

Flanders

Architecture

Institute

PRESS RELEASE

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The exhibition *The house. The mentor. The archive* offers a unique glimpse into the world of the architect Christian Kieckens.

Architecture in which every part is essential

Exhibition on from 12/2/2016 to 5/6/2016 - Preview at 8 pm on 11.2.2016 - deSingel International Arts Campus, Desguinlei 25, 2018 Antwerp, +32 3 242 89 70 - Co-produced by the Flanders Architecture Institute, deSingel International Arts Campus and Antwerp Province Architectural Archive (APA) - Curators: Katrien Vandermarliere Maarten Lambrechts & Christian Kieckens



Crematorium Daelhof, Zemst (BE), Christian Kieckens Architects & DAE, 2011-2015 © Reiner Lautwein

Christian Kieckens is one of a generation of architects who laid the foundations for the international breakthrough of Flemish architecture in the 1970s. In the retrospective exhibition *The house. The mentor The archive*, the Flanders Architecture Institute pays tribute to a man who has made reflection on architecture his trade mark.

"Architecture is to buildings what music is to sound." In Christian Kieckens' view, architecture is much more than just building houses; it is a way of living. Everything he does is pervaded with

architecture. His career has been a quest for the way word and image, theory and history fuse in the imagination and in use. This is apparent from the visual simplicity of many of his designs.

“Architecture is to buildings what music is to sound”

Christian Kieckens

Since the 1970s he has concentrated entirely on ‘research into the independence of architecture’: such as the churches of Francesco Borromini, the pyramid of Cheops, baroque domes in Bohemia, Swiss neutrality, the work of his mentor Pieter De Bruyne and so on.



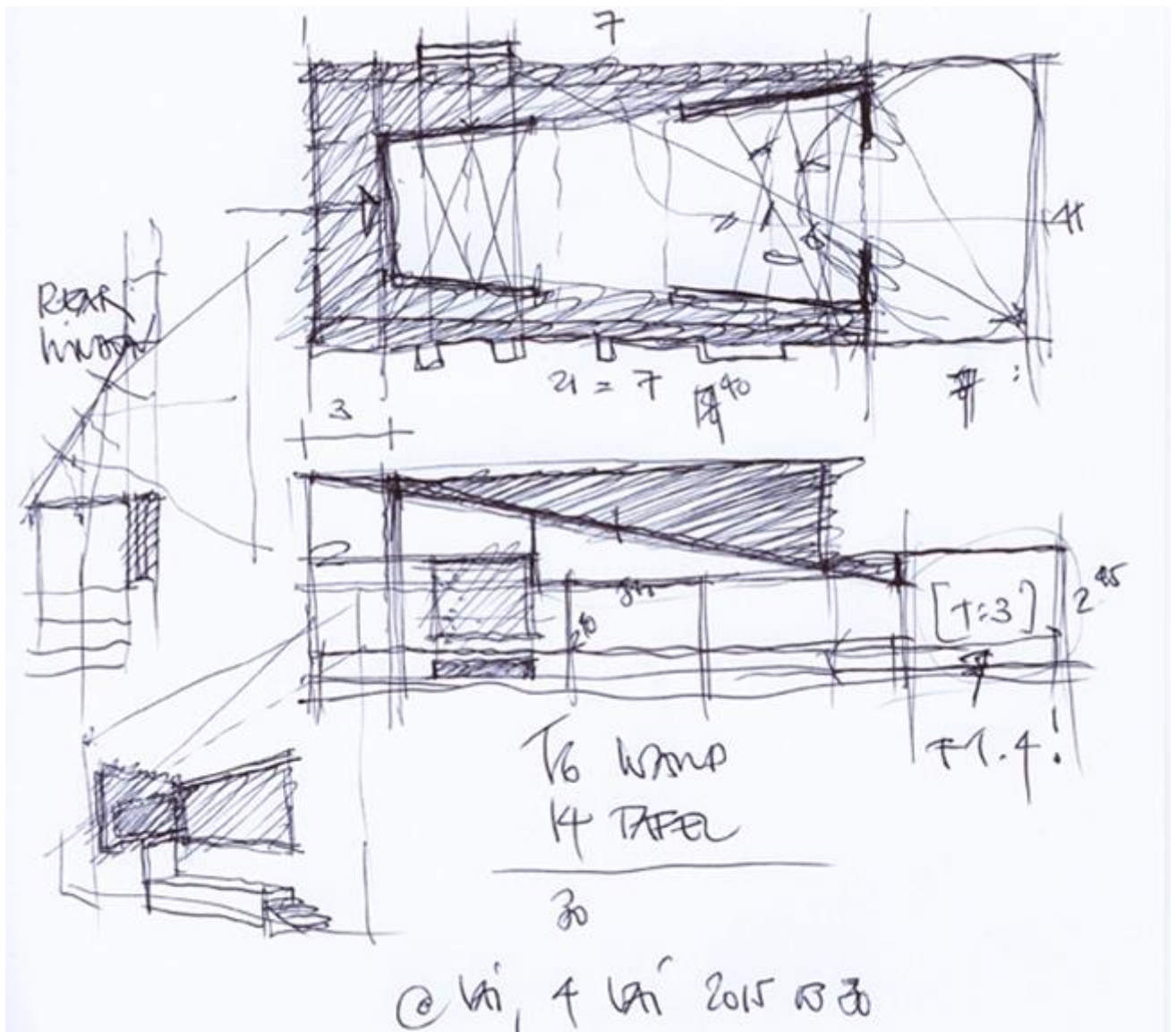
Christian Kieckens, Drawing 'Una Porta per Venezia' Piazzale Roma, 1990' (collection of APA)

The title of the exhibition [‘The house. The mentor. The archive’](#) is a reflection of three major guiding elements in Kieckens’ career. As he puts it: "In a house one seeks, imagines and builds. The mentor looks, writes and passes down. While the archive preserves, provides and remains aloof. The architect is not present at this point, what is shown is that which remains."

“The tent, as the origin of architecture”

Christian Kieckens

This triple division is also noticeable in the design of the exhibition. 'The house' is an installation in the form of a space made of textiles on a scale of 1 to 1; "the tent, as the origin of architecture". 'The archive' shows both original drawings from the 1974-1995 period and a focus on the transfer of knowledge in his design practice from 1996 to 2015. The third section – 'the mentor' – covers his work as a lecturer at various architectural institutions since 1980. It includes documentation of study trips, invitations for guest professorships, publications and student projects, mainly from the Open Studio at Antwerp University.



Drawing of 'The House' for the expo 'The House. The Mentor. The Archive. Christian Kieckens

The essence of Kieckens' message, both in the exhibition and as an architect and lecturer, is the creation of unity in a design. "Designing architecture in which every part is essential. Nothing more, but nothing less either," according to Kieckens.

Colophon

organisers Flanders Architecture Institute, deSingel International Arts Campus and Antwerp Province Architectural Archive (APA) **curators** Katrien Vandermariere, Maarten Lambrechts and Christian Kieckens **graphic design for exhibition and publication** Something Els **with support from** the Flemish Authorities

exhibition

[The House. The Mentor. The Archive. Christian Kieckens](#)

Fri 12 February 2016 → Sun 5 June 2016

open Wed → Sun, 2 → 6 pm and during evening performances

closed on Mon, Tue and holidays

admission: €5

tickets on sale at entrance to the exhibition

opening

Thu 11 February – preview and introductory talk in the Blue Hall at 8 pm

free

book for the opening and the series of talks at www.vai.be/register

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