

B-*col
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Meet People | Discover objects | Enjoy Brussels

B-collective is a Brussels-based design initiative by Sophie Laenen, architect since 1992.

It is located in the Rouppestraat in the centre of Brussels on walking distance of the Grande Place and the Sablon. The house is since 2008 the base for B-sis as well, the B&B of the two sisters Katrien and Sophie.

For B-collective it all started with the dream 'escaping for a little while' from the rigid world of the architectural office, and bringing people together.

Talking with Lies from Fragmenture about possible collaborations, brought me on the idea of bringing the focus not on projects but on people and objects.

Since a while a lot of inspiring objects took my attention on Instagram and in no time I choose 5 young designers to contact, visit and to discover their works.

I worked basically depending on my intuition following a flow that guided me.

I wanted for once not to overthink everything, but just do what feels right.

The first to visit were William and Vincent from Amorce studio.

Right away I felt the positivity that comes with creating things and the amazing stories that brings along. They talked me about their experience at Milan and introduced me to the work of Ana Maria Gomez and Pierre-emmanuel Vandeputte.

Ana Maria is a Colombian designer but studied at La Cambre. Visiting her at her home was like visiting a friend, with a cup of tea we talked a lot about her work and I was really impressed by the tactile and spatial dimension of her textiles.

To find Pierre-emmanuel I had to cross a big stockroom with recycling materials, and if you know his work you understand why. With his playful and curious nature he can like no other create original ways of reuse. In his work you can discover a sense of the surreal but also respect for craftsmanship.

Very soon 5 designers became 10 designers...

I even went to Ostend to visit Bavo. His ceramic adventure started also a little intuitive, but it's incredible what result he has in only 2 years. It was my good friend Liesbet who introduced me in the world of ceramics with her cheerful bowls, of course a total different approach.

And like if Bavo could feel it, the talk was not about the search of more designers - more would be to much - but about possible actions for the pop-up. He suggested it would be nice to meet up with the other designers.

I had the feeling all the pieces of the puzzle fall into place.

It became clear that for Brussels there is a leak of space for young designers to exhibit their work in an unforced environment. The idea of creating a platform for Belgian creatives became a fact.

Of course, background and language doesn't matter, a fascinating mixture brings interesting dialogue

Visiting and talking to al the designers brought me into all kind of interesting stories and maybe it will carry you along.

Stories about recycling, about treating materials in different ways, about social-economic projects, about modulating, about functional/non-functional ...

and of course, about the passion for making!

POP-UP

From 28 September 2019 till 28 December 2019

Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11am till 6 pm

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