LAB[au] ( = laboratory for architecture and urbanism) is an art studio founded in 1997, based in Brussels, Belgium. The name merges a phonetic and a written meaning; that of the French / Dutch pronunciation 'labo' and that of the German word 'bau' referring to its projects' experimental approach (labo) and construct (bau).

The technological developments of the past forty years have given rise to a major shift from the industrial to the post-industrial information society, where the unit of information, its processes and systems, increasingly define the notions of body, matter, space and time.

According to this technological progress, LAB[au] examines the transformation of architecture, art and design within a practice entitled ‘MetaDeSIGN’. Metadesign (meta = information about information + design) displays the theme of space- and time constructs relative to information processes. It concerns the transposition of inFORMational processes in n-dimensional (visual, sonic, spatial,...) form.

MetaDeSIGN is characterised by the setting of systems, among which LAB[au] is today mainly active within the interactive, reactive and generative realm.

LAB[au]'s art is part of public and private art collections worldwide and has been exhibited in some of the world's most prestigious art venues, among which Kunsthalle Sankt Peter (Kolo, 2010), Fondation Vasarely (Aix-en-Provence, 2010), Singapore Art Museum (Singapore, 2010), BOZAR (Brussels, 2009 + 2010), TENT. / Witte de With (Rotterdam, 2006), Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris, 2004 + 2005), New Museum (New York, 2003), Louvre (Paris, 2000),... and happenings worldwide among which Todayart (The Hague, 2008) Club Transmediale (Berlin, 2007), Sonar (Barcelona, 2004),... and many more.

The critically acclaimed studio was one of 2009’s nominees for the renowned contemporary art prize ‘Young Belgian Pointers Award’ and one of 2010’s nominees for the legendary computer arts concelebration ‘Ars Electronica’.

Their work has numerous been featured in press worldwide and their recent monography ‘MetaDeSIGN’ is published by ‘Les Presses du Reel’.
m0za1que 4x4x4

http://lab-ou.com/projects/m0za1que-installation

Generative kinetic light installation

64 tiles
64 linear motors
3 rgb-spots
4 microprocessors

basic

h: 2 m
w: 2 m
m0sa1c
http://lab-ou.com/projects/m0sa1que-annecy

Generative kinetic light installation
Maison Mécanique, Annecy-le-Vieux, France
Permanent Installation

390 tiles
290 linear motors
3 rgb-spots
15 microprocessors
1 computer

2012

h: 6.2 m
w: 3.4 m
Signal To Noise

http://lab-ou.com/projects/signaltoacoustics

Generative kinetic sculpture

512 split-flaps
512 custom made driver boards
128 custom made pole with 2048 LEDs
Circular aluminium structure
1 computer

h: 1.80 m
w: 3.4 m
Binary Waves

http://lab-ou.com/projects/binary-waves

urban reactive kinetic light installation

40 networked panels
aluminium
mirror
LEDs
40 stepper motors
4 PIR sensors
1 spectrum analyser
2 computers

Panel:
- h: 3 m
- w: 0.6 m
- d: 0.1 m

installation: variable

low
spin
C++
Framework f5x5x5

http://lab.au.com/projects/f5x5x5

Interactive kinetic light installation

5 networked computers
6750 LEDs
5 km ribbon cable
700 m aluminium profiles
Plastics
250 servomotors
50 infrared sensors

l: 10.2 m
w: 0.85 m
h: 2.15 m
Framework notations

http://lab-ou.com/projects/framework-notations

computer-generated prints; time-based notations of the sculpture “Framework 15x5x5”

inkjet on dibond
Particle Synthesis


generative music installation using custom 3D real-time engine relating particle rendering and granular synthesis in a 360° audiovisual construct

