

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.

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

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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)

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

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