



**“Ghent has, in our opinion, a good balance between old and new, restored and refurbished buildings.”**

*Basile Graux*



*Before modification*



their varying degrees of private space has been replaced by an open plan, which—bedrooms aside—makes the entire house open to visitors.

For Basile Graux, who studied along with his partner Koen Baeyens at Sint-Lucas (now known as KU Leuven) in Ghent, it is clearly a response to the wider architectural cultural of the city. “Ghent has, in our opinion, a good balance between old

and new, restored and refurbished buildings,” he says. “If the city wants to keep evolving it has to leave room for regeneration. Therefore, it has to allow for transformation and even embrace this.”

Not that this is a strategy unique to the city of Ghent. From among their other work, the KCV house, involving the renovation of a slightly older building into a three-story family house in

the old center of Mechelen, is worth comparing to House G-S. The building in Mechelen is cramped and enclosed on three sides by adjacent structures, so the architects’ intervention prioritized a radical alteration of the street facade, providing light and views to the front of the house. Previously, a series of small windows defined the facade. But by stacking new large, square windows, which are almost the width of →

