

World Urbanisms Seminar 2024 – REFLIP Panel

ARCHITECTURE WITHOUT EXTRACTION

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INTERNATIONAL
CENTER FOR
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Cools, S. (2024, June 28). Care and Repair in architectural practice [Presentation]. 11th World Urbanism Seminar, Track: Reflip Panel, Architecture without extraction, KU Leuven.



Stijn Cools – Visitation Monastery (aNNo architecten, KUL)

ABSTRACT

Introduction:

In an era increasingly aware of the ecological and social costs of extraction, the thematic track "Architecture Without Extraction" seeks to explore and promote architectural practices that move beyond the traditional paradigms of resource-intensive construction.

The presentation contributes to this track by emphasizing "repair and care" as foundational principles, advocating for a shift from adaptive reuse towards affective reuse of existing structures and materials. The case study Klooster Visitatie by aNNo architects is used as a case-study during the presentation.

First Reading: Repair The initial answer on architecture without extraction is a concept of repair. Repair in architecture involves mending, restoring, and maintaining buildings and materials, rather than discarding and replacing them. This approach recognizes the inherent value in existing structures, promoting sustainability by extending the life of buildings and reducing waste. Repair not only conserves resources but also preserves the cultural and historical significance embedded in the built environment.

Deeper Reading: Care + Repair Ethos Delving deeper, it could embrace a deeper reading from a double ethos "Care + Repair", that is informed by "Broken World Thinking" (Steven Jackson 2013). This philosophy acknowledges that our world is inherently flawed and fragmented, yet it is through these imperfections that opportunities for creativity and resilience emerge. Care in this context goes beyond mere maintenance; it involves an affective relationship with the built environment, recognizing buildings as entities that require nurturing and thoughtful stewardship.

Affective and Adaptive Reuse Adaptive reuse is a key strategy within this ethos. It involves reimagining and repurposing existing buildings for new uses, allowing them to evolve and remain relevant in changing contexts. This approach is narrative-driven, as each building carries a story that can be built upon, rather than erased. Affective reuse considers the emotional and social connections people have with spaces, fostering a sense of belonging and continuity.

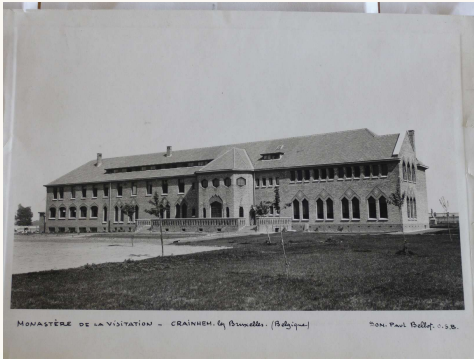
Architects and designers are encouraged to uncover and amplify the stories embedded in existing structures. By doing so, they can create spaces that resonate deeply with their users, enhancing the cultural and emotional fabric of communities. This narrative approach transforms buildings into living archives of collective memory and experience.

Conclusion: A Paradigm Shift "Care+Repair" calls for a paradigm shift in how we conceive and practice architecture. It challenges architects to think creatively and compassionately, recognizing the potential for beauty and functionality within the imperfections and stories of our existing world. This ethos invites a reimagining of architecture as a practice that not only constructs but also cares, adapts, and repairs. By prioritizing and embracing an architecture that envisages sustainable, resilient, and meaningful built environments.

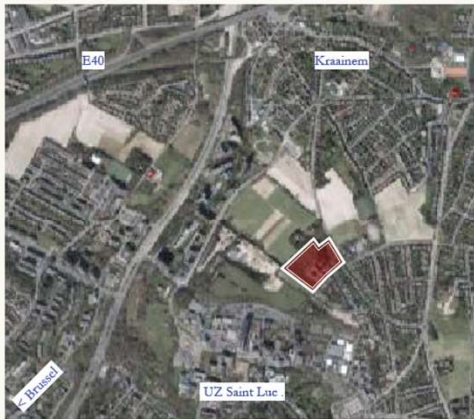
1

How does your project/practice deal with the central theme of 'architecture without extraction'?

