noticed that people often use the Facebook page to share informations about Runkst. I think it's great that social contact is stimulated through this FB page!"*

*"In the beginning it was not my intention to set up a group where things were sold other than exchanged or given away for free, but, in fact, I didn't set up any rules for the group because I think people have to decide for themselves if they want or don't want something in return when they share something. Yet the objects are still largely shared for free."*

*"I exchange things regularly. For example, I share children clothes with my relatives, and when the clothes come back to me after they used them, I will give them away again to somebody that needs them. In addition, we also lend garden tools to local residents."*

KAROLIEN BOLLEN



- Little free library: The little free library is a small cabinet in Runkst where people can exchange books.

- Sharing of personal belongings and space: During our interviews we discovered that from time to time Runkstenaren and Hasselaren share their personal belongings. For instance somebody shares tools, somebody else domestic appliances or empty space in their homes and some young families share kids clothes and toys.

*"I regularly share with my neighbours in the apartment block (located next to our house). For example, I shared my dryer with my neighbor because she had troubles with drying her sheets. Another neighbour often forgets his keys, so he regularly comes to borrow our ladder."*

*"Currently we are hosting a Dominican boy. It is already the 8th time that we are hosting an exchange-student for one year. My children both went abroad for one year, and now we are hosting. So far have we always had positive experiences."*

GREET

*"We often share children clothes with family and friends. In addition, we often bring our clothing to 't Wisselke, that is an association in Runkst for disadvantaged people that works with collection points. We also often share objects with our neighbors or I share things for the children with other parents of my son's school. I prefer to share things face to face rather than through a post via Facebook."*

NATHALIE AND VITAL

*"I would only share with friends or family and acquaintances. I have also shared herbs and sugar with residents of the apartment block. Yet I am attached to my privacy."*

A BUURTBAR CLIENT

FIG. 126-128: SHARING OF PERSONL BELONGINGS AND SPACE.

FIG. 129: SHARING OF FOOD, BUURTBAR.





FIG. 130: HILAL GROUP, FLOOR PLAN.  
FIG. 131-136: HILAL GROUP. © TOURNÉE LOCALE.

- **Sharing of food:** We discovered that sometimes residents share their food leftovers, or they share food as a social activity with friends and neighbours.

*"If there are food leftovers after closing time, I will send a message via the Facebook page "Runkst Deelt". In this way people can come and collect the leftovers themselves."*

BUURTBAR

*"I am willing to share food. I always give my food surplus to a person in the neighbors. I also often make an extra portion for my neighbor with cancer. There is also a facebook group "Zonder honger naar bed", which is also connected with the page "Runkst Deelt". I also often like to share ingredients with local residents."*

GREET

*"We also participated to the initiative "Delen van de cake Herman", it is an initiative where the ingredients for a cake are passed from family to family. It is actually a kind of friendship cake, where a cake is obtained by always sharing ingredients."*

NATALIE AND VITAL

*"As an organizer of "Zonder honger naar bed"(Without hunger to bed), I like to open my house to people in need. I invite them for a warm meal and I try to create a nice atmosphere for them. I also distribute food packages to residents in Runkst."*

CINDY

- **Hilal Group:** Hilal is a group based on education with a focus on wellness and beauty products. Women of Runkst and surroundings are invited to collaborate in the productions of soaps and other beauty products and in sharing and learning skills about beauty treatments, massages, etc. The soaps produced are later distributed in the community. The Hilal group is an initiative by the Tournée locale and local women.



Maat: 100  
 Schaal: 1:100  
 Naam: Klavertje 4  
 Adres: Klavertje 4, Hasselt  
 Bouwjaar: 2010



Maat: 100  
 Schaal: 1:100  
 Naam: Klavertje 4  
 Adres: Klavertje 4, Hasselt  
 Bouwjaar: 2010



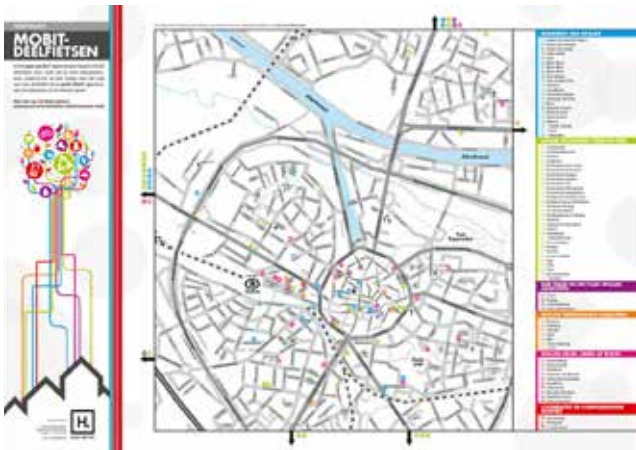
- Repair Cafe: In Runkst and in Hasselt people initiated Repairs Cafés, which are meetings where people can together to repair broken items by sharing their skills. From clothing to electrical appliances to furniture, bicycle and computers, everything can be brought to a repair cafe to try to fix it together. The Repair Café is supported by Tournée locale.

