

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 while' from the rigid world of the office, and bringing people together. Talking with designers about possible collaborations, brought me on the idea of bringing the focus not on projects but on people and objects.

As usual a lot of inspiring objects took my attention on Instagram. But more important to me is to meet the designers. There is nothing that brings you more directly to a creator's thinking than his working environment.

This year everything was different. With the lockdown travelling around was not an option at first.

I took the time to look for new talent on different ways and postponed the visits.

There was time to think and overthink, to plan and to look forward.

From the time since measures were relaxed I went to meet the guys from Vormen. A direct hit.

From outside their studio nothing could reveal the beautiful space inside. And just a block away from my friends Vincent and William from Amorco studio!

Was I perplex or was it the airco who took my breath? In any case, the conversation felt immediately familiar and in no time we were talking about objects, proportions and possibilities. This felt wright: nice people, interesting thinking and good conversations.

Entering the studio from Studio Biskt was like entering a very different story. I felt an infectious desire for experiment. The talks were not about proportion but about a process, about many attempts and about pushing the material to his limits. A splendid way of working.

And yes, it's a small world, while I was snooping around in my favourite town a stopover at Studio citygate would have been unthinkable. Audrey and Eloïse from La Gadoue also know Heyjute from previous edition. Two girls of many talents. Not only they make beautiful ceramics in amazing colours, they are also involved in an upcycling process of textile waste. Why not making curtains from men shirts!

In the meanwhile I had several calls with Louis Tardy, he was in the middle of a new creation and building up a prototype with Vol+maakt who participated last year. A visit to Ghent still seemed a big thing, so I planned to do this after my tour in Brussels.

All over the world everyone is trying to find a way to go back to normal. But I still can feel the difference, it will probably take another month before I can meet up with Emma. She is still stuck in Copenhagen. I can't wait to see her inspiring work and hear her out about her experience in Denmark.

It became clear that for Brussels there is a lack of space for young designers to exhibit their work in an unforced environment. But there is an excess of young talent who wants to meet up with others and share inspiring stories. The idea of creating a platform for Belgian creatives is still relevant.

Background and language doesn't matter, a fascinating mixture brings interesting dialogue

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

Stories about proportions, recycling, about treating materials in different ways, about social-economy, about international experiences, about beauty ...

and of course, about the passion for making!

POP-UP **B-Collective**

From 18 September 2020 till 18 November 2020

Thursday & Friday from 01pm till 06 pm

Saturday from 12.00 till 06pm

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