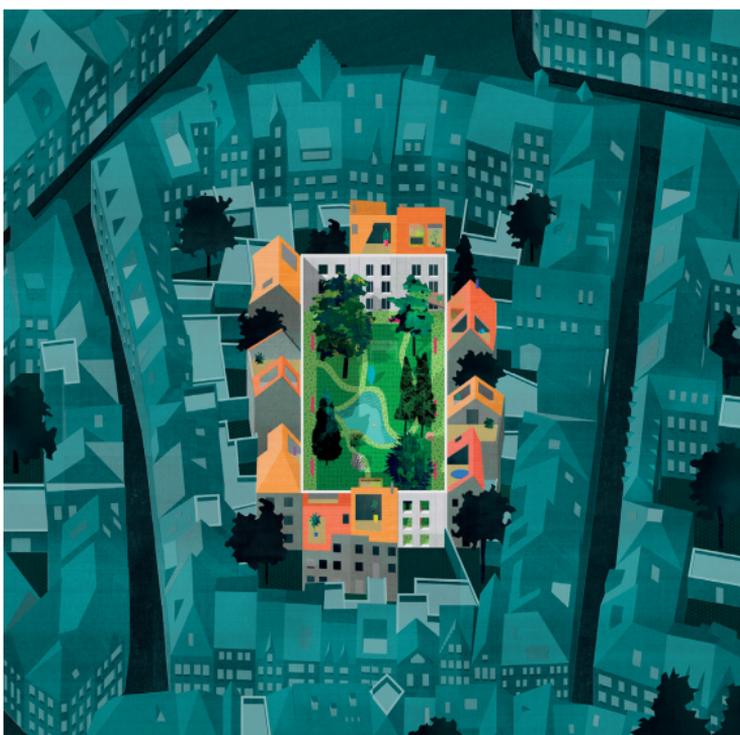


01.04 - 12.06.2022

Table Setting #1

Generiek



Flanders
Architecture
 Institute

**DE
SINGEL**

Generiek

In *Table Setting #1*, the young architecture firm [Generiek](#) explores the relation between greenery and domesticity. This is the first edition of *Table Setting*, a new exhibition series organized by the [Flanders Architecture Institute](#) and [De Singel](#) for young architects in Flanders and Brussels. Each time, the designers have the square in front of De Singel at their disposal as well as a set of tables with attributes designed by architect Laura Muyldermans.

Generiek is based in Ghent (BE) and Shanghai (CN). Architects Lorenz Adriaens (†2021), Lando De Keyzer and Richard Leung founded the firm in 2016. The name refers to their way of working. The word 'generiek' (generic) identifies the tension between 'repeatability' and 'individuality' as a playing field for the design practice. In its projects, Generiek invariably seeks out the confrontation between the intensive logic of the design and the singularity of each context. For example, by looking for the leeway between the pure geometry of an intervention and the erratic shape of the building site. Adopting this attitude, the practice works in constant interaction between research and design, theory and practice, on a wide range of scales and on different continents.

Table Setting shows how architects deal at different levels with a design assignment. In this case: 'Make an exhibition on the square in front of De Singel.' In a revised installation, Generiek combines an overview of its own work with an artificial green scene on the grey square. The nature scene came into being in collaboration with the Ghent textile designer [Sofie Van Aelbroeck](#), in whose work the reuse of found

materials is of central importance. In interaction with items already present on the square, the elements of the installation generate a place that balances between space and image, a domestic and urban scale, greenery and artificiality. One question remains: who will claim this space?

- Petrus Kemme (Series curator, Table Setting)

Cover image:
Together Alone - Cross House
Flanders (BE)
Domestic Research
2018 - now, in progress

INTRODUCTION

Heaven Is a Place on Earth

A garden or front lawn are often expressions of a household of good social standing. Especially within domesticity, greenery is innately charged with a symbolic narrative that takes precedence over the experience of nature. While often considered banal, gardening is in fact a meticulous act of grooming and sculpting the land. It is a way of manifesting a personal ideal of paradise and of claiming ownership of the plot of land the greenery exists upon.