Site east of Brussel, near St Luc Hospital Zaventem / Kraainem



En 2014, le monastère avec son jardin a été classé monument pour sa valeur historique, artistique et socio-culturelle.



2014, beschermd als monument.



In 2014 werd het klooster, met zijn tuin beschermd als monument, wegens zijn historische, de artistieke en de sociaal-culturele waarde.

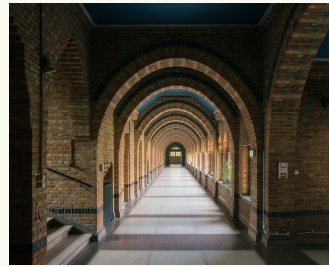
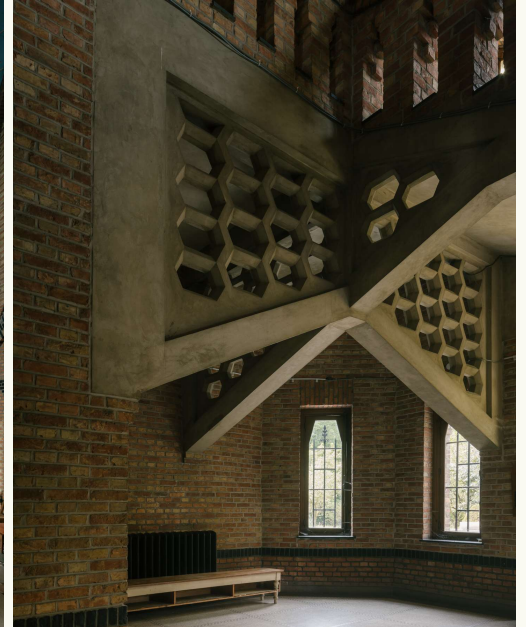


2021, luchtfoto

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | monastère (1930) | A | agriculture |
| 2 | maison de gardien (1930) | C | cour |
| 3 | maison de l'aumônier (1937) | H | jardin d'herbes |
| 0 | mur de jardin (1930) | O | jardin ornemental |
| | | V | verger |
| | | † | cimetière |

Project caritas:

Refuge for precarious families, social restaurant, childrens daycare, fysiotherapy, student Kot a Project



aNNo architecten, project Visitatie: pictures Stijn Bollaert

Architecture without extraction: REUSE

Philosophy Steven Jackson: Broken World Thinking > to "CARE+REPAIR"

[https://sjackson.infosci.cornell.edu/RethinkingRepairPROOFS\(reduced\)Aug2013.pdf](https://sjackson.infosci.cornell.edu/RethinkingRepairPROOFS(reduced)Aug2013.pdf)

