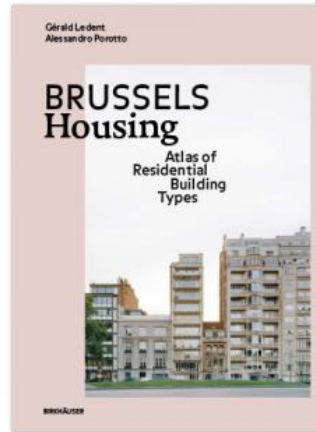


## UCLouvain LOCI+LAB monograph Brussels housing architecture under the microscope



### IN BRIEF:

- **Gérald Ledent** and **Alessandro Porotto** (UCLouvain Faculty of Architecture LOCI+LAB\*) publish the **first comprehensive monograph on Brussels housing architecture**.
- It tells the architectural history of Brussels housing through more than 100 exemplary buildings, **from semi-detached houses to collective housing**.
- The **book launch** will take place at **Brussels Town Hall Tuesday 28 March at 7pm** at the invitation of Urban Planning Alderwoman Ann Persoons.

[Book excerpt](#)

### PRESS CONTACT:

**Gérald Ledent**, professor, UCLouvain Faculty of Architecture LOCI +LAB,  
[gerald.ledent@uclouvain.be](mailto:gerald.ledent@uclouvain.be), 0494 99 29 35

Do you ever look up at the buildings that make up our cities? **Brussels housing architecture is like the city itself**: diverse, surprising, and often made up of heterogeneous collages of buildings of different periods and sizes. Thus the residential fabric of Brussels includes both two- and three-storey terraced houses with rear gardens, as well as modernist flat blocks, 19th-century mansions, and brand new complexes.

Professor **Gérald Ledent** and researcher **Alessandro Porotto** of the UCLouvain Faculty of Architecture LOCI and LAB\* in the Brussels commune of Saint-Gilles publish [the first exhaustive monograph on Brussels housing architecture](#). The monograph, which tells the architectural history of Brussels housing, shows why there is such a wide variety of housing in Brussels, ranging from terraced houses to apartment blocks. Some 700 original illustrations – drawings and photographs by Maxime Delvaux – bear witness to this great variety.

Through more than **100 exemplary buildings**, the authors tell the history of Brussels housing, from the city's origin to its golden age (late 19th century), up to contemporary practices. From era to era, **social developments** (the mutation from large family households to a majority of people living alone today; the advent of social housing and the emancipation of the working classes; the desire to

find alternatives to private property, etc.) and **technological advances** (lifts, cars, mains drainage, etc.) leave their mark and **impact the spatial layout of housing**.

While infrastructure and institutions form the city's backbone, the book shows that **housing**, whose evolution shaped the city's evolution, is the city's **flesh and blood**.

*Brussels Housing. Atlas of Residential Building Types. (2023). Gérald Ledent, Alessandro Porotto. Bâle: Birkhäuser. 352 pp. Hardcover, text in English, 500 b&w and 200 colour illustrations. ISBN: 978-3-0356-2550. €72*

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\*LAB: Louvain Research Institute for Landscape, Architecture, and Built Environment