

The framework for the international projects:

Our Interior Design program includes a course "Field expertise of Interior Design". Its goal is to get students acquainted with the profession of an interior designer, his working fields, his responsibilities, his job opportunities, ... opportunities abroad. In the first year there is a focus on the main wide working field and the basic acknowledgment of the profession and its basic tasks and responsibilities. In the second year there is a focus on the international frame of the profession of the interior designer. There are two main topics. How does one think about this profession abroad from an educational point of view and how does one fulfill the profession in a foreign professional situation. Students then can choose to research how other Academies implement courses to achieve an Interior Design education program. They do this by involving themselves into collaboration workshops or projects and visit the schools. Otherwise students can contact foreign offices of Interior Design, visit, investigate the way these offices operate, join the work floor for a few days. In both cases the students are required to participate in a "design" activity (education or profession related) and make a final personal report on their experiences within this international context. In the third year there is a focus on job opportunities and the more administrative aspects related to the profession. Moreover students can use the contacts they have made during the second year to go on an Erasmus visit or to do an internship abroad. This is the main framework of this three year course.

The collaboration project proposal:

My visit and question to the board of colleagues of Interior Design of the academy of Wroclaw is related to the activities of the second year. In particular, discussing a possibility of a collaboration workshop that our students and the students of Interior Design in Wroclaw could participate together in.

The emphasis of this collaboration is not in the first place another training on design capabilities but on the confrontation of how a student thinks about and acts upon a specific topic related assignment from a different regional, historical, cultural and educational background. Given a specific topic related assignment our Belgian students will probably approach the task with an other set of means and techniques than their colleagues from Poland. This should lead to some interesting comparisons, differences and equalities which should lead to a widening of the personal horizon. Also the teachers who would be participating in conducting these collaboration workshops might get acquainted with new or at least different methods of approach. Student and teacher mobility becomes the key-word. Of course designing is the core business and should also have its place.

For us these are the first steps in this direction. We had an experimental collaboration workshop with the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow last year. 12 Belgian students and a same amount of Polish students participate realizing a dozen of concept designs on a topic "U-topos" thinking about an Utopia dimension implemented to the Academy site in Ghent. A publication on this project is expected by the end of the year. I would like to regard a collaboration with the Interior Design of the Academy of Wroclaw as our first pilot project. For this year's edition we should therefore not aim too high, but high enough. A slow soft take off should lead to a stable flight later.

Parallel to this possible project we also plan a project for the furniture design house Cassina in Milan who have asked us to invite our students to a reflection on needs of young people on future furniture design. "What's missing for young people in the future that can be thought of today by young people". Further details on this assignment will be discussed half December. The workshop on this topic is planned in February / March of 2012. A highlight of this project is a visit to the furniture factories of Cassina in Milan and a visit to the International Design Fair in Milan around 17th of April. Also students of the Academy of Wroclaw are invited to participate in this project.

At the end of the Academic year during the graduation exhibition end of June we can organize a separate exhibition of all international projects in Ghent. Participating students and teachers of Wroclaw are invited to visit our Academy.

This is merely a suggestion, open for discussion and adaptation.

Proposal Workshop Winter Circus / Garage Mahy

Collaboration project for the departments Interior Design of the E. Geppert Academy for Fine arts Wroclaw and the Academy For Fine Arts, School of Arts Ghent

Topic: **Public stage in a city context in the 22nd century**

Conceptual research in order to develop an design vision on future public stage installations in a city context.

Conceptual research:

The research conducted should not be of scientific nor technological kind. It might include scientific and technological aspects as well historical and cultural aspects. The research should focus on generating several design concepts with various parameters that historical, cultural, functional, artistic, scientific... aspects determine.



Design vision:

The design vision is the ultimate result of the conducted research on various concepts which gives an unique answer. The unique visionary concept on future public stage installations.



Future Public stage installation:

The stage installation should provide optimal circumstances and possibilities for executing any kind of performance with a live audience.

The installation is public which means that it can be used by any performer of any kind. The audience is generally street public, so the installation should be free for access. Although a temporary separation from the street should be possible in order not to disturb the performance activities. On the other hand the installation should be attractive and appealing so street public would feel welcome at any time.

The installation should express and fit into a lifestyle which is assumed representative for the generation of the 22nd century. An vision on this generations lifestyle is necessary to set up the boundaries and features of the installation.

City context:

The location of the public stage installation is situated in a very specific city environment. The specific location will be issued. Students should consider the various parameters of this environment when conducting their research.

...



As time frame I would like to propose this. First of all we need to set a common topic that could lead to a concrete assignment. I would like to orient this project in the field of Stage (or temporary) Design since we already have a project on Furniture Design.

