

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022, 13.00 - 17.00H

Symposium

RE/BUILDING BRUSSELS

The urban construction sector and the need for production space, social inclusion and circularity (1695-today)



photo © Bruce Forton

Join at **Centrum Hageltoren / Centre Tour à Plomb**, Slachthuisstraat 24 Rue de l'Abattoir, 1000 Brussels.

Or follow and participate **online**. You will receive the link and practical information after registration.

Free access - Registration is required: [register here](#)

Live attendance is conditional and subject to Covid regulations on 10/02/2022. We will keep you informed after registration.

By building and rebuilding urban space, the construction sector caters to an essential urban need, both in the past and today. However, the sector faces specific challenges: a local embeddedness that is under pressure, an enduring need for sufficient skilled workers, and a transition to a circular economy that needs to be made. To grasp this complexity, geographers, historians and engineer-architects at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel are taking a new, interdisciplinary look at the Brussels construction sector from 1695 to the present day.

This symposium will present the results of the research project 'Building Brussels', which focused on the composition and organisation of the Brussels building sector and how space can be made for construction companies in the city. It will then introduce the follow-up project 'Rebuilding Brussels', which examines how the construction sector can be a pioneer in creating a circular economy and an inclusive labour market in Brussels.

Organization: Vrije Universiteit Brussel



PROGRAMME

- 13:00 Welcome and introduction
- 13:10 *Building Brussels. The Brussels construction sector and the urban space (1830-today)*
Matthijs Degraeve [VUB], Frederik Vandyck [VUB/UAntwerpen] and Sarah De Boeck [VUB/perspective.brussels]
Commentary by Kristiaan Borret [Brussels bouwmeester maître architecte]
- 14:00 Break
- 14:10 *Rebuilding Brussels. The urban construction sector as an engine for social inclusion and circularity (1695-today)*
Karoline da Silva Rodrigues [VUB], Lara Reyniers [VUB] and Louise Huba [VUB]
- 14:40 *Material reward: Supply chains, labour and money in the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire (1666)*
Judy Stephenson [The Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction]
- 15:20 Break
- 15:30 *Circularity: Building on the past and looking to the future*
Gilli Hobbs [Sustainability and Circular Economy Advisor]
- 16:10 Discussion
Judy Stephenson, Gilli Hobbs, Kristiaan Borret and Re/Building Brussels
- 17:30 Reception at Halles Saint-Géry / Sint-Gorikshallen: vernissage of the expo Re/Building Brussels
Sint-Goriksplein / Place St-Géry, 1000 Brussels