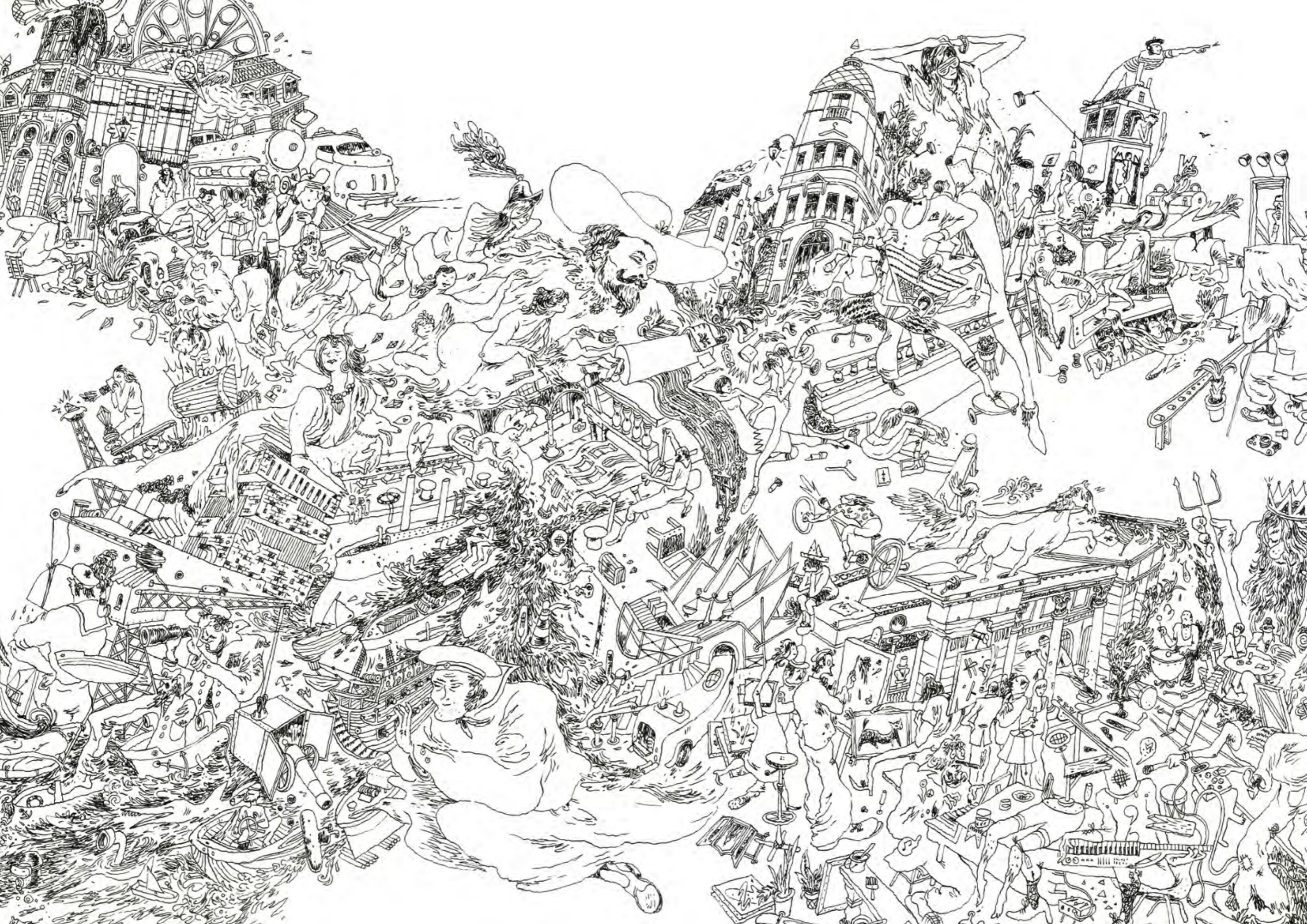




ANTWERP

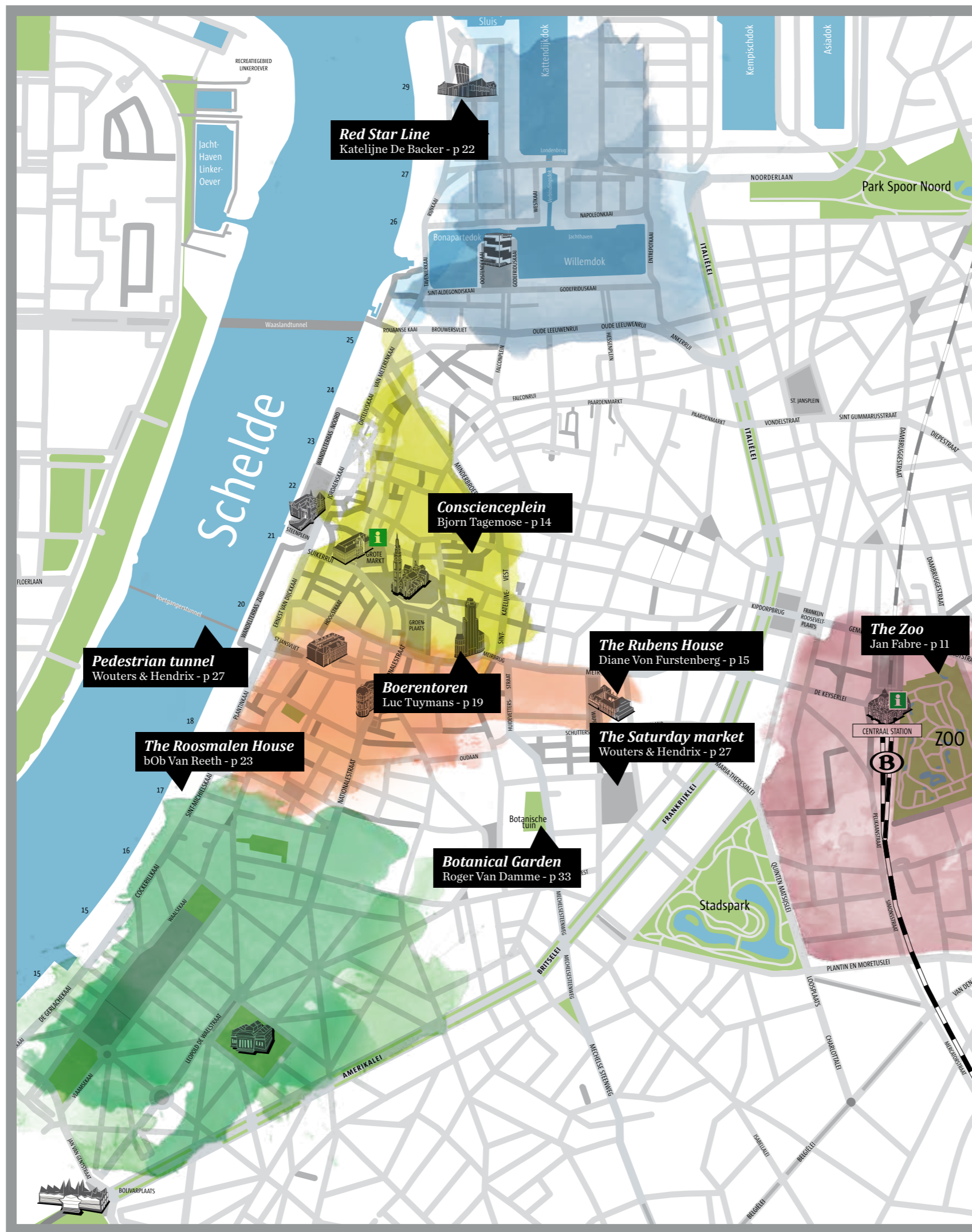
City of Art

WATER // FASHION
// HISTORY // INTERIOR
// ARCHITECTURE //
DIAMOND // DESIGN //
FOOD CONCEPTS



ANTWERP IN TIME

- 150-270 A.D.** GALLO-ROMAN SETTLEMENT
- 726** FIRST MENTION OF THE NAME ANTWERP
- 1221** ANTWERP RECEIVES TOWN PRIVILEGES
- 1352** START OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOTHIC CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY
- 1555-1713** SPANISH ERA
- 1555** CHRISTOPHER PLANTIN OPENS HIS PRINTING HOUSE
- 1561-1565** CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TOWN HALL
- 1566** ICONOCLASM
- 1576** SPANISH FURY
- 1585** FALL OF ANTWERP AND CLOSURE OF THE RIVER SCHELDT
- 1590-1610** ANTWERP SCHOOL: RUBENS, VAN DYCK, JORDAENS
- 1605** ABRAHAM VERHOEVEN PUBLISHED THE FIRST NEWSPAPER EVER
- 1713-1794** AUSTRIAN ANTWERP
- 1795-1814** ANNEXATION WITH FRANCE AND THE 'GREAT WORKS'
- 1803** NAPOLEON ORDERS THE MODERNISATION OF THE PORT
- 1815-1830** DUTCH PERIOD
- 1830** INDEPENDENCE OF BELGIUM
- 1836** ANTWERP OPENS ITS FIRST RAIL LINK
