



WHERE

WE

LEARN

Reimagining
Educational
Spaces

FRAME

Xaverius College
Kindergarten
Borgerhout does
the doable within
a residential area
of town thanks
to META
architectuurbureau

RIGHT Responding to an urgent need in a dense residential area, the school is designed to fit in on the only available lots between already existing buildings in the neighbourhood.

Photos Filip Dujardin





ABOVE The long L-shaped form extends over one floor only. This way, toddlers do not need to take flights of stairs and can meet all together in the communal garden.

RIGHT TOP Indoor spaces are characterised by simplicity and functionality that can be adapted to necessity.

RIGHT BOTTOM The long corridor allows pupils to mingle and know where to find each other with ease.


NEXT SPREAD The kindergarten entrance sits comfortably between two existing buildings of the neighbourhood. Greenery gives space to breathe.

ANTWERP To tackle a lack of space inside the existing school, Xaverius College embarked on the practical mission to purchase various lots within a residential area. The patchwork of different plots and buildings was demolished to make space for a sombre, L-shaped layout that comes to define the new kindergarten now.

The story and architecture are unassuming and straightforward, born out of a concrete necessity and expected with a sense of tranquil urgency. This new project doesn't pretend to propose a reform of pedagogical design. 'And that's probably the strength of this project. Due to its typology, it brings education to what it needs to be. Nothing more. Nothing less,' so explain the architects.

META designed an L-shaped volume that has one level to prevent toddlers from having to climb unnecessary stairs. The heart of the building is conceived as a long, covered walkway connecting all the spaces. While it offers room for supporting functions, such as a cloakroom, toilet facilities and storage rooms, its primary function is to flood the pairs of classrooms with natural light coming from openings toward several courtyard gardens. Offering school space precisely in the neighbourhood where it was needed, this school perfectly fulfils its function.





In its sobriety, the
entire project
doesn't try to be
more than what it is

