

## Introduction

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## Wessel De Jonge

Anne Lacaton has been a visiting professor at the TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment during the Fall Semester 2016-2017, hosted by the Chair of Heritage & Design. In the professional field of Heritage & Design the starting point for design is not just a functional brief and a blank sheet of paper but the challenge of an existing spatial setting and cultural-historical context. It is a dynamic and innovative field in architecture that deals with the architectural re-interpretation, adaptive reuse and restoration of historic buildings.

Anne Lacaton is one of the founding partners of Lacaton & Vassal architectes in Paris, which is known for their accurate analysis, architecture of modesty and societal engagement. Among their better-known projects are the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the FRAC in Dunkerque and the transformation of the Tour Bois le Prêtre housing block in Paris. Over the last decade they developed a smart and integrated approach to revitalise existing buildings through adaptive reuse. Holding true to her credo 'Transform, add, re-use, never demolish!'

she puts the building's user, use and re-use first, resulting in modest projects that make a difference for its dwellers and context. The program kicked off with a retrospective exhibition on the works of Lacaton & Vassal curated at the occasion of the 2016 Heinrich Tessenow Gold Medal Award.

Lacaton's visiting professors' program has included education, research and public activities. She has been co-leading a MSc1 and a MSc3 studio, and has been involved in on-going research projects on recent Dutch museum buildings and on housing refurbishment. The office Lacaton & Vassal and the hosting chair Heritage & Design share a strong basis in analysis of the existing and both advocate an integrated design approach. In this visiting professors' program 'Heritage' was linked to other fields in architecture in order to share knowledge, exchange visions and to find common ground. The significance of heritage for contemporary society and the relationships with other fields have been central themes of the program. The chosen interdisciplinary format for the workshop series, events and public lectures has therefore been instrumental.

We thank Anne Lacaton for having her at our faculty and sharing her knowledge and inspiration. It has been a great pleasure for students and staff alike. We all hope she'll be back soon!