

capa.city autumnschool

Turnhout (Be) - 14-17 October 2019

RECLAIM THE SUBURBS

which capacities for participatory approaches?



There is an increasing consensus that the societal costs of dispersed, low-density and car-dependent suburban developments are too high. To reduce these costs, planners and policy makers are formulating **strategies to retrofit suburbs**: densifying them, diversifying them or simply erasing them. What they did not expect is that residents would protest: Not In Our Backyards.

This reminds us of the '60 and 70ies when planners and policy makers sanitized complete city parts because they were considered unhealthy, chaotic and ugly. This meant the start of the **Right to the City** movement (Lefebvre, 1968; Harvey, 2012), assembling citizens to reclaim their neighborhoods from top-down planning.

The point of departure of this CAPA.CITY autumnschool is that we need a new movement **Reclaim the Suburbs** that supports residents to organize themselves and initiate own retrofitting projects; projects that do reduce the societal costs of their mode of living, but also fit within their housing dream: garage-box entrepreneurs, multi-generational villa-collectives, eco-garden networks, crowdfunded community services or renewable energy cooperatives.

The CAPA.CITY autumnschool will collect and discuss ongoing Reclaim the Suburb initiatives, with a focus on the **capacities** that collectives need to develop, in order to initiate, run and sustain such initiatives. A series of professionals with an expertise in participatory design and planning will assist us: **GivRum** (DK), experts in the participatory revitalization of empty buildings and urban spaces. **In Vivo** (F), authors of the "BIMBY" (Build In My BackYard) protocol, a participatory approach to soft densification.

Intrastructures (Be), founders of the OpenStructures project, an open modular construction model.

Organizational committee:

Hasselt University (Belgium)
Oswald Devisch, Teresa Palmieri

Roskilde University (Denmark) Majken
Toftager Larsen, John Andersen

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Funded by:



Project partners:



Intrastructures

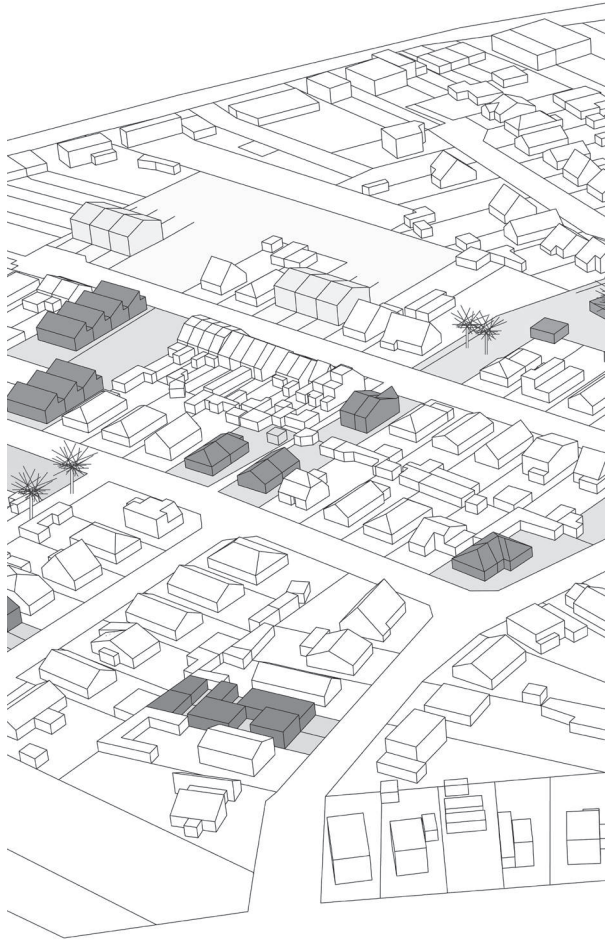


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CAPA.CITY

Building capacity to transform existing residential subdivisions into smart and robust urban ecosystems.



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Building capacity to transform existing residential subdivisions into smart and robust urban ecosystems

Developing smart and sustainable transformation pathways requires technical and conceptual innovation. The project CAPA.CITY starts from the hypothesis that these innovations can only be implemented in a durable way if they are supported by a process of capacity building.

In particular, the aim of CAPA.CITY is to develop a theoretical and operational framework on how to reinforce the capabilities of a collective, consisting of citizens, local stakeholders and organisations, to reflect over and steer spatial transformations taking place in its daily environment.

CAPA.CITY specifically focuses on residential subdivisions located in Belgium, Denmark and France and explores location based experiential learning methods, *Telling*, *Enacting* and *Making*, as approaches to support capacity building.



TELLING

Telling is explored as an approach to trigger residents of residential subdivisions to imagine alternative futures for their own property and to then support a debate over the quality of these futures for the collective as a whole. The focus lies on the densification of residential subdivisions.

Academic Partner: Marion Serre [Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille, ENSA-M]

Professional Partner: David Miet and Denis Caraire [Lab InVivo]

Location: France

ENACTING

Enacting is explored as an approach to involve a diversity of actors in the retrofitting of residential subdivisions. The organization of events invite these actors to enact (and thus collectively experience) possible futures. The focus lies on societal issues such as social segregation and the access to services.

Academic Partner: John Andersen and Majken Toftager Larsen [Roskilde University]

Professional Partner: Jasper Koefoed Melson [GivRum]

Location: Denmark

MAKING

Making is explored as a method to collectively reflect on the criticality of contemporary ways of dwelling the private realm of the house and the shared one of the neighbourhood and envision alternative pathways to live together. The focus lies on underused residential subdivisions.

Academic Partners: Oswald Devisch and Teresa Palmieri [University of Hasselt]

Professional Partner: Thomas Lommée [OpenStructures]

Location: Belgium

URBAN EUROPE