



Green Wall

urban installation
 commissioned proposal
 Parckdesign 2012
 Brussels (B)

*jury recommendation
 for realization*

GENERAL CONTEXT - The event 'Parckdesign 2012' aims at reflecting the aesthetic, social, urbanistic and ecologic value of terrains vagues and the nature of the city. At core this ambition is about visibility of and the public accessibility - factual, intellectual, or emotional - to these open spaces. The interventions within the framework of the event can in this sense not establish a newly designed landscape, but open new paths of perception. The projects can be part of a scrutiny of the existing „working landscape“ of the space.

SITUATION - The situation of the western part of the site is characterized by the geometric framing of the existing building structures and walls. A disused (residential) building stands out from the situation, plainly visible from the bridge and from the other side of the canal. Due to this exposed position, the shingle clad side facade of the building was used for large scale advertisement on billboards. Of this only a small fragment of a board remains and a linear construction that used to illuminate the billboard at night. Access to the empty lot is barred by a two-winged metal gate.

PROJECT PROPOSAL - The project aims to direct attention to the integrated aspect of nature in the city. As an experimental setup, the facade of the building at Quai Marie-mont is visibly fitted with an irrigation system that will allow and foster the growth of moss and algae on the shingled surface. Borrowing from recently developed technique of guerilla gardening (moss graffiti) an initial moss cultivation will be applied on the facade. Applied as bold lettering it could eventually read VAGUE, alternatively the moss will mainly develop under the edges of the shingles, where the water will not



rinse off the initial moss particles. The irrigation system will emit a fine spray several times a day. Depending on the weather and light situation, initially the spray itself will create a graphic pattern on the facade. The irrigation system will be mounted slightly in front of the facade (analogous to the lighting fixtures which used to illuminate the billboard). It will be clearly visible.



At night the facade is illuminated using/reactivating the existing fixtures (as a side effect conceptually contrasting the brightly lit active commercial advertisement billboard on the facade at the north-western bridgehead of the bridge across the Canal de Charleroi). Different from other vertical gardens (f.e. Musée Quai Branly etc.) the Green Wall project aims to showcase the technical infrastructure that will create conditions for growth. Also, the project does not present a readily green facade, but rather makes visitors and observers part of a speculation on possible developments and the changing nature also of urban environments. Obviously, the installation will also bring to closer attention the existing vine cover of the lower part of the facade.

The site itself will not be re-designed, but will retain its raw, ruderal character.