

AIMS & CHALLENGES

The built heritage sector is currently confronted with significant challenges, primarily driven by demographic shifts and the imposition of more stringent energy and comfort standards.

Notably, a growing number of relatively recent buildings are undergoing substantial renovations, without a prior assessment of their heritage potential.

These premature interventions can be attributed to a lack of awareness and recognition of the architectural and historical significance of these young buildings.

A crucial step towards a more comprehensive value assessment and the development of suitable strategies for the recognition, maintenance, restoration and renovation lies in acquiring knowledge about, among others, the building materials employed.

The core objective of this symposium is to provide valuable insights into the current state of knowledge regarding the built heritage from 1975-2000 and the contemporary challenges associated with its preservation.

Our aim is to gather knowledge from across Western Europe and to bridge the gap between policy, research, and practice. By seeking points of intersection among these domains, we aspire to foster a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in preserving these younger architectural treasures.



UCL, Faculty of Medicine, Student housing *La Maison médicale*.
Image: M. Vanhulst © urban.brussels, 2012.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The event will encompass a series of four keynote lectures delivered by esteemed scholars and experts in the field. In addition, we cordially invite prospective participants to contribute to the discourse by means of short abstracts and presentations. Those interested in presenting are kindly requested to submit abstracts, the guidelines for which can be found on the following page.

VUB Architectural Engineering and urban.brussels kindly invite you to the

International Symposium on Young Heritage (1975-2000)

Dates: February 6-7, 2024

Location: Royal Library, Brussels (auditorium)

Preliminary programme:

February 6, 2024

- 1.00 pm welcome
- 2.00 pm session 1 - value assessment
- 4.00 pm session 2 – policy instruments
- 5.30 pm drink

February 7, 2024

- 9.00 am introduction
- 9.30 am session 3 – building materials
- 11.30 am session 4 – restoration and conservation
- 1.00 pm lunch
- 3.00 pm guided visit (EN/FR): *La maison médicale* (UCL), Brussels

This event is open to all, after registration.

OVERVIEW OF SESSIONS AND KEYNOTE LECTURES

Please note that this preliminary programme might be subject to change.

SESSION 1 – VALUE ASSESSMENT.

Methodologies and frameworks for assessing the heritage value of young heritage (1975-2000), incl. Theoretical approaches and practical case studies.

Keynote by Kees Somer [Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, the Netherlands]

Kees Somer will shed light on the assessment method for post 65 heritage in the Netherlands, with particular attention for the development of a cultural-historical framework for the assessment and the practical application of this method (on national and local level) through case studies.

SESSION 2 – POLICY INSTRUMENTS.

Current policy on young heritage and strategies and instruments to safeguard young heritage (1975-2000).

Keynote by Harry Lelièvre [urban.brussels]

Harry Lelièvre, Head of Safeguarding Department at the regional administration urban.brussels, will delve into Brussels' policy instruments to safeguard heritage and offer insights into the recently completed inventory of post-war heritage (1939-1999) in the Brussels-Capital Region.

SESSION 3 – BUILDING MATERIALS.

Research on building materials and products typically used in buildings from 1975-2000, exploring aspects such as practical applications of these materials, production techniques, technical characteristics, regulatory framework, etc.

Keynote by Eric Monin [Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et de Paysage de Lille, France]

Through his research and teaching activities, prof. Eric monin has developed extensive knowledge on building materials, components, products and systems from 1975-2000. He will present some findings on typical, innovative and representative building materials from this period, as well as the (current) appreciation for these materials.

SESSION 4 – RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION.

Restoration and conservation techniques of contemporary building materials (1975-2000), encompassing both theoretical research and practical case studies.

Keynote by Andreas Putz [Technische Universität München, Germany]

As professor of recent building heritage conservation, Andreas Putz is specialized in 'high-tech modernism'. Starting from the material characteristics of this heritage, Andreas will discuss some of the challenges related to their historical documentation and technical and evaluation, and how to deal with this in research and renovations.

Call for abstracts

If you would to contribute to the symposium, please send in a pdf which contains:

- the title of your presentation
- name(s) of the author(s) + affiliation(s)
- 300-word abstract
- 1 image, free of copyrights, 300 dpi (also to be submitted as separate file, jpg or tiff)
- the session to which you want to contribute
- 4 keywords related to your the topic of your abstract

The contributions will be published in a digital book of abstracts.

Submissions via email to Marylise.Parein@vub.be

Deadline: December 15, 2023

Notification of acceptance: January 8, 2024.

Participation is free of charge, but participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

For further information and registration, please visit: <https://www.vub.be/arch/project/symposium-young-heritage>

Organising committee: Marylise Parein [VUB], Stephanie Van de Voorde [VUB], Ine Wouters [VUB], Tom Verhofstadt [urban.brussels], Manja Vanhaelen [urban.brussels], Stéphane Demeter [urban.brussels]