

“Experimenting with life. An empirical residence. Housing oneself temporarily. Work-in-progress. Nomadic too — especially that. Attempting to reconcile the symbiosis between form and content, image and story, doing and thinking. As such, it was truly a pedagogical experiment, first and foremost for ourselves. We had formulated the ambition that afterward — after ten years of experimenting — we would share our findings as a commons, not as dogma, but as an example of a possible future form of living. I wanted to experience that personally, at least once.”

A.J. Lode Janssens



Podcast: Peter Swinnen
in conversation with Nikolaus Hirsch
on Lode Janssens

www.civa.brussels

Rue de l'Ermitage 55 Kluisstraat
Ixelles 1050 Elsene
Mardi – Dimanche / Dinsdag – Zondag
10:30 – 18:00



DeMorgen.

LE SOIR

BRUZZ

loterie nationale

C I.II.III.IV. A
Culture—Architecture

C I.II.III.IV. A

EN

A.J. LODE JANSSENS A BALLOON HOME

© Luc Gees

10.12.21 — 27.03.22

CIVA
Chairwoman Rabab Khairy
Artistic Direction Nikolaus Hirsch
General Direction Benjamin Erarts

EXHIBITION
Curators Peter Swinnen & Nikolaus Hirsch

With contributions by
CRIT, architects / Peter Swinnen, Rosa Fens,
Nathan Heindrichs, Emmanuel Debroise,
Minne De Meyer Engelbeem, Jonathan Cludts,
Joseph Siebenaler & Hannah de Wael), DNA /
Dirk Lauwers & Ina Peeters assisted by John
Gommers, Hendrik Van Waeg & Floris Fens,
Marc Godts assisted by Collin Legras, Masters
Interieur Architectuur, KU Leuven Faculteit
Architectuur, Campus Sint-Lucas, Brussel-Gent,
Atelier "Performatieve ruimte en nabijheid" /
Professors: Jan Dekeyser, Johan Liekens,

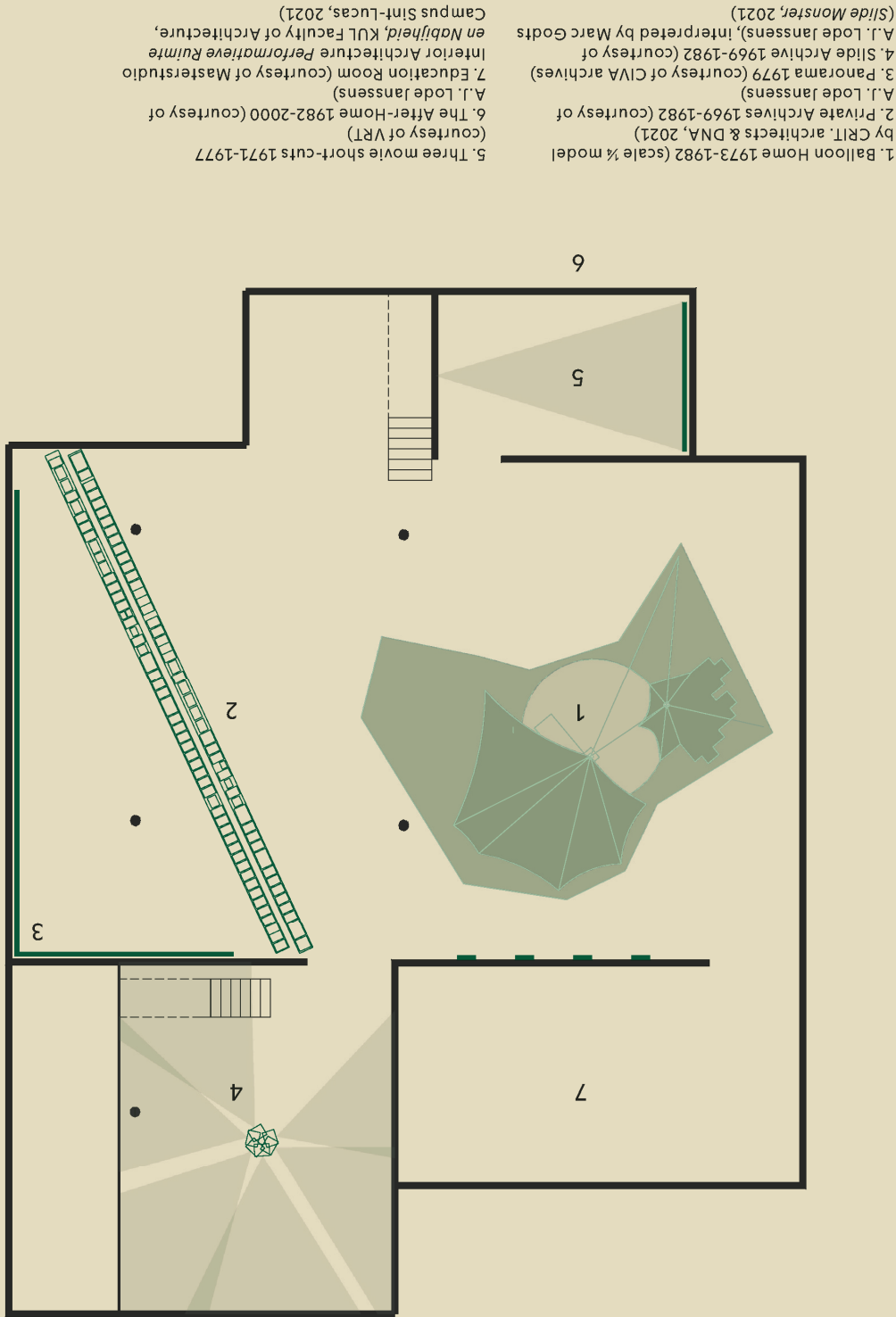
DOCUMENTARY
Editors Peter Swinnen & Nikolaus Hirsch