- 1872** THE RED STAR LINE IS FOUNDED
- 1885** WORLD EXPO I IN THE ZUID DISTRICT AND INAUGURATION OF THE STRAIGHTENED SCHELDT QUAYS
- 1890** OPENING OF THE ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANTWERP | KMSKA
- 1894** WORLD EXPO II IN THE ZUID DISTRICT
- 1920** OLYMPIC GAMES IN ANTWERP
- 1923** AIRPORT BUILT IN DEURNE
- 1927-1932** CONSTRUCTION OF BOERENTOREN, THE FIRST SKYSCRAPER IN EUROPE
- 1930** WORLD EXPO III IN THE KIEL DISTRICT
- 1977** RUBENS YEAR
- 1986** 'ANTWERP SIX' DEBUT IN LONDON
- 1993** ANTWERP CULTURAL CAPITAL OF EUROPE
- 1999** VAN DYCK YEAR
- 2001** ANTWERP FASHION YEAR - FASHION 2001 LANDED GELAND
- 2004** RUBENS (RE)DISCOVERED; ANTWERP IS NOMINATED WORLD BOOK CAPITAL 2004 BY UNESCO
- 2007** OPENING OF THE RAIL TUNNEL FROM ANTWERP'S CENTRAL STATION TO DAMPLEIN
- 2011** ANTWERP EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL
- 2013** ANTWERP EUROPEAN SPORTS CAPITAL, WORLD OUTGAMES



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- 48 HOURS IN ANTWERP** p. 34 - 37
2x48 hours of fun in summertime and wintertime