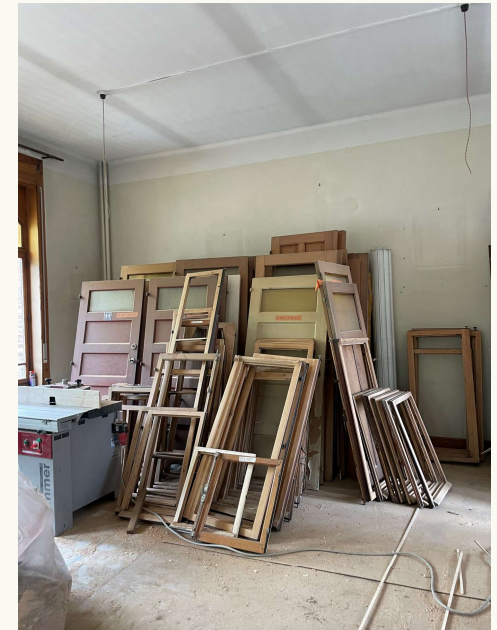


Figure 11.1
Edward Burtynsky, *Shipbreaking #4*.⁵

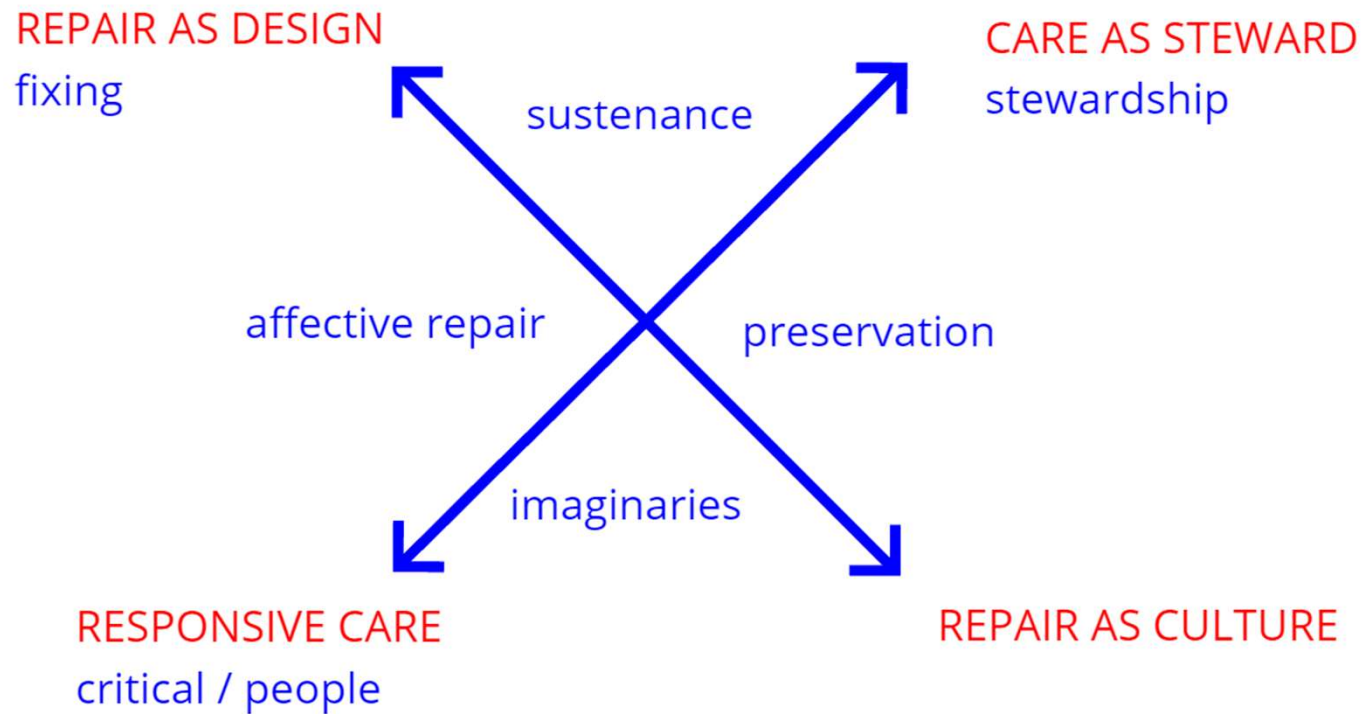
*costs of our industrialized world and the global cycle
of production and consumption*



*Reuse in project visitatie aNNo
1st order answer*



- 1st order answer REUSE (critique: green business as usual, technological approach)
- 2nd order answer double ethos "REPAIR + CARE" (broken world thinking, joan tronto, ea.)
- Cultural opportunity REPAIR: change, adapt, maintenance, abstain, ...
CARE: new narratives





