

# Refuge II

Temporary Barrier-Free Dwelling



**Wim Goes** founded Wim Goes Architectuur (Ghent, BE) in 1999 and has since won awards for projects such as the office building Compagnie, Museum Square Ghent, the residential project Barn and most recently the Royal Belgian Sailing Club. Other important projects include the Johann König Gallery and a flagship store for Yohji Yamamoto. Wim Goes graduated from Sint-Lucas in 1993 and attended the '06 Glenn Murcutt International Master Class in Australia and the '08 Master Class in New Zealand. He has published drawings and text on architecture and is teaching at Sint-Lucas since 2005.

## DATA SHEET

**Client:** Private  
**Architect:** Wim Goes Architectuur  
**Team:** Wim Goes, Anja Houbaert, Tim De Messemaker, Johannes Berry  
**Volunteers:** Friends and Family (Exceeding 100 people)  
**Straw:** Het StroBuro cvba  
**Joinery:** Het plan  
**Loam Plaster:** A72  
**Ventilation:** Serto Technics bvba  
**Domotics:** Duotecno  
**Electricity:** (Elektro) De Meyer Sam  
**Plumbing:** BVBA Hardenne

**Chronology:** Spring '14 (Design)  
Summer '14 (Construction)  
Fall '14 (Finishing)

**Long/Lat:** 51.0333° N, 3.5500° E  
**Climate:** Temperate maritime climate  
**Wind:** South East  
**Heating:** Condensing Boiler on Gas  
**Ventilation:** Heat Recovery Ventilation (HRV)  
**Materials:** Green materials except for bathroom polyster coating wood, straw, Loam, sand, woodwool, glas, metal ...  
**Typology:** Temporary Barrier-Free Dwelling (Re-use of concrete structured carport).

## Special Thanks

Friends and family for the construction, family Bown-Taevernier for the curtains, Duotecno for the domotics, Serto Technics for the ventilation system, Sven De Wulf for the ruwbouw, Kris Martin for his artwork and Marijke for the food, wine and hospitality.

## SPRING

We were asked by our client, diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), to adapt his house with an eye on the future. After meeting with the ergotherapist, we knew we had no time to spare considering the aggressive nature of the condition.

Refuge II is a temporary project. The existing concrete carport was chosen for the project as a result of the limitation in adaptability of the existing house. Of course a barrier-free floor plan was a major concern, but what came to me as being even more important was mental accessibility.

There is no hope to heal. There is a need for a universal hope, helping each other, involvement, engagement, friendship beyond limits.

How can we make architecture with this? Why not building with friends and family? With materials everybody knows from their childhood. Straw and sand referring to the playground, the smell, the memory.

## SUMMER

More than a 100 friends and family contributed in constructing

Refuge II. With tutoring from/and more complicated jobs done by professionals like the sustainable heating and ventilation (with heat recuperation) system or the domotics to manage the doors, curtains, lighting,... controllable by the client. While building, coffee, tea, food, beer and wine, were served to celebrate life.

