

## TIME SCHEDULE

13h15 pick-up bus STAM  
-  
14h00 start excursion (bridge Heusden)  
-  
16h00 meeting at 'De Nieuwe Admiraal' to discuss the work  
-  
17h00 pick-up bus  
-  
17h30 arrival city center

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Mobile Michiel Dehaene  
+32 496 14 20 28

## YOUR TEAMMATES

Thomas B., Jeppe L., Maria M., Elisabet L., Danny W., Jan M., Leif Ö., Lilly S., Rob O., Elke Dh., Elke Du.

## MEETING POINT 'DE NIEUWE ADMIRAAL'

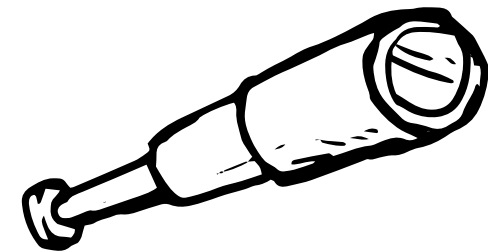
Dendermondse Steenweg 228, 9070 Destelbergen



# EXCURSION PUBLIC PEDAGOGY & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

DE  
STADS  
ACADEMIE  
.BE

GROUP 2



## WHAT IS THE URBAN ACADEMY?

The urban academy wishes to be a collaboratory where students, professors, policy makers, entrepreneurs and civil society organizations share knowledge and explore the major social and ecological sustainability challenges the city of Ghent is facing. The core of the urban academy will be a master thesis atelier within which students from various fields will work on related topics guided by mixed teams of professors and members of the city administration. The agenda for this master thesis atelier is currently determined through a cocreative process in which various partners are exploring possible subjects in a number of round tables.

## **URBAN ACADEMY AND THE POST-URBAN FRINGE**

Not all issues the urban academy will be working on are related to a specific area or place in the city, but during its first years of development the organizing members are pushing a territorial focus on the urban fringe of Ghent. The urban fringe physically embodies some of the transitions the urban academy wishes to think. The landscapes of the urban fringe present a post-suburban world that is increasingly inhabited against the grain. If until recently the suburban fringe was historically developed within a context of urban flight, today the older suburbs are being reclaimed (densified) by projects that try to accommodate the demographic growth and provide housing for people moving to the city. The historical densities are hard to justify from a normative sustainable urban development perspective. The highway, the road infrastructure, the car dealers, the ample parking space, etc all represent the hey days of the carbon city. At the same time these car dependent environments are already inhabited by people who use the bike to commute, and have stopped to see the car as the dominant mode of mobility. The existing car infrastructure is reframed as inadequate and unsafe for bikers. The area lost most of its farming activity over the past 20 years but today hosts several community supported agriculture initiatives. In short, the landscapes of the multiple meanings attributed to these landscapes less and less coincide by the meaning projected on these areas at the moment of they where first urbanized.

These post-suburban landscapes are today actively being reframed, often condemning the allegedly non sustainable lifestyles that they have accommodated and promoted and projecting new sustainability ambitions. This broad reframing, more often than not, fails to produce a concrete engagement with the existing conditions, let alone with the aspirations of the people living in these areas. The urban academy believes it can play a role in shaping a public agenda in such areas. Through the excursion we wish to explore the role place-based, immersive practices may play in building a new urban sustainability agenda or the transforming landscapes of the metropolitan fringe.

### **Excursion**

The area we will visit has still large open areas. Historically the area is composed of wetlands for the river Scheldt. The presence of the highway E17 has kept sprawl out of the area. The long term perspective of the possible removal of the E17 creates the opening for a broad reflection on the future of the area.

### **Assignment group 2**

If you adopt a perspective of long term change, which parts of the area and elements that you encounter during the walk strike you as anachronistic, may be removed or structurally redeveloped. Which parts or elements are of lasting value and should stay. Make notes on the blank maps and make pictures. Select one picture representing something that should be removed/redeveloped and one picture of something that should stay.