The research group Architectural Cultures of the Recent Past (ARP) of KU Leuven and KADOC, the Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society of KU Leuven, are organizing an international workshop on religion, urban planning and demographic change in post-war Europe. The workshop is part of the PhD project entitled Catholic Territories in a Suburban Landscape: Religion and Urbanization in Belgium, 1945–1975. The workshops aims to offer new insights in how organized religion manages and marks its presence within a given territory.

On 3 and 4 July 2017, nine papers will be presented and discussed as a prelude to an edited volume. The discussion of each paper will be initiated by one invited respondent and two of the participating authors, and then opened to the entire group. The workshop also includes a ½ day tour to some remarkable modern church buildings in the Leuven - Brussels area.

Researchers and practitioners with an interest in the history of religious architecture are welcome to participate in the workshop. Yet due to limited room capacity, registration is required before 2 June 2017 by sending an e-mail to eva.weyns@kuleuven.be. For listeners, there is a fee to cover the costs of food and refreshments (€ 20 for lunch / € 90 for lunch and dinner - to be paid cash at the beginning of the workshop).
In earlier times, most settlements in Europe developed around the local parish church, the community’s spatial and social nucleus. The processes of industrialization, urbanization and secularization have reversed this mechanism; already in the mid-20th century, the place of the church (both as a religious institution and as a building) was no longer self-evident. As a response, the various branches of Christian religion devised particular strategies to preserve the once-evident unity of ideology, territory and society. Many Catholic dioceses, for example, established consulting bodies for the strategic planning and financing of religious infrastructure in the newly urbanized areas. This workshop seeks to go beyond the traditional focus on liturgical renewal or modernist paradigms in the study of post-war church architecture. Rather, the participants will study the boom in religious infrastructure in Europe between 1945 - 1975 as the instrument and outcome of a particular interaction between religion, (urban) planning and demographic change.

During the workshop, the papers will explore this hypothesis by following one or more of the three possible lines of enquiry:

1. Participants ask what kind of expertise was developed in relation to pastoral challenges in (sub)urban areas. Who were the (institutional) actors in this research, what was their agency and from which perspective did they look at the issues at stake (sociology, architecture, urban planning, theology, anthropology and so forth)? To what networks did these actors belong and how did their ideas circulate?

2. A second set of questions is directed at a critical assessment of the body of knowledge referred to above. Participants study how this knowledge was put to use. To what extent did it have an impact on the religious zeal of the faithful? What was the impact of pastoral strategies, theological concepts or sociological theories on the architectural practise of parish infrastructure (e.g. the typology of the place for worship)? And, inversely, what lessons were learned through experiments in the field? Or, put more broadly: how did religious ideas and practices influence planning concepts or policies?

3. A final perspective on these issues has to do with the reception, perception and assimilation of the ideas and practices mentioned under 1) and 2). How did religious leaders react to the impact of ‘secular’ ideas? How were new insights disseminated amongst the lower clergy? And finally, how did the local communities of faithful react to and deal with the transformation of their religious and social routines?

All papers will look at the issues mentioned above on the base of one or more case studies. They will focus on the initiatives of the Catholic Church, but there are also contributions dealing with other denominations.

Addressing these issues in a transnational (European) and comparative perspective, this workshop aims to position the religious authorities in a field of tensions between planned strategic effort and pragmatic circumstantial adaptations on the one hand, and innovation and tradition on the other. This, in turn, will offer an insight in how organized religion manages and marks its presence within a given territory, a burning issue in the light of the ever growing religious diversity in the contemporary urban environment.
TERRITORIES OF FAITH - PROGRAM

Monday 3 July

09:00 - 10:00  Breakfast, welcome address and introduction

10:00 - 13:00  Session 1. Experiments in the Field: Negotiating on Churches and Urban Planning

1. Angela Connelly (University of Manchester, UK)
   Planning for Faith in Wythenshawe, Manchester (UK)

2. Judi Loach (Cardiff University, UK) and Mélanie Meynier-Philip (National School of Architecture of Lyon, France)
   Between Theory and Architectural Practice: The Diocese of Lyon’s Production of New Churches during the Post-war Period

3. Sofia Singler (University of Cambridge, UK and Alvar Aalto Museum, Finland)
   Constructing Community and Communion: Alvar Aalto’s Cross of the Plains and Finnish Post-war Planning

13:00 - 14:30  Lunch break & guided tour in the KADOC archives

14:30 - 17:30  Session 2. Leaning on Scientific Expertise: Strategic Parish Planning for Growing Cities

