






KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT


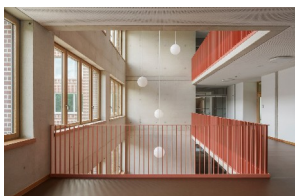
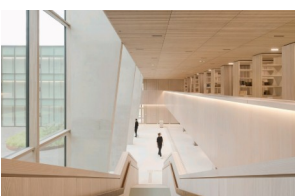
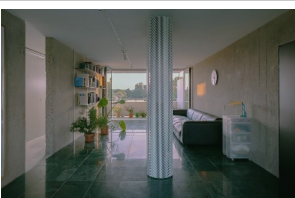

HONORABLE MENTIONS

	<p>GUTEN MORGEN BLUTBUCHHE</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Bruncken Frett Architekten BAUHERR/IN Timo Karl, Ines Karl</p>	<p>A beautiful climate aware love story between a single family house and a tree. The closed south façade is a smart and strong gesture.</p>
	<p>MITTENDRIN IN ALT-SÜLZ</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Duplex Architekten BAUHERR/IN Wohnungsgenossenschaft Köln-Sülz eG</p>	<p>Smart densification with mixed typologies on top of an active ground floor. Intelligent choice of materials and carefully designed floor plans. The courtyard façades show the talent of the architect, the roofs on the street façades show the overdose of nostalgia in the urban design rules of Cologne.</p>
	<p>SCHWALBACHER STR. / ZUKUNFT WOHNEN</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Zeller Kölmel Architekten BAUHERR/IN Wohnungsgenossenschaft am Vorgebirgspark</p>	<p>Strong results with modest means applied in a very creative and human way. Intelligent plans, budget awareness, good mix of typologies, good control over the materiality and the detailing. Affordability combined with circularity. It ticks all the boxes.</p>
	<p>SENIORENWOHNEN HORIONSTRASSE</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Zeller Kölmel Architekten BAUHERR/IN Jens Willebrand</p>	<p>A compact group of housing units for the elderly integrated in the fabric of a village near Cologne. Individual privacy is combined with open accessibility and social contact.</p>
	<p>MENSA UND ATELIERGEBÄUDE DER BILDUNGLANDSCHAFT ALTSTADT-NORD</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Gernot Schulz Architektur BAUHERR/IN Gebäudewirtschaft der Stadt Köln und Amt für Schulentwicklung</p>	<p>Study landscape, workshops, dance studio, café and restaurant... A cluster of functions shared by 8 schools. The project is cleverly blended into the existing urban landscape and clearly wants to minimize its spatial impact on the park.</p>

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AWARDS

	<p>ERLÖSERKIRCHENZENTRUM KÖLN WEIDENPESCH</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Harris + Kurrle Architekten BAUHERR/IN Ev. Kirchengemeinde Köln-Mauenheim-Weidenpesch</p>	<p>Strong scenography, control of light, articulation and balance between a closed perimeter skin and perforated cut outs. Very strong and innovative mix of programs: church + housing, kindergarten, neighbourhood café, meeting point (good points for the client).</p>
	<p>ERWEITERUNG KAISERIN-AUGUSTA-SCHULE</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN ZILA Architekt*innen BAUHERR/IN Gebäudewirtschaft der Stadt Köln</p>	<p>A humble, simple and very pure extension of a school, blending into the context without copying it. Well controlled but a bit austere. Like this it leaves room for noise, junk and most of all youth to give it a soul.</p>
	<p>HISTORISCHES ARCHIV DER STADT KÖLN UND RHEINISCHES BILDARCHIV</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Waechter + Waechter Architekten BDA BAUHERR/IN Gebäudewirtschaft der Stadt Köln</p>	<p>Slick, sharp and extremely well controlled. A jewel, a temple, radiating peace and serenity. Outside there is a limited amount of designed greenery, completed with a lot of stone and parking. Was there room for rewilding, biodiversity and a bit more lush landscaping?</p>
	<p>IDK – UMBAU EINER WOHNUNG IN EINER GROSSSTRUKTUR DER 70ER JAHRE</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Demo Working Group BAUHERR/IN Nancy Pofahl</p>	<p>Pure and minimalist transformation of an apartment in a social housing block. A talented exercise within a narrow style segment of architectural design culture. Can it stand life, junk, a big library, noise, hobbies... ? As a housing unit it is demanding towards the people who live there. In that sense this house is not for everybody, this is tailor made haute couture.</p>
	<p>OFFENE SCHULE KÖLN</p> <p>ARCHITEKT/IN Hausmann Architektur GmbH BAUHERR/IN Projektgesellschaft ODK Bildung Sürther-Feld</p>	<p>Smart way to work with open plans in a new learning- & study-landscape. Elaborate attention for affordable construction.</p>

SOME QUESTIONS

What is architecture today?

- NNN
- NNN

What is the task of an advisory board (Gestaltungsbeirat)?

- NNN
- NNN

What is the role of spatial planning regulations and policies?

- NNN
- NNN

What is the role of academia, science and experts?

- NNN
- NNN

What is the role of society?

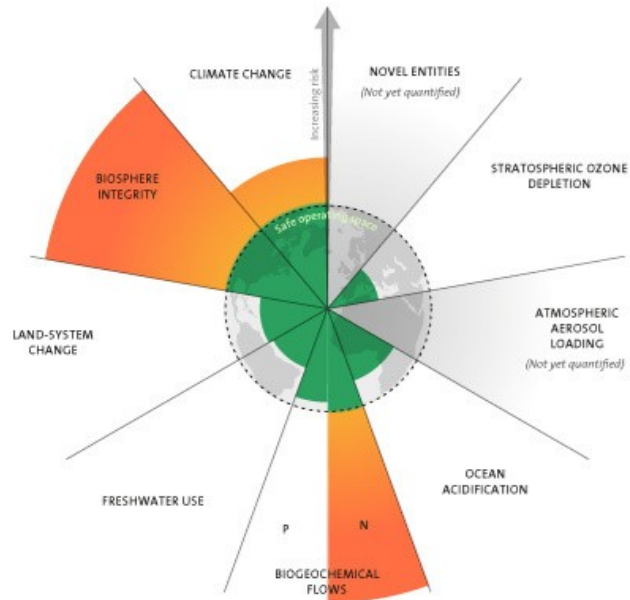
- NNN
- NNN

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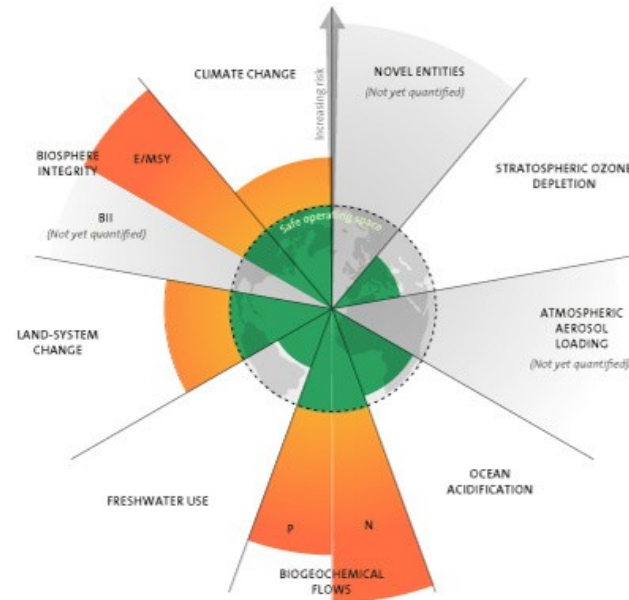
Climate change is the wrong name for nothing else but a complete global ecosystem collapse.

