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Autor: [s.n.]
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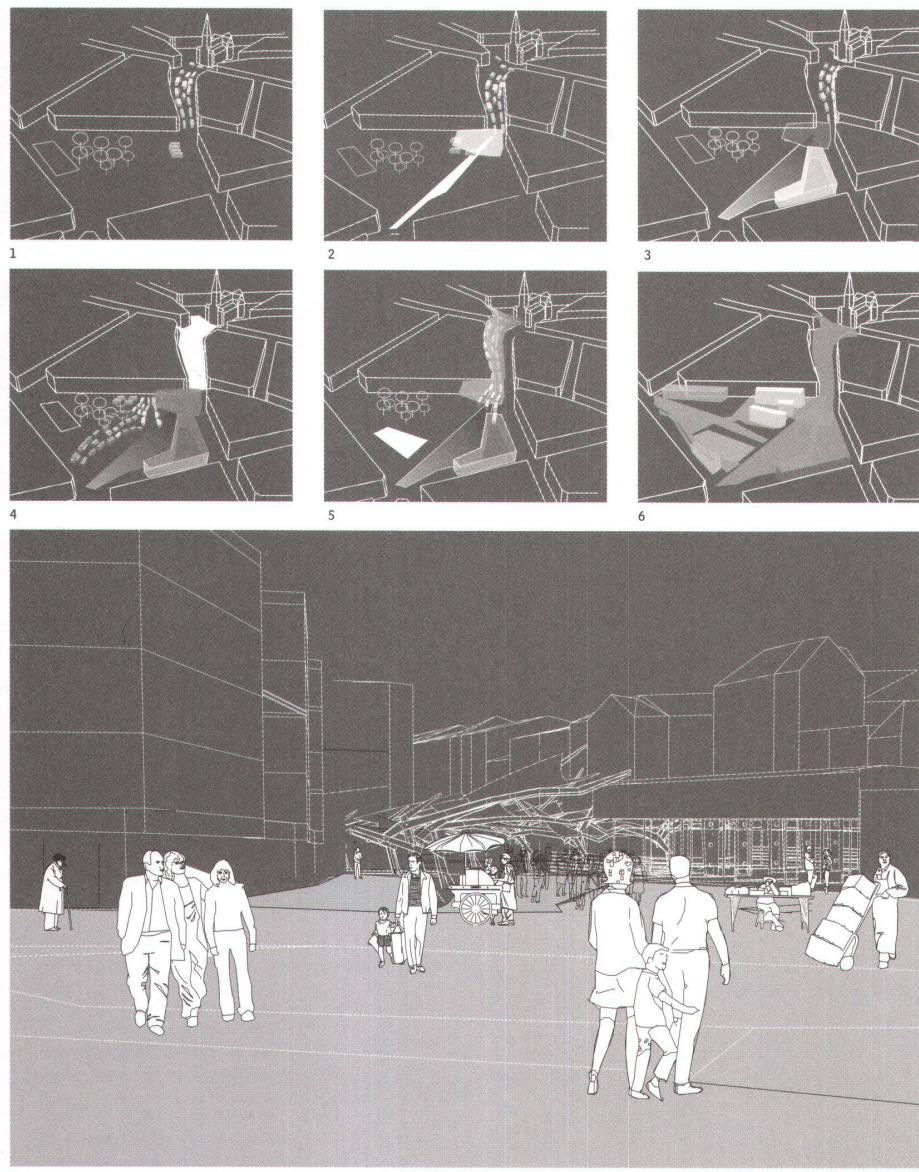
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Eight steps to urban well-being

The group of students from Lund in Sweden decided against large-scale changes to the center of Saint-Gilles in favor of step-by-step alterations. Eight short anecdotes introduce the eight steps of the project. The jury were equally impressed by the procedure and the result.



“Accessibility for all in an architectural design cannot be restricted to the mere adaptation of buildings to make them accessible to everyone. The aim is to reflect upon architecture as the perception and experience of space,” wrote the authors in their introduction to their design, and added: “Movement through space gives people the chance of personally becoming part of the space and the region.” The students of the Lund technical college propose a step-by-step procedure so that the experiences gained can be evaluated and the project adapted after each stage. The individual stages must not give the impression of fragments but must function in collaboration with the existing architecture.

As a first step, the competition team proposes to extend the market on the Parvis in the direction of the Carré de l'ancien Hôtel des Monnaies. The status of the path through the Carré will be enhanced and mark the beginning of the design of an urban landscape on the Carré. Step two comprises the multipurpose hall and the social facilities. The angled building is located on the northern corner of the Carré and defines a piazza along the connecting path. The next step moves the market temporarily from the Parvis to the Carré, which thus becomes part of daily life, while step four, the covering of the market, is constructed on the Parvis. The next stage – step five – consists of the construction of a car park and shops. The folding structure of the car park provides a transition to the greened spaces and to the piazza on ground level.