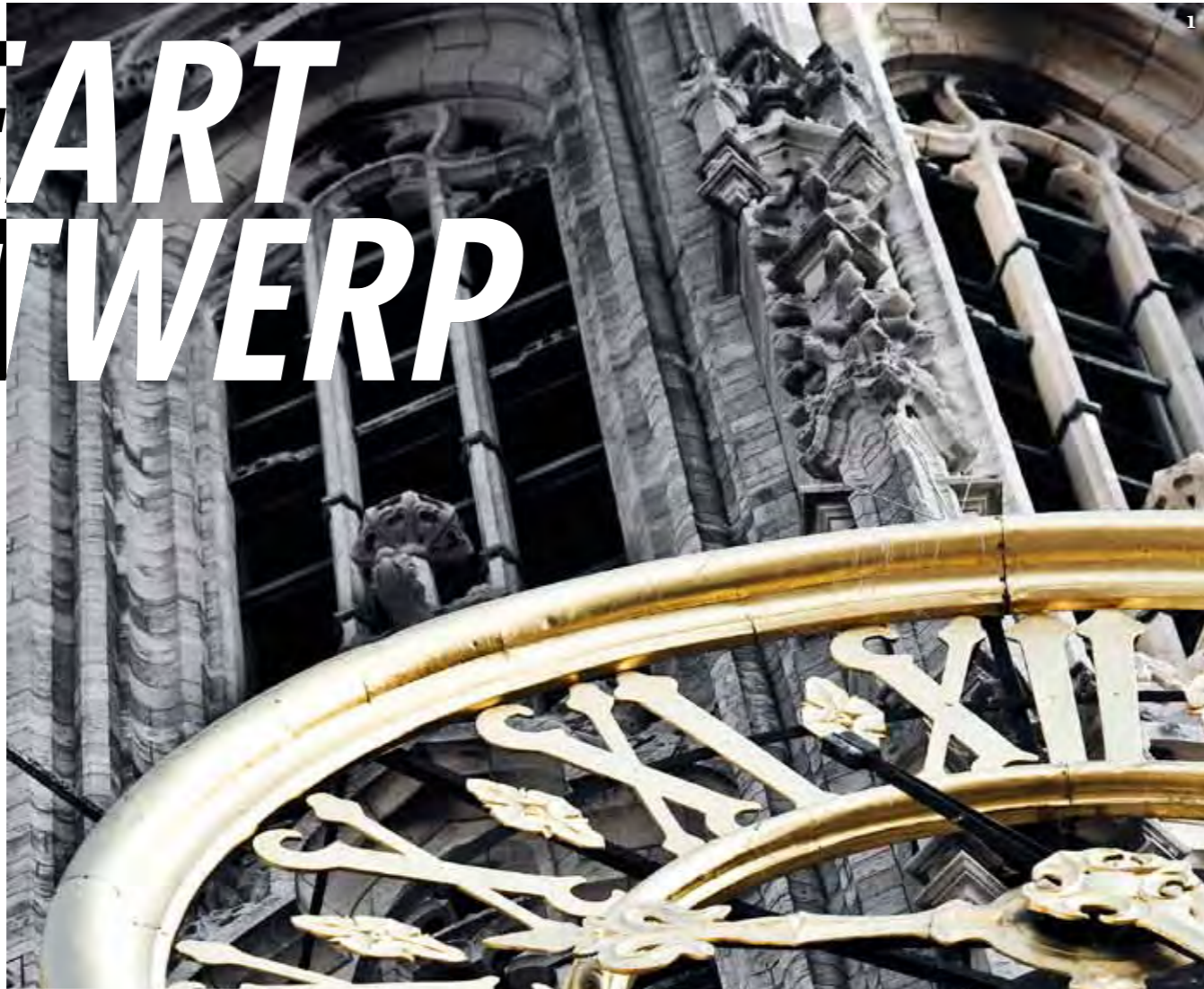
ANTWERP IN FIGURES

- 486,564** Inhabitants
- 168** Nationalities
- 33,579** Full-time students 18+
- 31** Museums
- 3** UNESCO world heritage sites
- 1,163** Monuments and sights
- 52** Rubens paintings on permanent exhibition
- 85** Art galleries
- 119** Antique shops & art traders
- 5,296** Stores
- 56** Theatres & concert halls
- 780** Cafes
- 612** Restaurants
- 12** Michelin-starred restaurants or Gault Millau listed restaurants with two or more toques
- 6** Chocolate makers
- 4** Diamond exchanges
- 34** Number of nationalities at Antwerp's Fashion Academy Artesis Hogeschool
- 43,661** Number of sea cruise passengers
- 62,381** Number of river cruise passengers*

*2010 data. All other data 2011.

I LOST MY HEART IN ANTWERP

Ask an Antwerp local about his city and he will pour you a Bolleke beer, face beaming, and tell you about its majestic Cathedral, about walks along the quays and about the city's master painter, Peter Paul **Rubens**. The Antwerp locals are known to be very proud of their city, and rightly so. For centuries, the port, which continues to expand, has contributed to a constant influx of the most diverse influences. As exotic spices landed on the quays, more and more intellectuals also set foot in this flourishing city, enriching Antwerp with their ideas and creations.



No wonder then that a city where so much is moving and shaking has become the ideal habitat for world leaders and luminaries. One such enlightened spirit, albeit of a rather despotic inclination, was Napoleon, who acquired the **Royal Palace 'Paleis op de Meir'**³ in 1812. There he quietly devised military strategies for his war against Britain. Antwerp seems like an easy place to lose your heart because another luminary, the Russian czar Peter the Great, felt quite at home in the city, where he spent a considerable amount of time learning everything there was to know about shipbuilding.



In recent centuries, Antwerp also attracted a host of artistic talent. Albrecht Dürer, whose paintings, etchings and woodcuts are part of museum collections worldwide, liked living in the city by the River Scheldt. So did Mozart, who stopped in Antwerp during his Grand Tour through Europe for a recital on the **organ**² of the **Cathedral of Our Lady**¹.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries Antwerp already was a city with an international reputation, which extended far beyond the city's borders: it was reputed for its flourishing art trade and its bustling port, which turned the city into an **economic hotspot**. During this Golden Age Antwerp resembled present-day New York: it was a world city.



Today Antwerp continues to build on this rich history and positions itself as a modern metropolis. Although it always remains respectful of the numerous historic buildings, which bear witness to the city's rich history Antwerp today wants to become a city known for its iconic architecture. Examples include the new Palace of Justice, the new MAS or the Port Authority building, which has been designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid. The Antwerp Six are living proof of Antwerp's influence on the fashion



world, and more generally speaking, on the art world, which thrives in Antwerp, especially in the Zuid district. All this and more in a city where you can still sit down on a **park bench**⁴ and where you will never feel lost in the crowd. Antwerp succeeds in being a world-class city without ever forgetting about the importance of being a pleasant and above all liveable city.

CITY OF ART

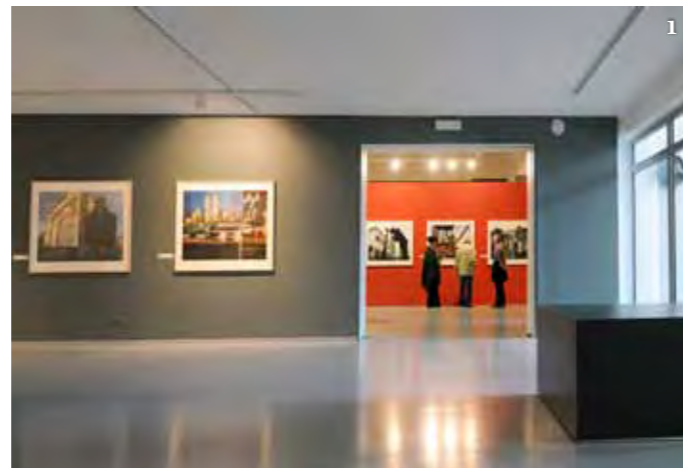
Through the centuries Antwerp, as an **art city**¹, has always been at the forefront, largely thanks to its large port, which turned the city into a gigantic economic hub after the Middle Ages.

Ships ferried all sorts of exotic spices, foods, plants, fabrics and luxury products to Antwerp and also provided for encounters between different cultures.

Philosophers, scientists and artists converged in Antwerp turning it into a **bustling metropolis** where art flourished and inspiration came from all over the world.



Rubens, whose influence is ubiquitous, is no longer among us but generation after generation brought new academic talent, which continues to propagate his legacy. Artists such as Luc Tuymans and Jan Fabre are now the ambassadors of contemporary art for Antwerp, next to the **Antwerp Six**², who put the city on the map as a **fashion destination**. There is also the bustling **pop scene**, as well as several museums and cultural centres such as deSingel, a meeting place for theatre, dance, **architecture**³ and other disciplines. This crossover and variety of arts of the past and present have contributed to turning Antwerp into a City of Art, like Berlin, Amsterdam and Vienna.



DRIES VAN NOTEN

fashion designer

THE NAME DRIES VAN NOTEN HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH BELGIAN AVANT-GARDE FASHION. EVERY SEASON AGAIN HE SUCCEEDS IN SURPRISING FASHION CRITICS WITH THE MOST ENCHANTING COLLECTIONS. ETHNIC PRINTS, ATYPICAL PATTERNS AND BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES WHICH ARE ALWAYS HIGHLY WEARABLE: THAT'S WHAT THE DRIES VAN NOTEN STYLE IS ALL ABOUT. VAN NOTEN'S STYLING IS ECLECTIC AND WORKS FOR VERY DIFFERENT BODIES AND WOMEN AND MEN OF ALL AGES. HE DESIGNS TIMELESS CLOTHES, WHICH YOU WILL LOVE TO WEAR FOR YEARS ON END. VAN NOTEN AND HIS INTERNATIONAL TEAM WORK THEIR MAGIC IN HIS HEADQUARTERS NEAR ANTWERP'S MARINA ALLOWING HIM TO TAKE THE OCCASIONAL STROLL IN ANTWERP'S EILANDJE DISTRICT.

