

capa.city autumnschool

Turnhout (Be) - 14-17 October 2019

RECLAIM THE SUBURBS

which capacities for participatory approaches?



There is an increasing consensus that the societal costs of dispersed, low-density and car-dependent suburban developments are too high. To reduce these costs, planners and policy makers are formulating **strategies to retrofit suburbs:** densifying them, diversifying them or simply erasing them. What they did not expect is that residents would protest: Not In Our Backyards.

This reminds us of the '60s and '70ies when planners and policy makers sanitized complete city parts because they were considered unhealthy, chaotic and ugly. This meant the start of the **Right to the City** movement (Lefebvre, 1968; Harvey, 2012), assembling citizens to reclaim their neighborhoods from top-down planning.

The point of departure of this CAPA.CITY autumnschool is that we need a new movement **Reclaim the Suburbs** that supports residents to organize themselves and initiate own retrofitting projects; projects that do reduce the societal costs of their mode of living, but also fit within their housing dream: garage-box entrepreneurs, multi-generational villa-collectives, eco-garden networks, crowdfunded community services or renewable energy cooperatives.

The CAPA.CITY autumnschool will collect and discuss ongoing Reclaim the Suburb initiatives, with a focus on the **capacities** that collectives need to develop, in order to initiate, run and sustain such initiatives. A series of professionals with an expertise in participatory design and planning will assist us: **GivRum** (DK), experts in the participatory revitalization of empty buildings and urban spaces. **In Vivo** (F), authors of the "BIMBY" (Build In My BackYard) protocol, a participatory approach to soft densification. **Intrastructures** (Be), founders of the OpenStructures project, an open modular construction model.

Organizational committee

Hasselt University (Belgium)
Oswald Devisch, Teresa Palmieri

Roskilde University (Denmark)
Majken Toftager Larsen, John Andersen

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More information:
www.capa-city-ensuf.eu

Funded by:



Project partners:



In cooperation with:

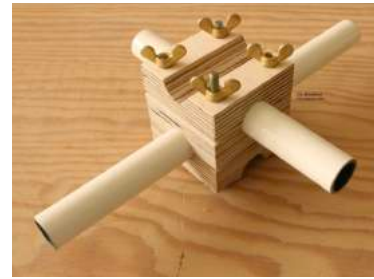


AIM: understanding reclaim practices as processes of collective learning

The goal of the CAPA.CITY autumnschool is to collect and discuss Reclaim the Suburb practices, with a focus on the capacities that collectives need to develop, in order to initiate, run and sustain such practices.

To support this discussion, the participants of the autumnschool will form collectives and will, in group, prototype reclaim practices in full-scale using the Open Structures modular construction model (www.openstructures.net).

Each prototyping session will be followed by a collective reflection session that frames the prototyping activities within capacity building theories. The result is an auto-ethnographic process during which the participants reflect on the design of capacity building processes (for supporting reclaim practices) by actually engaging in one.



A prototyping workshop using the Open Structures system



A prototyping workshop on the retrofitting of residential suburbs

PROGRAM: a cycle of prototyping and reflecting

Monday, October, 14

which type of reclaim practices exist?

9.30 – 12.30: poster presentations, participants present their reclaim-practices

13.30 – 17.30: collective reflection session 1, collective analysis of reclaim practices

19.30 – 21.30: prototyping session 1, groups prototype the context

Tuesday October, 15:

how to design reclaim practices?

9.00 – 12.30: prototyping session 2, groups prototype the reclaim practice

13.30 – 17.30: collective reflection session 2, collective analysis of prototyping sessions

19.30 – 21.30: lectures, towards systems of reclaim practices

Wednesday October, 16:

how to sustain reclaim practices?

9.00 – 12.30: excursion, retrofitting the Flemish suburbs

13.30 – 17.30: prototyping session 3, groups relate their reclaim practice

19.30 – 21.30: collective reflection session 3, collective analysis of reclaim capabilities

Thursday October, 17:

how to support a critical reclaiming-culture?

9.00 – 12.30: prototyping session 4, groups document their reclaim practice

13.30 – 17.30: collective reflection session 4, public debate

19.00 – 21.30: public debate, presentation to local actors

LOCATION: somewhere in the Flemish suburbs

The CAPA.CITY autumnschool will take place in de Hoge Rielen (www.dehogerielen.be) a former military base located in suburban Flanders.



The place where we will prototype



The surrounding suburbs
(www.google.com/maps)

PRACTICAL: living on site

COSTS

The submission fee is 100 euro.

This fee includes:

- accommodation from Monday 14.10 till Friday 18.10 in the Hoge Rielen.

Note that you will share rooms:

<https://www.dehogerielen.be/domein/gebouw-4-springtouw> and <https://www.dehogerielen.be/domein/gebouw-5-kegel>.

In case you are not willing to share rooms, you have to book and finance your own accommodation.