REPAIR AS DESIGN

fixing

CARE AS STEWARD

stewardship

sustenance

affective repair

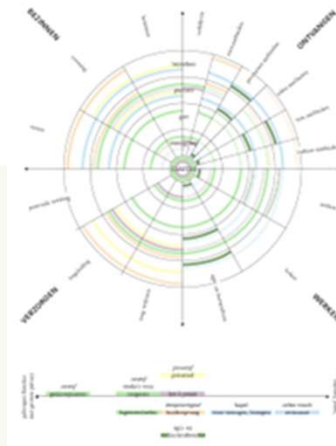
preservation

imaginaries

RESPONSIVE CARE

critical / people

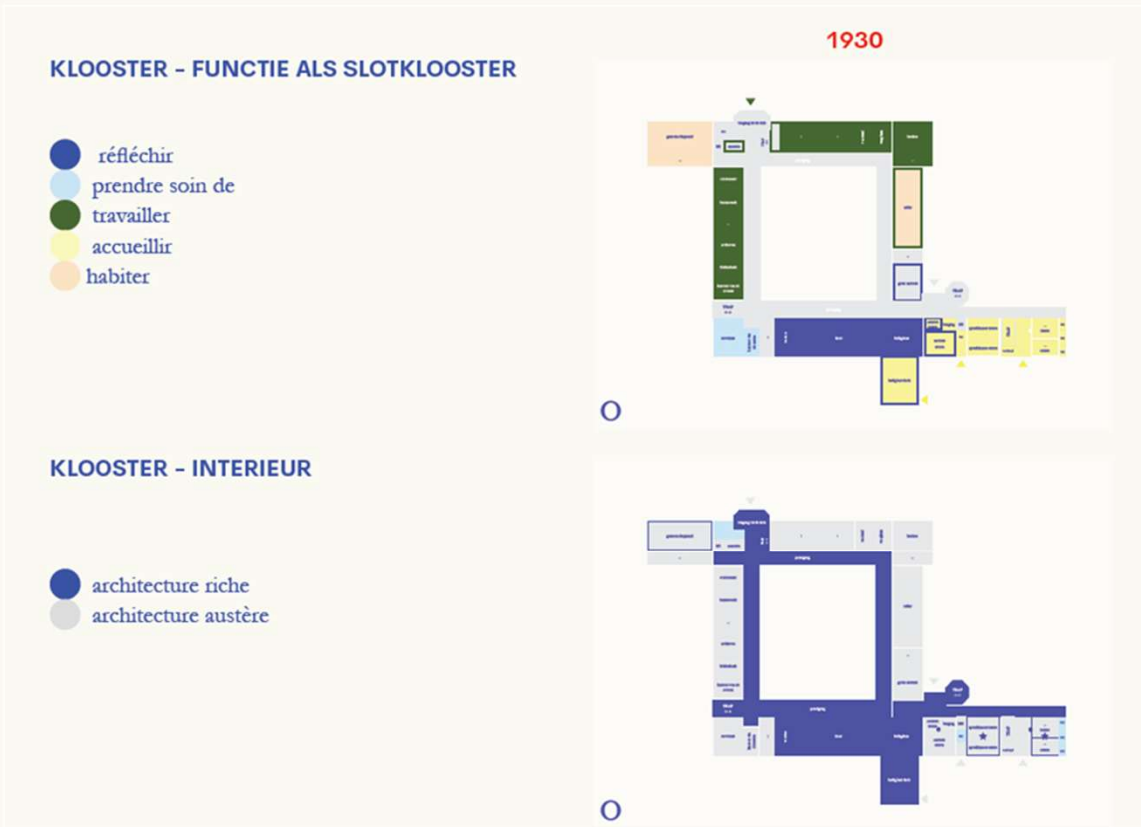
REPAIR AS CULTURE



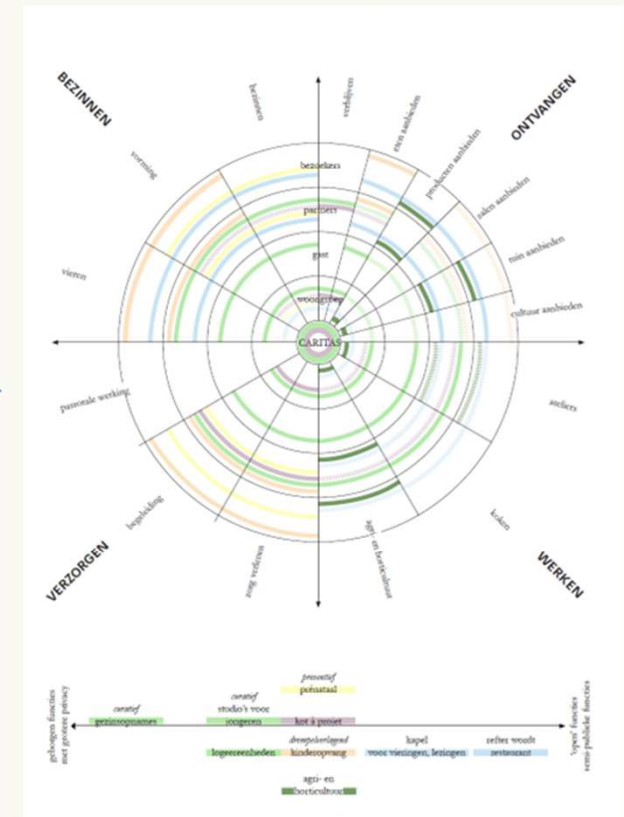
2

How do your interactions with the wider project context change?

Heritage narrative for a new “community”



communities of the project function in a project



From narrative of the (heritage) place

