

CV JOLEIN BERGERS

Personalia

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Short bio

Jolein Bergers (°1988) is a PhD candidate at the Catholic University of Leuven. In her research, she investigates the embedding of more-than-human knowledges in the development of the Brussels Ecological Network, for which she intensively collaborates with citizen movements in Anderlecht and Schaarbeek. Jolein obtained her bachelor and master diploma in civil engineering-architecture at the KU Leuven (2011) and the University of Ghent (2013), before spending a research semester at the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley (Fall 2014). After graduation, she worked at Architecture Workroom Brussels (2013-2014), 51N4E (2015-2017) and the University of Antwerp (2017). Since 2017, she's been an editor of Rooilijn, a Dutch magazine for science and policy making in the field of spatial planning. Jolein has been an external jurywoman in diverse design studios at different Flemish and Brussels universities, as well as during the 'Plandag' 2020.

Education

PhD candidate in Architecture
Institute: KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture
Dates: 2018-2022 (estimated graduation date)

Visiting Research Student
Institute: UC Berkeley, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning
Dates: Fall 2014

Master of science in Engineering: Architecture (specialism: Urban Design & Architecture)
Institute: University of Ghent
Degree: Magna Cum Laude, master thesis awarded with the '*Charles Vermeersch Prize for Design*'
Dates: 2011 - 2013

Bachelor of science in Engineering: Architecture
Institute: Catholic University of Leuven
Degree: Cum Fructu
Dates: 2006 - 2011

Honors & awards

Laureate UC Berkeley Exchange Program

Institution: Santander Group of European Universities

The agreement between SGroup and the University of California, Berkeley stipulates exemption from tuition fees for applicants from SGroup university members. The fee waiver only applies for auditing courses, not for concurrent enrollment which signifies that the student will follow non-degree studies. The number of exchanges to be awarded is eight, and the acceptance of participants is at the discretion of the host institution (UC Berkeley). The duration of studies is one semester, either Fall or Spring. Only one application is allowed per member university.

Date: May, 2014

Participant Meesterproefweek

Institution: Team Vlaams Bouwmeester

Participant in meesterproefweek organised by the Flemish Government Architects Team, final selection: second place. During this workshop week we had to develop a design proposal for 1 of the 5 sites selected by the city of Ostend. I chose to work on 'Park De Nieuwe Koers', one of the sites of the 'Groen Lint', a masterplan for a collection of caleidoscopic landscapes in the green belt around Ostend.

Date: 2014

Laureate Charles Vermeersch Master Thesis Prize (category design)

Each year, the department of architecture grants a prize to the best design thesis.

Institute: Universiteit Gent

Date: September 12, 2013

PhD

Since 2018, Jolein has been a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Architecture, KU Leuven, working on a doctoral research entitled "Ecological practices, urban biodiversity and more-than-human urbanism: designing multispecies entanglements in the Brussels Fringe". More-than-human research has been gaining interest in the field of urban planning and design in recent years, with different authors calling to rethink the deeply humanistic modes through which cities are planned and designed. Though urban design studies have a longer history with integrating ecological processes in processes of urban development, only recently an interest in *living cities* has been sparked. However, design experiments have not yet been inserted in real-life planning and design contexts. This PhD research aims to address the lack in empirical understanding by engaging with real-life design contexts in which citizen movements are looking for design instruments and knowledges that can help them to advocate for more-than-human worlds. By investigating the world-making practices of citizen movements in Anderlecht (the nature association CBN Vogelzangbeek VZW) and Schaerbeek (the citizen movement Sauvons la Friche Josaphat), this design research aims to open a concrete development perspective.

This PhD research is supervised by prof. Bruno Notteboom (supervisor), prof. Viviana d'Auria (supervisor), prof. Hans Leinfelder & prof. Bruno de Meulder.

(Scientific) publications

Bergers, Jolein et al. (2021). Activating Wild Bee Knowledges in a Contested Planning Context: Experimenting with More-Than-Human Urban Design at Friche Josaphat. In Edwards, F. et al. (2021). *Urban Natures: Making Visible, (Re)Connecting and (Re)Politicising (to be published)*

Bergers, Jolein et al. (2019). Urban Agriculture Cooperatives on Shared Landscapes. In Declève, B., Grulois, G., de Lestrangé, R. et Bortolotti, A. (2020). *Designing Brussels Ecosystems. Metrolab.brussels Series II*, 2020.

Bergers, Jolein, & Van Acker, Maarten (2018). Het stedelijk metabolisme van Antwerpen. Toepassing van een metafoor tussen theorie en praktijk, Agora, 2018.

Bergers, Jolein, Notteboom, Bruno & d'Auria, Viviana (2018) Embedding ecological networks and visioning urban agriculture in the Neerpede valley, in Delarue, Stefanie, Dufour, Rachel (2018) *Landscapes of Conflict*, ECLAS conference 2018, Ghent, Belgium

Marin, Julie, & Bergers, Jolein. (2018). *Designing Territorial Metabolism, A+ Architecture in Belgium*; 2018.