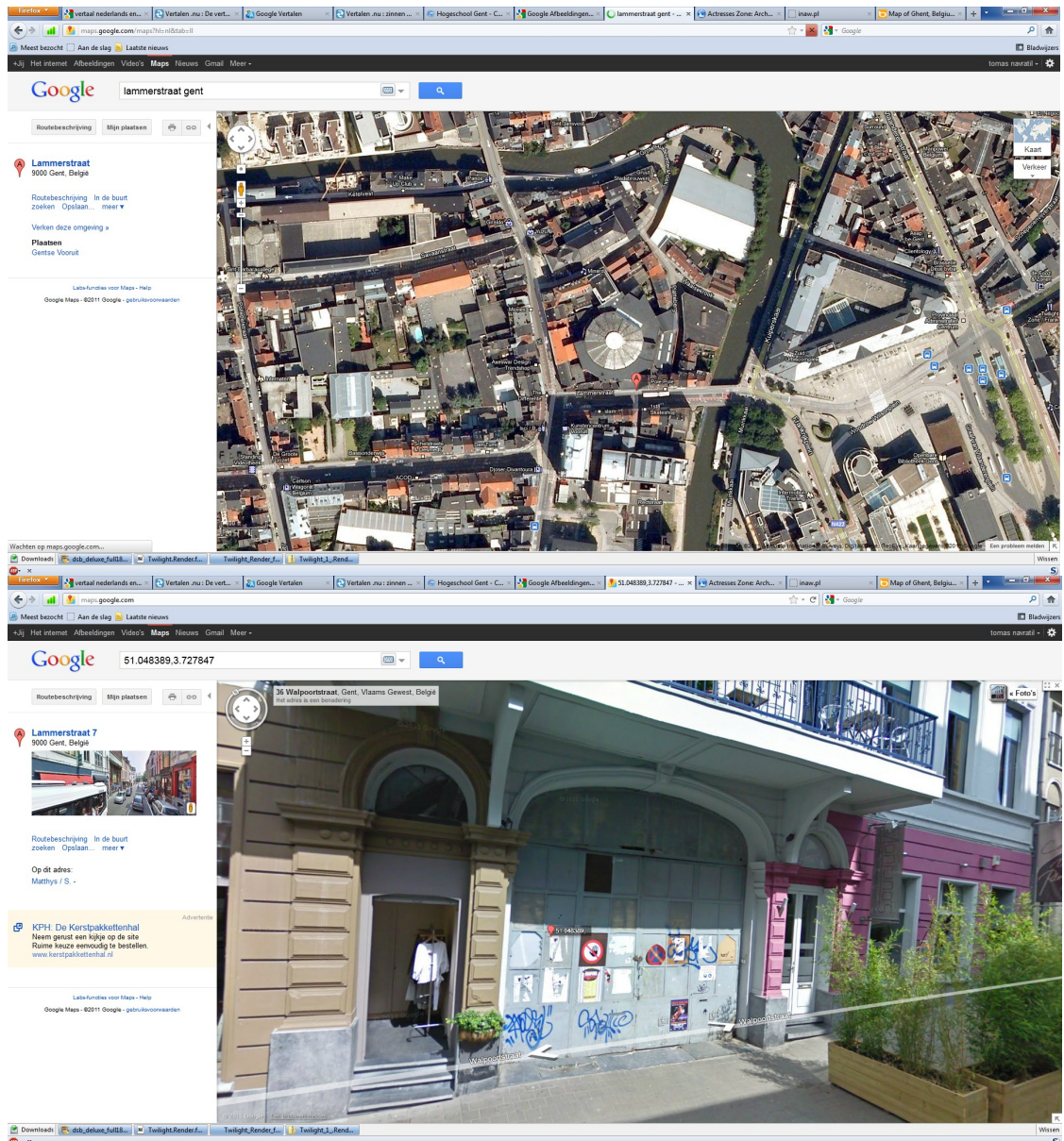
The workshops should be held at own Academies during February / march 2012. The conceptual designing should take a few hours spread over one or two weeks. Information relating to the assignment should be exchanged through an live internet link with shared space, e.g. dropbox / Skype / or simple chat and mail ... broadcasting a lecture on the topic might be a possibility if technological support is sufficient and at hand. End of march, in the week of 26th our students would visit Wroclaw and the Academy. A second short period of designing, fine tuning and/or evaluating could take place. A final evaluation can be held at the end of the year in Ghent or Wroclaw or both.

At this point we have about 12 students who signed in for this project. We can let them work individually or in groups of two to three.

Location (Ghent):

Winter Circus Gent / Garage Mahy at the junction Lammerstraat and St Pieters nieuwstraat.

The Wintercircus Mahy in Ghent was built in 1894, rebuilt after a fire in the early 20ies, and turned into a garage after the last circus show in 1944. Since the mid-90ies, the building has been vacant, until Vanfleteren's exhibition, and has fallen into severe decay. The water on the floor is from the rain coming through the roof, which made very scary sounds on this stormy november afternoon...In 2009, Belgian photographer Stephan Vanfleteren did an exhibition of portraits at the circus.



Links:

http://users.telenet.be/lab-wan/photography/wintercircus/winterc_00.htm

<http://www.cobrapit.be/fotos/urban-exploring/waalse-krook-wintercircus-gent-2011/>

http://www.google.be/search?q=wintercircus+gent&hl=nl&client=firefox-a&pwst=1&rls=org.mozilla:nl:official&prmd=imvns&source=lnms&tbm=isch&ei=nafbTqroEISh-Qauja2MBw&sa=X&oi=mode_link&ct=mode&cd=2&sqj=2&ved=0CCUQ_AUoAQ&biw=1920&bih=907

