

architecten de vylder vinck taillieu

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A SHORT INTRODUCTION.

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ARCHITECTEN DE VYLDER VINCK TAILLIEU

In 2009 was made permanent what had already been foreseen. *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* – a *dvvt* – is the new name under which Jan De Vylder, Inge Vinck and Jo Taillieu will further share their mutual appreciation, interest and previous realized work. Already long before each one of them, sometimes in collaboration with each other, steadily developed and realized a certain variety of projects. Since 2009 it is clear that the establishment of a *dvvt* has given wings to the united view on what architecture can possibly stand for.

architecten de vylder vinck taillieu wants to be complete. To embrace not only design but also the making; that is the point of departure for a *dvvt*. Only through understanding how something is created, design is able to play out its critical attitude. Within the landscape of present-day expectations, a *dvvt* unexpectedly wants to give these expectations an appropriate turn through which not only what is expected is granted, but surprisingly more can be found. A critical attitude; not as just a gesture but as a living instrument to arrive further than ever expected.

The social responsibility that is based within architecture should not be underestimated. But only if the architect audits this responsibility critically, this social task has the possibility to surpass a mere filling-in of expectations and obtains the chance to its cultural dimension. Here, the architect has a crucial responsibility. *a dvvt wants to recognize this*. The skill of the architect – the craft; the knowledge and the critical attitude – is crucial with this. This skill ensures that present-day expectations like cultural sustainability have the possibility to stand for more than what they stand for today. The *métier* as the key to the future.

JAN DE VYLDER INGE VINCK JO TAILLIEU

Jan De Vylder (1968), Inge Vinck (1973) and Jo Taillieu (1971) all three are principle architects and business partners. But first and foremost architects. This was the point of departure for a *dvvt*. The actual effort for design and for realization stays paramount.

To keep doing this for every project and to keep further defining the appropriate effort together with the client in the course the entire process is of primary importance.

PRACTICE

Although the above is written first the practice is just as much strength of *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu*. Next to Jan De Vylder, Inge Vinck and Jo Taillieu, stands a strong and diverse team of sixteen collaborators. Collaborators who already from the start draw along with the first lines that were set out; and young collaborators – many internships are part of this - who help giving further sharpness and speed to the élan a *dvvt* enjoys today.

PROJECTS AND CLIENTS

The projects of *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* range from the smallest commission possible as well as large sized commissions: projects for an individual client as well as a public client or private investor. Projects with very diverse character: ranging from simply a house to a university campus; a cultural client as well as a public commission. The projects are obtained through competitions, selections or direct commission. *a dvvt* realize projects both in Belgium and in foreign countries.

The project **LES BALLETS C DE LA B & LOD** was a breakthrough in scale; it allows *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* to test its view on architecture on a larger scale and on the complexity of the historic city.

For the Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art S.M.A.K. in Ghent *a dvvt* designed an extension for the collection **MARCEL BROODTHAERS**.

In 2008 theatre company HET TONEELHUIS asks to provide accommodation for their offices situated in the adjoining buildings of the well-known historic BOURLA theatre in the heart of the city of Antwerp.

For the urban development companies AG SOB and VESPA, respectively for the cities of **GHENT** and **ANTWERP**, *a dvvt* draws various projects.

Today, the plans for the new social service center situated in the former city hall of district Ledeborg in Ghent are realized; here, restoration, refurbishment and new development come aligned.

For district Borgerhout in Antwerp *a dvvt* draws a complete new building; a competition awarded this assignment. In Ukkel near **BRUSSELS** the realization of a crèche situated right next to the church will soon start.

Earlier, the small and first projects 43 and VERZAMELD WERK brought *a dvvt* in the perspective of the architectural discourse. House H, veterinarian practice MALPERTUUS en house BS continues this furthermore. Today, houses like BM, BERNHEIM BEUK and ROT-ELLEN-BERG are exemplary for our everlasting attention for the small private commission.

In 2008 **Herzog & deMeuron** invites *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* for their project ORDOS 100, initiated by **H&dM** and **Ai WEIWEI** in Inner Mongolia China.

Today *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* work for private investors, home and abroad.