PUBLICATION
Loons A.J., Lode Janssens & Nel Janssens, VRT
Graphic Design Daphnée Paris
Rosa Fens
Scenography CRIT, architects / Peter Swinnen,
Colette Vercammen & Florence Willems
Tolbeek, Alex Vanlauwe, Emma Verbeke,
Logist, Korneel Maes, Iris Messelis, Hannes
Jil Carton, Silke Desmet, Nikita Goos, Justine
Roel De Rudder, Students: Sam Canaj,

PODCAST
Producer Peter Swinnen / CRIT,
Director Bertrand Lafontaine

Producer Dieter Vanthournout

A. J. Lode Janssens (b. 1941) is one of Belgium's most radical architects and educators. However, for the past two decades he has been living in voluntary exile, resisting any form of public life. Throughout his career he had an ambiguous relationship with architecture, fascinated by its experimental possibilities but equally appalled by its often presumptuous nature. The CIVA exhibition, curated by Peter Swinnen and Nikolaus Hirsch, on Janssens' prolific yet understudied architectural attitude centers on his Home project (Humbeek, 1973–82) — a temporary pneumatic dwelling experiment, an uncompromising ephemeral attempt at de-architecturalization. An experiment with and through life itself. The exhibition showcases a 1/3 scale model of the structure as its centerpiece. Together with original and hitherto unexhibited archival material, the exhibition highlights Janssens' trial-and-error spatial research practice. While studying at the Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Janssens was enlisted by Willy van der Meeren and together they founded Atelier Alpha in Sterrebeek (1964–68). Thereafter Janssens started his own practice, developing in parallel an educational curriculum focused on social and spatial symbiosis. In 1979, Janssens founded the Sint-Lucas Werkgemeenschap (SLW) — developed in sync with his involvement with Giancarlo de Carlo's International Laboratory of Architecture and Urban Design (ILAUD) — linking architectural education, practice, and research-by-design. In 1991, A.J. Lode Janssens became head of department at the Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, allowing his unique architectural engagement to come full circle.



1. Balloon Home 1973-1982 (scale 1/3 model
by CRIT, architects & DNA, 2021)
2. Private Archives 1969-1982 (courtesy of
A.J. Lode Janssens)
3. Panorama 1979 (courtesy of CIVA archives)
4. Slide Archive 1969-1982 (courtesy of
A.J. Lode Janssens), interpreted by Marc Godts
en Nabijheid, KUL Faculty of Architecture,
Campus Sint-Lucas, 2021)
5. Three movie short-cuts 1971-1977
(courtesy of VRT)
6. The After-Home 1982-2000 (courtesy of
A.J. Lode Janssens)
7. Education Room (courtesy of MasterStudio
Interior Architecture *Performatieve Ruimte*
en Nabijheid, KUL Faculty of Architecture,
Campus Sint-Lucas, 2021)