2009



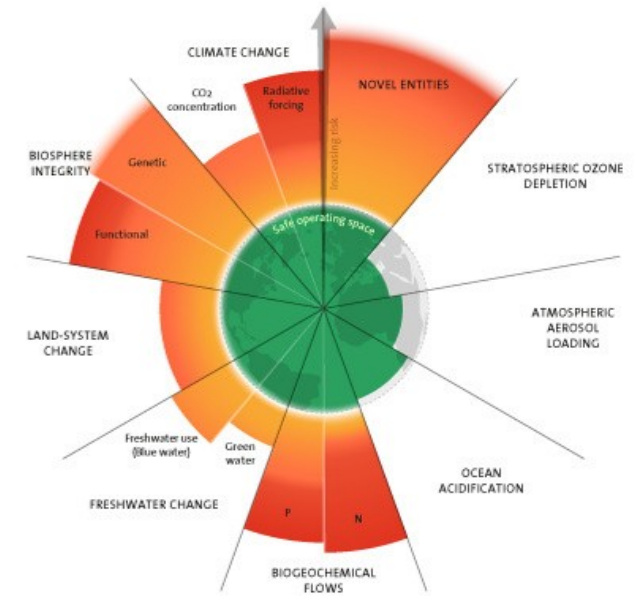
3 boundaries crossed

2015



4 boundaries crossed

2023



6 boundaries crossed

PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. Based on Richardson et al. 2023, Steffen et al. 2015, and Rockström et al. 2009)

From CARBON TUNNEL VISION to a SYSTEMIC ECOSYSTEM APPROACH: three layers: land, water & air, and a 4th ingredient: life. ALL THREE LAYERS OF THE COAT ARE BROKEN.

Earth as a System

Earth is a system made up of 4 primary parts: Geosphere (land); Hydrosphere (water); Atmosphere (air); and Biosphere (life).

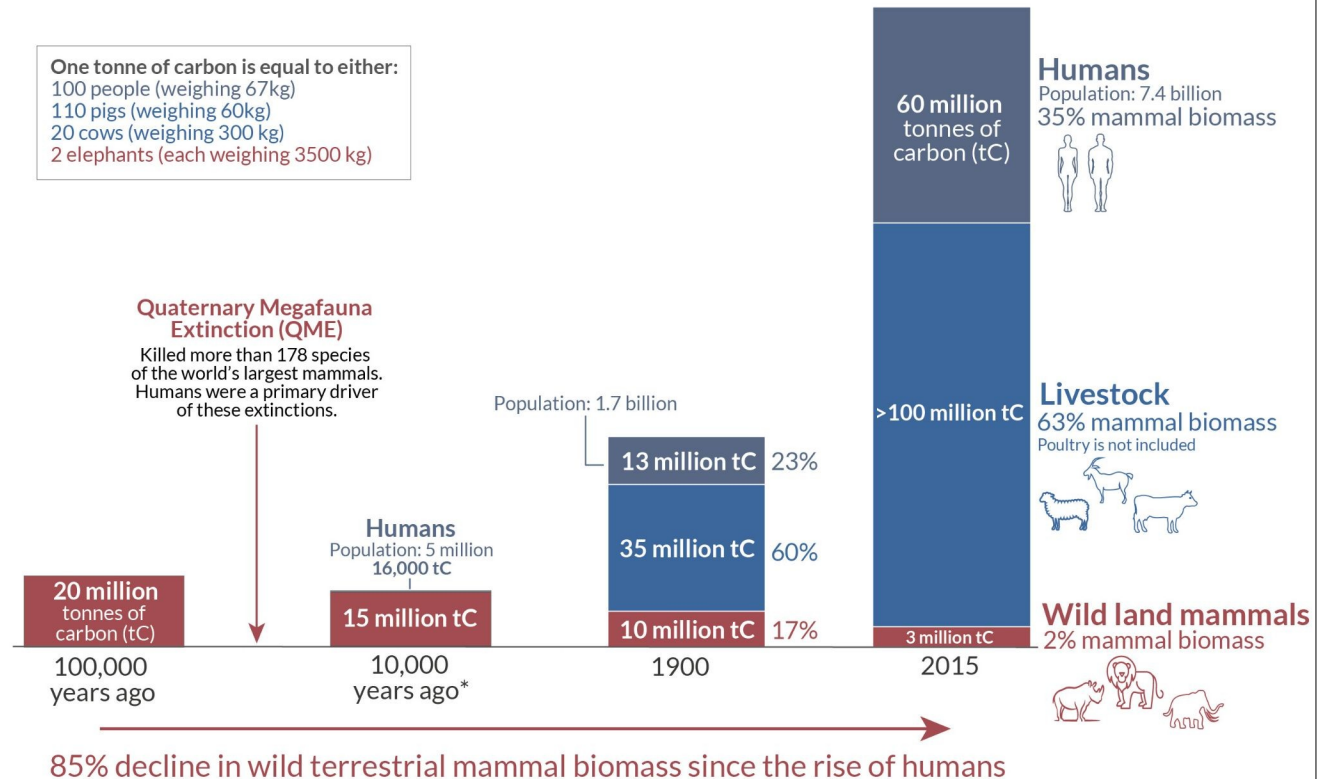


Changing distribution of the world's land mammals

Our World in Data

Terrestrial mammals are compared in terms of biomass – tonnes of carbon.

One tonne of carbon is equal to either:
 100 people (weighing 67kg)
 110 pigs (weighing 60kg)
 20 cows (weighing 300 kg)
 2 elephants (each weighing 3500 kg)



*Estimates of long-run wild mammal biomass come with larger uncertainty. Biomass following the QME event is estimated to be approximately 15 million tonnes.

Data sources: Barnosky (2008); Smil (2011) & Bar-On et al. (2018). Images sourced from the Noun Project.

OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie.

LAND USE , followed by **OVEREXPLOITATION OF SPECIES**, are the main causes of ecosystem collapse and biodiversity loss.

Threats to biodiversity

Changes in land and sea use, including habitat loss and degradation



This refers to the modification of the environment where a species lives, by complete removal, fragmentation or reduction in quality of key habitat. Common changes in use are caused by unsustainable agriculture, logging, transportation, residential or commercial development, energy production and mining. For freshwater habitats, fragmentation of rivers and streams and abstraction of water are common threats.

Species overexploitation



There are both direct and indirect forms of overexploitation. Direct overexploitation refers to unsustainable hunting and poaching or harvesting, whether for subsistence or for trade. Indirect overexploitation occurs when non-target species are killed unintentionally, for example as bycatch in fisheries.

Invasive species and disease



Invasive species can compete with native species for space, food and other resources, can turn out to be a predator for native species, or spread diseases that were not previously present in the environment. Humans also transport new diseases from one area of the globe to another.

Pollution



Pollution can directly affect a species by making the environment unsuitable for its survival (this is what happens, for example, in the case of an oil spill). It can also affect a species indirectly, by affecting food availability or reproductive performance, thus reducing population numbers over time.

Climate change

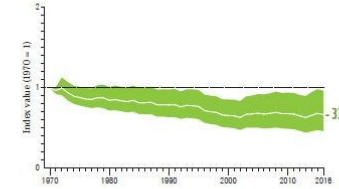
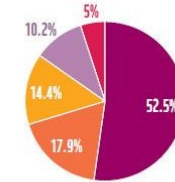


As temperatures change, some species will need to adapt by shifting their range to track a suitable climate. The effects of climate change on species are often indirect. Changes in temperature can confound the signals that trigger seasonal events such as migration and reproduction, causing these events to happen at the wrong time (for example misaligning reproduction and the period of greater food availability in a specific habitat).

