Understanding the bio-morphology
Embracing the vegetal structure and enhancing the third landscape

Vegetal masses
Green clearings
Third Landscape corridors

Connecting dots
Revitalizating relations in the rurban realm through paths and stations

Production station
Social station
Slow leisure station
Active leisure station
Pedestrian infrastructure

Structuring the landscape
through slow movement

Running cycle network
Equipped ring

RULE 1
The non-binary, the un-specified, the non-conforming

1.1 Infrastructured landscape

Using an Ambivalence and opportunity: a whole new set of possibilities open in the definition of a non-conforming space. But page in the gray zone between natural and artificial, designed and undesigned, controlled and uncontrolled, the non-conforming area is sprinkled with usefull like infrastructures that populate the space and make it become the place where human can come to interact with it.

1.2 Enhancement of the non-conforming

Analyzing the multitemporal, of the third landscape: gaps, clearings and grain depths to all these forgotten walls, neglected structures, and abandoned buildings, heterogeneous materials, artifacts, vegetations creating a rich ecotone.

1.3 From line/division to place/meeting point

When working on the creation of soft transitions and gradients, one can enhance the porosity and the multifunctionality of borders, and its interactions with others that become meeting points, rich environments of interactions.

to grow
to bee keep
to dwell
to plug in
to sell
to dry
to compost
to store
to mark
to waste
to relax
to experiment

Fagus Sylvatica
Quercus xkerneri
Quercus pubescens
Castanea sativa
Quercus robor
Ulmus x hollandica 'Belgica'
Fraxinus excelsior
Malus domestica

The site of Namur Sart Hulet, being neither rural nor urban, offers the opportunity of an original urban development, with respect to its natural environment.
With this expression we mean that due to its human built environment and its natural morphology this site allows to study all the gradualities that lie between two common opposite definition such as urban/ rural, artificial/, organic/unmanaged and so on.
That is what we want to focus on, highlighting all the matter between the two extremes, to enhance it at all the design scales, to reveal and appreciate its hidden potential.

We tried to read the context giving space to the neglected corners and the apparently informal elements: the edges of the fields, the unused sealed surfaces, the lands abandoned after exploitation, the forgotten spaces between different properties or along the roads.
Through this operations we considered a wider range of possibilities and we enhanced elements that have a strong meaning. In fact all this micro-spaces if well highlighted and connected, can easily become a substrate to sustain and support future uses and developments, and most of all for natural appropriation. This 'third landscape', meaning an enhancement of spontaneous colonization leading to the creation of microhabitat for different species, gains a political and communitarian dimension: a territory of for diversity, inclusivity and sharing. To enable a flexible and open approach to the site, we chose to work with processes and examples more than a rigid and punctual intervention.
In fact we structured our design through some guidelines that we deepen through the design case studies that we identified in the context.

The territory gives all the elements to install a landscape of connections. The aim is to find a series of design strategies to reflect upon a new ratio between sealed and permeable soils and, moreover, to provide spaces for new synergies between human and non-human beings.
In fact, we focused on bio-morphology to understand the existing structure of the human and vegetal settlements, to be dialogue with them and to enhance them. We have identified a sequence of vegetal masses and green clearings that work as natural nodes for the elements of connection. We want to reveal and link all these elements and make the new area work with the whole city.
Therefore we propose to complete these already existing sequence through some new vegetal masses made of groups of protected species such as beech trees, oaks, elms and chestnuts which are actually native specimens of the Walloniari landscape.

RULE 2
Zero-net land-take 2050'

2.1 Antidensification-antiabilition-reinterpretation

To mitigate and limiting soil consumption to meet the new European requirements, we aim to focus on the existing. Densification-reinterpretation of the existing, preservation of micro and macro elements (stairs, cabinets, ponds, ramps, armrests, roads, bridges...)

2.2 Building-on-built

One of the most successful actions in the definition of a Zero-net land-take is the possibility of building on the impermeable surfaces, of exploiting valuable permeable and virgin land.
The new buildings proposed are placed on the already impermeable soil, in order to maximize potential.

2.3 Limit + mitigate = high-density + densefing

When building has not enough soil the introduction of a new structure seems necessary, so propose a shift of settlement from the ground to the air, from horizontal to vertical, from condensed and diffused, one or unitil the other. 1 household = 1 plot x (housing/m 90, 45, 80 household= 1.

RULE 3
Adaptive/conscious-domestication

3.1 Conscious inhabitation

The introduction of residential or leisure focused activities is based on the will to adapt the style of inhabitation to the environment, rather than the opposite, as it usually is predefined. Following this concept, we identify different possibilities of domestic space and living styles.

3.2 Microathermic in macrowoods

In a soft definition of rurban-conforming landscape and conscious domestication, the introduction of microathermic spaces, like shelters, flora and fauna to thrive in a complete balance with the environment, is a way to enhance the natural ecosystem. List of instructions, related to production and protection, to leisure or to management.