Note that you will still have to pay the submission fee!

We expect you to be in the Hoge Rielen at 9.00 every morning. We do provide bikes

- breakfast from Monday 14.10 till Friday 18.10

- lunch from Monday 14.10 till Friday 18.10

- bikes Monday 14.10 till Friday 18.10

The submission fee does NOT include:

- accommodation from Sunday 13.10 till Monday 14.10

- transportation to the Hoge Rielen

- evening dinners

BACKGROUND

The CAPA.CITY autumnschool is open to all PhD-students and professionals involved in research on suburbanisation. Masterstudents are accepted on the condition that they provide a good motivation.

Participating in the CAPA.CITY autumnschool counts for 2 ECTS.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

- register before September 13, 2019 by sending a mail to: oswald.devisch@uhasselt.be

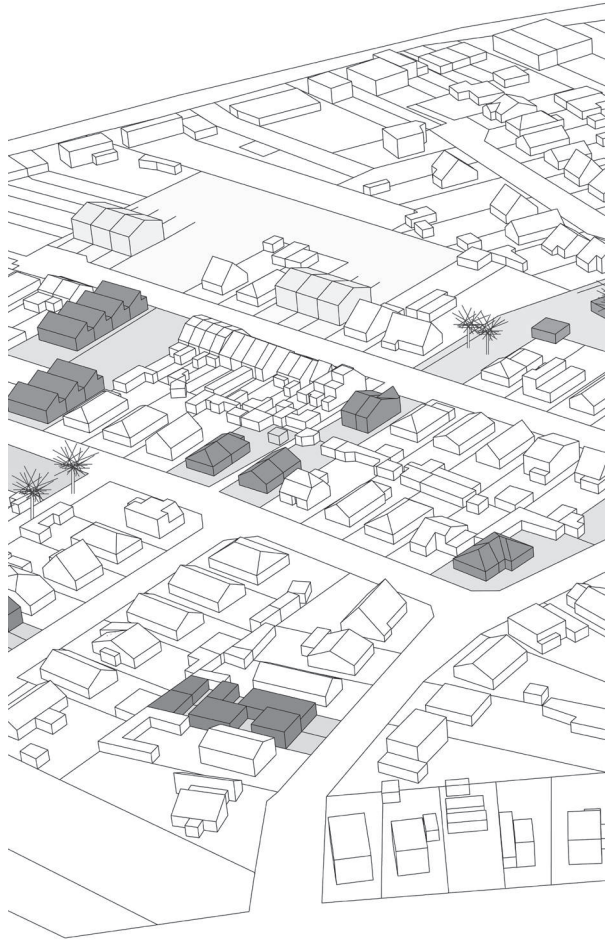
- upon registration, you will be asked to make a poster of a reclaim practice, in which you are involved as a researcher.

MORE INFORMATION

oswald.devisch@uhasselt.be

CAPA.CITY

Building capacity to transform existing residential subdivisions into smart and robust urban ecosystems.



URBAN EUROPE

CAPA.CITY

Building capacity to transform existing residential subdivisions into smart and robust urban ecosystems

Developing smart and sustainable transformation pathways requires technical and conceptual innovation. The project CAPA.CITY starts from the hypothesis that these innovations can only be implemented in a durable way if they are supported by a process of capacity building.

In particular, the aim of CAPA.CITY is to develop a theoretical and operational framework on how to reinforce the capabilities of a collective, consisting of citizens, local stakeholders and organisations, to reflect over and steer spatial transformations taking place in its daily environment.

CAPA.CITY specifically focuses on residential subdivisions located in Belgium, Denmark and France and explores location based experiential learning methods, *Telling*, *Enacting* and *Making*, as approaches to support capacity building.



TELLING

Telling is explored as an approach to trigger residents of residential subdivisions to imagine alternative futures for their own property and to then support a debate over the quality of these futures for the collective as a whole. The focus lies on the densification of residential subdivisions.

Academic Partner: Marion Serre [Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille, ENSA-M]
Professional Partner: David Miet and Denis Caraire [Lab InVivo]
Location: France

ENACTING

Enacting is explored as an approach to involve a diversity of actors in the retrofitting of residential subdivisions. The organization of events invite these actors to enact (and thus collectively experience) possible futures. The focus lies on societal issues such as social segregation and the access to services.

Academic Partner: John Andersen and Majken Toftager Larsen [Roskilde University]
Professional Partner: Jasper Koefoed Melson [GivRum]
Location: Denmark

MAKING

Making is explored as a method to collectively reflect on the criticality of contemporary ways of dwelling the private realm of the house and the shared one of the neighbourhood and envision alternative pathways to live together. The focus lies on underused residential subdivisions.

Academic Partners: Oswald Devisch and Teresa Palmieri [University of Hasselt]
Professional Partner: Thomas Lommée [OpenStructures]
Location: Belgium