To Situated Imaginaries in the present

“imaginaries as socially transmitted representational assemblages that interact with people’s personal imaginings and are used as meaning-making and world-shaping devices”
 NOEL SALAZAR, *The (im)mobility of tourism imaginaries*, 2012



*Manifesto for Maintenance Art, 1969!
Mierle Laderman Ukeles*



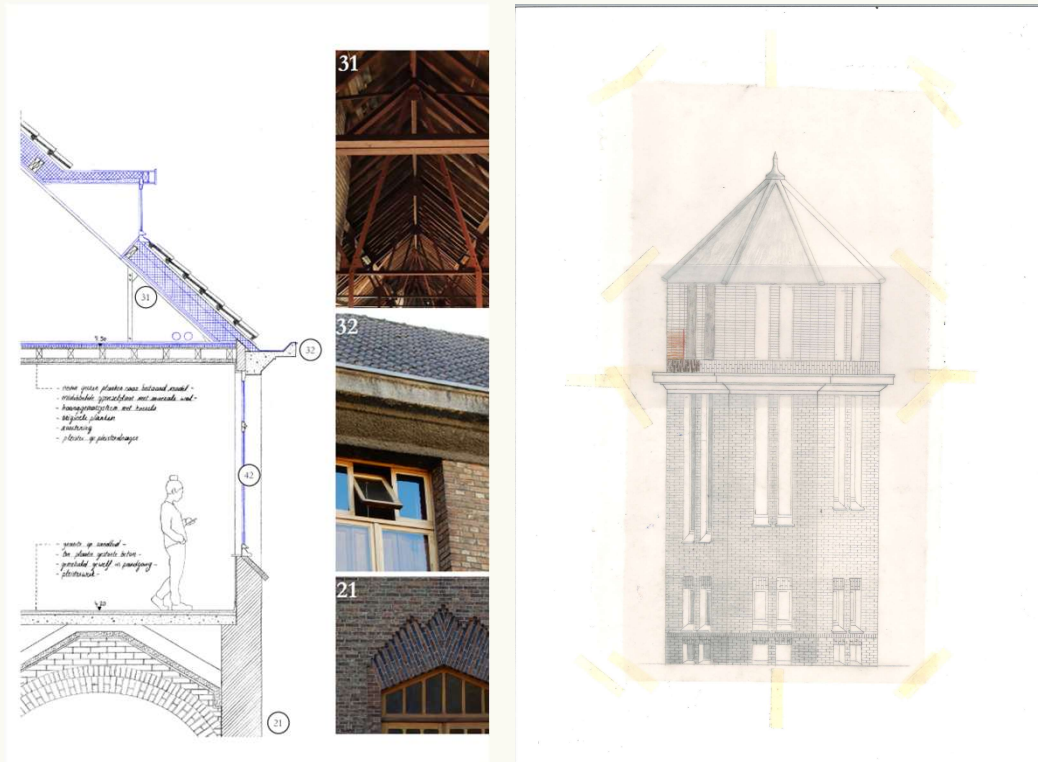
LABOUR
 “everyday acts of maintenance” by which stability is realized
 Working with who is already there