"Antwerp is a very pleasant city to work, it's very low key. It's better that I stay far away from all the fashion madness, from the epicentre of the fashion world and from all the hip parties. Antwerp is the ideal city for me: I take the train to Paris to show my collections there and my life here in Antwerp is much easier and quieter, compared with life in a big city. Life is a bit more anonymous in Antwerp and it allows me to look at fashion as an outsider, which I find more interesting. I maintain a healthy distance and it gives me different perspectives for creating my own work."

"It also allows the city to have an impact on you. Sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously, it's automatic. As a fashion designer I reflect what I see and feel to some extent, so sometimes I find myself thinking of the Scheldt when designing a dress. Antwerp is also no-nonsense. In Paris, sometimes, there is a lot of brouhaha about a small detail. Here in Antwerp, things move fast and the bla bla factor is less obvious. In Antwerp, you always feel grounded, which is a nice experience: it may not be a world city when it comes to size, but it is very worldly. You have all the advantages of a big city, everything is in close proximity and while there is a healthy dose of open-mindedness, the melting pot of influences is still manageable."

"That is precisely why Antwerp is a good breeding ground, where fashion designers are trained, by the fashion academy on the one hand, but also because you easily get to know interesting people in a small city. You constantly see students of the academy gladly working with young photographers, using dancers of the Royal Ballet of Flanders as their models, and so on. In Paris, the city is so big that nobody ever leaves their own quartier. Here, however, the cross-pollination is a fact of life; it is a perfect breeding ground for people with a creative streak."

"In Antwerp, you always feel grounded, which is a pleasant experience. It may not be a world city when it comes to size, but it is very worldly."



JAN FABRE

homo universalis and artist

THE MUCH-DISCUSSED CONTEMPORARY ARTIST WAS BORN IN ANTWERP, HAS HIS STUDIO HERE AND STILL LIVES HERE. VISUAL ARTIST, THEATRE MAKER, AUTHOR. HOW ABOUT A CHANDELIER ADORNED WITH THOUSANDS OF EXOTIC BEETLES? IN FABRE'S STRANGE UNIVERSE, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. HE EXPERIMENTS WITH EVERY IMAGINABLE ART FORM AND MATERIAL. THERE IS A SUPERHUMAN BEAUTY IN ALL THAT FABRE CREATES. TIME AND TIME AGAIN, HIS WORK PUSHES THE BOUNDARIES EVEN FURTHER. FABRE INTRIGUES, CREATES TENSION AND SHAKES UP THE SPECTATORS.

"Antwerp locals always know better, and this sets a high standard. My relationship with Antwerp is rather like a good marriage; sometimes you need a good quarrel."

"I travel a lot, but I always enjoy returning to Antwerp. There is something masochistic about it: I always get treated more harshly here. There is always less applause, the audience is always more critical, but it keeps you on your toes, you have to remain alert and critical. Antwerp locals always know better, and this sets a high standard. My relationship with Antwerp is rather like a good marriage; sometimes you need a good quarrel."

"I also try to give something back to the city, by decorating my studio, which the city has leased to me for thirty years, with works by artists from all around the world. Works of art that have become an integral part of the building and which will remain here after I have left. Luc Tuymans, for example, has created a ceiling mural; Marina Abramović painted a recipe in pig's blood on the kitchen walls. Enrique Marty created an intense work in the corridor to the first balcony of the theatre ... The building now has a sort of memory. This is a place for experimentation by young dancers, actors, theatre scholars, philosophers, etc. As a result, they are confronted with contemporary art in a totally different

context than in a museum. They find themselves face to face with works of art throughout the building, among others in the room where they can take yoga, ballet or kendo classes. As a result of all these influences and the people who visit us for projects, new energies and ideas are created."

"I also draw inspiration from the city. The Zoo and Schoonselhof are my favourite places. Schoonselhof because this type of cemetery is all about the glorification of life and the celebration of death, themes which I have also dealt with in my work. As a child my father would always take me to the Zoo, where I learnt all about the theory of physiognomy by spending hours drawing insects. My father would let me draw animals, after which he would ask me to look for people who resembled these animals and vice versa. In a way, this was an important part of my training, because the movement of animals and people is very important in my theatre work. In my visual art I use a lot of insects and other animals. I still regularly visit the Zoo and Schoonselhof. A walk around these places inspires me."

ANTWERP: LIVING HISTORY

A STRIKING FEATURE OF ANTWERP IS HOW MODERN ARCHITECTURE HAS NO PROBLEMS SHARING THE PAVEMENT WITH OLD, STATELY FACADES. IN ANTWERP ART HISTORY IS NOT LIMITED TO DULL BOOKS. IT IS PART OF THE CITY'S FABRIC, AND OF EVERYDAY LIFE. ONE MOMENT YOU MAY BE WALKING THROUGH RUBENS' BAROQUE ERA; TWO HOUSES DOWN YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF IN THE SHADOW OF THE GOTHIC CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY AND JUST AROUND THE CORNER YOU WILL BE STRUCK BY THE OPULENT RENAISSANCE FACADE OF THE CITY'S TOWN HALL. IN BETWEEN ALL THIS SPLENDOUR; SMALLER AND LARGER CHURCHES, CHAPELS AND MUSEUMS, GUILD HOUSES AND TOWN HOUSES CROWD THE CITY'S STREETS, AND YOU WILL EVEN ENCOUNTER THE CONTINENT'S FIRST SKYSCRAPER, BETTER KNOWN AS THE BOERENTOREN. HISTORY IS ALIVE AND KICKING IN ANTWERP, IT IS PART OF EVERY ANTWERP LOCAL'S DNA AND THE EVIDENCE IS THERE TO BE SEEN, ALL AROUND THE CITY.



— SPLENDOUR AROUND THE MARKET SQUARE

The construction of the **Cathedral of Our Lady**¹ was a long-winded process: over a period of 169 years, from 1352 to 1521, generation after generation contributed to the construction of the city's most beautiful structure, brick by brick, slowly but surely. The result is outstanding: a Gothic masterpiece rises up among the medieval dwellings, a lacework of stone with a spire that extends 123 meters above the city. Inside, the church is also an epitome of splendour, adorned with some amazing masterpieces. In the shadow of the Cathedral of Our Lady lies Grote Markt, with its main eye-catcher, the **Town Hall**, which was built in a flamboyant Flemish-Italian Renaissance style. The building was completed in 1564. The interior was refurbished on several occasions and even survived a fire, but it is still as resplendent as ever. Around Grote Markt the various **guild houses** show off their ornate facades. Sit down in one of the terraces around the market square (with a blanket and a cup of hot chocolate if necessary) so you can quietly admire all this beauty.