- Klavertje 4: Klavertje 4 is a meeting place where people can find a nice, warm meal several times a week. Everyone is welcome at Klavertje 4 and especially people from Runkst. People can meet here also for sharing a cup of coffee and a nice conversation. Additionally people that would like to organise activities can use the Klavertje 4 rooms.

- T Wisselke: Here you will find things for babies and toddlers. People who no longer need certain items can bring them here in exchange for stamps, with which they can make new 'purchases'. You can get stamps in different ways. This initiative is therefore also very interesting for the less fortunate.

FIG. 137-139: REPAIR CAFE FLOOR PLAN AND EVENT.

FIG. 140, 141: KLAVERTJE 4 FLOOR PLAN AND EVENT. © VZW VRIENDSCHAP, HASSELT.



#### 4b. OTHER DYNAMICS INTERACTING WITH THESE SHARING PRACTICES:

- Tournée Locale: Tournée Locale is a cultural initiative that evolves around a biennial cultural festival that will take place for the first time between April and May 2018 in Runkst, in the station area of Hasselt and in the Heilig Hartwijk, all areas full of interest and history and close to the city center. This project challenges the citizens to participate in the life of their neighbourhoods and to meet each other in a creative way. With the collaboration with various cultural houses, organisations and resident, a variety of projects was set up and will be shown during the festival.

- Veranderstad Hasselt / Changing the city of Hasselt: The city of Hasselt launched “Veranderstad Hasselt”<sup>(5)</sup> (Changing the city of Hasselt), a collection of around fifty initiatives in Hasselt which are contributing to build a sustainable city by reducing the ecological footprint of the city and by increasing the quality of life for its citizens. A lot of these initiatives are bottom-up initiatives started from the citizens themselves.

The collection of sustainable initiatives is collected on a map, that, not only shows citizens where interesting initiatives are taking place, but also aims at inspiring and encouraging Hasselaren to work together to improve the city. The map is distributed on-line but also at various events, and by the office of tourism.

FIG. 142-144: TOURNÉE LOCALE.

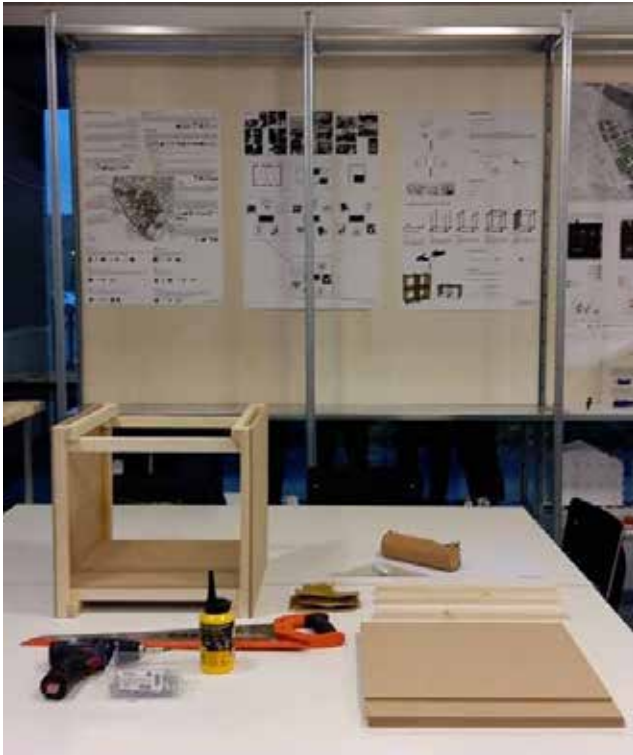
FIG. 145: VERANDERSTAD HASSELT.

5: [HTTPS://JOOSTVENKEN.BE/VERANDERSTAD\\_HASSELT\\_PLAN\\_GEBRACHT](https://joostvenken.be/veranderstad_hasselt_plan_gebracht)



- Neighbourhood centers: Hasselt has neighbourhood centres for each neighbourhood, like in Runkst. They give a platform and support to associations and individual citizens to organise activities. The centre in Runkst will get a new building by approximately 2020.

- De Kringwinkel Okazi: The Kringwinkel Okazi is a shop where people can bring things they no longer use. In this way they can participate in creating a more sustainable society where things are not simply thrown away but reused and repaired. The shop also creates jobs and thus helps long-term unemployed people find a job, as a means of integration into society.



#### 4c. DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF NEED-BASED SHARING PRACTICES IN HASSELT

To design the future of need-based sharing practices we propose to experiment with platforms, both physical and on-line that enhance the accessibility and visibility of these initiatives to a wider and more diverse public and that facilitate networking between the groups involved in sharing.

