

PHD RESEARCH

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Brussels Hotel Industry 1880-1940.

Actors, structures, and the spatial

logics of a multi-faceted sector - [Original

Title : *L'hôtellerie bruxelloise 1880-1940.*

acteurs, structures et logiques spatiales d'un

secteur multiforme]

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This thesis suggests that temporary accommodation in the city should not be seen as a one-dimensional sector : lodgings as well as luxurious hotels have been deeply involved in Brussels' urban development. They served to regulate demographic and migratory flows to the capital. Moreover, the hotel sector should not be considered an industry focused exclusively on tourists' habits or as being confined to providing lodgings for poor workers. Between these extremes, different kinds of institutions offered specific services to a multitude of clients. Taking Brussels – a capital city – as an example offers a wide perspective for studying the urban hospitality industry between 1880 and 1940. This thesis focuses on three main points for considering the complexity of the sector : firstly, it characterizes the multi-faceted nature of accommodation in the city; next it identifies the hotel industry's actors, their social role, and their ambitions; thirdly, it analyses Brussels' hotel sector as a physical reality through the provision in the thesis of several original location maps and the definition of a new hotel typology.