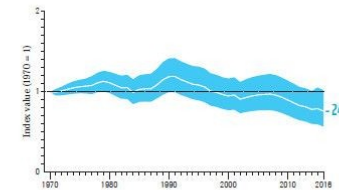
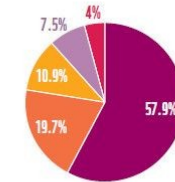
Figure 4: Different threat types in the Living Planet Database

Descriptions of the major threat categories used in the Living Planet Database. This classification reflects the direct drivers with the largest global impact as identified by IPBES¹; it is also followed by the IUCN Red List and is based on the original classification by Salafsky, N. et al. (2010)². Source WWF/ZSL (2020)³.

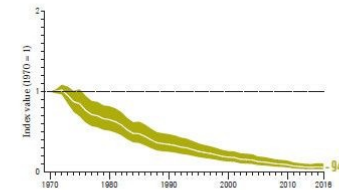
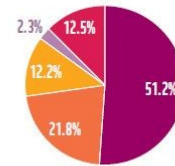
Regional threats to populations in the LPI



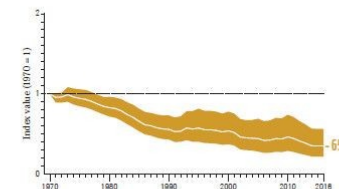
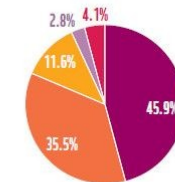
NORTH AMERICA



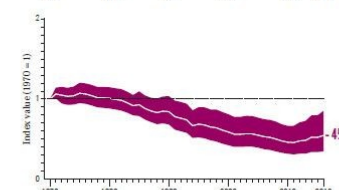
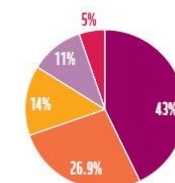
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



AFRICA



ASIA PACIFIC

Figure 5: The proportion of threats recorded in each category for populations in each IPBES region*

The number of populations with threat data available is shown next to the pie chart¹⁰⁰. The colour of each section refers to the colour for each threat category on the opposite page.

AN EXAMPLE OF CARBON TUNNEL-VISION

A RHINO DOES NOT NEED A TESLA

Reducing our land use is more important than reducing our emissions.

The main reason is related to the planetary boundaries.

The second reason is the extinction needs a much longer “repair time” than global warming.

- Climate change: from the moment of carbon neutrality, warming will flip to cooling in 200 to 300 years, and in +/- 1000 years we will be back at the normal temperatures.
- If after the extinction of a species we create more nature to allow rewilding and Darwinistic selection to create a new species with a similar position in the food chain, that will take at least 25.000 years.

Tesla cleared 92 ha forest in Germany to build its first factory in Europe. And soon will be clearing more forest to build the extension.

NEWS

Permalink <https://p.dw.com/p/3Y5qj> Date 20.02.2020

Tesla wins court approval to build Gigafactory by clearing forest in Germany

A high court in Berlin has allowed Tesla to continue clearing a 92 hectare forest for its massive Gigafactory. The court rejected pleas from environment activists and said that its decision was final.



The higher administrative court of Berlin-Brandenburg on Thursday allowed Tesla Inc, a US electric-car maker, to continue clearing the Grünheide forest near Berlin for its massive Gigafactory project. The court said that its decision was final.

KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

Agriculture and **biotechnology** misused by capitalism, caused an implosion of the economical value.

In Belgium +/- 46 % of the land surface is agriculture. Yet that sector represents less than 0,4% of GDP.

More than 40% of the farmers live below official poverty threshold. The market pushes farmers towards more land, more fertilizer, lower food prices... By treating nature as a factory, capitalism is committing suicide.

This same market mechanism explains e.g. why stores can sell cotton T-shirts for less than 2 euros.

Landbouw beslaat 46% van totale Vlaamse grondoppervlakte

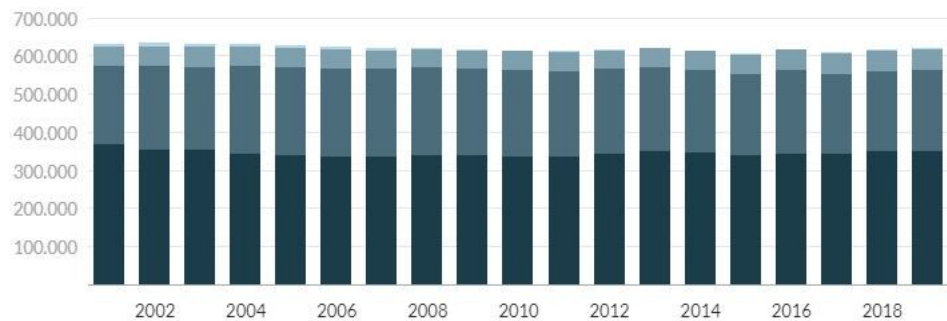
Het Vlaamse Gewest telde in 2019 bijna 622.000 hectare landbouwareaal. Dat komt overeen met 46% van de totale Vlaamse grondoppervlakte.

Tussen 2001 en 2019 is het aantal hectare landbouwareaal met 2,1% afgenomen. Deze daling is vooral een gevolg van de afname van de oppervlakte voor voedergewassen (weiden en maïs). Ook de oppervlakte voor braakland is sterk teruggelopen.

Benutte landbouwooppervlakte naar bestemming

Vlaams Gewest, 2001-2019, in hectare

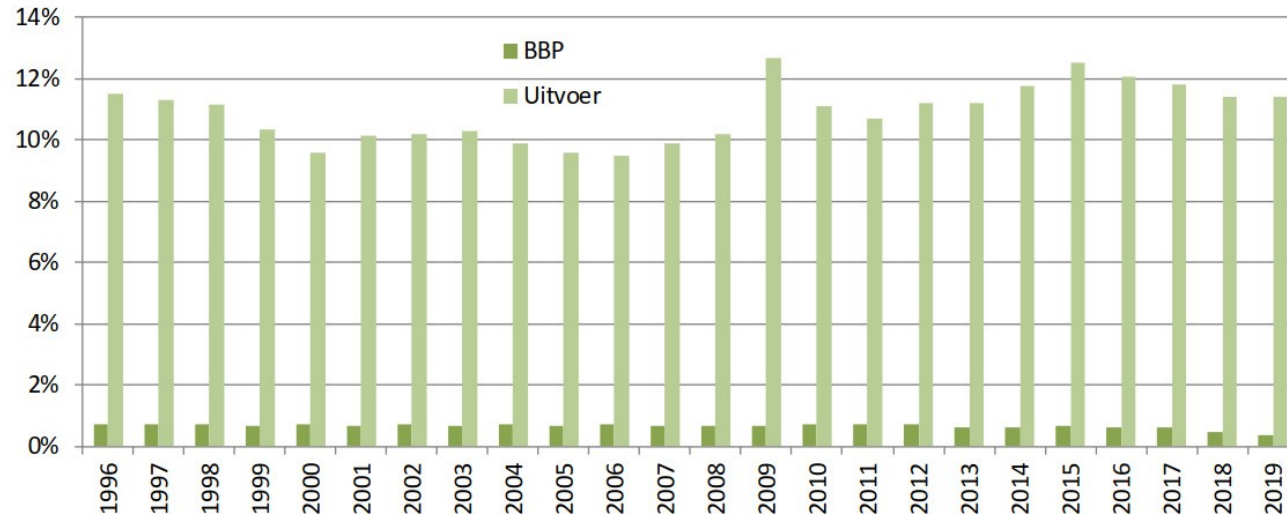
■ Voedergewassen ■ Akkerbouw ■ Tuinbouw ■ Andere



Bron: Departement Landbouw en Visserij op basis van Statbel

57% van landbouwareaal voor voedergewassen, 34% voor akkerbouw

Aandeel van de landbouw in het bbp en de uitvoer (1996-2019)



Bron: Instituut voor de Nationale Rekeningen.

Kerncijfers landbouw 2020

KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

The capitalist shareholder system concentrates wealth en keeps on increasing the gap between rich and poor.

This problem was perfectly predicted in 1879 by Henry George in his book “Progress and Poverty”.

