

VOILE ARCHITECTEN

**Flanders DC
Kendy Smits
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Amsterdam, March 24th 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am happy to have been able to be a host company for the I-Creative – International Mobility Project for Young Creatives. Thanks to this project, Maxime Vancoillie followed an architecture internship with us from September 14th 2013 until March 14th 2014,

I am very satisfied with the internship, both with Maxime as a person and with the concrete results of her work. She worked with us on the project Re:land, a collaboration project with several artists to create installations in the public space of Amstel3, an Amsterdam office district from the 80's. The area is challenged by high vacancy rates and is in the very first stage of transformation to a multifunctional urban neighbourhood. For Maxime, this was her first working experience after graduation from the Academy. We therefore decided to give Maxime her own design project, allowing her to learn to take responsibility for the whole process from analysis to construction.

The first part of the internship consisted of observation and documentation of how people use the public space in Amstel3. What patterns do they have, which routes do they take, (how) do they interact with each other and how do they react to unexpected changes in their daily environment? The findings were further explored in a brief literature research. The second part of the internship focused on concept development, defining appropriate and clever interventions to reinforce the human scale in the area. The last part was about designing, detailing and actually building the intervention.

I am impressed with Maxime's sharp observing eye. Within a short timespan, Maxime got a grip on the most relevant patterns and phenomena and the most urgent issues and qualities in Amstel3. There is a poetic sensitivity in Maxime, allowing her to quite naturally formulate ideas that touch the people in the area on a human rather than professional (system) level. This was the first time that Maxime was to really build her ideas, something she had not yet experienced at school. Although this was a bit overwhelming at first, Maxime managed to follow through her concept to the last detail. Besides her conceptualizing and design skills, she proved to be able to control the practical side of her project as well (planning, budget, etc.).

In short, I am very happy to recommend Maxime as a strong player in your design team. In case you wish more information, you can always contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Saskia Beer MSc
founder/director

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