

Project

BELMONT COURT

Architects

ARCHITECTEASSOC.

Address

rue Belliard 49-51/rue Marie de Bourgogne 55/rue Montoyer
et rue d'Arlon, 1040 Bruxelles (Etterbeek)

Programme

Heavy refurbishment and rooftop extension of the Ministry of
Employment building rue Belliard in Brussels.

About

The ambition to develop the potential of the MET's city block in
its existing form thereby proposing a sustainable solution within
the built city center drove the team to consider rehabilitation,
instead of demolition + new-build.

Certainly this option avoids the production of an impressive
quantity of non-recyclable waste matter, but the choice also
generates a series of defying challenges: how to create
inspiring workspaces in what initially feels like a very dull
carcass? how to establish spatial markers inside the existing
labyrinth? how to bring character to what starts out as
uninspiring space?

The first step is to ban all cars from the central courtyard,
transforming it into an urban garden. The second is to
recuperate the street-side porch and create a new, permeable
link between the noisy, car-ridden boulevard and the
surprisingly tranquil and leafy inner oasis.

Space is redefined through the use of light and color, imagined
with the artist J. Glibert. The seemingly random apparition of
colored glass (in fact carefully positioned following the interior
layout) brings a playful note to the rigid grid of the existing
façade? what goes on inside becomes the clincher when seen
from the outside, making redundant any other formal
intervention?

The MET has clearly benefited from the open-mindedness of its
client. The result is a sensitive collective response highlighting
otherwise forgotten qualities of Brussels' existing building
stock.

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OTHER PROJECTS :

EMPEREUR
- 2008 2014
- Bruxelles

AEROPOLIS II
- 2005 2010
- Bruxelles (Schaerbeek)

NATIONAL THEATRE
- 2000 2004
- Bruxelles

BRUSSELS GREENBIZZ
- 2012 2016
- Bruxelles (Laeken)

Typology

Offices (include mixed use)

Status

Built

Conception

2002

Delivery

2006

Client

Axa Belgium sa

Total budget

30 000 000

Per square meters

814

Area

32 000 HS & 9 700 SS

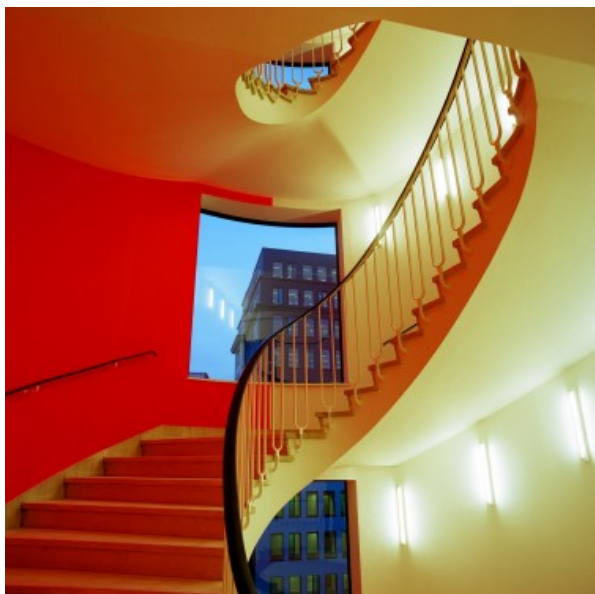
Stability	Setesco
Special techniques	VK Engineering
Artists	Jean Glibert
Others	Herpain Entreprises



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