Production + flora/fauna protection

Production + flora/fauna protection

Bee keeping
Mushroom production
Flower production
Drying station

Active leisure

Sport fields
Bike paths
Lockers stations
Running tracks

Immo/infrastructures

Compost stations
Wilderness stations
Charging stations
Resting stations

The Velodrome and the microelements

the velodrome takes the place of the for the running and bike tracks that former hangar which is superposed by a spreads all around the landscape and it superstructure outside and equipped with becomes a marker in Sart Hulet site, with staircase element inside. These elements a superposition of programmes and a together with a roof variety pattern, enable and multiple performativity.
accommodate different uses. The classical
shape of the velodrome is modified by the In addition, through the seeding of
cuts and elements that help in defining a agricultural, forest and meadow mix flexible environment that offers seats and we try to encourage the installation and open space for events or market activities. management micro-habitats, creating
The inner space can welcome programs for the conditions for a colonization of the community and it accessible through insect/nature insects. In the while, with two light structured bridges. light canopies, wooden structures or
The presence of a series of water tanks pergolas, solar panels, rainwater tanks, and technical rooms gives the energy and energy stations or compost collector we services/ecosmplete the velodrome machines can encourage actions such as observing, and, moreover, it gives the possibility for dipping or stopping and thus re-establish an aquaponics greenhouse on top of it. a contact with the landscape without The velodrome constitutes a catalyst damaging the soil and the natural context.

Velodrome - section A-A

Velodrome - Ground Floor

Velodrome - Top Floor

1. access
2. rooftop access
3. events space
4. pressed ride and interview space
5. market and events space
6. bridge to the inner circle
7. seats and storage
8. restrooms
9. changing rooms
10. fertilizer and water tanks
11. water and fertilizer provision
12. greenhouses in aquaponics
13. hypogeniqs, workshops, market
14. bee hives

a. Beekeeping
b. Mushroom Production
c. Flower Production
d. Sport Fields
e. Bike Paths
f. Locker Stations
g. Running tracks
h. Compost station
i. Wilderness station
j. Charging station
k. Resting stop
l. Wild millinary relics
m. Rencurs-storeer
n. Poaceae
o. Cyperaceae
p. Linaceae
q. Rosaceae
r. Euphorbiaceae
s. Centaureaceae
t. Orchidaceae

The learning center

Blending its original soul to the contemporary needs and features of the area the former classes and stables buildings become spaces for community and tourist formation.
The Old Stables Building is transformed into a hostel that divides the stable on proper workspace from the sleeping and domestic space and accommodates all the needed spaces for the hostel activities, from the reception to the dining, storage, kitchen and a bathroom. Some communal spaces are provided at the centre, leaving a covered exterior hall for relaxation, socialization and simple activities.
On top of that green houses can be installed and make the rooftop a new common area.

The Soho (small office-home office)

A set of loft - kind dwelling is insert in the long warehouse building located in the South of the site, exploiting the repurposeness and versatility of the structure.
The dwelling is developed all along the entire structure that divide the stable on proper workspace from the sleeping and domestic space and accommodates all the needed spaces for the hostel activities, from the reception to the dining, storage, kitchen and a bathroom. Some communal spaces are provided at the centre, leaving a covered exterior hall for relaxation, socialization and simple activities.
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The communal farm residency

The communal farm is thought of as a receptive structure that blend together some features from a guesthouse to a small community center. In fact, bringing the military museum activities in the area, the farm will be a place where visitors can divided the stable on proper workspace from the sleeping and domestic space and accommodates all the needed spaces for the hostel activities, from the reception to the dining, storage, kitchen and a bathroom. Some communal spaces are provided at the centre, leaving a covered exterior hall for relaxation, socialization and simple activities.
The farm made of bigger volumes is equipped with added mezzanine structures to make the most of the heights offered by the existing structure.
The 3 existing barns is community canteen distributed on two floors, a professional kitchen to serve and prepare meals for events, some administrative offices, and a greenhouse on the first floor area.

The adaptive tower

Thought as a purely flexible building, the adaptive tower is designed as an example of densification of the lower amount of land with the best result in terms of space optimization and energy efficiency.
In fact it is thought as a condensation of units that face the urban sprawl we can see all around. Moreover, the tower is a way to face the problem of the budgetary uncertainty or irreplacable suspicion from an intensive occupation to a representative use. Nonetheless, the tower is designed as a multifunctional building, a multipurpose container that can accommodate different uses avoiding rigidity and functional monotony.

Section AA
1:500

Section BB
1:500

Section CC
1:500

Services:
Restrooms
Circulation
Storage

Production:
Shop-atelier
Latra-greenhouse
Classes
Informal
Non-binary

Dwelling:
Kitchen+living
Studio
Bedrooms

Ground Floor Plan
1:500

First Floor Plan
1:500

Representative use
Residential
Material Production
Immaterial Production

representative
reduced height
medium height
intensive height

Residential
Material Production
Imaterial Production