In the Netherlands (Amersfoort) a housing project situated in the historical center started recently.

SOLOMON R GUGGENHEIM is since 2011 on the client list of *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu*.

Recently *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* have been shortlisted by the **NOBLE PRIZE COMMITY** amongst 20 practices for their invited competition - 170 practices - for the new to be built **NOBLE PRIZE CENTER** in Stockholm Sweden. For this *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* lined up together with OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen.

Most recently a simple **bus stop** is build in a project called **BUS:STOP** at Unter Krumbach (AU) amongst others like Suo Fugimoto, Alexander Brodsky, Smiljan Radic, Wang Shu, Rintalla Eggerson, Anton Garcia Abril. For this project *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* received the AUSTRIAN PRIZE FOR ARCHITECTURE.

Recently *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* won the competition for the new headquarters of the **PROVINCE OF EAST FLANDERS**. In Charleroi was a completion won for the urban development of the INTERBETON site. And in the frame of the special open call of the Flemish Bouwmeester with the theme FUTURE CARE LIVING the project called **ZORG DORP** was awarded. For the village of GOOIK a competition for a visitor's center was recently on. And for the Psychiatric Clinic CARITAS a competition on the very special challenge on rethinking care was one also. Those last two are in process right now. The realization of the new building block at **CADIX** Antwerp; a competition won together with OFFICE KGDVS, noa-Architecten and Meta has started.

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ARCHITECTEN DE VYLDER VINCK TAILLIEU and JIJ'S

Known as **JIJ'S** – the first name's first letter of each of one completed by the collaboration with Serge Vandenhove makes the name of the brand – *a dvvt* developed a variety of objects and furniture; from ready for use to thinking exercise.

With this *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* emphasize that whatever it may be: from small to big, from table to campus, from family to public client; from cultural commission to investment assignment; in each case *a dvvt* does not want anything to escape their attention: in each case wants to draw, with the same enthusiasm and perseverance, a surprising result.

In spring 2013 at the Milan Design Fair a new collection was put on show. Collection based on the work of the Belgian designer and artist Pieter De Bruyne.

2016

Spring 2016 JIJ'S will present new work on the invitation of the galleria MANIERA in Brussels.

MONOGRAPHS

As a result of LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 12.MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DE ARCHITETTURA 2010 (IT) the first part of a three book monograph is published. The following two parts are eventually published together with that first part a year later because of the **first retrospective ARCHITECTEN DE VYLDER VINCK TAILLIEU** in DESINGEL INTERNATIONAL ART CAMPUS ANTWERP (BE) 2011.

1 boek 1 – architecten de vylder vinck taillieu ISBN 978-94-906930-8-4

1 boek 2 – architecten de vylder vinck taillieu ISBN 978-94-906931-2-1

1 boek 3 – architecten de vylder vinck taillieu ISBN 978-94-906931-3-8

1 boek 1 and 1 boek 3 bring together drawings and projects in an unexpected order, surprising rather than just showing. 1 boek 2 arranges the stories of the projects with a variety of approaches of the work by architecture critics such as Paul Vermeulen; Kersten Geers; Katrien Vandermarliere en Joachim Declerck, together with fragments of appreciation of Christophe van Gerrewey; Ai Weiwei; Stefan Devoldere; Adam Caruso, Shane O'toole. *a dvvt* arranges the work again in a different way in the text "So much. But what? About. About this and about that. And then so. And then this".

On September 2013 a **2G N.66 architecten de vylder vinck taillieu** has been released. Texts from Tony Fretton, Christophe Van Gerrewey, Moritz Küng and Sam Chermayeff & Johanna Mayer Grohbrügge

2016

Ongoing talks with El Croquis (ES). On going talks with A+U (JP). **May 2016 DE AEDIBUS / QUART VERLAG** will release a monograph on *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu*. Mid **2016** a new book called **NOT YET NEVER WILL** will be edited by the Italian editor LIBRA. On all lost competitions and all stopped projects.

