

Anne Schaaf

Das alternative Narrativ: Subjective Atlas of Luxembourg

Vito Labalestra

A COFFEE TO STAY

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Symbolically, the demolition of the former *Royal Hamilius* is for me synonymous with the demolition of my memories of my adolescence. As this place disappeared, day after day, brick by brick, my memories of it faded away little by little, leaving room for dust, a big hole, a big void. *Aldringen Station* and its underpass were a transitional place between my home and the *high school in Limpertsberg* that I attended in the 80s. It was the place



February 2013



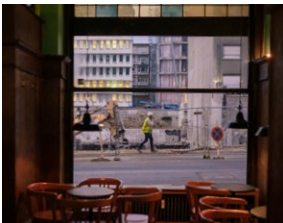
March 2014



November 2014



March 2015



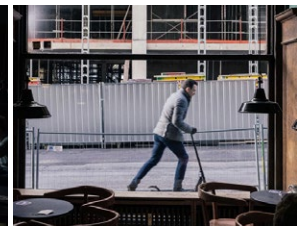
November 2015



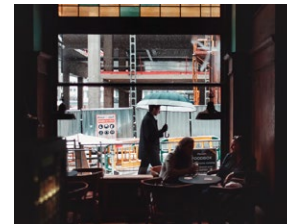
December 2015



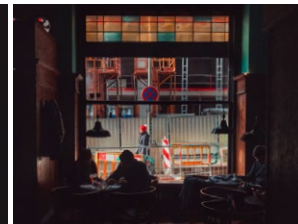
March 2016



November 2017



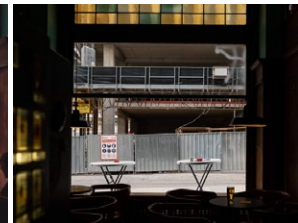
December 2017



January 2018



February 2018



May 2019

99

where we caught up with friends after class to have a drink at the Interview café. This place is the survivor of the demolition; it is one of the few cafes in Luxembourg that has kept a soul and survived time. It is in this café that I take care of myself and it is where I go to get inspiration. Just before the demolition of the *Royal Hamilius*, a feeling of nostalgia instinctively pushed me to take pictures, which I continued to do in the years after.

MAPS OF LUXEMBOURG

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Der Luxembourgstern
Anonymous

Mäi Land
Louis Moris

Untitled
Anna

Sécurité et stabilité
Kalide, Femmes en détresse

Untitled
Marc Hartmann

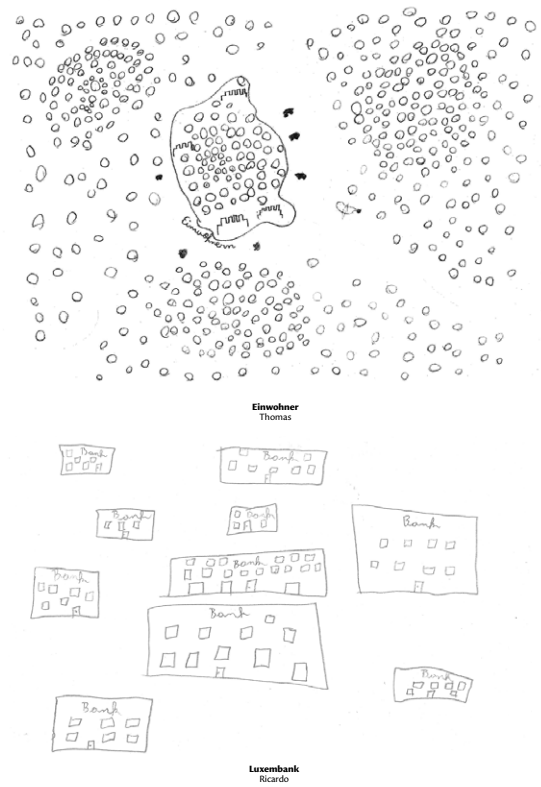
Letzeburger land
Francis Ritz

Gottland?
Lars

Tourist-land
Christophe (10)

Open for the world
Femmes en détresse

23



Einwohner
Thomas

Luxembank
Ricardo

Pierre Reyland

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

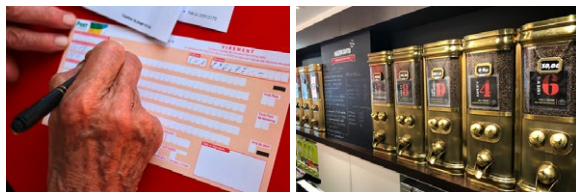
100

Luxembourg's national motto is *Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sinn* (We want to remain what we are). However Luxembourg is changing.



