

## Project

# ARTOTHÈQUE

## Architects

L'ESCAUT ARCHITECTURES

## Address

1, Rue Claude de Bettignies, 7000 Mons

## Programme

Transformation of the old chapel of the Ursulines Convent  
The program is structured and divided into four entities. One of them is accessible to the public: the space of the ground floor and the library on the first floor, the other three being dedicated to scientific staff and restoration, management, logistics and storage spaces (six levels).

## About

L'Artothèque is the new storage and conservation tool for the heritage of the city of Mons. The history of the Ursulines chapel is combined with the works that are conserved, half way between restoration and reinterpretation. Stretched between steel and cracked stones, L'Artothèque is defined as a journey rather than an object.

The Chapel of the former Ursulines Convent is a remarkable example of classical architecture from the early eighteenth century. Listed as patrimony, it was transformed and deprived of its original interior space after the Second World War.

The presence of concrete floors, that destroyed the monument, is turned into an opportunity: from a commonly damaged monument, the chapel becomes a place of conservation for works of art, with an envelope of heritage value.

The main options that determined the interior design lie in the creation of a vertical 'fault', opening to the height and length of the former nave, and freeing the vision on the ground floor. We can now apprehend the three dimensions of the original interior of the chapel, where the volume of the precious storage fits.

Inside the chapel, the public enters the lobby area. Its scenography confronts digital technologies, allowing virtual consultation of the works, with glass cases containing the actual works.

## Typology

Culture

## Status

Built

## Conception

2010

## Delivery

2015

## Client

Ville de Mons

## Total budget

7 300 000 euros HTVA

## Per square meters

3 300 euros HTVA

## Area

2200 m2

## Architects

L'Escaut : Catherine Dohmen, Grégoire Fettweis,  
Atelier Gigogne : Pierre Van Assche, Catherine Titeux



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## OTHER PROJECTS :

Cultural hall Victor Jara  
- 2005 2009  
- Soignies

Development of the left bank quaysides  
of the Sambre in Charleroi  
- 2010 2014  
- Charleroi

Housing units-studios for artists 'Cheval  
Noir'  
- 2003 2010  
- Bruxelles

Otro  
- 2008 2012  
- île de Vassivière

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Stability	JZH & Partners
Special techniques	Axis Engineering
Scenography	L'escout architectures
Lightning	Henriette Michaux
Others	Patrimoine sur les parties classées : Atelier Gigogne

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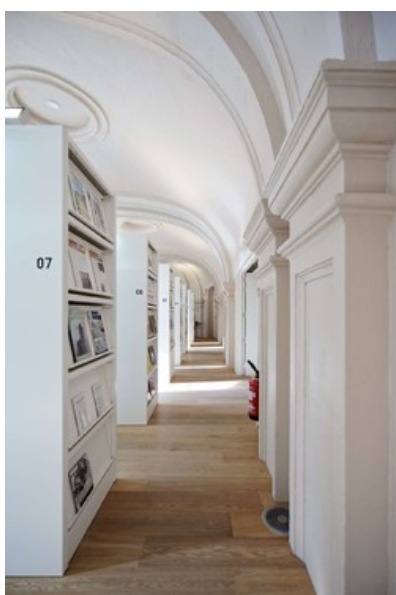
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