End **May 2016** a new **series of 3 books in the book serie 1 boek etc** will be released. Partially on the occasion of the exhibition held at the ETH/GTA 2015. Contributions of Philippe Ursprung and Niels Olsen & Fredi Fischli are included. Essays of *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* on their on work and on the work of the 21 invitees will be part of it. (working titles). Partially on the occasion of being invited as curator – in the curatorial team called BRAVOURE - by the Flemish Community in the Belgian Pavilion at the Venice Biennial.

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PUBLICATIONS

The work of *a dvvt* is published internationally. ARCH+ (GE); **A+U** (JP); C3 (KO); **Bauwelt** (DE); **Werk, Bauen + Wohnen** (CH). The **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW FLANDERS** always includes work of *a dvvt* in its biennial edition. In its recent number of August 2013 **A+U** 515 included in its issue **Houses by Emerging Architects** new work.

Ai WEIWEI includes *a dvvt* in his selection of 10 for the publication **10X10_3**, published by **PHAIDON PRESS**. **TASCHEN** includes work in the edition **ARCHITECTURE NOW VOLUME 7**.

In its **PHAIDON WORLD ATLAS** work has been introduced.

Early 2012 *a dvvt* provides the January issue of **DOMUS** by request from JOSEPH GRIMA. Cover, editorial and projects together with objects from JIJ'S make this **DOMUS 954** with its pure naked white cover with varnished letters to become a collector's item. But also recently in **DOMUS FEBRUARI 2013 966**.

In the **QUADERNS #263 2013 HOUSE AND CONTRADICTION** work is selected.

Own writings.

Those publications are not only on the work of *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu*. More recently and more and more also small essays are delivered by *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu*.

a dvvt also publishes critical reflections in various journals. Published by SUN PUBLISHERS, in series ARCHITECTURAL POSITIONS / ARCHITECTURE AS A CRAFT "**THE DRAWING IS EVERYWHERE**" appeared.

More recently are the contribution to the new ACCATTONE with a small essay called **THE SAN GOTTARDO DOUBLE**.

Recently a contribution was delivered to the latest issue of **DWB** on 50 fictive buildings based on Fjodor Dostojevski's 'Het **ondergrondse**' with a drawing. As also a contribution for **Werk, Bauen + Wohnen** (CH) called '**OCCAZIONEN**'.

a dvvt is particularly proud to find that their practice and work can be found as a reference in many a discourse concerning architecture. Adam Caruso referred to the work in his **FEELING OF THINGS**.

TEACHING AND LECTURING

International perspective.

architecten de vylder vinck taillieu has been invited as visiting critics many times. The TU DELFT was the first to invite. The USI AMM ACCADEMIA MENDRISIO (CH) followed many times. EPFL (2012); TU DARMSTAD (2013); KTH Stockholm (2013) are the latest interventions. Upcoming are Lisbon FAUL (2014) and SANDBERG/RIETVELD Amsterdam (NL)

Today *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* are invited guest professors a many schools worldwide.

At the **USI AAM ACCADEMIA MENDRISIO** (CH) a studio took place FALL 2013 and FALL 2014. This studio will be extended for 2015 and 2016.

Next to that a guest professorship is taken up at **EPFL ENAC SAR LAUSANNE** (CH) for FALL 2014 - SPRING 2015 and FALL 2015-2016. A longer professorship is a head.

The summer PORTO ACADEMY 2014 was a pleasure to be. An ongoing talk for a special class at the ROYAL DANISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS Copenhagen (DK) 2014-2015 another pleasure.

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KUL FACULTY of ARCHITECTURE

But maybe first: being part of the KUL FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE formerly known as SINT-LUCAS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE; not only in teaching just a studio but also in enhancing themes shared in between studios as also recently being part of the direction focusing on program. As special yearly returning vertical studio facing real political topics makes that teaching a pleasure.

Research

At this point *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* is preparing a long term research under the working title ATLAS DETAIL / FRAGMENT FRAME FANTASY. This research will take as scope the relation between detail and space. The research will be practice based and academically based. Ongoing talks with the EPFL ENAC SAR and KUL FA will give this ambition soon reality of planning.