Ron Wood of the Rolling Stones treated the guests at his birthday party to a line of chocolate. With a Chocolate Shooter, which had been specially designed for the occasion by DOMINIQUE PERSOONE, you can now catapult a mix of cocoa, ginger and mint up your nose with a spoon. Visit **The Chocolate Line**, the shop of this 'shock-o-latier' in the beautifully restored Paleis op de Meir.



— RUBENS IN ABUNDANCE

Perhaps Antwerp locals' legendary pride has something to do with Rubens. The city prides itself on the fact that more than fifty of his paintings are on display here, often in the original location for which Rubens created his masterpiece. The abundantly decorated Baroque facade of **St. Charles Borromeo's Church**², for example, was designed by the master himself. At his request, the painting of 'Our Lady surrounded by saints' still towers above his tomb in **St. James's Church**. **Rubens' House**³ in Wapper, is perhaps the best proof of the master's presence and the indelible stamp that he left on his city. So be prepared for a marathon if you want to see the master's works for yourself.



— TREASURES FROM THE PAST

You can admire even more treasures from the rich history of Antwerp and Flanders in the splendid **Museum Mayer van den Bergh**, which showcases a collection of art from the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Pieter Bruegel the Elder's **Mad Meg** is now on display here. The **Rockox House**⁴, a seventeenth-century mansion owned by Rockox Nicholas, a patron and friend of Rubens, was decorated with paintings by Rubens, but also by Jordaens, Teniers, Bruegel, Van Dyck and Metsijs. Take a walk around the seventeenth-century courtyard and garden, which was reconstructed based on historical documents and you will feel as if you've stepped into a fairy tale.



— WORLD-FAMOUS ANTWERP LOCALS

Rubens and Van Dyck are not the only world-famous inhabitants of Antwerp. Christopher Plantin and his son-in-law, Jan Moretus were probably the first well-known locals. In the sixteenth century, these courageous men opened the first book printing house in a building in Vrijdagmarkt. Soon their business took off and in time they would go on to build an impressive workshop. The printing house and home as well as all the family's possessions were sold to the city in 1876 by Plantin's son-in-law, Edward Moretus. But one year later, the old printing house opened its doors as a museum to welcome its first visitors. Since 2005, the **Museum Plantin-Moretus/Prints Room**⁵ has been recognised by UNESCO as **World Heritage**, the first and only museum on the list.

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BJORN TAGEMOSE

visual artist

VISUAL ARTIST, FASHION PHOTOGRAPHER, VIDEO DIRECTOR: IT'S DIFFICULT TO PUT ANTWERP SWEDIE BJORN TAGEMOSE IN ONE CATEGORY. NO LOCATION OR IDEA IS TOO CHALLENGING FOR HIM WHEN IT COMES TO DEVELOPING A SPECTACULAR MULTIMEDIA PROJECT FOR IT. LOUIS VUITTON, CHANEL, ADIDAS AND NIKE HAVE ALREADY USED HIS TALENT AND HE ALSO CREATED THE LIVE SHOWS OF THE HIVES, EDITORS AND KANE. NOT THAT WE ARE THE NAME-DROPPING KIND BUT HE HAS ALSO WORKED WITH THE SIMPLE MINDS, OZARK HENRY, JULIETTE LEWIS, DJ TIĚSTO, MACY GRAY, DAVID BECKHAM, SINEAD O'CONNOR, AND MANY MORE. TAGEMOSE TRAVELS THE WORLD, BUT HE HAS LOST HIS HEART IN ANTWERP.

"I grew up in the streets around Conscienceplein. A fantastic neighbourhood, which has always had a very artistic atmosphere. My mother was Flemish, my father Danish. I now live in Antwerp-Zuid but during the holiday months I stay in Sweden. The creative Antwerp vibes in combination with the Swedish peace and quiet and simplicity provide the right balance."

"Antwerp encourages cross-fertilisation between art forms. And I like that. Music, movies, fashion: all these disciplines are intertwined with each other. Rock groups have a sense of styling, the fashion world likes to incorporate rock elements, just look at Walter Van Beirendonck. There are no limits anymore. My work combines this pure rock 'n' roll with a clean aesthetic. Of course I encounter many creative soul mates here. The amount of artistic talent per square metre in Antwerp is simply mind-boggling. We dare to look beyond our borders, fly our own course, constantly exchange ideas, dare to say what we think and launch ourselves into our projects.

14 It is precisely this individuality, which has contributed to Antwerp's reputation as a world-class art city."

"The Scheldt bend and the quays are my favourite place to work. I have already worked in some of the most amazing places in the world but Antwerp is simply better suited to some projects. The harshness of locations such as Linkeroever (the Left Bank), the former railway sheds in Antwerpen-Noord, the waterfront: I just can't find that anywhere else. I recognize that same raw feeling in the work of Tuymans or Dries Van Noten."

"I will never again skip Antwerp", Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam once told me after an amazing performance at the Lotto Arena. The energy in this city is amazingly inspiring for an artist."

"The energy in this city is amazingly inspiring for an artist."



DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

fashion designer

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU HAD TO ADDRESS DIANE VON FURSTENBERG AS 'PRINCESS DIANE VON FURSTENBERG' BUT THESE DAYS THE INITIALS DVF ARE SUFFICIENT AMONG FASHIONISTAS TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE WORLD FAMOUS BELGIAN-AMERICAN FASHION DESIGNER. HER ICONIC WRAP DRESS IS STILL A CLASSIC - NO WONDER THAT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK HAS INCLUDED ONE OF HER DRESSES IN ITS EXHIBITS. VON FURSTENBERG RECEIVED A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HER GROUND-BREAKING FASHION DESIGN AND HAS ALSO BEEN FEATURED IN FASHION TV SHOWS SUCH AS PROJECT RUNWAY AND AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL.



"For me, Antwerp primarily is a city of hope, where opportunities are there for the taking."

"Antwerp reminds me of my childhood. I was born in Brussels, where I also lived for a time, but when I was a little girl, I often visited Antwerp for the day with my parents. I've always been fascinated by the history that is so palpable throughout the city. I also love museums that preserve history. My favourite museum undoubtedly is the Rubens House. I've been there a hundred times and every time I'm in Antwerp, I visit it again. Even after all these years I still discover things that surprise me. I just can't get enough of it, so much beauty! The whole city resembles an old painting by the Flemish Primitives: everything is very authentic, the colours, the people, it all still works."