Driesen, Bas, et al. (2018). Het stedelijk metabolisme van Antwerpen. Team Vlaams Bouwmeester; Brussel.

Van Acker, Maarten, & Bergers, Jolein. (2017). The path Toronto: Een lichtend pad in de duisternis van ondergrondse stadsontwikkeling? *Ruimte*, (34), 56-61

Presentations at conferences and symposia

Confex 'Spaces of Possibility'

Presentation title: *"Activating Wild Bee Knowledges in a Contested Planning Context: Experimenting with More-than-Human Urban Design at Friche Josaphat"*

Location: Brussels

Date: May, 2021

The Nature of Cities Festival

Presentation title: *"A virtual fieldtrip to the Vogelzangbeek and Friche Josaphat"*

Location: online

Date: February, 2021

Presentation at '(Re)Connecting Urban Natures: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Transforming Human-Nature Relations in Cities'

Presentation title: *"Embedding the Brussels Ecological Network: Socio-Spatial Mappings of Ecological Practices in the Vogelzangbeek Valley, Brussels"*

Location: RMIT Europe, Barcelona

Date: February 25, 2020

Presentation at the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) 2019 Conference

Presentation title: Embedding social practices in the development of ecological networks in the Brussels' Fringe

Location: Oslo

Date: November 9, 2019

Paper presentation at the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS) 2018 Conference

Paper title: *"Embedding Ecological Networks and Visioning Urban Agriculture in the Neerpede Valley"*

Location: Ghent

Date: September 11, 2018

Presentation at the EPFL, UC Louvain & Fondation Brillard Architectes joint seminar

Title: “*Déssiner la transition, Nouvelles Agricultures Métropolitaines*”

Date: June 6, 2019

Location: Brussels

Presentation at the UC Louvain ‘Agriculture & Urbanisme’ seminar

Title: “*Pratiques quotidiennes et fabrique du réseau écologique*”

Date: October 22, 2019

Location: Louvain-la-Neuve

Previous work experience

Teaching assistant at the Faculty of Architecture, KU Leuven (2018 - 2021)

In parallel to my doctoral research, I assisted in several teaching assignments, such as the theoretical courses ‘Landscape, Ecology and Urbanism’ (2019-2020), ‘Ecology & Sustainability’ (2018-2019 and 2019-2020) of prof. Bruno Notteboom, as well as a design studio by Bart Van Gassen and Steven Geeraert focusing on the Vogelzangbeek valley in Anderlecht and a landscape urbanism studio by prof. Kelly Shannon and prof. Bruno de Meulder focusing on forest and water urbanisms in Hue (Vietnam) and the Sonian Forest (Belgium). Additionally, I also supervised multiple master theses focusing on urban design, landscape and ecology.

Researcher at the Research Group for Urban Development, University of Antwerp (2017)

From 2017 to 2018, I joined the Research Group of Urban Development at the University of Antwerp, led by Prof. Maarten Van Acker and Prof. Tom Coppens. This research group focuses on ongoing questions in urban planning and design, contributing to the sustainable transformation of cities through design and policy-oriented research. In this research group, I was conducting a study on the urban metabolism of Antwerp, as well as doing research on a bicycle-friendly design of cities. Additionally, I was also involved in teaching activities of the master program in urbanism and spatial planning.

Research projects:

1. ‘Antwerp, the Circular City of Tomorrow’ (2017)

In 2017, the consortium of .FABRIC, marco.broekman, University of Antwerp, Common Ground was selected to conduct the research project “Metabolism of Antwerp, city of flows”, commissioned by the City of Antwerp, OVAM, the Port of Antwerp, the Flemish Chief Architect and Ruimte Vlaanderen want to generate new insights at the intersection of urban development, circular economy and spatial challenges in the Antwerp region. Understanding flows in and around the city, such as water, people, goods and energy, is an essential endeavour in thinking about future development in the city. In this research project, we approached the city or the city-region as an ecosystem: a complex, vast and interactive metabolism that works relentlessly to meet the needs of its inhabitants. Through a critical reflection, and design of this ‘circular city’, we aim to improve the ‘urban metabolism’, make it more sustainable and resilient, and close its cycles. Antwerp - the case study of this research - is pre-eminently a city of flows, most obvious being the movement of goods and water as a result of port activities. But also air, traffic, sediment and waste move in large amounts through this city, with differing impacts on the inhabitants and the environment. The research project ‘Antwerp, the Circular City of Tomorrow’ aims to generate new insights that can feed urban policy, as well as provide a test case for other Flemish cities to investigate how to evolve towards sustainable, circular cities.