The first residential buildings on the site, small units of various sizes, are planned for step six on the south side of the Carré. The apartments are connected by terraces and pergolas forming a network of paths within the buildings. Another residential building – step seven – occupies the last, eastern, corner of the Carré and defines the access to the site. The project is completed by step eight: residential buildings at the point where the Parvis joins the Carré.

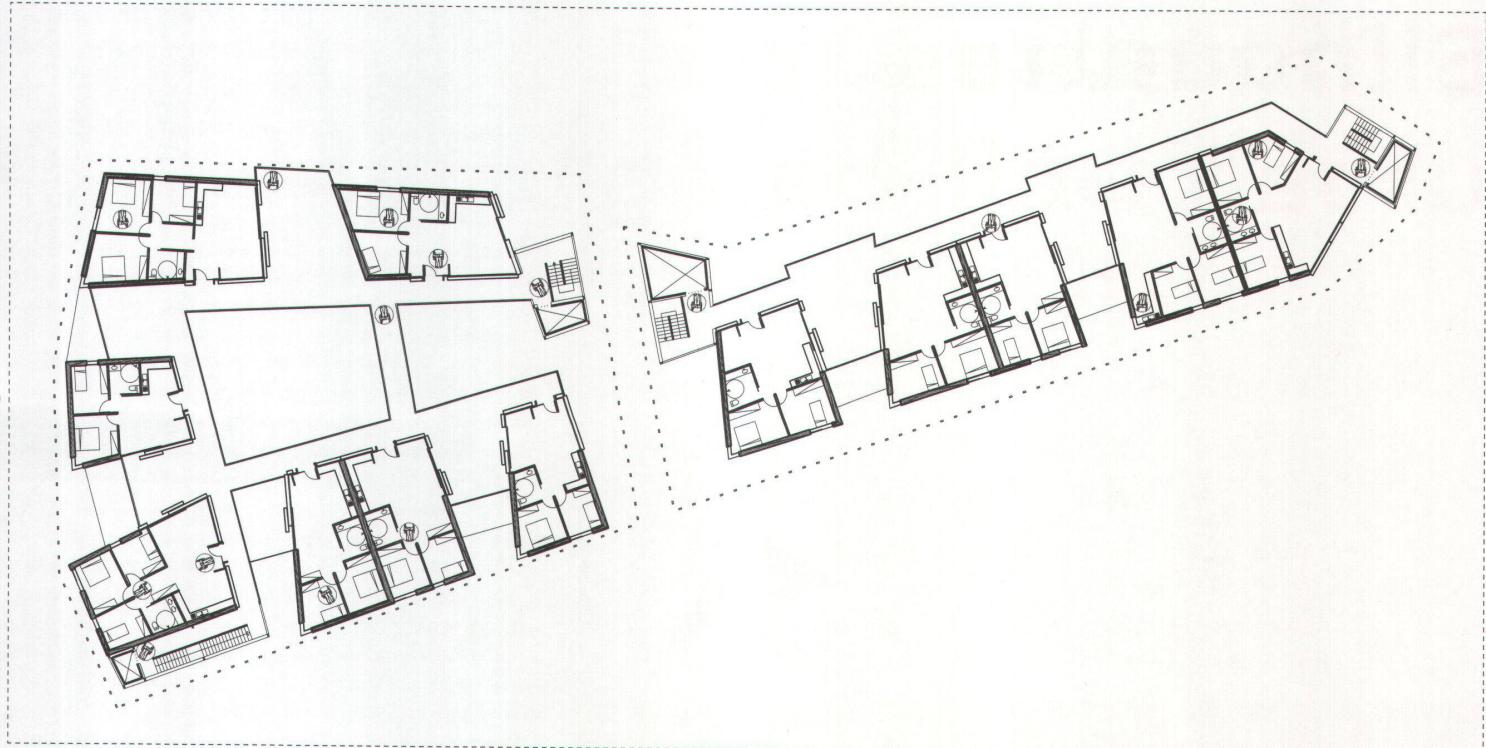
Successful implementation

The authors lead the viewer through the project with the help of eight short anecdotes based on the principle of the step-by-step introduction of alterations so that they can be successfully integrated in the existing situation. The jury is of the opinion that the competition team has recognized and correctly interpreted the situation and implemented the program convincingly and logically. The semi-permeable market functions as a filter between the road and the park. The roof garden is a further element of openness and provides fine views of the Parvis and the church. The jury liked the loose, imaginative arrangement of the living units along the surrounding galleries, which are reminiscent of a barricade of wagons and create varyingly private and semiprivate spaces. This access system has light and dark, noisy and quiet sections, with airy niches for different purposes. Conventional, closed-in block structures have been avoided. The project is a successful interpretation of the philosophy of this competition. •

