
press release

CPF B



CPFB Louvain-la-Neuve

Transforming a brutalist post office into a modern learning centre



Location	Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Client	CPFB asbl
Status	completed
Surface	800 sqm
Program	restoration, renovation and transformation of former post office in Louvain-la-Neuve
Architect	archipelago
Partners	aaia, MATRIciel, Cosep, CBD

Originally the post office of Louvain-la-Neuve, the characteristic building housed several teaching courses for the university of Louvain until its final occupation as a 'school for sound'. Over-compartmentalized and acoustically insulated to meet recording standards, the clarity of the architecture and the simplicity of its materials were lost.

Uncovering architecture

The first task was to dismantle the building in order to lay it bare: salvaging the concrete that could be salvaged, restoring the original brickwork, preserving the joinery and frames.

The volumes are decompartmentalized both functionally and spatially. The exceptional height of the roof and the interplay of the beams and light falling through the glass bricks are recovered.

The aim of the renovation strategy is to restore the building to its pristine condition, while providing it with the technology and thermal comfort needed for the next stage in its life cycle. Following our vision on renovation, we are only intervening on walls that were already modified. The east facade is the only facade that we are adapting, in order to increase the spatial continuity on the ground floor.

Co-creation

The Centre d'enseignement supérieur, de promotion et de formation continuée en Brabant wallon (CPF) is an education center linked to the UCL - University of Louvain with a focus on social development. When the CPF launched a call to transform the former post office into a learning centre, they asked the architects one question: how can this building be adapted to new teaching methods and a wide range of courses?

An institute like the CPF is diverse in the courses it offers, as well as its students, the size of the groups, the teaching staff and timetables. It therefore seemed vital to us to start this project with a co-creation process, to integrate the vision of all of the future users in the project.

For an efficient and productive co-creation process we drew a specific set of graphic documents to collect information about group dynamics, workplaces, connections between places, users, and tools. In a second phase, we analysed the information and started defining different activities and places.

Activity-based design

Once the results of the co-creation process were validated, we began exploring the spatial possibilities of 'activity-based design'.

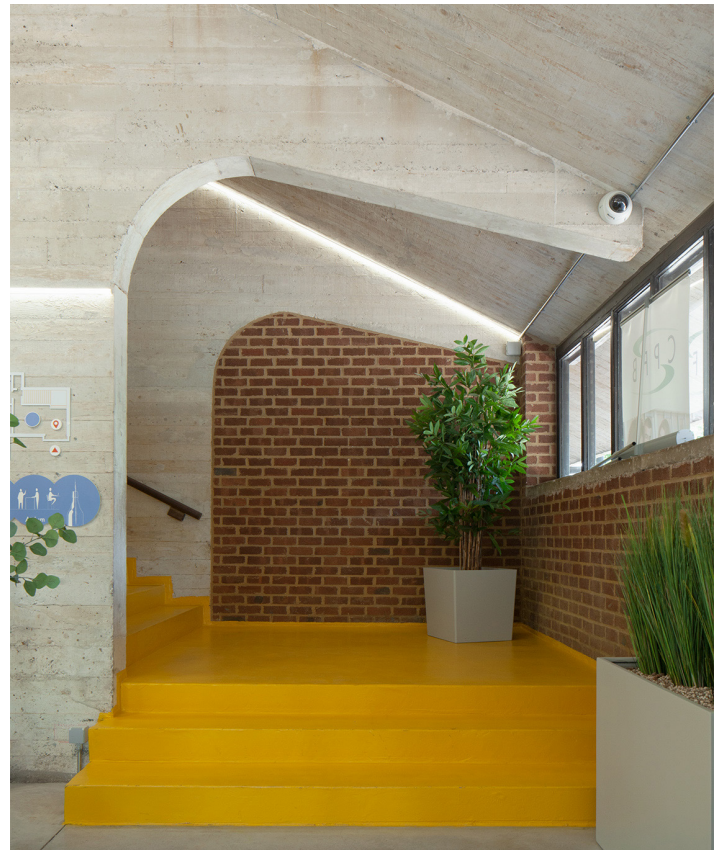
Traditionally, a program is designed in the following way: Place = Function = Activity. To adapt to new learning methods, we are proposing to do away with the permanent assignment of a place to a function. Functions are mobile and people move around depending on the activity they perform (and subsequently find the right place). We choose to define places throughout the building with a strong spatial character, designed to accommodate an activity rather than a function. Place = Activity, Function Is Mobile.



