

Dear

Ilyas, Emanuele, Leah, Taebin, Vito, Etienne

The faculty asked us if we could do a voice-over over our presentation we would normally give in the auditorium but by the time you're reading this, we guessed you will have seen enough generic presentations so instead, we wrote you this letter.

First of all, a warm welcome at the Plateau. We hope you will have a pleasant and interesting stay. 'de loeiende koe' is the student association specific for engineering-architecture students. An open association in which everyone is welcome, be it for one day or five years.

The central hub of all our students is the 'Salon': a place of lunchbreaks, coffee breaks, dinner, talks with friends or soon to be friends, emotional breakdowns, a place to meet professors, ...

As much as it is in the centre of the building, one could say it is part of the centre of our education.

The 'Salon' is also a place of many activities of us. From lunch-lectures with our own professors and workshops given by students, to bars and even a grand Ping-Pong-tournament, all within an informal and familiar sphere; and at the right time, some very intense parties.

As you all can imagine, this 'Plateau-life' as we call it, will be different this year. No close encounters in the 'Salon', sadly enough not even a 'Salon' at all, no spontaneous initiatives from students during the noon, ... But let's not see this as a wasted year, in which nothing is possible. As the famous Dutch architect Willem-Jan Neutelings told our senior students last year: "Every crisis is a moment to reflect, and it offers the chance to start some new things and to change things for the better."

With 'de loeiende koe' we took this advice at heart and some new initiatives are rising, one of which is RADIO PLATO. An online streaming radio made by students, with which we try to bring the so pleasant 'Plateau-Life' to our students, whether they are at the faculty, on public transport or at home. The programme of the radio is meant to be filled by whoever wants to and with whatever he or she likes to: one hour DJ sessions, some nostalgic tunes, a talk with professors, assistants or practicing architects, poetryslams, a share of thoughts, ...

Normally, we would organise a Buddy-Evening, so you get the chance to meet a whole bunch of other Master students. At the moment, we are not entirely sure if this will be possible, but we will try our best to make it happen in the coming weeks. We will also try to give you a tour through the building when possible.

We already made a Facebookgroup, called [Erasmus Architecture UGent 2020-2021](#), in which you can ask us anything and in which we will communicate important news if needed.

Jolein, Chiara, Janne, Esther and Jhon Alejandro will gladly help you.

Hope to see you soon!

Yours sincerely

Arno en Nathalie