Download publication: https://www.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/sites/default/files/uploads/metabolisme-van-antwerpen-stad-van-stromen-nl_low.pdf

2. ‘Bicycle Oriented Development’ (2017)

In Flanders, a systematic integration of mobility and land use planning is lacking, especially for bicycle infrastructure. Though extensive guidelines for the design of bicycle infrastructure on public roads exist (such as the vademecum 'bicycle facilities'), these technical manuals do not succeed in exploiting the full potential of bicycle infrastructure. The presence of bicycle-oriented parking facilities, racks, light regulations, crossroads, etc. also determine the attractiveness or the cyclability of cities. With new concepts such as cycle corridors, however, a shift is gradually taking place towards an urban traffic infrastructure tailored to cycling. Through investigating the 'bikeability of cities', this research aimed to go beyond the design of public roads, towards the design of an urban infrastructure which is more holistically tailored to cyclists.

Freelance architect at 51N4E (2015-2017)

Between 2015 and 2017, I was a project collaborator and project lead at 51N4E, mainly focusing on urban and territorial design projects. These projects were situated in a Flemish, or an international context (Albania).

Projects:

1. *Concept vision 'Maritiem Park' (2016)*

The concept subsidy Maritime Park was commissioned by the city of Antwerp and aimed to facilitate the complex redevelopment of dry docks in Antwerp into a new cultural cluster. In cooperation with various city administrations, associations and private actors, the ambitions that such a cluster could pursue were mapped and possible development scenarios explored.

View the project: <https://www.51n4e.com/projects/maritiem-park>

2. *Atelier Deep Geothermal Energy (2015)*

Atelier Deep Geothermal Energy was commissioned by the Flemish Government Architects Team, VITO and Flanders Spatial Planning Department and ran parallel to the European Regional Funded (ERDF) project 'Geothermal Energy 2020'. The study focused on how the development of geothermal infrastructure in relation to landscape and territorial development can help to encourage the energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in an integrated and inclusive way.

Download publication: http://www.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/sites/default/files/uploads/20151216_ADG_no_bleed_A4_web.pdf

3. *Skanderbeg Square (2016)*

The central square of Tirana is designed as a void in the chaos of the city, a void shaped by a collection of gardens and public buildings, both existing and new. This surrounding green belt functions like an antechamber, negotiating between the congestion of the city and the emptiness of the square. From the empty center, the full range of buildings defining Albania's past can be seen, representing a common past that can be built upon. The oppressing monumentality of the communist constructions is countered by the shape of the square: a large, low pyramid. Standing on top of this pyramid, one is no longer overpowered by the architecture of the past. This subtle intervention acknowledges Albania's past, and gives it a new perspective as well.

View the project: <https://www.51n4e.com/projects/skanderbeg-square>

4. *Pilot Projects Brownfields (2015)*

Within the study different development scenario's for brownfields are being researched by linking them to possible soil remediation techniques. This way the study wishes to offer 5 scenario's by which private investors, cities, communities, ... get triggered to activate and rethink brownfields.

Download publication: http://www.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/sites/default/files/uploads/BWMSTR_brochure_web_low.pdf

5. *Other projects:*

Stadsdebatten Genk (2015); Concept Vision 'Oosteroever (2016), How Things Meet (2016), Pilot Projects Brownfields (2015), Room in the City (2016) ...

Freelance architect at Architecture Workroom Brussels (100%)

Immediately after graduating, I gained my first work experience at Architecture Workroom Brussels, a think-and-do tank in Brussels. The office actively collaborated with design offices and focuses on policy-oriented design research.

Projects:

1. *Concept vision 'Kern Rechteroever Aalst' (2014)*

Project at Architecture Workroom Brussels as main project collaborator. In 2012, Aalst town council's Departments of Strategic Planning and Spatial Planning requested a grant for an urban renewal concept for an upgrade of the 'Kern Rechteroever' (KRO) district. The aim is, by means of the participatory formulation of a long-term plan and a locally-oriented approach to the project, to arrive at a more integrated, complete and sustainable outlook for the wider surroundings of the Moorselbaan and the carnival halls. In team with 51n4e and with the aid of expertise from Antwerp University and Technum, Architecture Workroom drew up a concept for the future of the neighbourhood.

2. *Pilot Projects Productive Landscape (2013)*

Study conducted at Architecture Workroom Brussels, as main project collaborator. The Institute for Agricultural and Fishery Research and the Flemish Government Architect Team commissioned MAAT designers and Architecture Workroom Brussels to carry out a study assignment as a strategic exploratory stage for the development of pilot projects in productive landscape. The ultimate aim, at the end of the Productive Landscape Pilot Projects, is the actual implementation of projects that can play an exemplary and pioneering role in bringing about a productive, shared landscape and yielding a social return, as well as formulating policy recommendations that emerge from the new insights. Download publication: <http://www.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/sites/default/files/uploads/PPPL-verkennend%20onderzoek.pdf>

Skills

Indesign / Illustrator / Photoshop (+++)

Autocad (++)

ArcGIS / QGIS (+)

Rhinoceros (+)

Dutch (mother tongue)

English (TOEFL iBT 101 - date test 2013)

French (fluent)
