

# REDUCE | REUSE | RECYCLE

## CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE [EN BLANCO. REVISTA DE ARQUITECTURA] #36 [APRIL 2024]

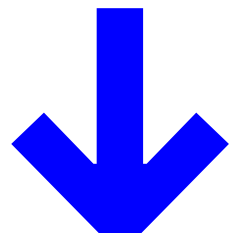
EDITOR: ELODIE DEGAVRE

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Fifty years have passed since the Club of Rome met and delivered the visionary publication *The Limits to Growth* (1972). This groundbreaking report was already questioning issues such as our ability to adapt our lifestyles and production methods to the predicted rarity of our resources. Today, no field is immune to this paradigm shift, including architecture: why build, how to build, in an age of scarcity and frugality? The depletion of resources is now accompanied by a growing awareness of the rarity and high ecological value of undeveloped land. Belgium, at the centre of this issue of En Blanco, has just passed a law whose equivalents are already in practice or under study in other European countries: the *stop concrete* law, which aims to halt the urbanisation of undeveloped areas from 2024 in Flanders. This is an unprecedented incentive for architects, who will have to reinvent their practice around the densification of already built-up areas and the rehabilitation of existing buildings. It's time to deal with the *tabula plena*, which forces the architect "to relate more to the existing conditions and to design on the basis of these conditions. The ideal of the *tabula rasa*, or creating from scratch, is no longer a viable option" (Roberts 2016).

What, then, are our alternatives to new construction? How are architects, town planners, landscape architects and construction professionals incorporating this paradigm shift into their work? Based on the practice of the Belgian firm **AgwA**, En Blanco #36 focuses on the architectural strategies of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** and their impact on architectural practice: "Re-attitude, Re-position, Re-practice" (De Vylder 2021), and explores the diversity of this subject from current, retrospective or comparative perspectives. In particular, unpublished contributions are invited which are the result of research work and which, by focusing on spatial design, bring innovation to the following questions:

- **One building, many lives (present):** strategies of adaptive reuse in a context of pre-existing urban density, oversized buildings, obsolete building programmes. What new programming opportunities do the structures inherited from the industrial period and the 1960-1970s offer? How can these structures be appropriated and reconfigured within the framework of our contemporary technical, economic, and ecological standards?



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- **One building, many lives [future]:** strategies of anticipation on future program shifts in new designs. How adapt new use to future reuse? What are the possible design strategies for creating sustainable spatial structures, such as their ability to absorb future uses? How do strategies of salvage and re-use contribute to this goal?
- **Densification in a context of scarcity:** dealing with the tabula plena. Densification strategies with an increased focus on the scarcity of resources and land. Enhancing, adding to, reconfiguring: how can the city be built on top of the city? Can we do more with less? What are the issues and impacts – both positive and negative – of this densification strategy?
- **Architect 2.0 :** *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* as an opportunity for *Re-attitude, Re-position, Re-practice*. How can the architect become an agent of circularity, economy of means and the life cycle of buildings? What is the architect's new role in the community, given the new paradigm that is transforming their profession?

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## SCHEDULE

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| July 10, 2023     | Publication of the call for papers                   |
| November 10, 2023 | Deadline for the reception of articles               |
| April, 2024       | Publication [En Blanco. Revista de Arquitectura] #36 |

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS AND SUBMISSIONS

<https://polipapers.upv.es/index.php/enblanco/about/submissions>