"The presence of the port has contributed to the city's highly international character. It is a trade city, where opportunities abound and things are always changing. It is impossible to sit still here. That is why I think Antwerp is a city full of artists, brimming with creativity. For me, Antwerp primarily is a city of hope, where opportunities are there for the taking. Just think of the international praise heaped on the Fashion Academy. Dries Van Noten, Martin Margiela, Ann Demeulemeester, all big names, who launched their careers in Antwerp. I was very intimidated when I first met them, but also immensely grateful for the way in which they welcomed me to their city. Antwerp locals are very hospitable, there is an open, relaxed atmosphere which is very inspiring. My own collections are often influenced by women, by nature, but sometimes by cities and the vibe in these cities."

TRENDS, FASHION AND DESIGN IN ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD

TRAVELLING TO ANTWERP MEANS RETURNING HOME WITH A SLEW OF EXCESS BAGGAGE. THE CITY CENTRE IS SIMPLY TEEMING WITH BOUTIQUES, WHICH BELIEVE THAT DESIGN IS A WAY OF LIFE, AS YOU CAN TELL FROM THE MANY WELL-DRESSED ANTWERP LOCALS IN THE CITY'S STREETS. BELGIAN DESIGNERS AND FAMOUS BRANDS FROM ABROAD HAVE ALL GATHERED IN A CLUSTER AROUND NATIONALESTRAAT. THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE FOR FASHIONISTAS FROM ITALY, AMERICA, CHINA, JAPAN AND BEYOND. THEY CHOOSE ONE OF THE FIVE FASHION ROUTES OR JUST FOLLOW THEIR INTUITION, FROM BOUTIQUE TO FLAGSHIP STORE.

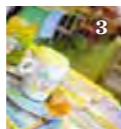
16



FOLLOW THE FASHION GUIDE

You need to walk around if you want to discover Antwerp fashion. Work your way up Nationalestraat and the many side streets such as Lombardenvest, Kammenstraat, Sint-Andriesstraat and Drukkerijstraat. You will be sorely tempted from all sides: famous brands are juxtaposed with new and vintage fashion talent as well as hip streetwear. Every window display is even better and more original than the one you just saw. The five fashion routes of the **Antwerp Fashion Map**² are a useful way of finding your way around the fashion district, but let yourself be guided by your taste and the pop-up stores which are not on the map. But remember, speed is of the essence here: last season was a century ago.

Sting loves this drink and Moby has also been spotted with a mug in hand: "GINGERLOVE"³ is the special tea brewed by vegetarian eatery, Lombardia in Antwerp. Even coffee giant Starbucks already showed interest in the secret recipe for the amazing tea based on fruit and ginger. And during the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai Lombardia's ginger tea caused a furore when it was introduced in the Belgian pavilion.



Pay attention when watching *Sex and the City 2*. While Samantha, played by Kim Cattrall, cruises through the desert on a camel she is wearing Theo sunglasses, designed by TIM VAN STEENBERGEN. This Antwerp fashion designer also created the stunning outfits of the actors in the film, 'Cantante de Tango' (2010) and designed the costumes for Wagner's opera cycle, 'Der Ring des Nibelungen', which will be performed in Milan and Berlin between June 2010 and June 2013.



A MONUMENT TO FASHION

Antwerp has a few boutiques that are so beautiful that they are actually 'fashion monuments'. Take **Dries Van Noten's Modepaleis**⁵, for example. The old, traditional clothing store was given a complete makeover and turned into a trendy fashion store as a backdrop for the stylish collections of the designer, Dries Van Noten. But Anna Heylen, Walter Van Beirendonck, Ann Demeulemeester⁴ and many other famous and lesser-known fashion gods have shops in Antwerp, where **window shopping** alone is worth the experience. Do not merely look at the window displays, but look up, because often fashion designers have chosen some of Antwerp's most beautiful historic dwellings to showcase their collections. Once again proof that the grandeur of monuments from centuries past is the perfect backdrop for the trendy Antwerp local.



17

MODENATIE & MOMU | FASHION MUSEUM

Another monument at the beginning of Nationalestraat, just beyond Modepaleis is **ModeNatie**⁶. This building was once a hotel and then a department store for men's and children's clothing called New England. It has since become the epicentre of the bustling Antwerp fashion scene. These days ModeNatie is home to the Flanders Fashion Institute, the Copyright bookshop and the **Fashion Museum**¹, which has become a world-class museum in just a few years. The Fashion Department of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts is also housed in ModeNatie. Promising young talent from all over the world consciously choose Antwerp for their fashion education. If you happen to be around, then don't forget to attend the high-profile fashion show at the end of the academic year in June. This is the place where the Lagerfelds of tomorrow showcase their skills.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ANTWERP SIX

Since the 'Antwerp Six' put Antwerp on the **international fashion map** nearly 30 years ago, Antwerp has become much more interesting for fashion fanatics. Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester, Dirk Bikkembergs, Marina Yee, Dirk Van Saene and Walter Van Beirendonck⁷ showcased amazing collections which stood out on runways around the world and were appreciated by many fashion fans. In their wake other fashion designers, jewellery designers⁶, stylists and photographers travelled to Antwerp. And you can really feel it: the **fashion district** is a melting pot where hipsters and fans of expensive designer clothing peacefully mingle, launching new fashion trends. Do not worry if you are not covered from head to toe in expensive designer clothes; here the atmosphere is relaxed and anything goes.



8

“If I have no inspiration or need a breath of fresh air, I hop on my bike and I drive to the Scheldt for example.”



KENSON *graphic designer and artist*

KENSON IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER WHOSE STREET ART WOULD WORK EQUALLY WELL ON THE WALLS OF YOUR HOME AS CONTEMPORARY ART. HE ABSORBS WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE STREETS AND REDUCES FAST MASS COMMUNICATION TO ITS ESSENCE, BUT ALSO POKES FUN AT THE TRANSIENT NATURE OF OUR CONSUMER SOCIETY. AS AN EXPERIMENTAL GRAPHIC DESIGNER HE IS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR WAYS OF EXPRESSING HIMSELF THROUGH GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS, MIXED MEDIA AND CONCEPTUAL ART.

“Antwerp is full of old masters such as Rubens, and I like that. There is a lot going on, in cultural terms, especially in summertime. I check the site of the Summer of Antwerp and go from one event to another by bicycle. The first Thursday of the month there is always a nocturne, organised by the leading art galleries in Antwerp's Zuid district. This is a great tip: the artwork is amazing but you can also just have a drink in a cafe around the Royal Museum of Fine Arts. There is also a lot of underground stuff going on, things that are not organised by the city such as many small collectives that organise exhibitions and parties. The quality is less important, the point is that something is happening, something is brewing, without necessarily resulting in a masterpiece.”