1. Eva Weyns (KU Leuven, Belgium)
   Rethinking the Urban Parish: François Houtart and the Centre de Recherches Socio-Religieuses in Belgium, 1955-1964

2. Jesús García Herrero (Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain)
   The Pastoral Care Plan in Madrid in 1965: New Parishes for New Citizens

3. João Alves da Cunha (Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal) and João Luís Marques (University of Porto, Portugal)
   Catholic Parishes in the Lisbon Master Plan of 1959: The SNIP and MRAR Legacy

19:00  Workshop dinner

Tuesday 4 July

09:00 - 12:00  Session 3. Speaking with Authority: The Local Impact of Religious and Political Leaders

1. Alba Arboix Alió (Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Spain)
   Politics, Church, and City: The Construction of Barcelona under a Dictator (1939-1975)

2. Ferdinando Zanzottera (Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy), Umberto Bordoni (Archdiocese of Milan, Scuola Beato Angelico, Arte Cristiana magazine, Italy), Maria Antonietta Crippa (Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy) and Davide Fusari (Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy)
   Experimenting Pastoral Strategies between 1954 and 1963 in the Diocese of Milan

3. Ellen Rowley (University College Dublin, Ireland)
   Thirty Years Later: Local Government and the Catholic Hierarchy in Ireland: The Case of Galway and Dublin in 1967

12:00 - 13:00  Concluding remarks

13:00 - 14:00  Lunch break

14:00  Excursion

14:15  Don Bosco community centre in Kessel-Lo (Marc Dessauvage, 1966-1970)

15:15  St Carolus’ church in Holsbeek (Marc Dessauvage, 1964-1969)

16:00  Our Lady of Perpetual Help church in Haacht (Paul Felix & Jan Tanghe, 1958-1961)

16:45  St Lambert’s church in Muizen (Lucien Engels, 1960-1966)

17:30  Possibility to drop off people at Mechelen train station

18:00  Arrival in Leuven

Respondents: Ricardo Agarez (KU Leuven, Belgium), Olivier Chatelan (Université Jean Moulin - Lyon 3, France), Jan De Maeyer (KADOC - KU Leuven, Belgium), Rajesh Heynickx (KU Leuven, Belgium), Andrea Longhi (Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy), Robert Proctor (University of Bath, UK) and Sven Sterken (KU Leuven, Belgium).
TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

How to reach KADOC

By rail: Leuven is the nearest railway station to KADOC. There are frequent direct connections from Brussels. Please visit: http://www.belgianrail.be/ for timetables and journey planning options.

By foot from the Leuven station: The workshop venue is within a 15-minute walk from the Leuven train station. After leaving the station, follow the Maria Theresiastraat; turn right at the Frederik Lintstraat; turn left at the end of the street; KADOC is at the corner and the entrance is at the right side behind the gate.

By bus from the Leuven station: There is a frequent bus service from the bus terminal nearby the train station to KADOC. The buses with numbers 1 (to Heverlee), 4 (to Haasrode), 5 (to Vaalbeek) and 6 (to Hoegaarden) will take you to the bus stop Rustoord Remy (Nursing home Remy), which is the third stop after leaving the station. From the bus stop, the venue is within a 3-minute walk. Please visit: http://www.delijn.be/ for timetables and journey planning options.

By road: The nearest car parking is the underground Ladeuze Parking at the Monseigneur Ladeuzeplein. From the ring road, you can reach the entrance of the parking by following the Blijde Inkomstraat at Tiensepoort.

Accommodation for speakers and respondents

Hotel Irish College: The hotel is within a 25-minute walk from the Leuven train station. By bus, take bus number 2 (to Heverlee) and get off at the bus stop Sint-Michielskerk (St Michaels’ Church), which is the first stop after passing the main city square. The reception desk is open until 23:00 for check in.

Guesthouse Herman Servotte: For picking up your keys, make arrangements with Eva Weyns. The guesthouse is within a 20-minute walk from the Leuven train station. By bus, follow the same route as the one to KADOC. Registration and payment need to happen on Monday at the guesthouse reception desk (14:00-16:30). Please note that the reception desk is located at Naamsestraat 80. Check out is before 10:00 on the day of departure. Please leave your keys inside a keys drop box located next to the hallway door on each floor. Please also note that the guesthouse does not serve breakfast.

Visit the map online on: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Sc2tfa9nePFMjkvGWK3kgFkHhtY&usp=sharing