

OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen

CURRICULUM VITAE

OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen

OFFICE is an architectural practice founded by Kersten Geers and David Van Severen. Since its establishment in 2002 in Brussels, OFFICE has been committed to the idea of architecture as a cultural undertaking aimed at improving the human environment. To that end, we see the increasingly pressing topics of sustainability, responsible sourcing, or future use, as a catalyst for shaping our urban and social realm, and architectural form as part of the solution. The projects are at once pragmatic and innovative, while deeply rooted in diverse architectural histories. In its very essence, our work creates a framework within which life unfolds in all its complexity.

OFFICE projects differ in scale and type, ranging from furniture to urban design. Recent projects currently under construction include Aerospacelab Megafactory in Charleroi, Belgium; Swiss Radio and Television building in Lausanne, Switzerland and VRT Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. This practice is combined with academic research and teaching, thus creating unexpected parallels between the two aspects of OFFICE's production. Our international team is comprised of about 40 members, whose diverse backgrounds and knowledge contribute to the unique voice of OFFICE.

Since 2018, OFFICE is a partnership led by Kersten Geers, David Van Severen and Jan Lenaerts, together with associates Justine Rossillion, Alexander Smedts, Jacopo Lugli, Jelena Pancevac and Inga Karen Traustadottir.

Kersten Geers

(Ghent, 1975) graduated in Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Ghent and at the ETSA Madrid. He worked with Maxwan Architects and Urbanists and with Neutelings Riedijk Architects in Rotterdam. Kersten Geers has been teaching at various institutions, such as Harvard GSD, the Berlage Institute, Columbia University GSAPP, Yale School of Architecture and EPF Lausanne. He currently holds a professorship at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio. He is a founding member of the architecture magazine San Rocco.

David Van Severen

(Ghent, 1978) graduated in Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Ghent and at the ETSA Madrid. Since 1995 he designed and made several objects, installations and furniture. He worked with Stéphane Beel Architects, Xaveer De Geyter Architects and for Atelier Maarten Van Severen. He was a teacher and guest critic at the Harvard GSD, Academy of Amsterdam, the TU Delft, the Berlage Institute and the Architecture School of Versailles.

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| Awards & Nominations (selection) | 2024 | 2016 | Solo Exhibitions | 2023 |
| | – EU Mies van der Rohe Awards, nomination, for OFFICE 280: Brussels Beer Project | – Staalbouwprijs (Steel Building Award), laureate, category 'Elements', for OFFICE 78: Library | | – 'Four Projects: Singular Architecture', Organised by the Art Academy of Latvia together with Sampling Architects, Riga, LV |
| | 2023 | – Staalbouwprijs (Steel Building Award), laureate, category 'Industry', for OFFICE 117: Drying Hall | | 2018 |
| | – Brussels Architecture Prize, nomination – Extra Muros, for OFFICE 165: Crematorium | – Berlin Art Prize, laureate, category Architecture, for Oeuvre | | – 'E Depois, A Historia / Besides, History – Go Hasegawa, Kersten Geers, David Van Severen' Serralves Foundation, Porto, PT |
| | 2022 | 2015 | | 2017 |
| | – Staalbouwwedstrijd, laureate, category 'specific elements in steel', for OFFICE 227: Tondo | – Belgian Prize for Architecture, laureate, category 'Small Interventions', for OFFICE 78: Library | | – 'Besides, History: Go Hasegawa, Kersten Geers, David Van Severen', CCA, Montréal, USA |
| | – EU Mies van der Rohe Awards, nomination, for OFFICE 165: crematorium and OFFICE 227: Tondo | – EU Mies van der Rohe Awards, nomination, for OFFICE90: Agriculture school | | – 'Everything Architecture', Architectural Association, London, GB |
| | 2021 | 2014 | | – 'Everything Architecture', Centre d'architecture arc-en-rêve, Bordeaux, FR |
| | – Febe Elements Award, category 'Outstanding Precast', laureate, for OFFICE 164: Office building | – Dixième Prix Européen d'Architecture Philippe Rotthier: Honorable Mention, for OFFICE 117: Drying Hall | | 2016 |
| | – Brussels Architecture Prize, nomination 'Small Intervention', for OFFICE 227: Tondo | 2013 | | – 'Drawings by OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen', ETH Zurich, CH |
| | 2019 | – Belgian Prize for Architecture, laureate, category 'Non-residential Private', for OFFICE 47: Computer Shop | | – 'Everything Architecture', BOZAR, Brussels, BE |
| | – Aga Khan Award for Architecture, laureate, for OFFICE 133: Pearl Path | – Belgian Prize for Architecture, laureate, category 'Single Family Housing', for OFFICE 56: Weekend House | | 2011 |
| | – EU Mies van der Rohe Awards, shortlist, for OFFICE 130: Solo House | – 'In Pursuit of Architecture': the 10 best buildings of the decade, for OFFICE 39: Villa, Buggenhout | | – 'Talk About Space', Burgauer Architekt Tager, Burgau, DE |
| | 2018 | 2010 | | 2010 |
| | – Staalbouwprijs (Steel Building Award), nominee, category 'Industry', for OFFICE 152: Incubator | – Silver Lion at the Venice Biennial for Architecture, laureate, for 'Most Promising Young Practice', for OFFICE 85: Garden Pavillion (i.c.w. Bas Princen) | | – 'OFFICE 85: Garden Pavillion', 12th Biennale of Architecture, Venice, IT |
| | 2017 | | | – '7 Rooms / 15 Tables', TU Eindhoven, NL |
| | – EU Mies van der Rohe Awards, nomination, for OFFICE 119: Villa Der Bau | | | 2008 |
| | | | | – 'OFFICE 50: After The Party', 11th Biennale of Architecture, Venice, IT |
| | | | | – 'Seven Rooms', deSingel, Antwerp, BE |
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AWARDS & EXHIBITIONS

