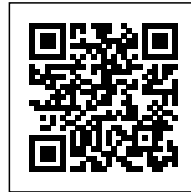




LANDSKRONHOF: RECOVERING A FORGOTTEN SPACE

Posted on March 14, 2023 by martabuges



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At a time when the Swiss are divided between Dichtelust and Dichtestress, HHF offers to highlight forgotten spaces in the heart of Basel's urban blocks.



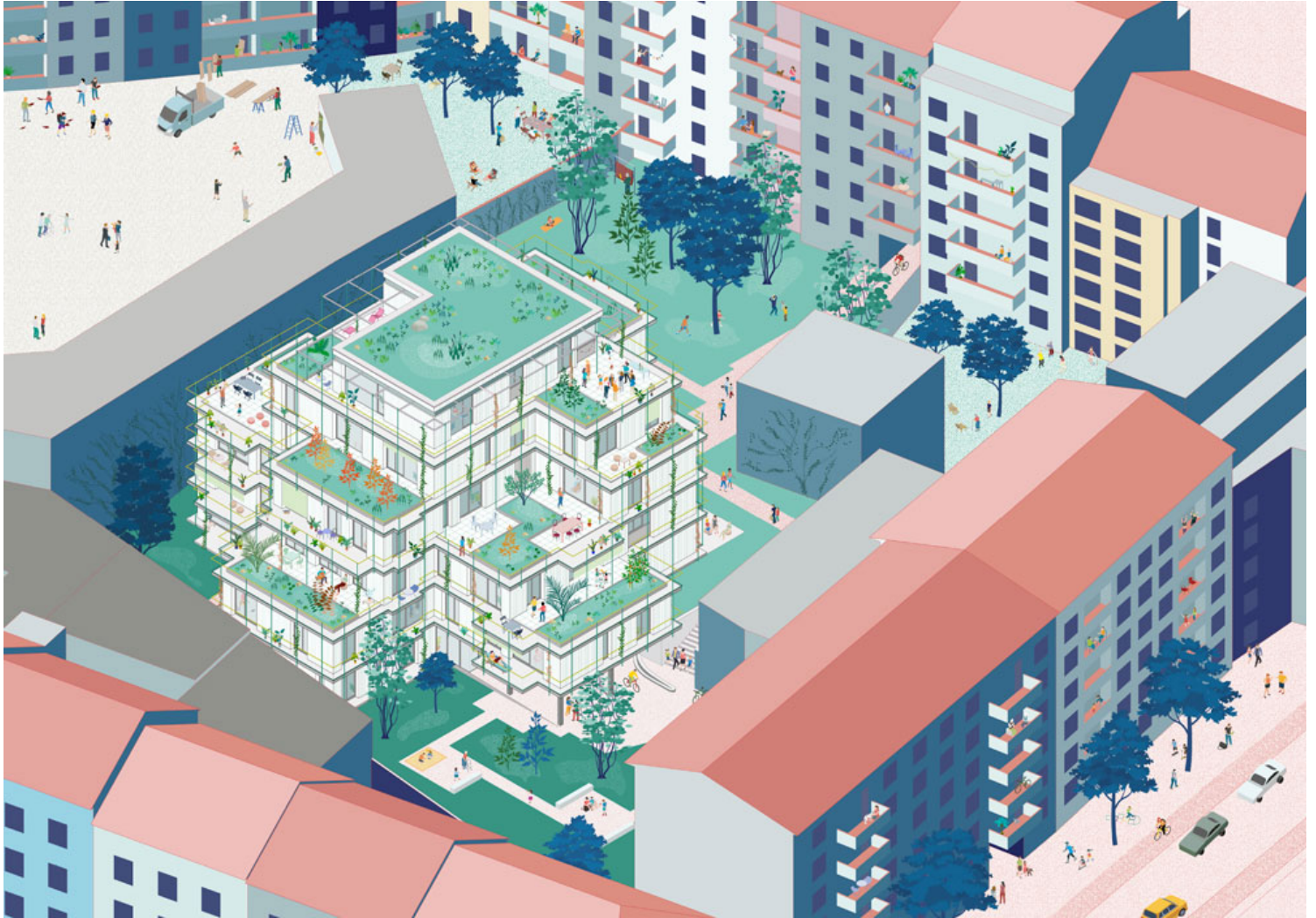
HHF has transformed a neglected courtyard with firewalls and parking spaces into 15 apartments and surrounding lush gardens. By combining "leftover" square meters from three existing plots, the project shows densification potentials by reclaiming seemingly unusable urban spaces.