Lectures at MIT BOSTON (USA); EPFL LAUSANNE (CH); AA SCHOOL LONDON (UK) are recently supplemented with lectures at the ROYAL DANISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (DK) and the OSLO SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN (NW); EPFL ENAC SAR (FR); VITRA Basel (CH); ESARQ Barcelona (SP) and ENSAP Lille (FR); CASS London (GB); PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (US); UNIVERSITY OF LUZERN (CH); TU MUNICH (DE)

Publications on teaching.

TU DELFT has released on to work of teaching of architecten de vylder vinck taillieu called '**ON TEACHING**'.

In 2016 a publication on teaching will be edited by the academy press of the USI AAM Academia di Mendrisio.

EXHIBITIONS

In 2010 *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* is invited by Kazuo Sejima for her exhibition PEOPLE MEET IN ARCHITECTURE at the **BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 12.MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DE ARCHITETTURA 2010. KAZUYO SEJIMA** asks for the project ORDOS 100 to be presented. The contribution to the exhibition is called 7 HOUSES FOR 1 HOUSE.

Towards the end of 2011 *a dvvt* presents their first solo exhibition at **DEsINGEL INTERNATIONAL ART CAMPUS ANTWERP**; at the invitation of DEsINGEL and the FLEMMISCH ARCHITECTURE INSTITUTE VAI. Already in 2012 this exhibition travels to **the VORARLBERG ARCHITECTURE INSTITUT DORNBERN** (AU) and is expected in MILAN spring 2013 (IT).

Together with their team AWJGGRAUaDVVTAT a dvvt represent the FLEMMISH COMMUNITY for the BELGIAN PAVILION at the **BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 13.MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DE ARCHITETTURA**. This exhibition – or rather this research – gets a double exhibition at **DEsINGEL INTERNATIONAL ART CAMPUS ANTWERP** where the exhibition continues to develop further as a WORKSPACE for research at the request of the VLAAMS BOUWMEESTER and the VLAAMS ARCHITECTUUR INSTITUUT VAI. The object of the research is to frame the future of Flanders as European region in a spatial perspective.

The first **DESIGN BIENNIAL ISTANBUL 2012** showed the project ROT-ELLEN-BERG. Joseph Grima curates that Biennial under the title ADHOCRAZY. This exhibition was also brought to the **NEW MUSEUM NEW YORK** - spring 2013 - and will be brought to the **LIME WHARF** London Autumns 2013

As have been present with the project LES BALLETS C de la B & LOD in the exhibition **XX MODELS in BOZAR** Brussels; this exhibition travelled to Marseille Maison de l'Architecture en de la Ville **PACA** - spring 2013 – and will travel to the **Biennale of Shenzhen 2013-2014** – opening December 2013 –

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The **MERCATOR** project was introduced in the catalogue and exhibition **ATLAS OF THE UNBUILD WORLD** in London Spring 2013 at the **LONDON BARLETT SCHOOL of ARCHITECTURE** on the occasion of the **London Architecture Festival**.

Work has been put on show at the **Z33 ATELIER à HABITER** but also at many other group exhibitions in 2013 and 2014. In 2014 work was present in the group exhibition **THEATRE OBJECTS A STAGE FOR ARCHITECTURE AND ART** curated by Niels Olsen & Fredi Fischli at **LUMA WESTBAU ZURICH** amongst 6a architects, dan Graham, Christian Kerez, William Leavitt, Peter Märkli and many others.

In **2015** a **SOLO EXHIBITION** at **ETH/GTA ZURICH** will opened **MARCH 10TH**. The title **CARROUSEL** point to the narrative of a young practice arriving in Zurich to exhibit but by seeing the room doubts on doing and changes it attitude in changes first the space and then inviting friends to try to exhibiting themselves by the others.

The first **CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNAL CAB** invited a dvvt in 2015. The project **THE TENNIS RE-ENACTMENT** was put on show.

For the artist **Ante Timmermans** and together with a overview exhibition has been held at **BE-PART Center for Actual Arts**. The title was **OHNMIT**. Following that many other collaborations where set up. **NRW (DE)** en **GEM (NL)**

2016

In 2016 *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* will represent the Flemish Community with their team **BRAVOURE** at the **BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 15.MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DE ARCHITETTURA** called **REPORT FROM THE FRONT**.