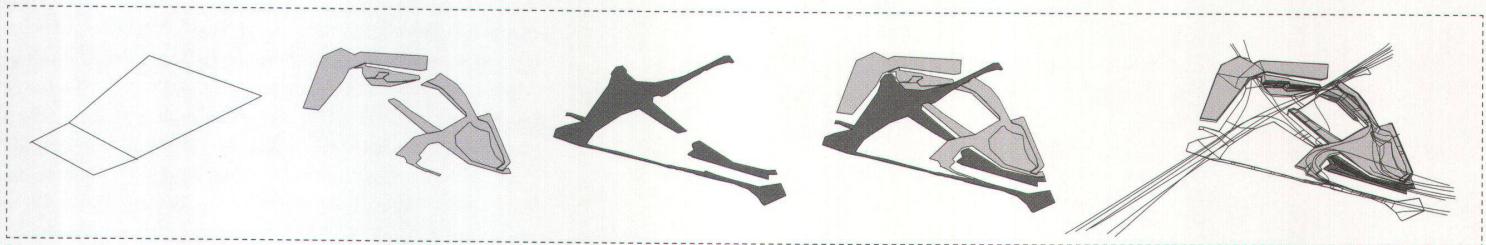
--> School: Lunds Tekniska Högskola, Lund
(Lund Technical College, Lund, Sweden)

--> Professor: Abelardo Gonzalez

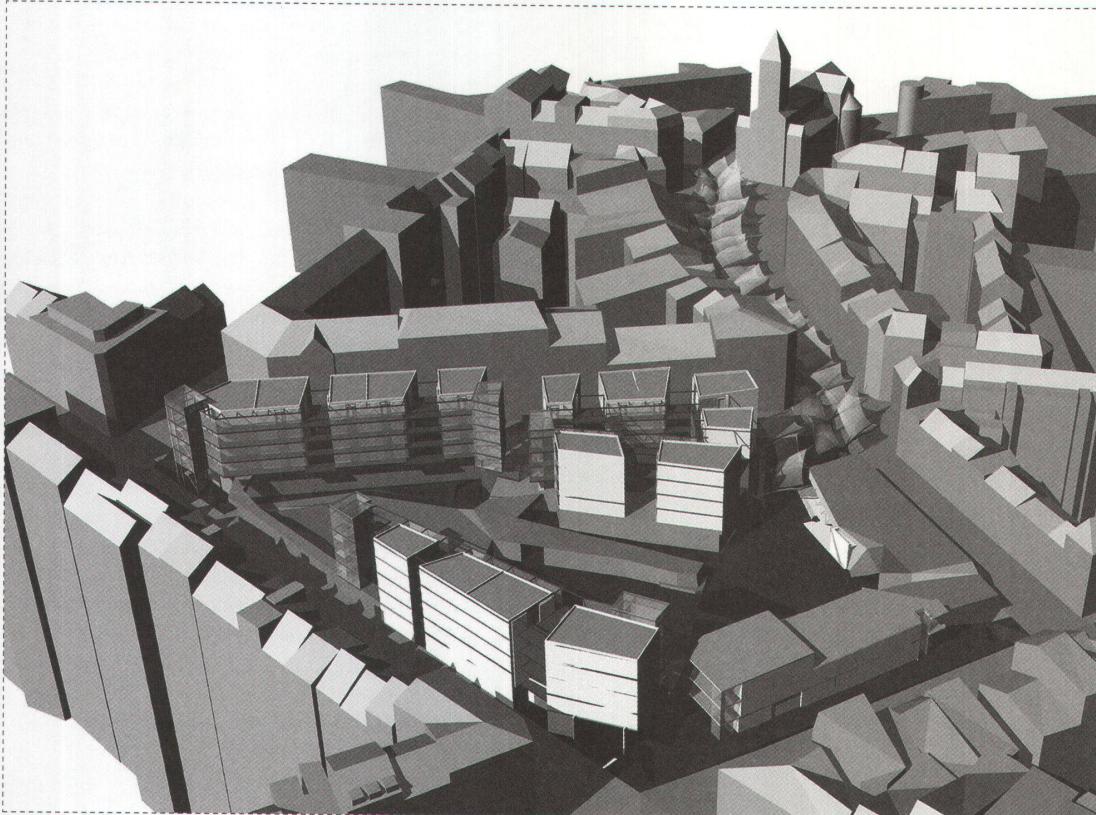
--> Students: Lizet Blenke, Wojciech Borowczyk, Alejandro Call, Maeva Chardon, Alexandra Hammerl, Szymon Nogalski, Annie Petterson, Martin Sundberg



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1-6 Based on the existing conditions of the site, eight steps, or phases, lead to the completed new center of Saint-Gilles.

7 In step four, the market on the Parvis is given a covering.

8 Terraces and pergolas provide access to the apartments. Thanks to their generous conception, represent places for communication.

9 The downward sloping terrain of the Carré forms the basis of an urban landscape.

10 The eight steps of the project finally constitute a new urban district for Saint-Gilles.