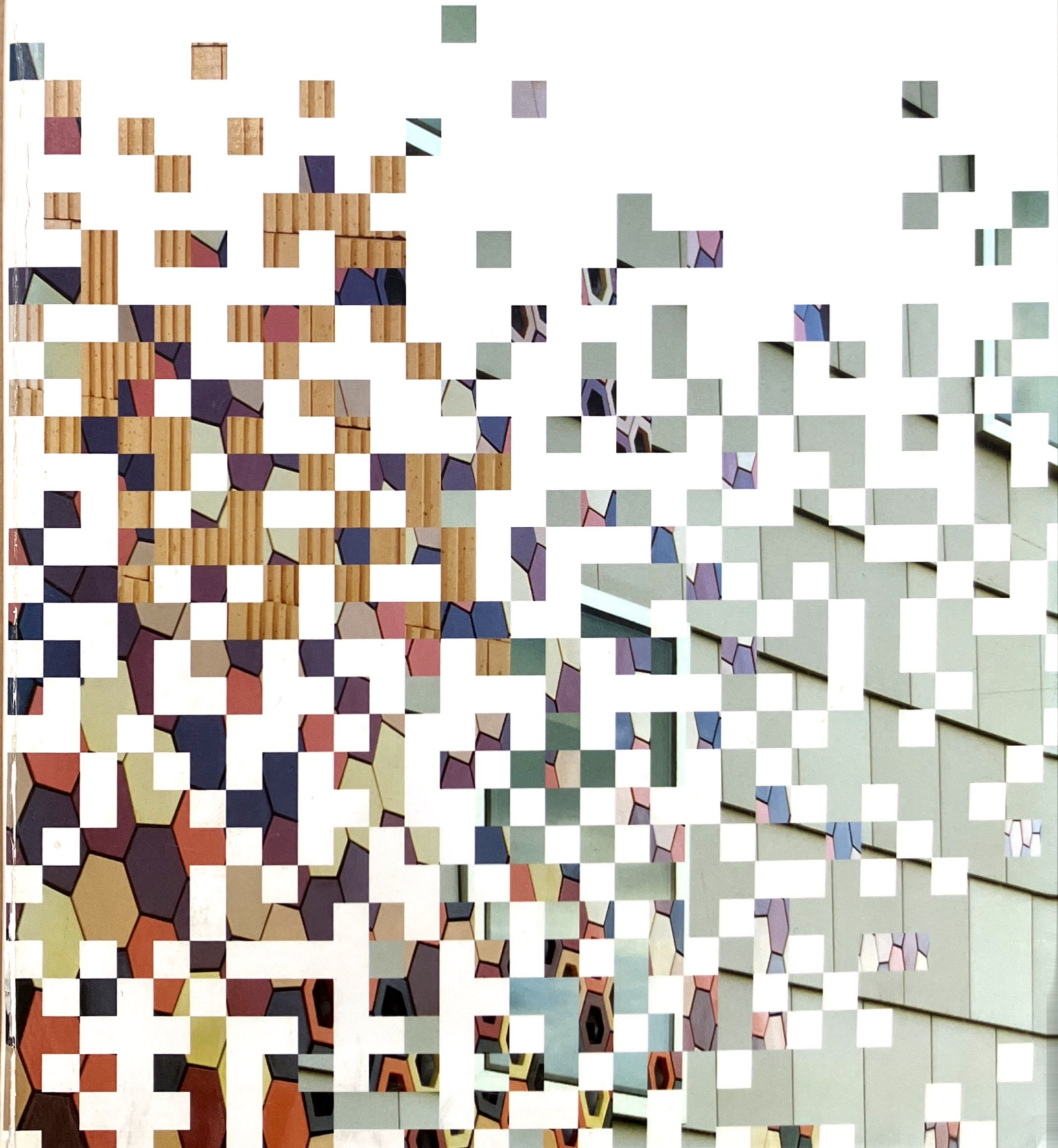


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Ceramics in Architecture



The Atelier Luc Peire Complex: Jenny and Luc Peire Foundation
Knokke, Belgium

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Few Flemish artists have lived in so many different places and had as many workshops as Luc Peire (1916-1994). This leading representative of abstract verticalism in Europe changed abode regularly, producing a coherent oeuvre with single-minded determination from no less than 26 locations. One address, however, remained his "home port" throughout. This was his atelier in Knokke's De Judestraat, behind the "Villa Lucia".

The project in the De Judestraat in Knokke had three parts. First and foremost, restoring the atelier to its original condition to enable the visitor to experience the atmosphere and intimacy of Luc Peire's work-space. The renovation work for the atelier consisted of a structural consolidation without changing the character of the space or its furnishings. The largest and most visible addition is the new building on the street side, which contains the exhibition space and a large area for storing the works bequeathed to the Foundation after Peire's death.

To make way for the new building, the house on the

street side was bought back by the Foundation in 1997 and demolished in 2000. The site itself is 8.50 metres wide and 49 metres deep.

For the outer façade, the architects chose a severe composition with squares as the basic element. Just as Peire composed his canvases with extreme precision, so too the architects sought precise command of the outer face of the new building. As their material they chose tiles with a special 20 x 20 cm format. The slight change in format and the different shades of grey-blue colouring produce an at-once severe and surprisingly chequered expression.

The solidity of the façade is softened by running the glazed surface right up to the edge of the roof. The fine detail work stands out, with brass profiles used both for the frames and to form the transition between the darker tiles and the white Thassos marble tablet in which the name of the Jenny and Luc Peire Foundation is discreetly inscribed.