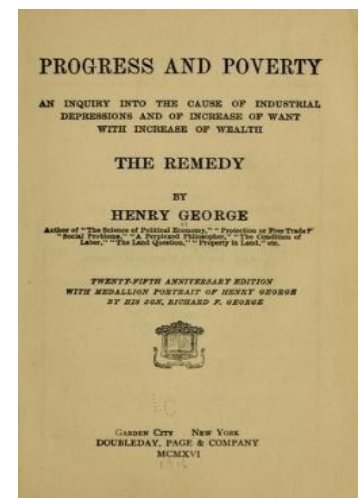
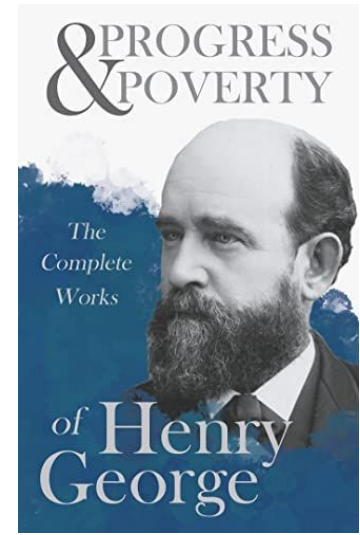
The screenshot shows a news article from The Guardian. The headline is "World's eight richest people have same wealth as poorest 50%". A sub-headline reads: "A new report by Oxfam warns of the growing and dangerous concentration of wealth". The article is dated "Mon 16 Jan 2017 01:01 CET" and has 2,041 shares. The author is identified as "Larry Elliott Economics editor". A photograph shows Indian migrant daily wage workers bathing at a public well in New Delhi. The caption states: "Indian migrant daily wage workers bath at a public well in New Delhi. New information shows that poverty in China and India is worse than previously thought. Photograph: Altaf Qadri/AP". The article text continues: "The world's eight richest billionaires control the same wealth between them as the poorest half of the globe's population, according to a charity warning of an ever-increasing and dangerous concentration of wealth." and "In a report published to coincide with the start of the week-long World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Oxfam said it was "beyond grotesque" that a handful of rich men headed by the Microsoft founder Bill Gates are worth \$426bn (£350bn), equivalent to the wealth of 3.6 billion people." The final paragraph states: "The development charity called for a new economic model to reverse an inequality trend that it said helped to explain Brexit and Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election."

Hoe is de totale waarde van het vastgoed verdeeld tussen arm en rijk?

Ander vastgoed ▾

- Onderste 50% vermogens
- Volgende 40% vermogens
- Top 10% vermogens

Gemaakt met LocalFocus Bron: [UAntwerpen](#)



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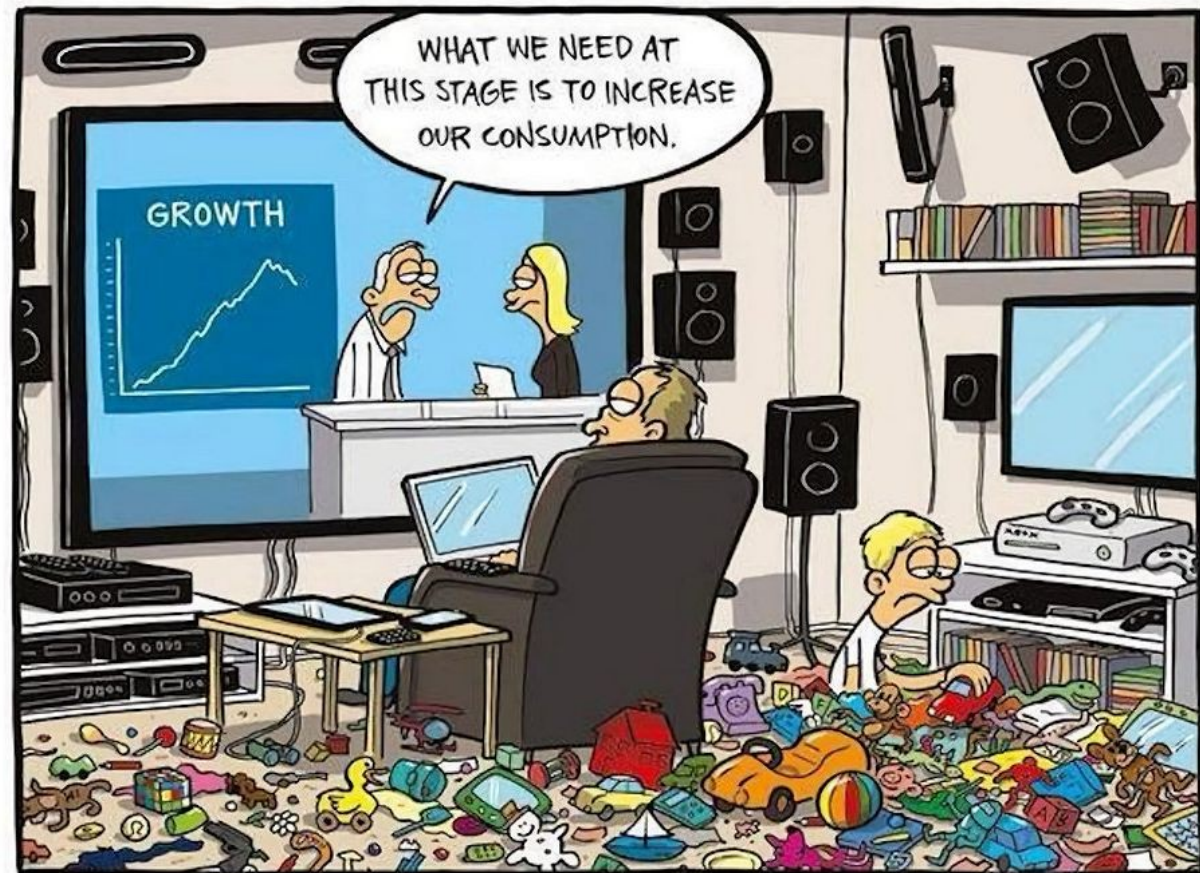
SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

The capitalist eternal growth model is a destructive machinery. And communism is not any better at all.

The indirect emissions of import, food, production and consumption are 80 to 100 times bigger than our direct emissions from transport, heating and buildings.

The EU is the second biggest importer of deforestation after China. In 2017, the EU was responsible for 16% of deforestation associated with international trade.

The largest EU economies – **Germany**, Italy, Spain, the UK, the Netherlands, France, **Belgium** and Poland – were responsible for 80% of the EU's embedded deforestation through their use and consumption of forest-risk commodities.