AWARDS

Recently *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* was shortlisted for the **BSI SWISS ARCHITECTURAL AWARD 2012**.

In 2010 the project **LES BALLETS C DELA B & LOD** is nominated for the **MIES VAN DER ROHE AWARD 2010**. Just now **ROT-ELLEN-BERG** and **TWIGGY** were nominated for the **MIES VAN DER ROHE AWARD 2013**. Again for 2015 the **KAVEL HOUSES** are selected once again.

The **BELGIAN BUILDING AWARD** has been awarded several times for residential projects as well as for public projects – **MALPERTUUS** veterinary clinic, house **BM**, house **H -** . The **BELGISCHE PRIJS VOOR ARCHITECTUUR** was granted for house **BS**.

With the project **BUS:STOP** the **AUSTRIAN ARCHITECTURE PRIZE** was shared with the others participants in 2014.

Once again *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* is selected for the **IACOV CHERNICOV PRIZE** (2011 & 2015).

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OFFICE DESIGN APPROACH – ETHOS -

"...Taking reality apart and putting it back together again in a different way: giving it another truth. Giving fantasies a reality and letting reality become a fantasy..." Christophe Van Gerrewey. Interview. "This. And then like this. And then that. Or like this"

"...The architecture is a process of careful intervention and subtle redefinition..." Adam Caruso in "The feeling of things".

"...architecten de vylder vinck taillieu deliver projects that play with existing conditions while directly relating to the user's needs. With their many renovations of vernacular Belgian houses, architecten de vylder vinck taillieu demonstrate their ability to communicate human desire within framework of limitations. The playfulness with which they approach smaller renovation projects is beautifully expressed as an awkward handshake between the old and the new. a dvvt's humour and sensitivity mix to reveal another side of the World. With a school-girl-like stubbornness, a dvvt insists on a freedom and uniqueness of expression not common among architects. Like an artist, they apply their gentle touch to simplify situations into what they desire. Their architecture bears witness to a relentless attempt to have fun. a dvvt design projects that stand above any doctrine, telling the World what they want, one blueprint at a time..." Ai WeiWei in "10X10_3; 100 architects 100 critics. Selected by Ai WeiWei".

"...Jan De Vylder, Inge Vinck and Jo Taillieu almost always start the lectures they give with a picture of a Sol LeWitt drawing in the hallway of a house full of student bedsits. This drawing is a remnant of an exhibition of Sol LeWitt in the gallery 't Gewad, Centre for Contemporary Art in Gent in 1984. The photo shows that the landlord has rammed a set of doorbells into the drawing. It's not with indignation that they show the photo, but with a genuine fascination for the beauty of the chance composition this intervention produced. High art and low technology: a fine combination..." Kersten Geers in "Architecture with delay".

Perhaps these quotes could dismiss *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* from the task to determine precisely what it's about, or should be about.

It's clear; *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* does not set out a fixed course for their project – read: their practice –. There are no premises in this discourse. Maybe then the following could be said.

Architecture appears to be a critical science first and foremost. Somewhere here is where the belief in architecture of *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* could lie. As a critical science that's not only reliant on the set of instruments of the so-called architecture discourse.

Rather a critical science that is developed from within the practice. A project doesn't begin with its discourse, but begins with its design. And this design; thereof *architecten de vylder vinck taillieu* believes that the 'reading' – understand: figuratively; to see, to listen, to understand – of everything as found and as known could already be the design.

In other words: the context; that is what first of all creates what will become. Context understood as place as well as time, program, or history. Context precedes concept. Concept can only be a vehicle with which architecture can be found. Architecture is eventually allowed a place in its context. Architecture can only be where its context is; can only 'be true' in a 'context'.

architecten de vylder vinck taillieu is always ready to weigh their critical ability again and again. Where today sustainability is bound to be the future, only a critical view on sustainability will be able to turn an even more distant future into history. Architecture is critical. The art of being critical nourishes the simplest of human acts always in a better way. To make things better is the progress architecture has to be.

Simple ideas, principles and belief: imagination and fantasy, critical and courage; but at the same time with a humble outcome. And of course: from their on the discourse will be found.

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