5. A series of houses grouped communally—but they are designed to divide up into separate units if the convent community decides.
6. A Kroll brick—floor surfaces that leak from one space to another.
7. Double-height main meeting hall.

Kroll

Convent for Dominican Sisters, Ottignies

Rising along a slope in the midst of a pine wood, are two buildings, centred around a small sunken garden. This is a convent for a group of elderly Dominican sisters, completed by Kroll in late 1973. In briefing Kroll, the sisters wished to avoid the image of power conventionally associated with a convent. They were also aware of themselves as a dying breed. They wished to create a physical arrangement for communal living that could gradually be given over to other uses and their numbers—originally 13, now 11—increased. Kroll has designed a series of units that can be sealed off, one at a time, to provide a group of individual houses in future. The materials—once again, local brick, concrete blocks, regularly castings that have been left rough and long-haired—were specified not only for their characteristics but for an appearance of power. Internally there is more of the detailing of associations with Kroll: the corridors are shaped to appear shorter; felt carpeting from trade; a room curves out into that of the corridor. The open tread pine staircases are here; so are the places and chimney breasts of exposed brickwork. Once again slights of blur have been used to give off to important rooms. The chapel, in the basement away from domestic circulation is lit by a large window and glass roof from the entrance. Half of the roof of the double-height main meeting hall is glazed. Old oak doors from vast antique warehouses used in the former convent have been used in the dormitory and for cupboard doors.