For the installation, a piece of grass is placed on the square, contrasting with the dark asphalt. This trimmed grass surface is uncannily similar to that of a typical domestic garden – however, it is not owned, but open to be appropriated by the general public during springtime.

The backdrop to this grass surface is a 6 m long textile creation held up, like a billboard, by a structural stack of tables within which Generiek's portfolio of work is presented. With this, we question the role architecture plays in the propagation of our subjective relation with nature.

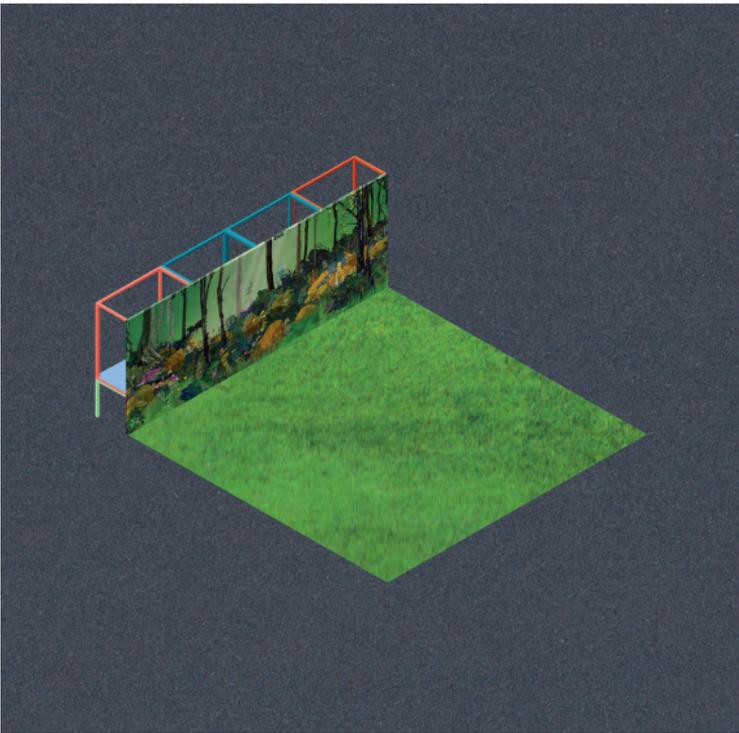


Cross House, Ghent (BE)
Private Residence
2016, new build

The textile creation itself is a stitched collage of a highly idealized landscape composed of lush greenery and flowering plants. Something not of this world, but a manifestation of what gardens have come to represent: merely, a culmination of our own subjective desires.

With issues such as biodiversity and land appropriation coming under increased scrutiny, this exhibition is an invitation to question our subjective relation to nature. Starting with our impact on the landscape as we pursue our own little slices of heaven on earth.

- Generiek (Lando De Keyzer and Richard Leung)



Tafelzetting, Antwerp (BE)
Installation
2022





Heaven is a Place on Earth



02. Organizational Structure



03. Organizational Structure



04. Organizational Structure



05. Organizational Structure



19. Site Plan



20. Site Plan



21. Site Plan



22. Site Plan



23. Site Plan



24. Site Plan



25. Site Plan



26. Site Plan



27. Site Plan

Typology

Typology is a fundamental method by which Generiek reads and draws architecture. Installation and pavilion projects are often employed as means to test spaces on the scale of the individual, as in *The Stranger* and *Womb Within*. Smaller projects also provide the opportunity to experiment critically the role of typology in shaping our lives. This was also the case with the project *Daily Measures*, which looked at domestic apartment typologies in Hong Kong as both outcome and enforcer of the city's sociopolitical forces.