#### RUNKST REPRESENTS. OPEN STRUCTURES TO CREATE TEMPORARY SHARING SPACES

Climmy Duizings and Laura Enkels

During our journey through Runkst we encountered many sharing-initiative, such as Repair Café, 'T Wisselke, Hilal group, Klavertje 4, etc. These groups all have their own way of sharing and their own networks, but we discovered that they are usually not connected with each other. Moreover, a lot of sharing takes place via social media, which is not visible in the neighborhood itself, as a result of which certain - not online present - target groups remain excluded. We wanted to offer an answer to this. We want to create bridges between the groups and offer them street-visibility. For this we have designed 'sharing-furniture'. It is a simple do-it-yourself structure that can be used for multiple purposes, eg. to display the Hilal group's homemade soaps, but also to support sharing between groups at common events in the streets or meeting areas of Runkst. Everybody can personalise the structure. As a result, the furniture symbolizes sharing between various sharing-groups in Runkst. We hope that the sharing-furniture can strengthen the trust between people, and thus give rise to even more sharing practices.





**BETROKKEN DOELGROEPEN**



**OPTIES**  
Opbergbox  
Zitelmont met kussentje  
Tafel  
Boekenkast  
Vitrinekast



**AANPASSINGEN**  
Afstelbaar  
Voorzien van handgrepen  
Module van gerecycled materiaal  
Stabiel stapelen van de boxen

**RUNKST REPRESENTEERT**

Een tijdelijk gedeelde ruimte creëren met behulp van open structuren.

Als studenten architectuur werken we rond het thema 'delen van objecten' binnen het kader van 'Runkst deelt'. De voorbije weken hebben we met een aantal doelgroepen gebruiksvormen over het delen van structuren. We zijn tot een modulaire module gekomen die we op diverse wijze kunnen transformeren naar de noden van iedere doelgroep. We hebben jullie hulp nodig om deze modules aan te passen aan jullie wensen en eveneens inzetbaar te maken voor verschillende evenementen in Runkst. Graag willen we jullie uitnodigen om samen met ons jullie eigen module te creëren.

**Wanneer?** 9 december van 10 tot 13 uur (tijdens Repair Café)  
**Adres?** Spoorwegstraat 50 Runkst - Hostel H



**Runkst Represents**

**Representing with modularity**  
Runkst is een modulaire systeem dat kan worden gebruikt om tijdelijke gedeelde ruimtes te creëren met behulp van open structuren. Het systeem is ontworpen door studenten van de Hogeschool van Brussel en is bedoeld om te worden gebruikt in gemeenschappen die willen samenwerken en hun gemeenschap te delen. Het systeem is gemaakt van gerecycled materiaal en is stabiel en gemakkelijk te stapelen. Het kan worden gebruikt als opbergbox, zitelmont met kussentje, tafel, boekenkast, vitrinekast, etc. Het systeem is ook beschikbaar in verschillende kleuren en maten. Het is een ideale oplossing voor gemeenschappen die willen samenwerken en hun gemeenschap te delen.

**Representing with modularity**

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FIG. 148,149:RUNKST REPRESENT.



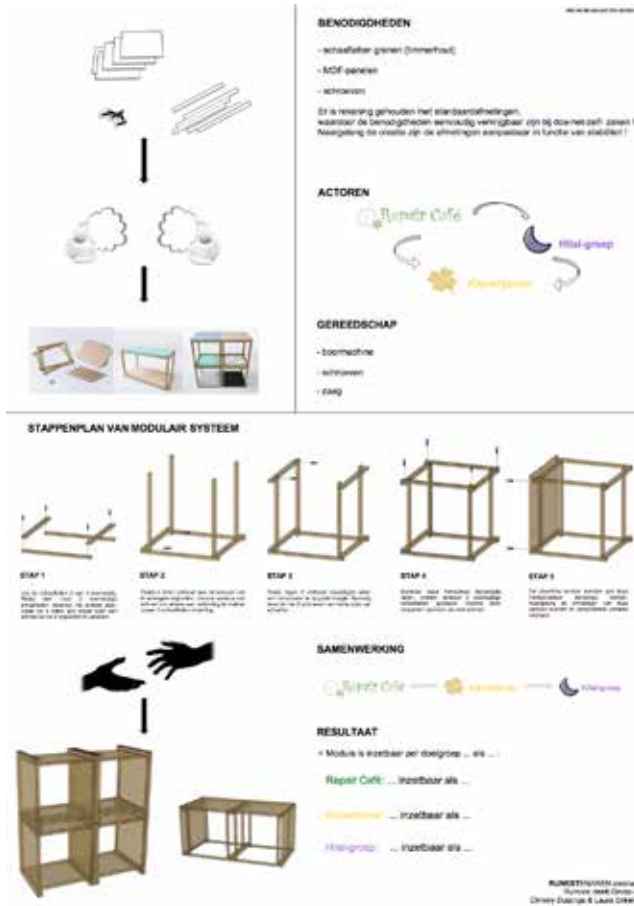


FIG. 150: RUNKST REPRESENT.

