

Critica de arhitectura

## Arhitectura contemporana

Hans Ibelings:

"Unmodern Architecture in Netherlands"

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which Maurice Culot was a key figure. In 1968 he had been one of the founders of the AAM, the aim of which was to collect architectural archives, organise exhibitions and produce publications. This resulted in increased historical awareness and attempts to revise modernist historiography by focusing on many lesser-known and neglected movements and designers. In that same year, 1968, Culot was involved in founding the ARAU (Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaine), an organisation which, through its research and designs, took a stand against massive modernisation resulting from demolition to make way for major traffic routes, redevelopment and city formation in the Belgian capital. From the end of the 1960s, the ARAU produced sixty counterproposals, which demonstrated that there were alternatives to ever-encroaching modernism. The ARAU's activities in this field can be compared to the way in which, in the Netherlands for example, architects supported residents' organisations that were protesting against demolition and redevelopment plans in their neighbourhoods. Here too alternatives were sought for modernist 'clearances', although the outcomes showed less architectonic imagination and a more pronounced orientation towards history.

The preference which the ARAU revealed for the restoration and, where relevant, the reconstruction of the pre-modern, pre-industrial city undoubtedly contains an element of nostalgia, but also of the revolutionary spirit of 1968: the advance of modernisation was no longer blindly accepted, but subjected to critical assessment. This critical approach sprang not so much from conservatism, but rather from a resistance to the degeneration of high-tech society. In that sense, the traditionalist basis of European postmodernism is indisputably a product of the revolutionary year of 1968.