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| Group Exhibitions | 2023 | 2018 | 2012 |
| | – Building Pedagogy, Architecture Faculty of Liège University, Liège, BE | – 'The Hull of a Large Ship', Barbican Centre, London, GB | – Collaborations, installation with San Rocco at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2012, IT |
| | – Hollein Calling, Architecture Without Content 2, Vienna, AT | – 'Readymades Belong To Everyone', Swiss Institute, New York, USA | – XX Models: young Belgian architecture, Office 45 at Bozar, Brussels, BE |
| | – Hand and Machine, Architectural drawings, Oslo National Museum, Oslo, NO | – 'Inscriptions: Architecture Before Speech', Harvard GSD, USA | 2011 |
| | 2022 | – Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, USA | – Office 113, Garden & Pavilion, installation, by invitation of Kazuyo Sejima at MOT, Tokyo, JP |
| | – Composite Presence, curated by Dirk Somers of Bovenbouw Architectuur, Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture, Hasselt, BE | 2017 | ... – 2010 |
| | – Arboretum, Arc en Rêve Centre d'Architecture, Bordeaux, FR | – Chicago Biennial: Make New History, Chicago, USA | – Office 85, Garden Pavilion, by invitation of Kazuyo Sejima, i.c.w. Bas Princen. Winner of the Silver Lion, 12th Architecture Biennial, Venice, IT, 2010 |
| | – Shaping Space, Building Center, London, GB | – Canadian Centre for Architecture: Besides History, Go Hasegawa, Kersten Geers, David Van Severen, Montreal, CA | – West-Arch: A New Generation in Architecture, in the Ludwig Forum, Aachen, DE, 2009 |
| | 2021 | – The Pearl Path, Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain, BH | – Office 51, 25 Rooms by invitation of Territorial Agency, Art Basel, CH, 2009 |
| | – The Fabricated Landscape, Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, USA | – 'Maniera 01 & 11, MANIERA gallery, Brussels, BE | – Office 71, Strategy for a Lost Landscape, at Watou Art Festival, BE, 2009 |
| | – Models and Types exhibition, Art Room, Brussels, BE | 2015 | – Office 50, After the Party, 11th Architecture Biennial, Venice, IT, 2008 |
| | – Composite Presence, Belgian Pavilion Venice Biennial curated by Dirk Somers of Bovenbouw Architectuur, Venice, IT | – De Wonderjaren in maquettes, Thirty years of architecture in Flanders, Cultuurcentrum Scharpoord, Kortrijk, BE | – Office 35, Cité de Refuge, in A Portrait of the Artist as a Researcher, Vienna, AT, 2007 |
| | – Muharrag, Bahrain Pavilion Venice Biennial curated by Noura Al Sayeh and Ghassan Chemali, Venice, IT | – Palladian Design: The Good, the Bad and the Unexpected, RIBA, London, GB | – Office 35, Cité de Refuge, 3rd Architecture Biennial, Rotterdam, NL, 2007 |
| | 2020 | – Chicago Biennial: The State of the Art of Architecture, Chicago, USA | – Office 27, 10th Architecture biennial, Venice, IT, 2007 |
| | – Summer Residency, MANIERA gallery at Huib Hoste's De Beir House, Knokke, BE | 2014 | – Office 17 in Gent Morgen, Ghent, BE, 2007 |
| | 2019 | – A Small Museum for the American Metaphor, REDCAT gallery, LA. USA | – New trends in Europe and South East, traveling exhibition in Tokyo, Patras, Sydney and Luxembourg, 2007 |
| | – 'Maniera 01 & 19', MANIERA gallery, Brussels, BE | – Labo des Héritiers, Grand Hornu, Mons, BE | – Wonderland, Young European Architects, traveling exhibition, Amsterdam, Paris, Venice, Zagreb and Ljubljana, 2005 |
| | – 'Duos et Débats – OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen & Éric Lapierre', Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine, Paris, FR | – 'Maniera 01 & 12, MANIERA gallery, Brussels, BE | |
| | – 'Dichtelust: Forms of Urban Coexistence in Switzerland', Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel, CH | 2013 | |
| | | – Oasis, urban project on the Sharjah Art Biennial, UAE | |
| | | – Shenzhen Biennial of Urbanism/Architecture, Wall Pavilion, Shenzhen, CN | |