Ticket Machines (Public Transport)
Ticket machines (bus, tram and train) will soon become obsolete in Luxembourg. In 2020 all public transport in Luxembourg will become free of charge. Tickets will no longer be required (except for first-class train journeys).

Public Phone Box
When was the last time you used a public phone box? Who did you call? There are very few public phone boxes left in Luxembourg. I used this one when I was 15 to let my parents know when I would be back from a party.



Non-Digital Money Transfer
My mother transfers money by using a paper *virement* (transfer) form, which she fills out by hand. She belongs to the generation which won't or can't use the internet or online banking.

Coffee Shop
Smells are strong memory triggers. This coffee shop in Luxembourg's main shopping street (which recently celebrated its 90th year) still roasts coffee beans on location. The smell of coffee in the area instantly takes me back to my childhood.



Fruit and Vegetable shop
One of the last remaining fruit and vegetable shops in Luxembourg city. There are hardly any grocery shops left in Luxembourg. They have been replaced by petrol stations and their integrated micro-supermarkets.

Vinyl and CD Record Shop
This record shop in Luxembourg's city centre has sold vinyl records and CDs for over 40 years. It has survived the digital revolution but will close soon. As a teenager I spent many hours there discovering music. I still have all my vinyl records.

These photos show the sites of change by focusing on actions, objects and places that still exist, however that will (probably) be gone soon.

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Cowslip (Primula Veris)
Cowslip flowers used to be everywhere in Luxembourg. I associate them with the beginning of spring. They have become quite rare because of intensive farming, pesticides and pollution.

Trees
Luxembourg is still quite green, and there are lots of forests. But many trees are cut every year for the wood industry and to create space for building projects.



Sandpit
Building sand castles and playing with sand has become difficult for children. Most sandpits in children's playgrounds in Luxembourg have been replaced by rubber surfaces.

Public Toilet
Well-kept public toilets are an underrated and essential commodity in any city. Yet they are few and far between. This one, in Luxembourg city, is free to use. But you should tip the toilet keepers to acknowledge their important work.



Citroën 2CV (Deux Chevaux)
This iconic French car was my first car when I was 18. They are not produced anymore. But you can still spot one occasionally on Luxembourg's roads.

Manual Car Window
The back windows in my car (from 2006) can still be rolled down with a handle. Most new cars have almost nothing manual about them, except the driving. But even that will be automatic soon.

Le Bureau
des Légendes
Season 4
Episode #9
2018



KLEINBETTINGEN
LUXEMBOURG

Breaking Bad
Season 4
Episode #10
2011



Apparently she passed away
in Diekirch, Luxembourg.

Fargo
Season 3
Episode #6
2017



in Monaco, Luxembourg,
and the Cook Islands.

Last Week
Tonight
Season 5
Episode #7
2014



My man from Luxembourg
don't give a F*****bourg

Maniac
Season 1
Episode #9
2018



Which one are you?
Luxembourg.

The West Wing
Season 1
Episode #10
1999



I'm the president of the great Kingdom of Luxembourg.

FIVE ARCHITECTURAL ADJECTIVES

CONSERVATIVE

Known as the *Gibraltar of the north*, Luxembourg's main architectural efforts during the middle ages were towards protection. This ensured that countless architectural treasures that are now UNESCO World Heritage Sites would be preserved. And as the national motto says: "We will stay what we are".



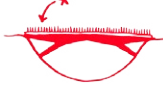
VIANDEN



CLERVAUX

STEEP

When the fortress was dismantled in 1867, one of the biggest challenges the city faced was how to open itself up to the surrounding plateaus. A succession of bridges were built to *repair* the defensive topography.



RED BRIDGE
by Egon Jux, Laurent Ney



ADOLPHE BRIDGE
by Séjourné, Christian Bauer

INTERNATIONAL

After World War Two, and because of its key position in Europe's foundation, Luxembourg opened itself even more to the world. One can sense this international presence in the built landscape, which features the work of architects from all over the world, including among them five Pritzker Prize laureates.



MUDAM
by Ieoh Ming Pei



PHILHARMONIE
by Christian de Portzamparc

RICH

Diverse origins don't necessarily imply diversity in terms of socio-economic class. Because of its liberal tax system, Luxembourg mainly attracts the financial world. In only five years, the big four built themselves new headquarters.