Economic Sociology and Political Economy community

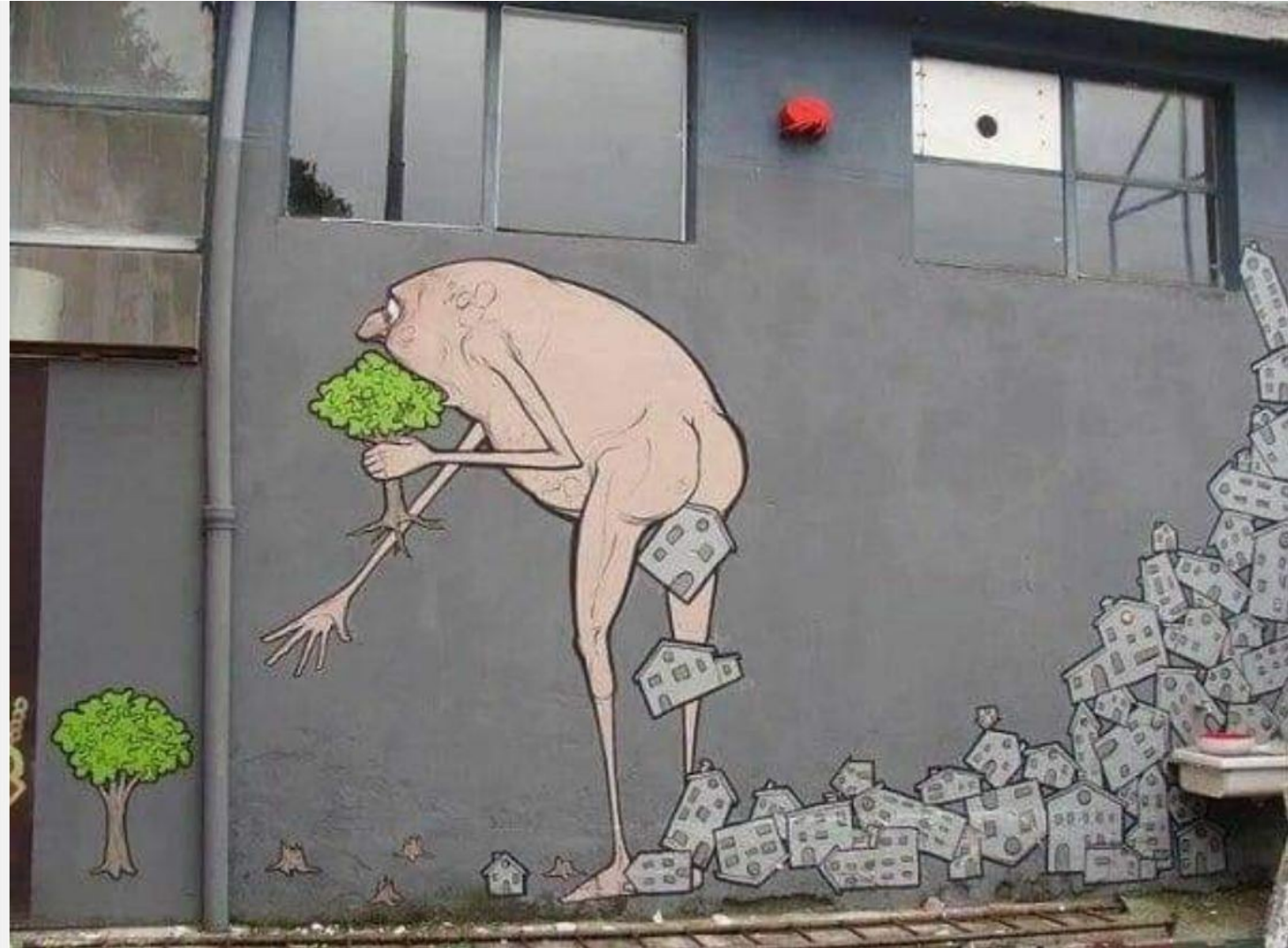
KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

We are the invasive species. We have to get cured from ourselves.

Ecosystem collapse and climate change are not external things that “are happening to us”.

WE are happening to us.



KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO?

A COOPERATIVE MARKET MODEL BASED ON COMMONS.

ECOPOWER in Belgium, a cooperative producer of electric wind energy, is 100% citizen owned. For the left parties, Ecopower is a distributor of wealth. For the right parties, Ecopower awakes sleeping savings, and turned all those citizens who bought shares into capitalists.

MAKE CAPITALISM ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYBODY. SPREAD the ownership of the means of production.

Social-capitalism (give access to shares to the employees) opposes to communism (concentrate shares within the government).

APPLIED ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING THIS MODEL IS BEST KNOWN IN SWITZERLAND.



[Doe mee!](#)

[Over Ecopower](#)

[Groene burgerstroom](#)

[Groene warmte](#)

[Tips & kennis](#)

[Hulp nodig?](#)

100% groene stroom VOOR en door burgers

Bij Ecopower investeren burgers zelf in de productie van hernieuwbare elektriciteit. Wie coöperant is, kan ook klant worden en zo de groene stroom van onze eigen installaties verbruiken. Samen creëren we een duurzaam en democratisch energiemodel.



100% in burgerhanden

Ecopower is eigendom van alle coöperanten samen. Wie klant wilt worden, moet lid zijn. Alle klanten zijn dus mede-eigenaar van de productie-installaties waarvan ze elektriciteit afnemen.



Lokaal en democratisch

De coöperatie zet zich in voor een decentraal, democratisch en duurzaam energiemodel. Alle coöperanten krijgen inspraak in het gevoerde beleid. Als er winst is, stroomt die terug naar de lokale gemeenschap.



Duurzame investeringen

Ecopower investeert sterk in bijkomende hernieuwbare capaciteit om in de toekomst nog meer klanten te kunnen bedienen. Onze investeringen zijn 100% Belgisch en hernieuwbaar.

KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? - COMBINE LARGE SCALE HIGH TECH AGRICULTURE + NATURE INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE + LESS MEAT CONSUMPTION

Example: Knepp Castle Estate in Sussex. A bankrupt dairy farm was transformed by an interesting and ambitious experiment with nature inclusive agriculture. Zero fertiliser, zero pesticides, repair the natural water system, minimal intervention, free roaming cattle, almost no fences. ... most of the UK endangered species came back. Produced meat ranks amongst the best and Knepp Castle became one of the most profitable farms in the UK. But it didn't have the highest yield in kg/hectare.



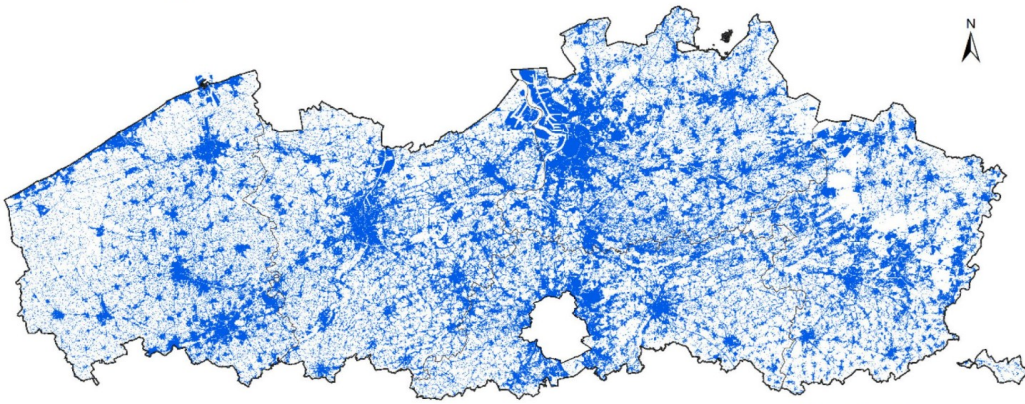
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SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

REVERSE URBAN SPRAWL & GO AND LIVE IN CITIES, TOWNS OR RURAL VILLAGES

Ruimtebeslag: Nulmeting 2013

Nulmeting 2013: 444.776 ha = 32,6%



Ruimtebeslag 10m resolutie

Ruimtebeslag (32,6%) ≠ Verharding (14,4% volgens AIV)