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| Publications (selection) | 2024 | 2017 | Academic Publications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Giancarlo de Carlo: Experiments in Thickness, 2023, Verlag Walther und Franz König – Aldo & Hannie Van Eyck: Excess of Architecture, 2022, Verlag Walther und Franz König – From Brussels with Love (catalogue), 2022, OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen – USI Accademia di architettura – From Brussels with Love (book), 2021, OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen – USI Accademia di architettura – Madama, 2022, OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen – Stefano Graziani – USI Accademia di architettura – The Urban fact A Reference Book on Aldo Rossi, 2021, Verlag Walther und Franz König – The Difficult Whole A Reference Book on the Work of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, 2016, Park books |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – El Croquis 226: OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen – 'cuadrando los circulos' / squaring the circles' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 'OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen, Volume 1 & 3', König Books / Kajima Institute Publishing 2016 – El Croquis 185: OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen – 'Acciones Primordiales / Primary Actions' – 'OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen, Volume 2', Exhibition Catalogue, BE, Walther König | | |
| | 2023 | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Architectural Works by OFFICE for the 21st Century: The Incomplete Rationalism of OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen, 2023, Roberto Gargiani | | | |
| | 2022 | 2015 | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Picture Window Frame, 2022, Stefano Graziani – OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen Richard Venlet: Dixit #03 – Still Life / Nature Morte, 2022, Claudia Mion, Juliette Pochard, Simon Campedel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conversations With European Architects, Feb 2015. Kersten Geers and David Van Severen, Go Hasegawa | | |
| | 2021 | 2012 | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kersten Geers: Without Content (2G Essays), 2021, Koenig Books – AV Monografias Monographs 232 (2021), 2021, 'OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2G #63, ES. 'OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen', Gustavo Gili. | | |
| | 2019 | 2009 | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A+U 591, Dec 2019, 'OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hatje Cantz, 2009, DE. 'Seven Rooms', international re-issue of the exhibition catalogue. – deSingel Publishers, Antwerp, BE. 'Seven Rooms', Exhibition Catalogue. | | |
| | 2018 | 2008 | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 'Besides, History: Go Hasegawa, Kersten Geers, David Van Severen', CCA, Walter König and Kajima Institute, May 2018 – 'Defining Criteria', Quart Publishers Lucerne, June 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 'Ruskin, A fictional travel novel around the work of Office', by Christophe van Gerrewey, Vlees en Beton, Ghent, BE | | |

PUBLICATIONS

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|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Architecture without Content | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 33 Architecture as Theme, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2019 – 32 America Deserta – II, GSAPP Columbia University, 2019 – 31 America Deserta – I, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2018 – 30 The Club of Rome, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2018 – 29 The American Club, GSAPP Columbia University, 2018 – 28 Architecture as a Theme, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2019? – 27 Conventional Wisdom, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2017 – 26 The Frugal Palazzo, Harvard GSD, 2017 – 25 Trouble with Classicists, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2017–2018 – 24 Abstract Technology, GSAPP Columbia University, 2017 – 23 Trouble with Classicists, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2017 – 22 College Portrait, Oxford University, 2016 – 21 Trouble with Classicists, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2016 – 20 Communes, Harvard GSD, 2016 – 19 Almost Classicism, Yale School of Architecture, 2016 – 18 Metropolitan Architecture, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2016 – 17 Metropolitan Architecture, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2015 – 16 Neon Palladio, Harvard GSD, 2016? – 15 Neon Palladio, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2015 – 14 Roman Architecture, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2015 – 13 Boxes for America, Harvard GSD, 2015 – 12 The Model and its Double, Slipakorn University, 2014 – 11 Roman Architecture, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 10 Roman Architecture, Porto Academy, 2014 – 9 The Difficult Double – II, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2014–2016 – 8 Places of Accumulation, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2014 – 7 Attributed Perspectives, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2014 – 6 Without Ventri, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2013 – 5 Places of Accumulation, FORM ENAC EPFL, 2013 – 4 Necessary Architecture, GSAPP Columbia University, 2013 – 3 The Urban Paradox, TU Graz, 2012 – 2 Contemporary Monuments, Università della Svizzera Italiana, 2011 – 1 The Big Box, GSAPP Columbia University, 2011 | Everything – Università della Svizzera Italiana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Everything (XI–XV) – Everything (VI–X) – Everything (I–V) |
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