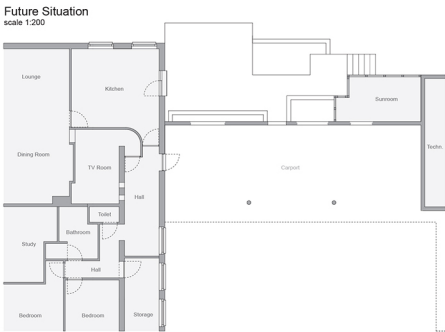
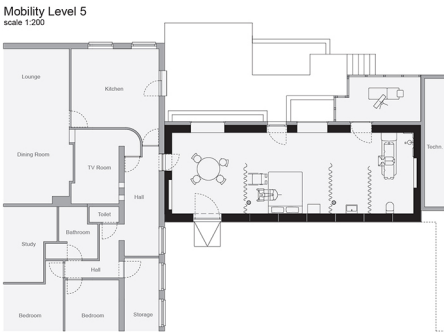
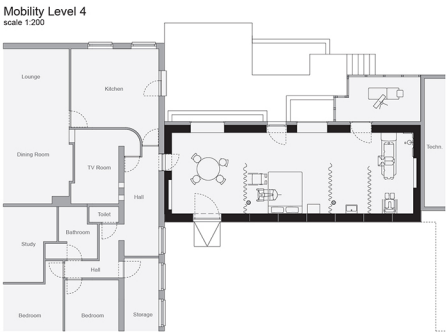
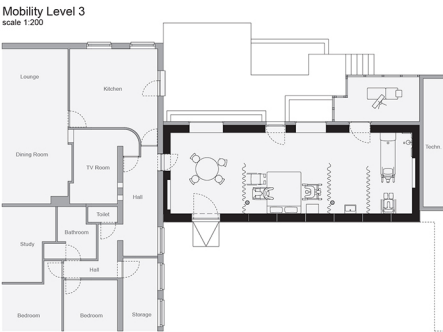
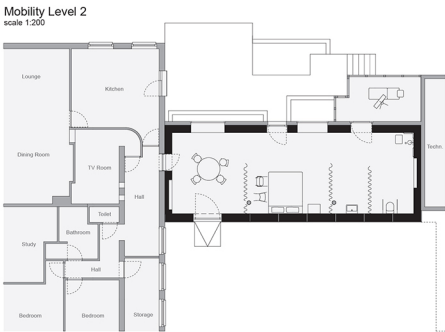
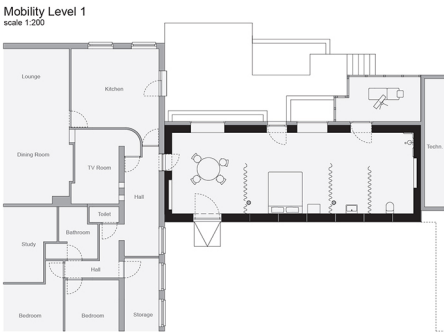
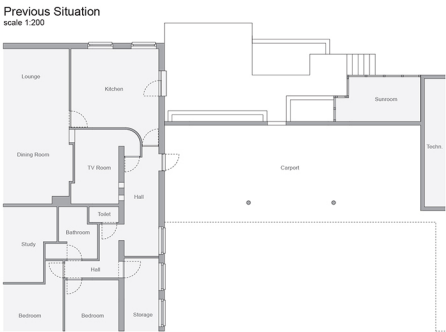
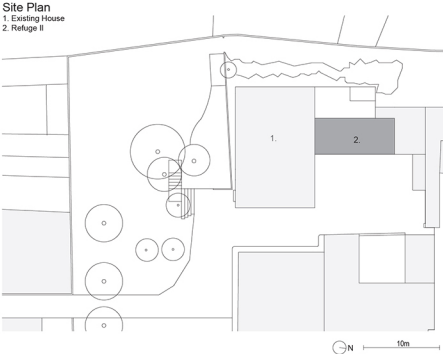
## FALL

Everyone being involved recognized him/herself in Refuge II. They were part of it, it created a mental accessibility. The focus changed from sickness and death to hope and future.

## A WINTER

Everything will be taken away. 83% of the project (straw and loam) will be spread out over the landscape as fertilisation. Technical equipment (sponsored) will be returned to the professionals. Glass, metal, wood,... will be recycled.

Parallel to this attitude, and above all there is a human investment. The ritual. The cycle of life.



## 5 Stages of Mobility

International Prize for Sustainable Architecture  
11<sup>th</sup> competition 2015

Project title: Refuge II  
Project author/s: Wim Goes Architectuur  
Construction place: Belgium  
Year of completion: 2014







**Summer:** Altogether more than a 100 friends and family joined in the ritual of building Refuge II.



**Fall:** The curtains allow different configurations of the space depending on the user's privacy needs.