Daily Measures
West Kowloon Cultural District
Pavilion
2017, competition (honourable mention)

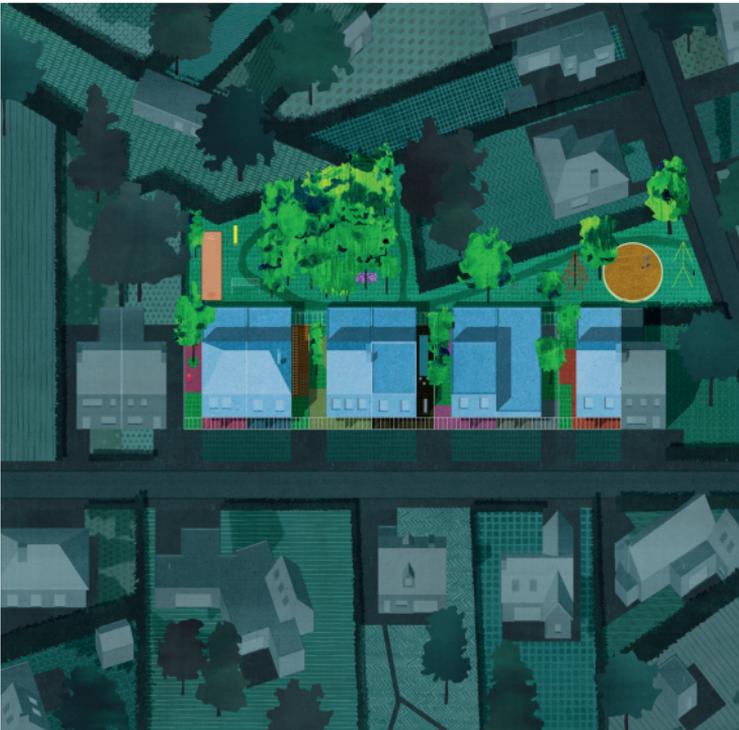
Like many young offices, most of Generiek's first commissions were private houses. These small domestic projects were designed using a typological approach. As such, they can be considered beyond the specificities and constraints of the plot. These individual houses can be read not as singular architectural objects, but rather as composing an architectural framework for living – a domestic infrastructure of sorts.



Daily Measures
West Kowloon Cultural District
Pavilion
2017, competition (honourable mention)

Together Alone

The *Together Alone* series of drawings is in essence a set of tests. By assembling the domestic typologies of Generiek's individual houses in a sequence, it is possible to explore a more collective manner of living. From framing forested areas (*Forest Villa*) to shared garden rooms (*Co-ordinate Villa*), opportunities are created to envision land appropriation on a larger scale, beyond the individual plot. Although drawn in accordance with local regulations (offsets, building height restrictions etc.), the isolation and segregation that these rules enforce are circumvented through typological arrangements.



Together Alone - Strip House
Flanders (BE)
Domestic Research
2018 - now, in progress

Together Alone serves as a bridge between smaller domestic typologies and architecture and urban design on a larger scale. Part of the primary purpose of the drawing of these plans is the recognition of the difficulties of enacting large-scale changes at once (whether in terms of land availability or policy alteration). By providing a typological framework for expansion and composition humbler architecture are charged with the potential to enact change in the context they exist in. In the hope that this inspires a more common, coherent and collective way of living within the urban and territorial landscape.



Together Alone - Co-ordinate Villa
Flanders (BE)
Domestic Research
2018 - now, in progress

Remembrance

Lorenz Adriaens

The father who taught his children to fly before bedtime.

Sofie's life partner. The man who cross-pollinated with her.

She taught him what love is, he gave her self-confidence.

Lorenz and his stones, Sofie and her textiles.

She the feeler, he the thinker.

Together the doers.

The man who stirred the warrior in himself when they told him it would be a long road. The man who looked life straight in the eye, while out of the corner of his eye he could see death come closer and closer. On the journey whose end never seemed far away, he gathered life's wisdom at a great pace.

Lorenz fought cancer for ten years, until the frequency and speed of its recurrence forced him to finally resign himself to his fate. But even when any last hope had disappeared, he persevered in the fascinating positivity that was so typical of him.