6 networked computers
6 screens
4 speakers
Plexiglas

w: 3 m
h: 0.45 m
Tessel

http://lab-ou.com/projects/tessel

kinetic sound installation
in collaboration with David Betiller

12 motors
12 encoders
1 computer
2 car-amplifiers
8 sound transducers
3 microcontroller boards
dibond
aluminium

basic
c
spin
assembler

d: 4 m
w: 2 m
Consoles

generative art installation

4 networked computers
4 TFT screens
4 compact flash cards
Plexiglas

w: 0.29 m
d: 0.32 m
h: 1.72 m
Chrono

http://lab-au.com/projects/chrono-tower

light artwork and computer-generated prints

302 400 LEDs
6 computers
24 digital etches on dibond
12 Nintendo DS Lite
vinyl code

basic c++

2007 - 2009
**Touch**

http://lab-ou.com/projects/touch

urban interactive light installation

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302,400 LEDs
3 computers
1 multi-touch screen
3 cameras
1 projector

media façade:
4400 m²

blet:
c++

positions:
width: 8 m
deepth: 3.6 m
height: 3.2 m
Select biography

Coming up

10e-15, permanent artwork in public space for Temis Science, Besançon, France.
flux, permanent artwork in public space for Union Station, Toronto, Canada.
silo.scope, permanent artwork in public space for Vitry-sur-Seine, Paris, France.

Exhibitions

[2012] // ‘5/4’ : Pearson International Airport, Toronto [ ca ]. 08.06.12 > 30.06.12
[2010] // m01v : solo-exhibition at Kunst-Station Sankt Peter, Köln [ de ]. 08.01 > 12.02
[2009] // ‘Young Belgian Painters Award’ : group-exhibition at BOZAR, Brussels [ be ]. 24.06 > 13.09
[2006] // ‘12m4s’ + ‘EOD02’ : Pierre Bergé & associés, Brussels [ be ]. 08.09 > 17.09
[2006] // ‘liquid space’ : TENT / Witte de With, Rotterdam [ nl ]. 31.08 – 22.09
[2006] // ‘12m4s’ : STUK Kunstencentrum, Leuven [ be ]. 13 – 18.09
[2001] // fictional sPACE : Sony Pavilion, Cannes film festival, Cannes [ fr ]. 09.05 – 20.05

Performances, workshops & conferences

[2012] // ‘System Art’ : Resonate, Dom Omladine, Belgrade [ srb ]. 17.03
[2005] // ‘Man in e.Space mov’y’ : Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris [ fr ]. 29.05
[2003] // ‘10th sphere’: Atominium Parc, Brussels [ be ]. 31.05
[2003] // sPACE, Navigable Music : Center for New Media Culture RIXC, Riga [ lv ]. 08.05 – 11.05

Awards

[2011] // Nominee - Qwartz
[2010] // Honorary Mention - Ars Electronica
[2009] // Nominee - Young Belgian Painters Award
LAB[au] select bibliography

Monographies


Catalogues

‘m0112’, LAB[au], Kunst-station Sankt Peter, 2010.
http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2010_m0112-catalogue/


Books featuring articles + projects by LAB[au]

ISBN: 9788434233645
article by LAB[au]
http://lab-au.com/theory/article_light-systems-art

ISBN: 978-3-7919-0299-2
article by LAB[au]

Books featuring projects by LAB[au]

ISBN: 978-3-03768-110-7
http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2012_facades-design-construction---/

ISBN: 978-3-89955-331-4

ISBN: 978-3-89955-301-7
http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2008_bright/

ISBN: 978-3-89955-192-1

Magazines featuring projects by LAB[au]

http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2012_neshan-magazine


http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2009_c3p/


Creative Review – British advertising, design and visual culture magazine, March 2008.
http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2008_creative-review/


Magazines featuring articles by LAB[au]

http://lab-au.com/theory/article_e.motion-space

L’arca - Italian design and visual communication magazine, Sonic Space, the shape of sound’, Issue 181, May 2003.
http://lab-au.com/theory/article_soundscapes

L’arca - Italian design and visual communication magazine, ‘MetaDeSign, the setting of a discipline’, Issue 178, February 2003.
http://lab-au.com/theory/article_metadesign-the-se/

LAB[au] had during two years a column ‘Space, time, Information’ in the Belgian architecture Magazine A+.

Magazines featuring interviews with LAB[au]

http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2012_gcolon

http://lab-au.com/mediatas/2010_kwintessens

Magazines publishing monographic features about LAB[au]

Concept – Korean architectural review, 11.03-12.03-01.04