“If I have no inspiration or need a breath of fresh air, I hop on my bike and I drive to the Scheldt for example. I throw my camera on my back and drive around while I take photographs of decrepit walls with pieces of torn posters on it. The city definitely has an influence on me. Texture is very important in my work. I love going to France and stopping in any old village to photograph all those walls, some with painted over graffiti, they are simply beautiful. Simple tags painted over with the roller sometimes change into amazing shapes. There are many of these in Antwerp, because this is an old city, which is made up of many different layers.”



LUC TUYMANS *artist*

THE INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED FIGURATIVE ARTIST LIVES AND WORKS IN ANTWERP. HIS CINEMATIC VISION OF REALITY LED TO THE CONCEPT OF AUTHENTIC FORGERY. HIS PAINTINGS SOMETIMES RESEMBLE VAGUE MEMORIES: FRAGMENTS OF LONELINESS, CAMOUFLAGED FIGMENTS OF OUR IMAGINATION AND FRAGMENTS OF MORAL INSIGHT. TUYMANS' WORK IS FULL OF PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS. HE REINTERPRETS IMAGES AND CONVEYS IDEAS TO HIS AUDIENCE. HE NEVER ESCHEWS COMPLEX POLITICAL ISSUES AND DARES TO CONFUSE HIS AUDIENCE.

“My base is still Antwerp, I live and work here. I also travel a lot and I like it that way: you don't have to be here all the time; sometimes Antwerp is too much like a village - a megalomaniac village.”

“There is a big difference in mentality between Antwerp and other cities. Antwerp locals are arrogant smart asses. We have a typical form of witty humour which people who are not from Antwerp cannot always grasp. My wife is Venezuelan; she has been living here for six years now and for a long time did not appreciate this sense of vulgarity. The language, the Antwerp dialect and the typical humour establish a clear bond between Antwerp locals. Fortunately, they are sufficiently commercially-minded to be friendly to the tourists, which help them make a living. I think tourism softens the hard edges, ensures that we're more open to other things.”

“I do not want to reduce art to a region, we live in a globalised world. But naturally I incorporate elements that I find here in Antwerp in my work. The light for example, and the luminosity of the greys. I think that my paintings would be quite different had I lived in LA. Antwerp locals typically are proud and so they should be: we were the first city in Europe to build a skyscraper, we have a beautiful station, an amazing historical background, and we can be proud of these things too. Antwerp is a biotope for assertiveness, and there is something positive about this. This city has so many assets; you just have to use them in the right way to once again become an artistic hub, as was the case in Rubens' days.”

“Naturally I incorporate elements that I find here in Antwerp in my work.

The light for example, and the luminosity of the greys. I think that my paintings would be quite different had I lived in LA.”



THE CITY'S ARTISTIC HEART

IT IS READILY APPARENT THAT ANTWERP HAS BUILT A REPUTATION AS AN ART CITY IN THE PAST: THE CITY IS PACKED WITH EXAMPLES, FROM THE FLEMISH PRIMITIVES TO ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECES. BUT EVEN NOW ANTWERP DOES NOT BELIEVE IN RESTING ON ITS LAURELS – THE NEW ZUID DISTRICT IS HOME TO A FLOURISHING ART SCENE WITH INTERNATIONAL APPEAL AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE SIX BEAUTIFUL GABLED ROOFS OF THE NEW PALACE OF JUSTICE, ANTWERP'S LATEST LANDMARK: THIS IS THE HOME OF CREATIVITY, WHERE YOU NEED TO BE DARING AND NOT BE AFRAID TO PUSH BACK BOUNDARIES. CREATIVE MINDS GATHER IN THE NUMEROUS CAFES AND ART GALLERIES AROUND THE ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANTWERP¹ (CLOSED UNTIL 2017) AND ALONG THE FILLED-IN SOUTHERN DOCKS, HOME TO M HKA² AND FOMU | FOTOMUSEUM. ZUID IS THE PLACE TO BE FOR LOVERS OF CONTEMPORARY ART, FROM TUYMANS AND FABRE TO UNDERGROUND COLLECTIVES.



1
FRANCO DRAGONE, the founder and artistic director of Cirque du Soleil loves Antwerp. He has travelled to Antwerp and pitched his "Grand Chapiteau" in the southern docks for five of his shows: Saltimbanco, Alegria, Quidam, Dralion and Varekai. He keeps good memories of the city. "Recently I was rehearsing my latest show for Macao (China) in Lint close to Antwerp. I spent a lot of time there in the last few months. The 80 young artists whom I hired for this spectacle and who came from all over the world spent fifteen months here. But they were all unanimous: Antwerp will always have a special place in their hearts."



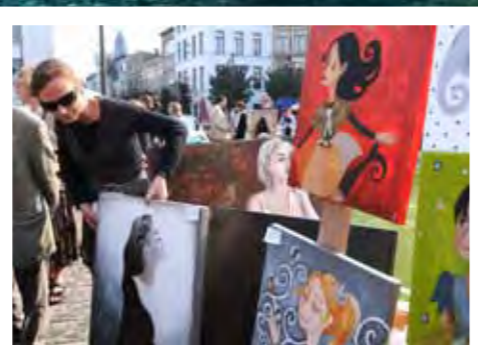
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THE MOST RECENT ART HARVEST

There is a lot going on in the shadow of those museums, where the greats of art history populate the walls. You will encounter about twenty art galleries in the streets of Antwerp's Zuid district. De Zwarte Panter is the oldest art gallery of Flanders; it opened its doors more than forty years ago, on the southern outskirts of the historic city centre. At the time, opening a gallery in Zuid was not an evident choice. Others like Tim Van Laere followed promptly, he opened his exhibition space opposite the Museum of Fine Arts. His gallery now has become a place for young contemporary art forms, in all their original varieties. The renowned Dutch designers, Job Smeets and Nynke Tynagel of Studio Job renovated an old cigar factory turning it into a chameleon space that serves as a gallery, meeting place and platform. On the first Thursday of the month, the galleries hold a nocturne or evening opening, the perfect time for some "gallery hopping" and the ideal way to discover the new work of various artists in a fun atmosphere.



CATCH YOUR BREATH IN THE SQUARE

Squares create space in a neighbourhood, space to live, to enjoy life, for sunbathing, to catch your breath, to watch each other... And Zuid has two very special squares. The most popular square is probably the square in front of the Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp | KMSKA, **Leopold de Waelplaats**. This is the place to see or be seen, as you stroll along the water fountain, sit in the sun on the steps of the museum or on a terrace of one of the many bars and restaurants. There is a larger square just a stone's throw away: the Gedempte Zuiderdokken (filled-in Southern docks) bordered by **Vlaamsekaai** and **Waalsekaai** respectively. Here too, the many restaurants and cafés beckon. Major events are regularly organised in this large square. The infamous Sinksenfoor (fun fair) occupies the square for six weeks after Whitsun. But Cirque du Soleil and the Chinese State Circus also like to pitch their tents here.

