Active in multiple fields ranging from private commissions to multiple large-scale masterplans, Christ & Gantenbein Architects base their housing projects on a thorough knowledge of typological aspects, as well as the multiple variations and filiations of a similar design principle.

In association with ETH Zürich (where both partners teach) and the Amt für Städtebau of the City of Zürich, they are currently carrying out a research on the territorial development of Zürich, based on the concept of “Typological Transfer”, in which they test the capabilities of specific foreign typologies when reinterpreted in the Zürich context.

Founded in 2002, Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen quickly established a foreground position with projects such as the Summerhouse in Ghent, Kortrijk Xpo or the Belgian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2008. Their contribution to the 2010 edition of the Venice Biennale, “7 Rooms / 21 Perspectives” in collaboration with photographer Bas Princen, was awarded the Silver Lion. The architecture of Office KGDVS, focusing on a phenomenology stripped bare of any rhetoric, re-establishes form and space as the core of architectural thought.

The architects De Vylder, Vinck and Taillieu have only recently joined forces. They take a characteristically intuitive approach. The design and building process is ongoing and should through improvisation be able to respond at any moment to strict government regulations or the whims of the parties involved. The buildings by De Vylder Vinck Taillieu are never completely finished: being incomplete gives the user the freedom to intervene so that it stimulates their creativity. Their renovations and single-family homes, their changes to the urban fabric to create the dance studios for Les Ballets C de la B and their transformation of the Schermenhuis scenery store at the Bourla theatre did not go unnoticed. And their work is successful internationally too. In 2010 the Japanese curator Kazuyo Sejima invited them to create an exhibition at the twelfth architectural biennale in Venice.

The International Master Class focuses on the predicted demographic growth of Brussels (20% by 2040), and explores the capacity of European cities to absorb massive demographic changes.

Where and how to densify the existing urban fabric? Which housing typologies to increase, to sometimes double the population density? How to build a city upon the existing city?