Project

EXTENSION OF THE BRIGITTINES THEATRE

Architects: SUMPROJECT

Address: 1000 Bruxelles

Programe

The Brigittinen project emerged from the desire of the city of Brussels to transform the neighbourhood around the Brussels Chapelle train station into a cultural pole. From 1976, the historical chapel was used as a cultural forum. In 1997, the chapel became the beating heart of the non-profit organisation Les Brigittines (the Contemporary Arts Centre for Movement). To be able to respond to the growing needs of the users, the city of Brussels launched an architectural competition in 2001.

About

Laureate of the competition, Andrea Bruno and Sum decided not to touch the existing chapel, a listed monument, that is used as a multi-functional performance space. All supporting functions (reception, restaurant, offices, rehearsal hall, residence for artists, technical equipments, ...) are hosted in an adjacent, new volume, given the same layout and space as the original chapel, as it were its modern equivalent. In this regard, the small, fragile baroque building has a guardian angel towards the fragmented urban context of this quarter. A crucial element in the design is the connection between both parts of the complex, which must seamlessly bind both volumes. A glass disc has been inserted between the two areas which contains a monumental stair and lift connection. This in-between space opens a dialogue between the existing 17th century chapel and the new, outspoken 21st century extension. The modulation and the choice of materials for the façade is a clear reference to the existing chapel, albeit with a contemporary touch. The warm red Corten steel is a reference to the red bricks and the shiny stainless steel cladding and the glass elements are reminiscent of the decorative frills and ornaments in white stone on the existing façade.

In August 2007, the Brigittines team started using their new facilities. From then on, the arts centre had a clearly recognisable base in a neighbourhood in full transformation.

Typology: Culture

Status: Built

Conception: 2001-2005

Delivery: 2007-2008

Client: Ville de Bruxelles

Co-author: Studio Andrea Bruno

Stability: Ney & Partners

Special techniques: G.E.I. sa

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OTHER PROJECTS :

Layout of the Lys' riverbanks and surroundings
- 1997-2005 2005-2010
- Courtrai

Saint-Cyr House
- 2006-2009 2011
- Bruxelles

High school, Open learning centre
- 2002-2006 2009
- Gent

Renovation of the old thermal springs
- 2010 -
- Spa

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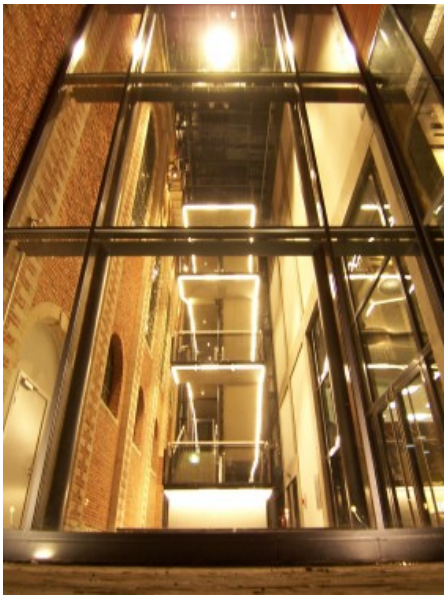

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