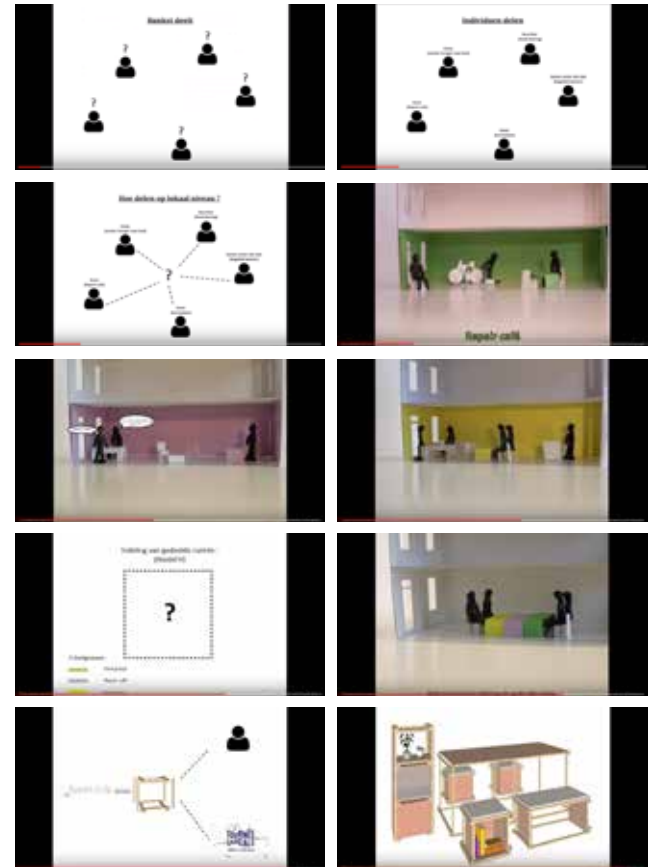


FIG. 151-160:RUNKST REPRESENT STOP MOTION.

## BIBLIOTHEEK DER DINGEN/ LIBRARY OF THINGS

Jeroen Boogaerts

With Jeroen Boogaerts, we started working on/thinking about sharing, not only in Runkst, but also in Hasselt. His Library of Things <sup>(6)</sup> project explores the possibility of building a library of things in Hasselt. This concept is based on the principle of a library: everyone has access to items (eg garden tools) and you can borrow an 'item' several times. It wants to contribute to responsible consumption: by borrowing items, it only takes space temporarily in your house and you do not have to throw anything away. Moreover, there is also the social aspect, because with items also knowledge can be shared. The library of things then functions as a meeting place, a breeding ground. Via a mobile cart and a facebook group (Image 161 and 162) Jeroen Boogaerts did research in the city to investigate how people feel about such a library, where we should situate it (Image 163) and what the opening hours should be (Image 164). he research into the possibilities for such a library in Hasselt done offline.



FIG. 161,162: BIBLIOTHEEK DER DINGEN FACEBOOK GROUP & MOBILE LIBRARY CART.  
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FIG 163,164: LOCATION AND OPENING HOURS.

6: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BIBDD/](https://www.facebook.com/bibdd/)



## 5. FUTURE

As we mentioned in the beginning of this text in recent years, the population in the station area of Hasselt is growing, resulting in more families, more cars, more cycling, but also more demand for places to meet, play, hang out and live. To answer all these questions in a sustainable way, a number of Hasselaren start sharing space. Looking for these sustainable sharing practices UHasselt architecture students, a2o architects, Architectuurwijzer vzw, Stad Hasselt, the School and a number of freelance designers explored Runkst from September to January and the wider city space of Hasselt, starting from January. They talked to residents and policymakers and processed their conversations in a number of future stories. These are shown at an exhibition about sharing in Hasselt. This exhibition came to live via a debate on how we can build on our knowledge and experience with researching and designing these sharing practices/spaces and how they can form a basis for creating future qualitative public/shared spaces. Like the examples of the further development of the church in Runkst and a number of public squares (e.g. Sint-Jansplein and Sint-Hubertusplein) into more qualitative public spaces show, this is not a simple question. Designing a good public space with a great variety of people with conflicting opinions, is also associated with questions on how it needs be maintained and managed. This requires time, people and resources. Can we come up with interesting (public / private) models together on how we can address these complexities in designing public/shared spaces? Do we know good examples? These questions were addressed in the debate and will keep on inspiring our future work.