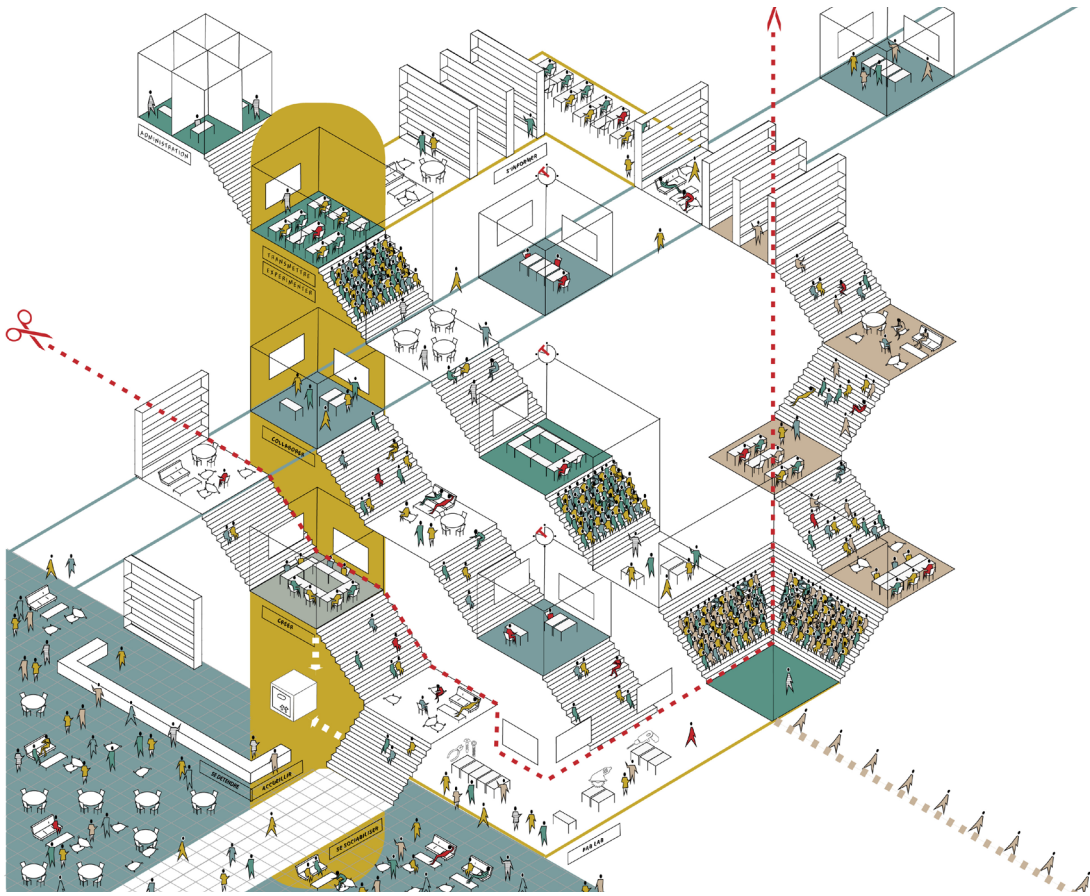
east facade



auditorium



main circulation stairs



co-creation process support tool

CORE

- Terrain Collaboratif
Réseaux institutionnels
- Salles de Conférence
Auditorium
- Espaces de travail formel +
Salles de réunion + Classe
d'enseignement
- Espaces de travail informel +
Lieux de rencontre + Espaces
de Collaboration + Espaces
de détente
- Clubs/Bar + Espace de
Séjour + Salles de
Travail informel + Lieu de
Rencontre + Lieu de
Rendez-vous
- Etudiants + Employés

TEMPORALITE

- Utiliser les espaces
temporels comme espaces
de co-création
- Personne connectée
- Administration
- Public
- Parties prenantes pour
le Laboratoire Co-crea
- TEMPORALITE
Accès public
- Collaborer + Interagir
Produit / Lieu / Réseau

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