

LABOR Bivouac 4-27.6 .2021

The Context

By 2050, more than 75% of the world's population will live in urban areas. In Switzerland, as elsewhere, densification must be done from within. Cities are reinventing themselves in the face of these demographic and ecological challenges. New forms of mobility and communal living have to be invented in the transitional urban space of ephemeral wasteland.

For four years, the La Rasude site in Lausanne will be a unique opportunity to experiment together with new ways of making the city.

The exhibition

Bivouac is a public event that will take place on the La Rasude site from 4 to 27 June 2021. Eight artists and architects will create installations inspired by the potential of the site, its constraints and possible uses. The people of Lausanne will be invited to discover the works exhibited through an itinerary that will take them, accompanied by guides, to explore the site, which has until now been closed to the public. Temporary footbridges will link the different areas of La Rasude, from the roof to the basement.

From March onwards, several collaborations will take shape around BIVOUCAC, with the EPFL's ALICE architecture studio, the Haute école d'art du Valais, La Manufacture school of performing arts in Lausanne and groups of artists and architects active in the region. All these creative energies will have room to express themselves and to exchange, both between themselves and with the public, during this temporary Bivouac.

The Theme

What tools could enable us to develop new paradigms to respond to the social, political, economic or ecological changes awaiting our cities? How can we do this in a context of depletion of natural resources, climate change or social and demographic fractures?

New balances between individual needs, social projects and available resources must be imagined. BIVOUAC wishes to reflect on the diversity of these energies which seek to question current rules and habits, to find innovative ideas that will emerge from this troubled period.

With reference to the temporary camp, BIVOUAC is interested in the fragile, light, agile, transitory and moving forms of the city. The bivouac is a temporary space, open to improvisation, but always dependent on a strong environment. It shows the capacity of a group to define its own organisation. This bivouac will be conceived outside the restrictive and normative constraints of urban space, and will open up to more spontaneous and inventive forms of fabrication. The bivouac is in the image of the city that we propose to explore here: it wants to rethink the way we live, share and co-exist.

An international open call

BIVOUAC is organised in the form of a call for projects launched on 1 December 2020 and open to professional artists but also to architects and anyone concerned in their professional field by urban development. Between 8 and 10 projects will be selected in February by a jury made up of art, urban planning and architecture professionals.

The site

La Rasude is a site which is part of the Lausanne railway station hub. Formerly used for mail sorting by Swiss Post and for SBB back-office work, it is set to undergo a major transformation.

Consequently, the future use of this land and its public access raises the question not only of the needs of the population but also of the uses of the city and the processes involved in its construction and development. By operating outside the institution and by connecting art to an emblematic place in the city, BIVOUAC wishes to invite the public to take a curious and different look at urban space by considering questions of citizenship, nature and the right to the city as central elements for reflection.

Building is a cultural act. Thus, together with builders and promoters, artists and architects actively contribute to the invention of tomorrow's city.

Bivouac

La Rasude site is a complex place, composed of buildings and rooves built at different periods and on different levels.

In this context and to facilitate the discovery of the site by foot, Bivouac proposes to create temporary footbridges that will allow the public to wander in an original way from one space to another, taken in small groups accompanied by guides. By entering the site on the station side, they will be able to access the imposing space of the former platforms. They will then take a temporary staircase and a footbridge that will take them to the other side of the building and exit towards the Avenue d'Ouchy. Works could also be presented in the car park which occupies the first basement of the building .