

An aerial photograph of a landscape featuring a series of interconnected ponds and water channels, surrounded by green trees. A semi-transparent, high-contrast urban plan or map is overlaid on the right side of the image, showing building footprints and street layouts. The text is placed on white banners that cut across the image.

Intensive urban design and landscape urbanism workshop

Pond Urbanisms. The second life of the Wijers

September 6 -> 13th 2013, Hasselt North, Belgium

The area **north of Hasselt in Belgium** is mainly known for its coal mining past and its recent, but also **extremely dispersed (sub)urbanization**. Yet at the heart of this urbanized territory hides a **treasure: an impressive constellation of small cascading ponds**. This unique water landscape developed incrementally from the 13th century onwards for fish farming. Abandoned and neglect for several decades, the water landscape however re-emerges today in the collective imagery thanks the **ambitious regional project 'De Wijers'**. This project aims to develop the ecological and recreational role of the water structure, but also its potential as a carrier of regional identity. More than establishing contemplative relationships, the ambition is to **create innovative city-nature interplays**, through the re-definition of notions of visibility, accessibility, and complementariness.

OSA/RUA from the KULeuven and the VLM (Flemish Land Agency) organize a **one week intensive urban design and landscape urbanism workshop** that is open to a dozen **young urban designers and landscape architects**. The workshop will explore the mentioned questions and issues and **develop a vision, design development concepts and elaborate a (re)development strategy for the area**. The results –concepts, visions, strategies – are co-produced with stakeholders, local and external experts and presented to and debated with various publics. They will finally be developed into a publication and lay the groundwork for future development plans in the region (municipal & provincial structure plans, etc.). Christian Nolf (KUL/PHL) and Bruno De Meulder (KUL) coach the workshop that is organized in collaboration with the Flemish Land Agency (VLM). It takes place **from Friday noon 06/09/2013 until Friday evening 13/09/2013 on site**, near Hasselt. Practically, graduated architects that are following postgraduate courses in urbanism or landscape architecture or graduated urban designers and/ or landscape architects are invited to participate on free initiative. **On-site accommodation, transportation and catering will be fully supported by the organization**. Interested? Please contact [christian.nolf@asro.kuleuven.be](mailto:christian.nolf@asro.kuleuven.be) to confirm your interest and for more information.