

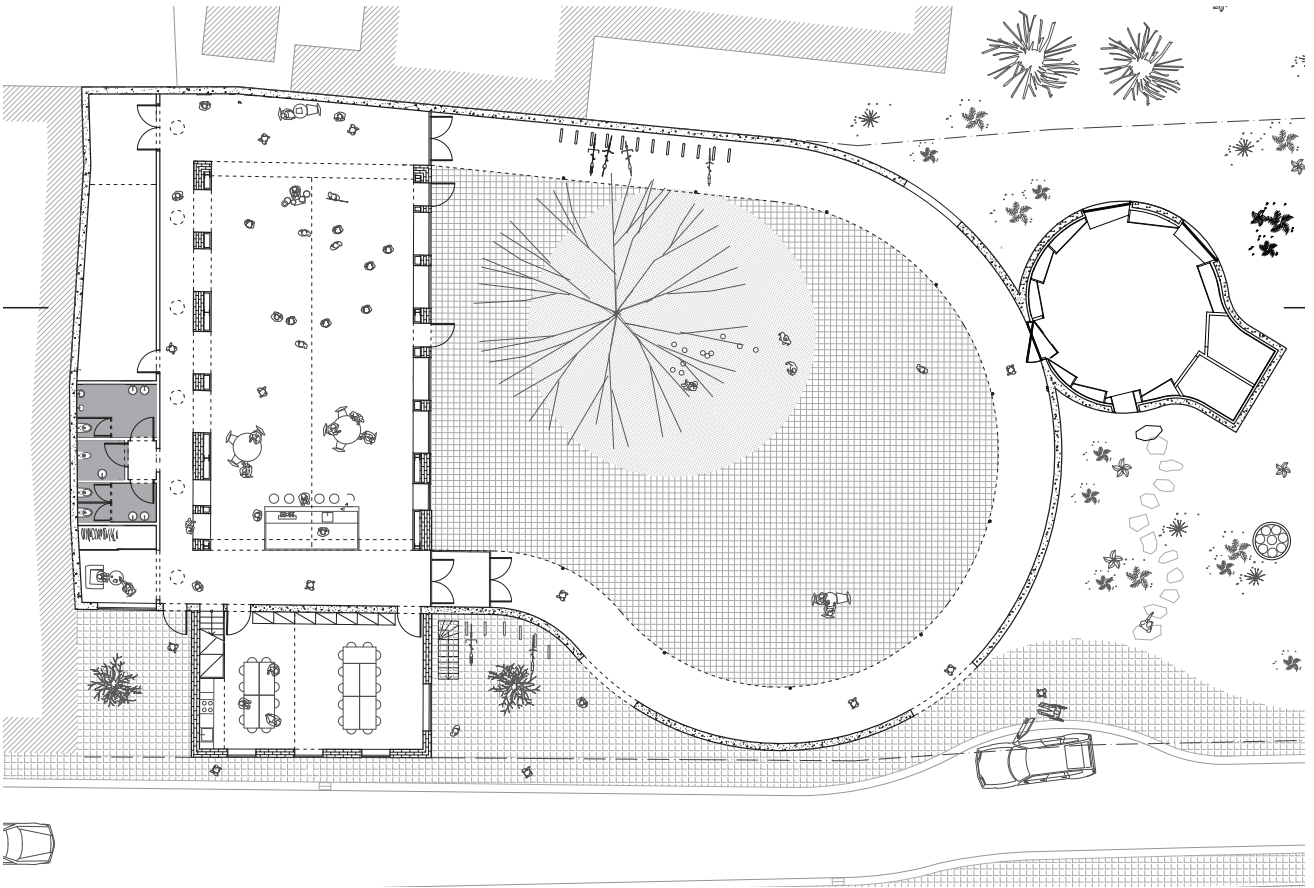
Linked Wulpen, Belgium

This winning competition entry for a new community center in a hamlet along the Belgian coast, reconfigures an old school complex into a vibrant new place, harvesting existing memories and qualities. Transforming the old, and somewhat significant building, the new community center preserves the atmosphere and familiarity of the existing, but also creates something entirely new.