© 2013, VITO NV

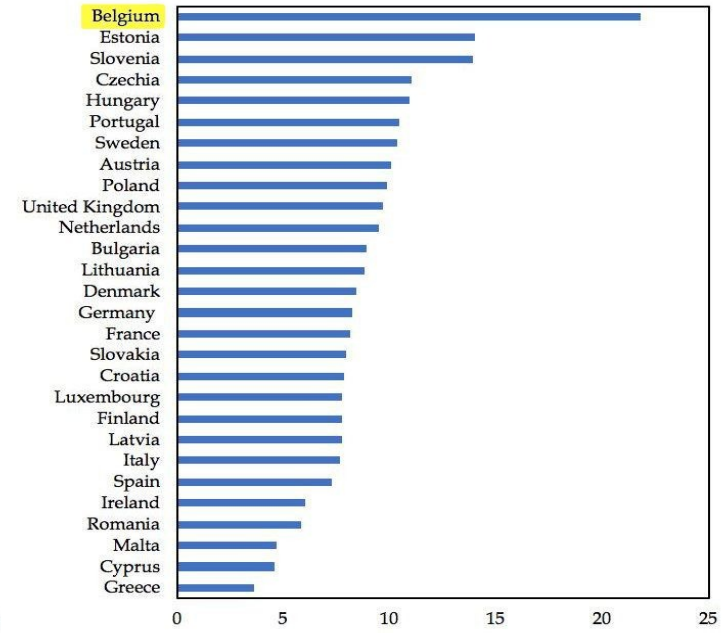
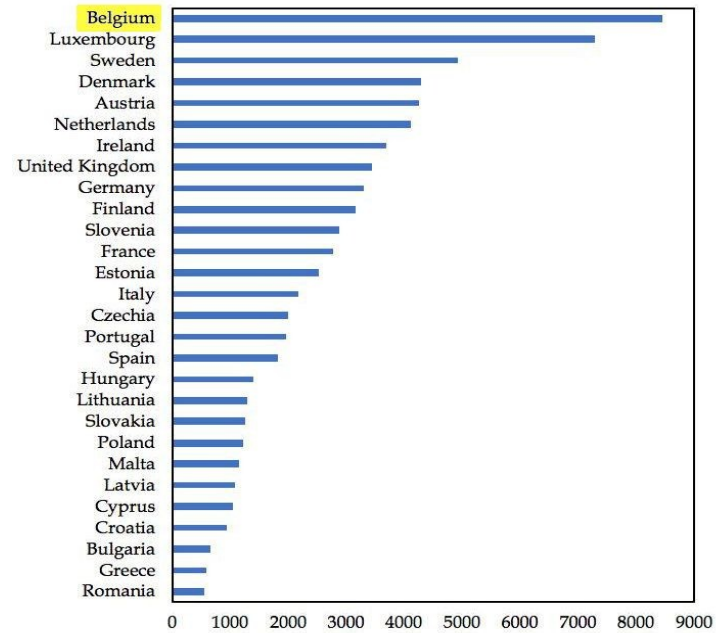


Chart. Turnover of sales of vehicles & parts compared to population (per capita) and GDP (%). Source: Eurostat.

VAN ALLE EUROPESE LANDEN GEEFT BELGIE - ZOWEL PRO CAPITA ALS IN % VAN HET BBP - HET MEEST GELD UIT AAN AUTO'S

KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? - REVERSE URBAN SPRAWL & GO AND LIVE IN CITIES, TOWNS OR RURAL VILLAGES, BUT NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
The city is a lot more durable: less infrastructure, less roads, less transport needs.



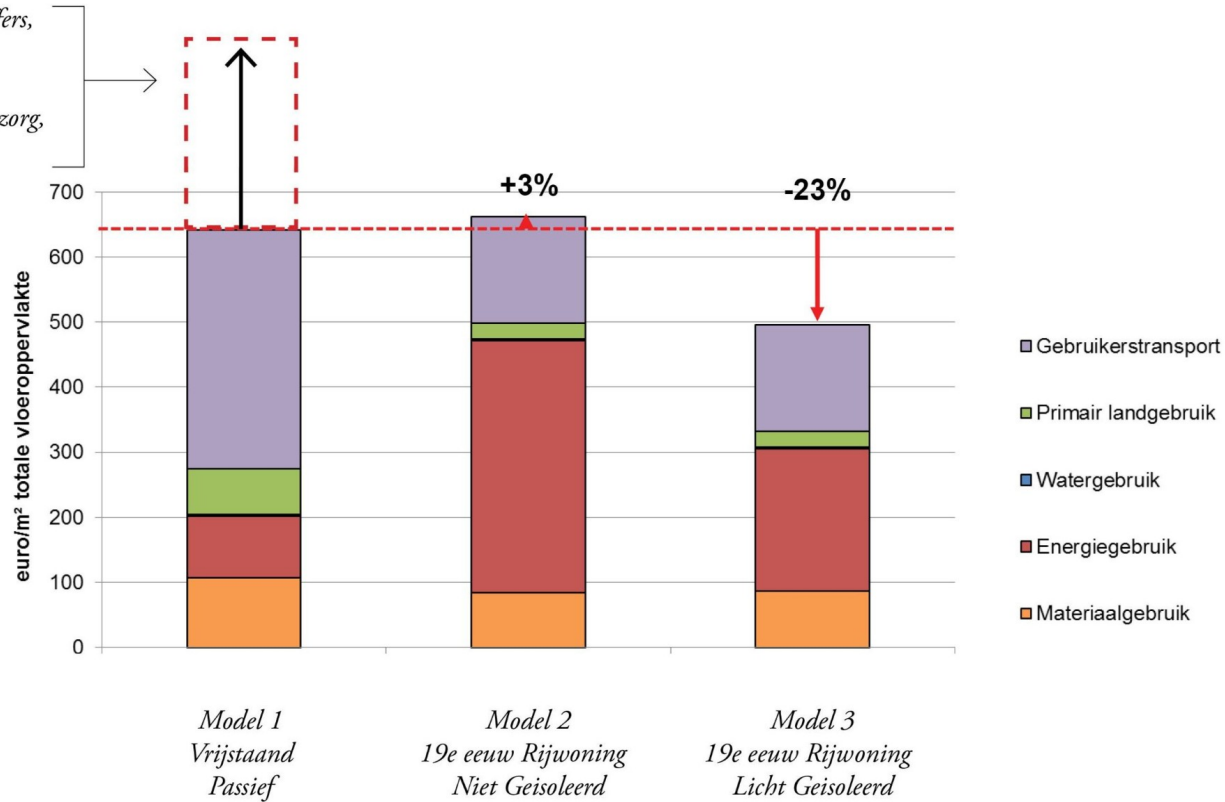
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SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? DETACHED HOUSING IS IRRESPONSIBLE
LIVING IN CENTRALITIES IS THE SOLUTION

MILIEU IMPACTBEREKENING

*verkeersslachtoffers,
signalisatie,
strooizouten,
mobiliteit thuiszorg,
etc.*



DE TOTALE MILIEU IMPACT VAN EEN VRIJSTAANDE PASSIEFWONING
IS GELIJK AAN DIE VAN EEN NIET THERMISCH GEISOLEERDE 19E EEUWSE RIJWONING

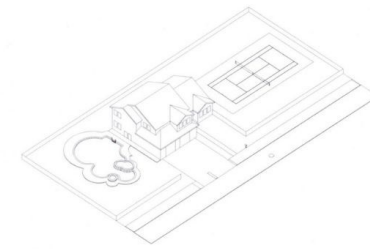
KULeuven research - prof. dr. Karen Allacker & Damien Trigaux - 2016

AVERAGE CARBON EMISSIONS PER HOUSEHOLD BY SELECTED NEIGHBORHOOD TYPES



EXURBAN AVERAGE

0.7 to 1 dwelling units per acre
26.5 jobs per acre

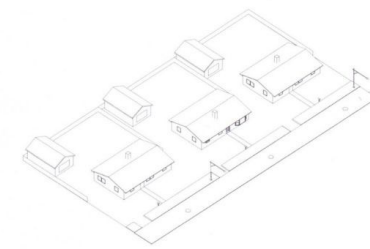


Annual carbon emissions per household



SUBURBAN AVERAGE

3 to 4 dwelling units per acre
72 jobs per acre

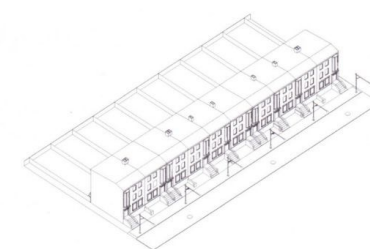


Annual carbon emissions per household

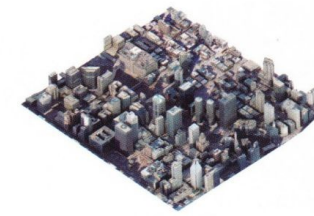


URBAN AVERAGE

30+ dwelling units per acre
268 jobs per acre

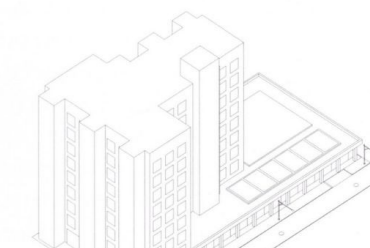


Annual carbon emissions per household



CARLESS URBAN AVERAGE

60+ dwelling units per acre
1,049 jobs per acre



Annual carbon emissions per household

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SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

All over the world the incidence and the mortality of COVID was lower in the cities than in rural areas.