He found in architecture the opportunity to explore his existential questions and create his own world view. Just as artists create works of art to find their place on this earth, he made buildings to find his place. It was his way of looking at the world. He didn't look at it alone. Richard and Lando were always by his side.

Lorenz, Lando and Richard got to know each other through architecture, but somewhere along the way they also became friends and partners. Together the three of them talked about the projects, the management and the design of

their firm. His view of life – and how it deserves to be lived – also became the moral backbone of Generiek.

For Lorenz, Generiek was much more than a job or profession. It was a mouthpiece for his imagination, a way to share his ideas about a happy and meaningful life. His sincere view of architecture left no room for nonsense or detours. He always went for what he was firmly convinced of: he believed in ethically responsible architecture. That is what he went for and what he still stands for today. He could get things moving and set the creative juices flowing.

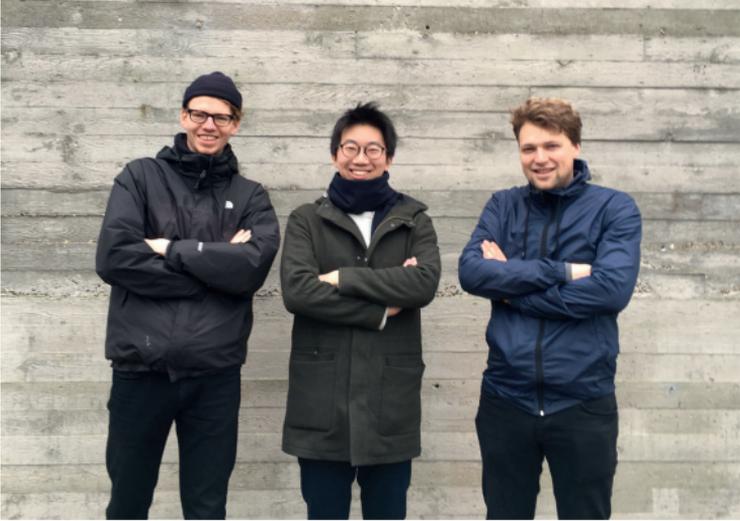
Lorenz was an ace at creating and connecting. Never self-centred, always ambitious. Generiek facilitates and introduces, organizes and prioritizes. Never imposing, always attentive to the little things in life. Our designs form a framework for his clear gaze. From a humble and curious perspective, our architecture animates the zeitgeist from which it emerges while inviting change.

Lorenz laid firm foundations. Together we continue to build spaces in which different residents or users can move freely. Our design as a reservoir that not only stands the test of time, but also surprises.

The way he led his life guides us now through our own life. Perhaps it will soon guide you through yours too.

The essence remains.

It always will.



From left to right:
Lorenz Adriaens, Richard Leung and Lando De Keyzer.

Table Setting #1

Generiek

01.04 - 12.06.2022

Organization and production

Flanders Architecture
Institute
De Singel

Content and design

Generiek (Lando De Keyzer
and Richard Leung)

Textile design

Sofie Van Aelbroeck

Installation design

Laura Muyldermans

Director Flanders Architecture Institute

Sofie De Caigny

Series curator, Project coordinator Flanders Architecture Institute

Petrus Kemme

Production manager Flanders Architecture Institute

Eva Pot

Production manager De Singel

Karl Kana

Technical production coordinator

Guy Anthoni

Press and communication

Egon Verleye

With thanks to

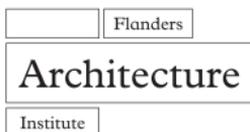
Heidi Ballet, Melanie
Goethals, Hendrik Storme,
Paul Vermeir

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Institute and De Singel are
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Community**



**The programme of the
Flanders Architecture
Institute is made possible
thanks to these partners**

Reynaers Aluminium, Bulo,
Gyproc, Febelcem, Stone,
Wienerberger, Forster



**DE
SINGEL**

18.06 - 21.08.2022

Table Setting #2

Joris Kerremans