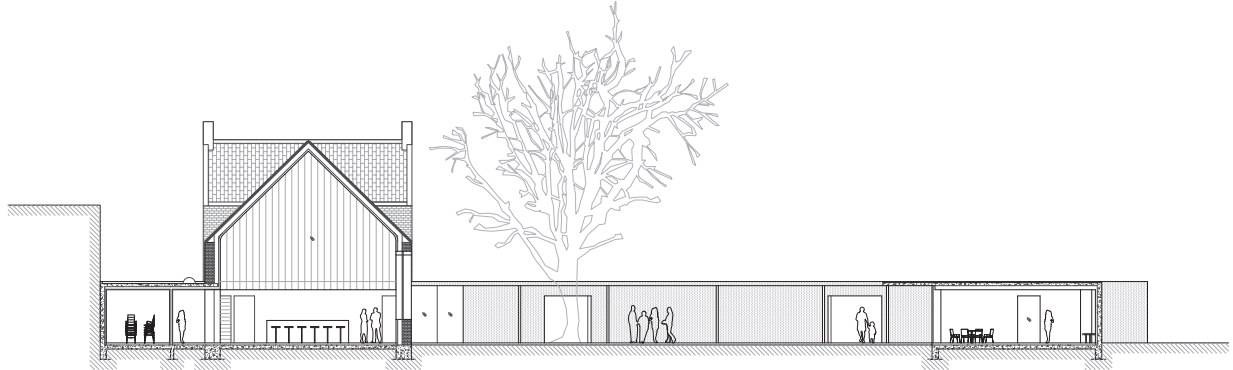
A simple, thin concrete curvilinear walkway redefines the new courtyard space. This intervention magnifies the character of a beloved tree, and frames views of the teacher's house, the school, the church and the polder landscape beyond. It becomes wall and roof, storage and circulation, and offers protection and a sense of intimacy. The walkway also intersects with the school building, at the same time defining the entrance lobby, subdividing interior programs. It bisects the existing building and pushes the teacher's house to the foreground, with two new areas of public space orientated to the street along its side. Linking old and new structures, it connects past and future.

The teacher's house and the school are completely gutted, the interior walls, floors and the roofs are demolished, only the exterior walls are preserved. The school building becomes a new multipurpose room, and the former teacher's home holds meeting rooms on the ground. The space for the town's youth are given independence by locating them outside yet still connected to the ring. Instead of an interior lobby dividing older and younger children, the open courtyard unites age groups in the community.

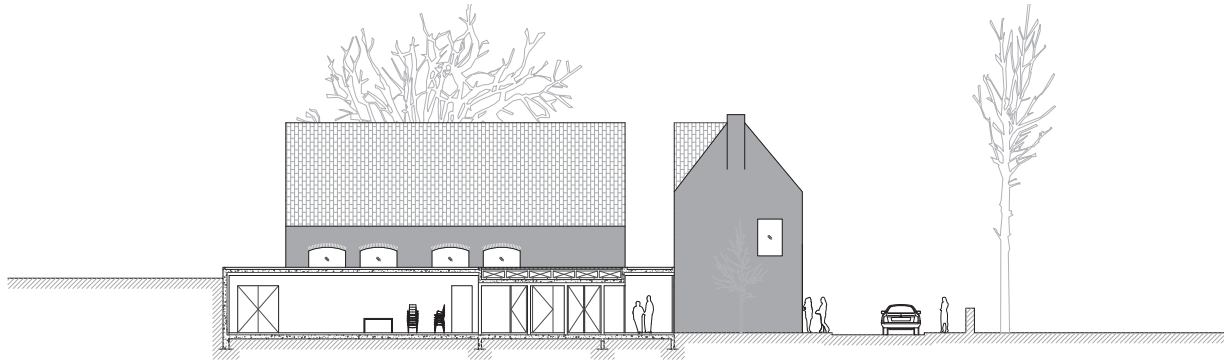
Client	Municipality of Koksijde, Belgium
Program	Community center, multipurpose room, meeting rooms, office
Area	6,500 sf / 600 m²
Status	Construction documents , 2013
Team	Florian Idenburg, Jing Liu, Ilias Papageorgiou, Iannis Kandyliaris, Ted Baab, Ivo Hoppers, Danny Duong
Collaborators	Local Architect: Bureau Bouwtechniek Structural Engineer: Util Mechanical Engineer: Ingenium



Ground floor plan



Section



Section



View of courtyard



View of courtyard



Multipurpose room



Model



Model