



NEVER EVER EVER NEVER

Universum Carrousel Journey

Studio Jan De Vylder

ETH Zürich

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NEVER EVER EVER NEVER

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prologue

Away. It must have been around here. Where this building now stands. There is now a building. Where ever my school was. That school that was a world. Which became our world. Where we found each other. To have a place as we have never found one again.

It fades. The image of you. It will now be more than thirty years ago. I even had to think about your name. One moment. It came back. Perhaps not anymore the image of you. But of us.

How the summers were too hot. And the windows were open. And the curtains flap outside. How the winters were too cold. But a thick sweater made it better. And in the meantime, you were wearing mine and i was wearing yours. Behind the glass, the summer had already begun in the spring. The wintry light of the snow illuminated the ceiling white.

Strange materials and amazing details. Surfaces of captured pebbles. Worn steel columns because of circling around. Sliding doors and light steel windows.

A different world than at home. But no longer a strange world. In the end together with you.

*never ever
ever never*

As if it is the nature of schools. Temporary schools. Schools always again will be bigger. And that bigger is so often a temporary school. Sometimes even temporarily from the beginning on. And then temporary sometimes takes a very long time. Until it actually can not be any longer. Then that new school comes.

We are designing a new temporary extension of schools. In Brussels and in Zurich. And each time there is a home for the caretaker. The school as group work and the house is completely individual work.

Not only the idea of what a school can be, makes part of this studio. Even more the idea of what temporarily may mean. May mean in building. May mean for a secure future. Or how temporarily really could be temporary. And what that temporarily could still be afterwards. And why temporarily might be permanent too.

In times of sustainability.
It is worth imagining.

In times of economy.
It is worth wild thinking.

NEVER EVER
EVER NEVER

SCHOOL
SCHOOL

BRUSSEL ZURICH
ZURICH BRUSSEL

universum carrousel journey

Some sets of words. Words of a studio Words of this studio. Words of your studio.

Words of a universum. Words in a carrousel. Words on a journey. The universum architecture can be. The carrousel architecture will be. The journey architecture need to undertake. Universum as a personal world. Carrousel as an ongoing world. Journey as a discovery of the world.

This studio is called universum carrousel journey. This studio's atelier will be given the title universum. The lectures will be held under the title carrousel. And the travels will be named journey. But they will be interchanged at times. As the studio is named universum carrousel journey.

practising a practice

Things that seemingly have nothing to do with each other all of sudden have something to do with each other. A practice. This atelier.

This atelier. Three students work together. From start till end. Your team. No team without individuals. Without personalities. The school as shared work. The caretaker's house as individual work

you can draw you can make you can write

Analogue techniques – handmade drawing; collage; painting; sketching; modelling... – Digital as long it is analogue. Believe it. You can. But also. Writing a chapter or a paragraph of a chapter of a novel framing that moment of life.

learning skills

group / individual
imagination / reality
thinking / making
focus / periphery
detail / horizon
temporary / permanent

two movements
two reviews

and so much in between

Making is thinking and thinking is making

Travel

Twice we will travel, once to Lustenau, the other time to Brussels.

The excursion to Lustenau will take place on Tuesday the 19th of February. We will travel by train. More specific information will be shared the evening of the 18th of February.

The second travel will bring you to Brussels on Tuesday the 9th and Wednesday the 10th of April. We will help you to find the best options regarding travel and stay. An estimated cost of 250CHF has to be foreseen.

epilogue*

architecture is not a matter of architecture *

autonomy

Perhaps it is a matter of autonomy. Autonomy of the architect. Yes, scale. Yes, context. Yes, references. Yes, materials. Yes, colours. Yes, as much as it is always the case. But to find a distance all of a sudden. And to celebrate the autonomy. Which makes a difference.

universe

Perhaps it is a matter of the universe. The rearrangement of what can be rearranged as a new world. A different world. Or at least as a different perspective on that world. A world known by no one but desired by everyone.

bravoure

Perhaps it is a matter of bravoure. A matter of always and everywhere making things possible again. As possibilities no one expected. As to make possible that which was not and could not be expected.

life

Perhaps it is a matter of life. A matter of how life can be understood and how life can be imagined. How it can and should be differently imagined. But how it really makes life. How it is allowed to make life. As a part of making life. And doing so.

wendung

Perhaps it is a matter of wendung. A matter of going somewhere and bringing things found along the way. The wendung as the direction where to go.

pleasure

Perhaps it is a matter of pleasure. The pleasure of seriousness. The seriousness of pleasure. With pleasure things go better. And become better. Giving more pleasure afterwards.

making

Perhaps it is a matter of making. The making of things. How to make them. How to make them just so differently. Differently, yes, but definitely as making.

* A+U 561 16:06 – architecten de vylder vinck taillieu – architecture is not a matter of architecture – p. 162-176