Science News

from research organizations

Urban density not linked to higher coronavirus infection rates, study finds

Date: June 18, 2020

Source: Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

Summary: A new study suggests that denser places, assumed by many to be more conducive to the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, are not linked to higher infection rates.

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HEALTH >

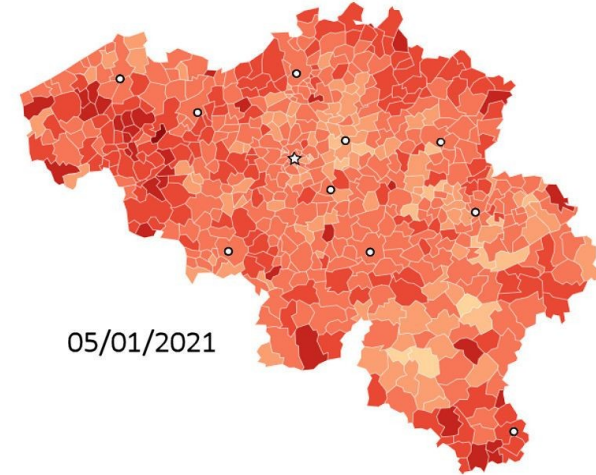
COVID-19 death rate in rural America now double that of urban communities

BY ALEXANDER TIN
OCTOBER 1, 2021 / 5:34 PM EDT / CBS NEWS

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#)

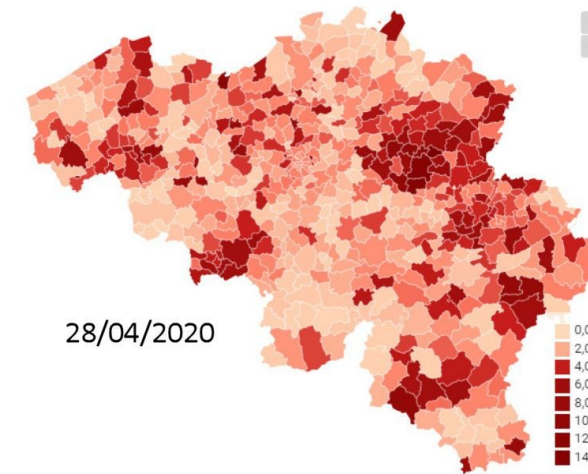
Coronabesmettingen per gemeente

Besmettingen laatste twee weken per 100.000 inwoners
240 - hoogste Europese drempel

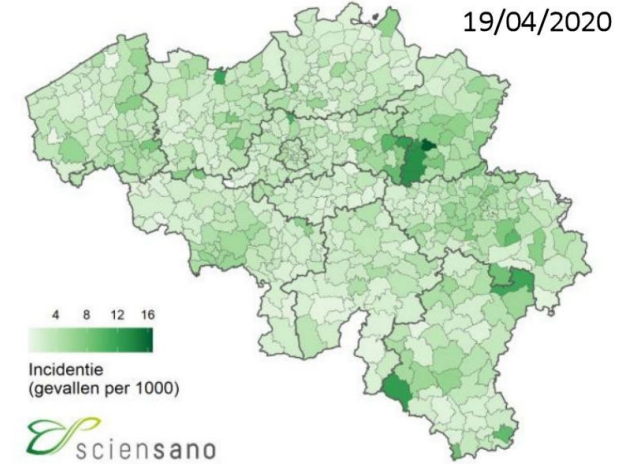


Kaart: De Morgen • Bron: Sciensano • Gecreëerd met Datawrapper

Aantal besmettingen per gemeente per 1.000 personen

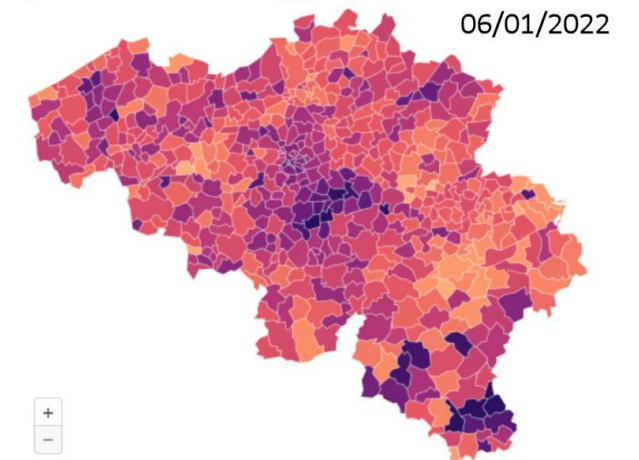


Bron: Sciensano • Gecreëerd met Datawrapper



Incidentie per gemeente

Besmettingen laatste twee weken per 100.000 inwoners



KAART: DE MORGEN • BRON: SCIENSANO

6/01/2022

KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO?

RAINWATER SEWAGE IN PUBLIC SPACE SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN.

Drain all the rainwater locally.

Make cool shaded and wet green streets.



KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? IT IS EASY TO (partially) REWILD OUR PUBLIC PARKS, and zero (or low) maintenance is a lot cheaper.



