

4<sup>th</sup> Concrete Design Competition

# MONO LITHIC

20092010  
EXPLORING  
VERSATILITY

curated by

**Valerio Olgiati**

[www.concretedesigncompetition.com](http://www.concretedesigncompetition.com)

## BELGIAN JURY REPORT

Date: June 4th 2010

Location: Febelcem, Brussels

### Jury Members:

Andreas Anton Amodio (Accademia di Architettura Mendrisio)

Olivier Bourez (Atelier Matador, Saint Luc Tournai & UCL)

Stefan Devoldere (A+ Magazine)

Charlotte Geldof (Magnificent Surroundings) - excused

Sabine Leribaux (Architectes Associés)

Freek Persyn (51N4E, Berlage Institute)

### Observing Members:

Jef Apers, organizer (Febelcem)

Guy Châtel, secretary, national coordination (UGent)

### Schedule:

1. Briefing about the competitions background, concept and target.
2. Explanation and discussion of the design assignment
3. Jury

### Participation:

32 entries whereof 5 team works and 27 individual works

41 students involved, from 8 schools.

i.e.

28 students from 5 schools in the Flemish Community

13 students from 3 schools in the French Community

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#### Jury Procedure:

The jury proceeds to a first elimination round. Projects that do not clearly address the theme of the competition are eliminated.

Open discussion about the merits and limitations of the considered projects.

The jury recognizes relevant approaches in three different scale categories:

the urban scale.

the scale of the individual building.

the scale of the architectural/ structural element.

The jury understands this as a coherent to the 'versatility' broached by the theme, and wants to bear this out in the issued prizes. It decides to grant prizes to the best work in each category. The 4000 euro price money is divided equally between the three of them.

#### Result:

3 prizes (one for team work, two for individual work), each of them granted with 1333 euro and participation to the Master Class in Istanbul, Turkey.

## **EV 789: 'Concrete Utopia – Rethinking the Brusselian Urban Block'**

Yannick Vanhaelen & Pierre Escobar, ISACF La Cambre.

The proposal concerns the urban scale. It stresses the inadequacy of the traditional urban block as it exists in Brussels. This system based on terraced houses which enclose an internal domain consisting of private gardens and annexes, is challenged by the increasing demand for smaller dwelling units, such as apartments and studio's. The proposal considers the internal space as a mould for an urban block thus characterized by a complex outer envelope. Whereas it highlights difference and variation in its external features, it treats inner space as homogeneous mass. It thereby suggests that the expression of individuality and diversity is a mere compensation for an awesome tendency towards the generic. This metaphorical project operates a critical twist on the competition theme.

## **XU001: 'The two heads, three arms, one penis man'**

Deborah Levy, ISACF La Cambre.

The project applies the competition theme on an individualized architectural object. It starts from the assessment of the treble character of an Embassy program (office, reception complex and residence). The equivalence of the parts is effected in a tripartite square. A triangular system of staircases opens three contiguous space segments providing for alternating orientations per level. Corrective operations such as the reversal of a stairway, variation in the plotting of the partition walls and the addition of serving space in the core figure, allow for a further adjustment of the project. Although outspokenly akin to complex spatial organizations and intricate symmetries elaborated by competition curator Valerio Olgiati himself (e.g. in Swiss National Park Visitor Center), the specific approach is thoroughly interiorized in this refined and after all convincing project.

## **HP059: 'Textile Formwork'**

Maxime Togni, ULB - Service BÂTir.

The entry is based on research mainly carried out by the 'Centre for architectural structures and technology' of the university of Manitoba. Relying on an architectural characterization and an overview of the advantages of fabric formwork (i.e. in relation to surface, geometry and structure, weight of the formwork) it enounces a "new horizon for architectural form and expression." The columns of the Glass Palace in Heerlen are put forward as a case study. The 5m high, reinforced concrete column, with a variable top section has been studied in different phases, including numerical and graphical analyses, finite element study under representative loading, framework design, and casting process. Though the case lacks the amplitude necessary to uphold the aforecited claim, this meticulous work plainly illustrates the possibilities of the new technique.