ISSN : 2575-5374

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This nine-year project shows that it is possible to densify the city center of Basel if everyone gathers around the same table. Owners, residents, neighbors and architects shifted the lines of three plots in order to make the heart of the block habitable. From there, the challenges of the site became the specificities of the project: the geometry of the plot, the proximity to the surrounding walls, the relationship with neighbors, the slope, etc. were both the problems and the solutions.

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A cross-shaped structure and building volumes with expansions and setbacks were the solution for ample sunlight, privacy and outside spaces. This also created a series of private and semi-public courtyards that offer different moments of intimacy while also connecting the two topographic levels of the site.

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This particular topography also has an impact on the accesses: the lower ground floor on Davidsbodenstrasse gives access to a semi-underground parking, while the upper ground floor on Landskronstrasse allows pedestrians to enter the site from an existing porch area.

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The white painted spruce façade encircles a central core and its own underground parking garage, which allows for 15 unique apartments organized radially around the core. The varied typologies span from 2.5 to 5.5 rooms – several with a maisonette solution – and living areas range from 52 to 151 m².

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A lot of attention has been given to gardening and greenery for all – and not only on the ground floor. The terraces of the apartments offer up to around 40 m² of gardening possibilities, giving the city courtyard unique qualities normally associated with single-family houses.

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Nature is further invited in by introducing greenery onto the structure and its surroundings through plants and vines climbing the surrounding firewalls of neighboring garages, as well as on the vertical balcony rods, emphasizing the façade while creating a layer of green around the exposed building. The balcony layer itself underscores this buffer zone between the private and the public spheres – undefined soft spaces that will be developed over time by the individual owners.

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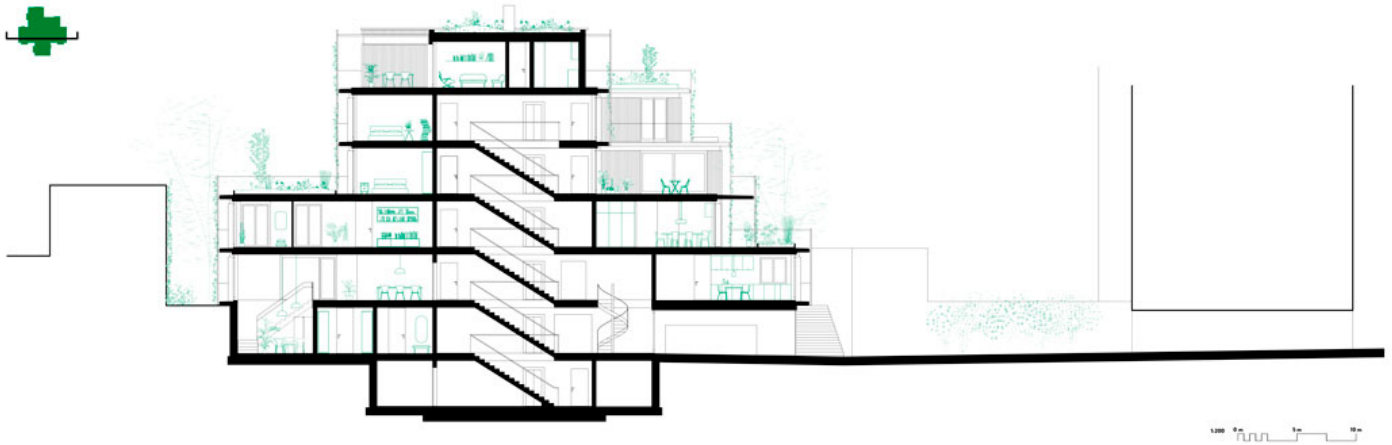


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