



Conversation is everything

An inspiring interview with Hannes Van Damme & Benoît Vandeputte

By Iris De Feijter

"Books are the most beautiful monuments that one generation can leave to another. They are more enduring than buildings, more profound than philosophy, and more intimate than paintings", said Le Corbusier. A statement that Hannes Van Damme (b. 1989, pictured left) and Benoît Vandeputte (b. 1989, pictured right) wholeheartedly endorse. Since founding their architecture firm in 2018, they have carved out a legacy with a portfolio that includes dozens of homes, offices, and shops in Belgium and abroad. This book now adds a new dimension with a curated selection of projects that are each indicative of the architects' oeuvre in their own way.

In publishing this book, the fledgling architecture firm reveals its ambition. Similarly, the new headquarters of Van Damme • Vandeputte attest to their shared vision. The firm recently moved into an old doctor's practice and home in Izegem after renovating the classicist building with the utmost care and respect for its history. They even purposefully preserved the domestic atmosphere in their office, designing an open kitchen with a bar for use by the firm's employees in addition to an inviting seating area for client meetings with comfortable seating, inspiring books, and a sculpture by young Belgian artist Florian Tomballe. "A homely look and feel is a vital aspect of our work, both in our residential or office designs", says Benoît Vandeputte.







Inviting ambiance

- There may be no place like home, but every space can – and should – feel like it. A good architect has excellent people skills, understanding human nature and sensing where his or her clients unwind. A good design feels like a warm embrace, for residents and visitors alike. All-in projects, in which the interior design and architecture are complimentary, are enriching in that sense. The message in each space is: you're welcome.







Shaping tomorrow

- Thinking about tomorrow's architecture goes hand-in-hand with wanting to move forward. Be that as it may, future projects only exist by the grace of moments of reflection. Because it is only over time that an architectural philosophy can mature into a vision of the things that are yet to come. Dreams shape the future, but the reverse is equally true: the future brings our dreams to life.