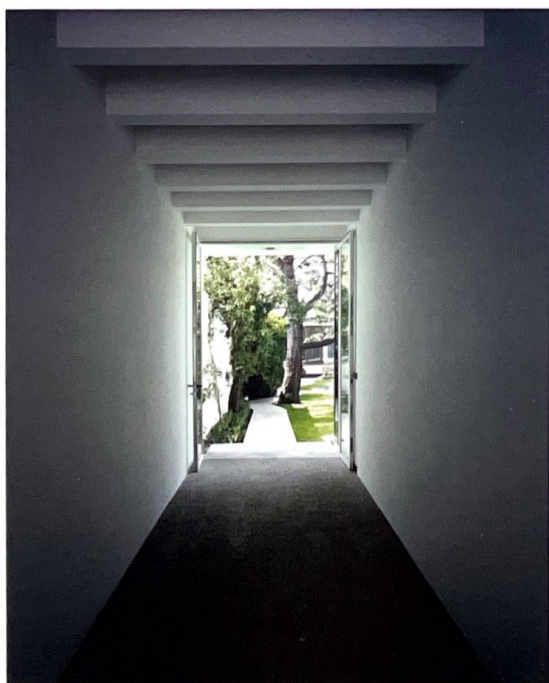
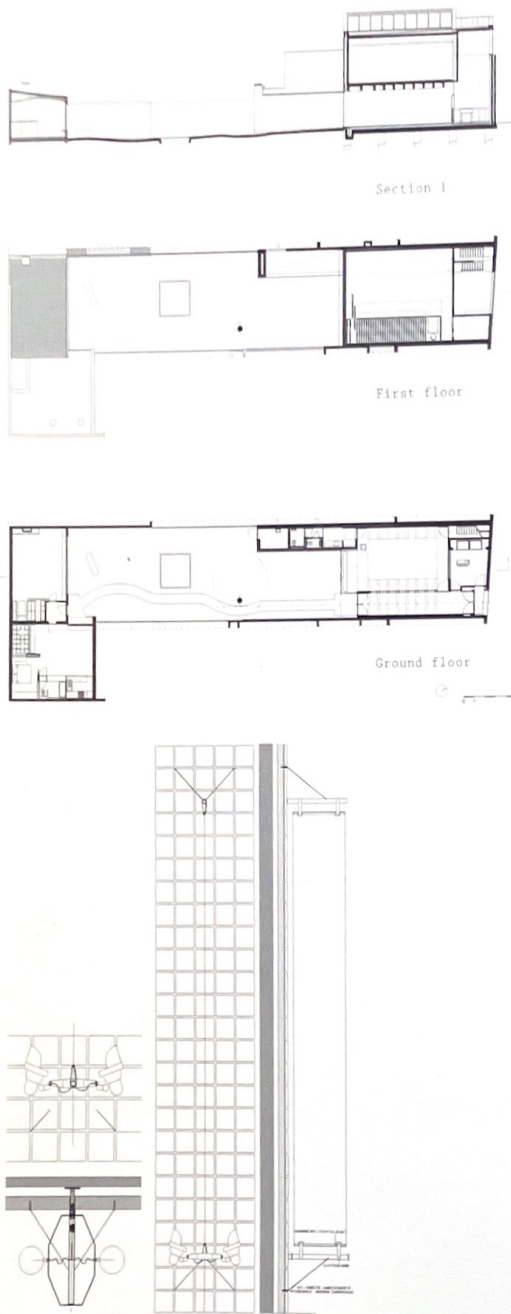
For the entrance, the architects opted for a small recess, all in white in

contrast to the dark tiles. The passage between the street and the garden of the original lay-out was maintained, a functional element combined with the memory of the location. This corridor can serve to exhibit smaller works, like Peire's graphic works or sketches, or small sculptures by artists in a similar style.

Flanking this corridor is a second and larger exhibition area, with blank walls on three sides on which works can be placed. This upward striving space is the dominant theme of the Foundation's 7.50-metre, two-storey-high entrance foyer. The exhibition area receives direct daylight from the single outside window. The closed side wall reinforces the sense of length of the plot and the view from the interior out onto the garden. The rear façade of the main volume is covered with the same dark tiles as the street side, whilst the extension is cement-faced with a colourless protective coating.

The outcome is a building quietly and unfussily positioned in this residential street.





ARCHITECTS: Peter De Bruycker, Inge De Brock
 LOCATION: De Judestraat 64, 8300 Knokke, Belgium
 DESIGN: 1999 CONSTRUCTION: 2002-2003 CLIENT: Jenny and
 Luc Peire Foundation CONTRACTOR: Neiryck& Zn, 9990
 Maldegem STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: VK Engineering, 8200
 Brugge TEXT: Marc Dubois

TILE: glazed stoneware tiles
 DIMENSIONS: 20 x 20 cm

With projects by Eduardo Souto de Moura; Peter De Bruycker, Inge De Brock; Charmaine Lay, Carles Muro, Quim Rosell; Vicente Sarrablo, Cristina Castelao, Jordi Roviras, Héctor Jala; Álvaro Siza; Leeb Condak Architekten; Sadar Vuga Arhitekti; Caruso St John Architects; Albert Viaplana, David Viaplana Arquitectos; Jaume Bach Arquitectes; Baena Casamor Quera Arquitectes; Eduardo de Miguel, José María Urzelai; Toni Gironès; Javier Bernalte, José Luis León; Francisco Mangado; Paredes Pedrosa Arquitectos; Antonio Bonet y Fernando Álvarez, Jordi Roig; EMBT Arquitectes; Foreign Office Architects; Lacaton & Vassal Architectes; muf architecture art; ACTAR Arquitectura.

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