3

How does your attitude as designer change?

What are the consequences for design education?

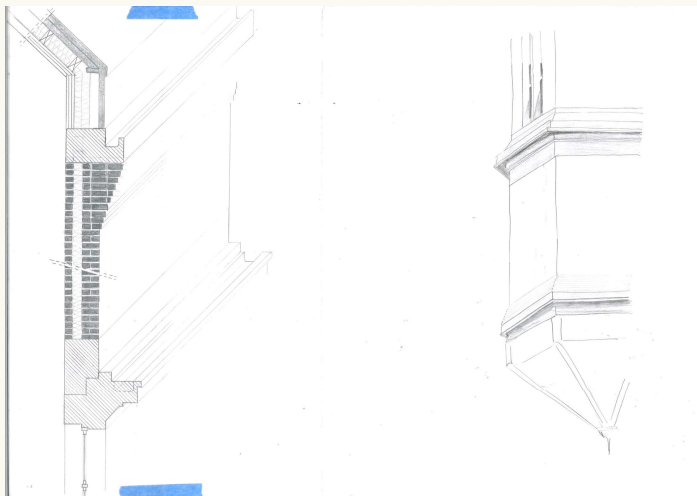
(1) OBSERVATION & DETAIL: MICRO-INTERVENTIONS (change in urban context of Tabula Plena)



CULTURAL ATTITUDE

Sustain what / who is there

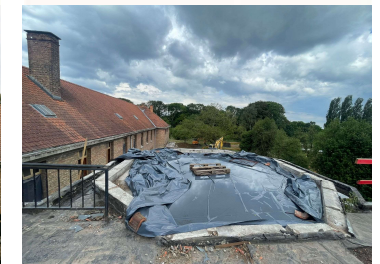
- Maintain / Abstain
- Adaptive / affective reuse
- Communities of a project



In addition / critique to
GREEN-TECH THINKING of the market / education (?)
technological sustainability (green business as usual)

(2) NEW WAYS TO DESCRIBE PROJECTS: CARE+REPAIR
Heritage preservation 2.0 > design practice

Care	Description
Sustaining	Working with what and who is there, ensuring continuity and support.
Listening	Layering, explaining, understanding the context and needs.
Narrating	Continuing, improving, altering the story of a place through design and use.
Adopting	Feeling, drawing, photographing, making the space your own through personal engagement.
Encountering	Spatializing, experiencing the space in physical and emotional terms.
Repair	Description
Maintenance	Regular upkeep and care to preserve the functionality and aesthetics of a structure.
Preservation	Protecting and safeguarding the building's integrity from decay and degradation.
Renewal	Updating or upgrading elements to restore functionality while respecting the original design.
Reclaim	Retrieving and restoring original materials or elements that may have been removed or altered.
Recreate	Rebuilding or making new parts that are in keeping with the style and materials of the original structure.



Stijn Cools, Phd Revalue: embaring care and repair. Building with what and who is already there, 2024 (ongoing)