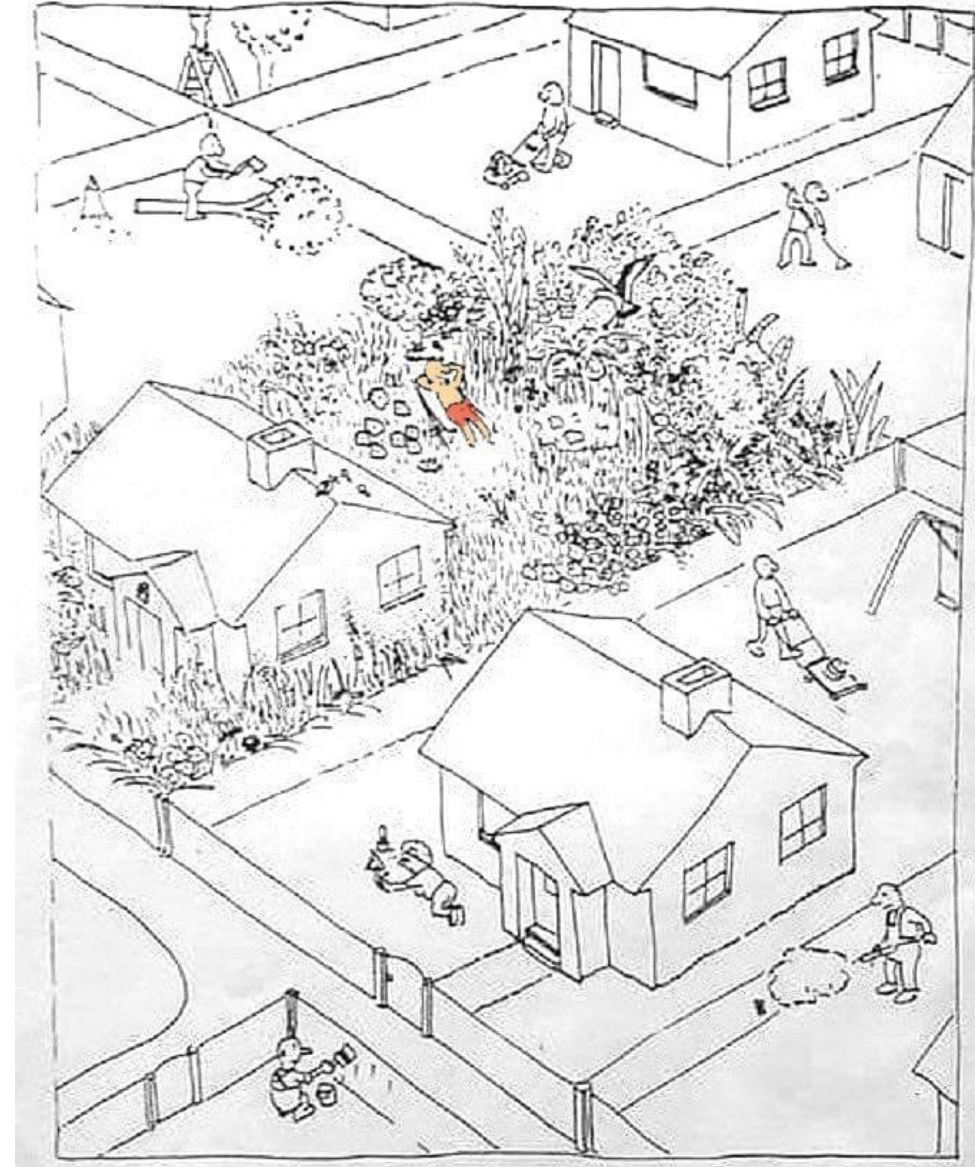
KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO?

REWILD ALL PRIVATE GARDENS

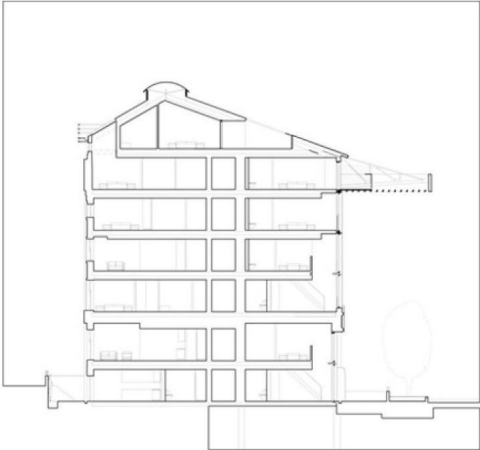
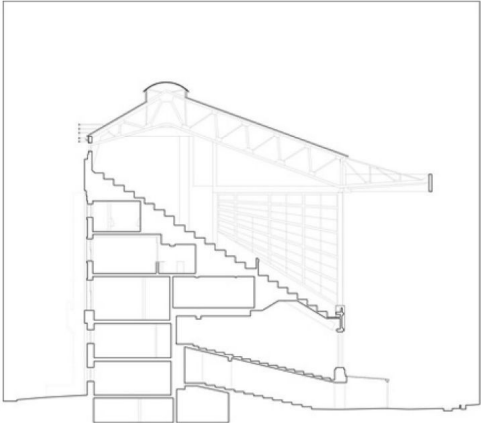
IF YOU ARE AN ARCHITECT, DON'T DO THIS ONLY AT HOME,
BUT ALSO IN YOUR PROJECTS.



KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? RECYCLE BUILDINGS IN A SMART WAY: example of the former Arsenal football stadium in Londen.



Highbury Square, London | Allies & Morisson

KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? RECYCLE MONUMENTS AND HERITAGE IN A SMART WAY

Virgin Active, fitness and wellness centre in a former abbey near London.



KÖLNER ARCHITEKTUR PREIS

SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? DENSIFY OUR CITIES AND PERI-URBAN VILLAGES, INCLUDING MORE HIGH RISE, EVEN IN UNESCO HERITAGE CONTEXT.

Examples from Seoul, Aarhus and Leuven



WHAT CAN WE DO? STOP CULTIVATING MISUNDERSTANDINGS RELATED TO HERITAGE AND IDENTITY.

IT MAKES NO SENSE TO ARGUE THAT EVERYTHING MUST CHANGE AND THEN AT THE SAME TIME SAY THAT THE IDENTITY OF OUR VILLAGES, TOWNS AND LANDSCAPES MUST BE PRESERVED. THERE IS A WHOLE SERIES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS BEHIND THIS.

- Identity is only to a very small extent represented by the appearance of buildings. Look at churches, for instance. Fewer and fewer people are still practising religion. This completely changes the identity of churches, even if their appearance has remained the same.
- The aesthetics of the built environment have never been static. Otherwise, we would all still be living in white Monschau-style houses with black wooden timber framing. Preserving old aesthetics and using them as a criterion for the future is a cultural deep freeze. There is no point in building Tesla cars that look like a hay wagon.
- The real identity of buildings or people is in their cultural meaning, their 'behaviour', their use, their daily praxis. Identity is that which is most important, and is thus by definition something that - with everything living and evolving - changes with reality every day. If the identity of a city is not constantly changing, that city is not inhabited. If a person's identity stops changing, that person is dead. Identity is not the white line drawn by the police around a dead body on the street. Our compass and gun powder are Chinese, our numbers are Arabic, our monetary system is Phoenician, our languages are changing and disappearing very fast. To live is to change permanently. Villages, cities and landscapes must remain alive.

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SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? A beautiful example in Wezembeek-Oppem near Brussels, where an old river (straightened and locked up in a concrete underground tube under a park) was reopened in a meandering natural and partially rewilded landscape.

EVERYTHING WE HAVE TO DO IS CHEAPER AND MORE FUN THAN GOING ON WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL



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SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

WHAT CAN WE DO? Bring nature into cities. New green-blue areas against heat islands. The city as a permeable sponge makes density attractive.

EXAMPLE: PLAN FOR THE NEW MARKET PLACE OF ST. NIKLAAS (Open Call, competition Flemish Government Architect).



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SOME THOUGHTS AND BIT OF CONTEXT

SOME ANSWERS

What is architecture today?

- Because of the importance of the reduction of our land-use, architecture became more and more urbanism AND landscaping.
- Architects are co-designers of the 3-dimensional spatial presence of mankind on the planet.

What is the task of an advisory board (Gestaltungsbeirat)?

- Architecture is not about aesthetics and architecture alone, but also about people, society, equality.
- And it is not about people alone. "All life forms matter." So it is also about circularity, water permeability, density and high rise, urban nature...

What is the role of spatial planning regulations and policies?

- To see the problems, to think on long term (and not until the next elections), to be more courageous.
- Go for densification, urban nature, rewilding, water permeability, green human-free space.
- Monuments: the past is only the foundation upon which we build, it should never become a limit of our potential to adopt urgent changes.

What is the role of academia, science and experts?

- Be more active in society. Less publications and more actions.
- Become the GPS of the political vehicle.

What is the role of society?

- Respect science and experts and be well informed. Being critical is not the same as collecting conspiracy theories.
- Accept the fact that the collective interest is more important than the individual one.

A MESSAGE FOR ARCHITECTS AND URBAN PLANNERS

**DESIGN AND CREATIVITY,
HOWEVER IMPORTANT THEY MIGHT BE TODAY,
ARE NEVER GOOD OR BAD BY THEMSELVES**

**IT DEPENDS ON THE ETHICS, THE GOALS, THE AWARENESS,
AND THE MARKET MODEL IN WHICH THEY ARE APPLIED**

Thank you – Vielen Dank.
Leo Van Broeck