PWC
by Schemel Wirtz



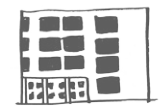
KPMG
by HVP

BORING

Despite large budgets and a diverse, international population, the vast majority of housing buildings are repetitive white boxes of stacked apartments. Architects draw what developers ask for. Developers build only what people buy. So who is to blame?



GASPERICH



KIRCHBERG



BURGLINSTER



DRÄI EECHELEN

CONSTRUCTION YEAR
XIth XIIth XIIIth XVIIIth

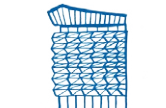


PAFFENTHAL'S LIFT
by Steinmetzdemeyer

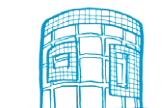


ESCH'S FOOTBRIDGE
by Metafrom

HEIGHT
75m 42m 60m 23m



ROYAL HAMILIUS
by Foster & Partners

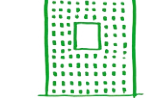


HYPOLUX
by Richard Meier

ARCHITECT'S ORIGIN
ASIA EU UK USA



ERNST & YOUNG
by Sauerbruch Hutton



DELOITTE
by Paul Bretz

CONSTRUCTION YEAR
2014 2015 2016 2019



BELAIR



DOMMELDANGE

BOREDOM
S M L XL



Serge Ecker
LUXEMBEACH

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Luxembourg, a country without direct sea access, thinks it is an island.

Alle Abbildungen dieser und vorherigen Doppelseite aus: *Subjective Atlas of Luxembourg* (Subjective Editions, 2019)

Statuen, welche die mythologische Figur des Atlas darstellen, können unterschiedliche Assoziationen zutage fördern. Ein bärtiger – manchmal mehr, manchmal weniger bekleideter – Typ sitzt gekrümmt da und streckt die Arme empor. Je nach Version trägt er das Himmelsgewölbe oder den Globus auf den Schultern. Man kommt nicht umhin, an den Muskelkater zu denken, den der arme Kerl sich dabei zugezogen haben muss. Der eine oder die andere Physiotherapeut:in wird sich wohl die Hände reiben beim Anblick dieses in Stein gemeißelten Inbegriffs des Dauerkunden. Denkt man an die Bedeutung, die wir heute mit dem Wort „Atlas“ verknüpfen, nämlich an eine Kartografie unseres gemeinsamen Lebensraumes, so wirkt diese Bildsprache nicht nur veraltet, sondern auch gefährlich. Denn die

Wahrnehmung der Welt war und ist nicht so statistisch, wie diese Darstellungen vorgeben. Es existiert nicht nur ein allgemeingültiges Narrativ, und es ist auch nicht sinnvoll, einem alten weißen Mann mit Rückenproblemen die gesamte Verantwortung dafür zu überlassen.

Der multiperspektivische Ansatz des *Subjective Atlas*-Projektes ist dem gerade Beschriebenen diametral entgegengesetzt. Das Konzept, das ein intersubjektives Mapping der eigenen Stadt oder des eigenen Landes seitens der Zivilgesellschaft vorsieht, geht auf die niederländische Designerin und Forscherin Annelys de Vet zurück. Nachdem sie bereits mit unterschiedlichsten Bürger:innen Atlanten für Mexiko, Palästina, Serbien, Kolumbien oder auch Pakistan angefertigt hatte, war

sie auch im luxemburgischen Casino – forum d'art contemporain zu Gast. Im Rahmen zahlreicher Workshops konnten so Zugezogene, Urgesteine, Geflüchtete, Menschen mit spezifischen Bedürfnissen, Kunstschaffende, Sozialarbeiter:innen und viele andere ihre Sicht, auf das Land in dem sie leben, präsentieren. Das Resultat, das 2019 in Buchform publiziert wurde, hat etwas von einem sozio-kulturellen Kaleidoskop, dessen Nutzung weniger Gliederschmerzen, dafür aber mehr Weitsicht mit sich bringt. Forum zeigt an dieser Stelle einige Beispiele. Wer den ganzen Atlas sehen will kann ihn hier bestellen: subjectiveeditions.org

Annelys Devet, Véronique Kessler, Lucie Majerus, Giacomo Piovan (Hrsgg.): *Subjective Atlas of Luxembourg*, Subjective Editions 2019, Englisch, 192 pages.