THE GOOD LIFE

You will never die of thirst or hunger in Zuid, that much is certain. It is undoubtedly the district with the highest concentration of restaurants, bars and cafés³ in the city and with new food concepts continuously springing up. The variety is huge: Belgian fare, cool Scandinavian cuisine with fresh fish, Italian delicacies or a touch of French cuisine.

You will be spoiled for choice here and you can even enjoy the splendid views of the Palace of Justice, if you head over to Bolivarplaats.

What's more, the local restaurants and cafes do not limit themselves to refreshing thirsty palates and filling empty stomachs. Artists from around the world are offered a platform at the Zuiderpershuis World Cultural Centre. The gigs in pubs around the Zuid district may be smaller, but no less enjoyable. Looking for a traditional rock pub or something more loungey? A literary café or a tapas bar? You won't need to search for long. There is something for everyone's taste in the colourful, ever-changing mix of established values and enthusiastic newcomers.



PETIT PARIS

Zuid is a vibrant neighbourhood, but it also has a stately feel to it. The broad avenues and squares were built during the World Fairs in 1885 and 1894 respectively. At the time, Zuid was a prosperous neighbourhood, which was often also called Petit Paris. Despite the beautiful architecture, the district became less popular over time. The neighbourhood has only been renovated and revalued in the last ten years. Luckily the facades were preserved, you can even see a few Art Nouveau designs here and there, like the striking 'Bootje', a beautiful house of a wealthy ship owner who had a boat built onto the bay window of his corner house, at the corner of Schildersstraat and Plaatsnijdersstraat. The Tropical Institute and the facade of the Steiner School in Volkstraat were built in the Art Deco and Art Nouveau styles respectively. More relics from bygone eras can be found in the antique and brocante stores along Kloosterstraat, also a favourite location for trendy new concept stores.

KATELIJNE DE BACKER

*art expert and director
of The Armory Show*

ANTWERP-BORN KATELIJNE DE BACKER HAS BEEN MANAGING THE LEADING NEW YORK ART FAIR, THE ARMORY SHOW, THE LARGEST CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR SEVERAL YEARS. BEFORE THIS SHE WORKED AT MTV. NOW SHE LIVES NEAR BROOKLYN BRIDGE IN NEW YORK, BUT SHE STILL REGULARLY RETURNS TO HER HOME PORT ON THE LEFT BANK TO VISIT FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

“Most New Yorkers know Antwerp, especially the fashion designers. “I’ve heard it’s really cool and trendy,” they usually say. When I’m in the city I like to take my friends on a tour: breakfast at Le Pain Quotidien (as New Yorkers call it) in Steenhouwersvest. Then it’s on to the Old City, the Fashion Museum and the galleries in Zuid. Followed by a beer at Hopper and a walk along the quays.”

“That’s what New York and Antwerp have in common: the amazing waterfront. In the last twenty years both of these cities have increasingly turned to the water. In the past, there used to be piers along the waterfront in New York, but you’d never see anybody there. Now a lot of bike paths and parks have been built around the city. The quays in Antwerp never were a hotspot either, but now there are more and more good restaurants. The only thing I miss is a beautiful park overlooking the river Scheldt. Antwerp is a very pleasant city to live in, whereas a city like Brussels, for example, is more of a city for work purposes.”

“Antwerp is known as the city by the river and certainly merits a title such as City of Art. Just look at Antwerp’s efforts as European Cultural Capital in 1993. There is so much art in this city: everywhere you look you can see old art, but there is also a lot going on in terms of contemporary art. Antwerp has very open views on art, which is a trait that I have cultivated in Antwerp. I’m also looking forward to the museum in the Eilandje district about the Red Star Line, the shipping company which ferried millions of Europeans from Antwerp to New York. Here in Ellis Island it is very touching to see archival footage of people who arrive on this big ship and who are then examined by a doctor. I would also like to see this side of Antwerp, of people who - like me, actually - left everything behind for a new future.”

*“There is so much art
in this city: everywhere
you look you can see old
art, but there is also a
lot going on in terms of
contemporary art.”*

BOB VAN REETH

*architect and Flemish
master builder*

BOB VAN REETH IS ONE OF THE INNOVATORS OF FLEMISH ARCHITECTURE. HIS BUILDING PROJECTS TRANSCEND THE MERELY FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS, BECAUSE HE ALSO PAYS ATTENTION TO THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. RESPECTING THE CONTINUITY OF THE AREA IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM. VAN REETH ATTEMPTS TO RESHAPE A CITY WITH THE PHYSICAL REALITY OF A BUILDING, AN URBAN ELEMENT, OR EVEN JUST THE LAYOUT OF A PUBLIC SPACE. HE MAKES CHANGES TO TRANSCEND THE PURELY PHYSICAL AND SPATIAL DIMENSIONS OF THE INTERVENTION. HE CREATES ARCHITECTURE WITH A SOUL.

“Town planning and architecture, two important aspects of a city, of which the young politicians in Antwerp are very aware. They are also decisive for the city’s lifespan. Just look at the new Palace of Justice, at MAS and the development of the Eilandje district. In the past there was a division between living and working. In the late 80s the population in the Cadix neighbourhood had dwindled to 500, now this neighbourhood is thriving, it’s an example of urban development, of which we can be proud. You never know in advance how a building or neighbourhood will evolve. Therefore, I make sure that buildings have a simple structure, which can be easily adapted to other interpretations. Today’s warehouse may be converted into a restaurant, or a theatre or a series of lofts tomorrow. The beauty of Antwerp is that historic buildings are still used, albeit for a different purpose.”

“There are two things I love about Antwerp, next to the Antwerp locals themselves. The first is our urban footprint. Antwerp is so easy to read: you draw the Scheldt and the main boulevards or Leien, and there you have it, that’s Antwerp. It’s impossible to get lost here. The construction of these Leien has given Antwerp a kind of identity: either you live within the Leien, or outside of them.”

“But the most impressive asset of Antwerp is always the Scheldt. The amount of space you have here is fantastic, it is impossible to ruin this. The quays will now be rebuilt, and that’s a good thing. When I built the Roosmalen House in 1985, all the buildings along the quays were dilapidated. Initially I did not realise it but the black and white stripes were in fact a maritime reference. I also incorporated the water in my design for Zuiderterras. Inside, there is always someone who can see the Scheldt, while the other person faces the wall. So I reversed this, and now everybody can enjoy the water.”

*“There are two things
I love about Antwerp:
our urban footprint
and the River Scheldt.”*

NEW LIFE BY THE RIVER

THE WIDE, SLOW-FLOWING RIVER SCHELDT IS IN FACT THE CRADLE OF ANTWERP AND IT IS STILL THE CITY'S LIFELINE. IN SUMMERTIME PEOPLE TRADITIONALLY HANG AROUND THE QUAYS, LEGS DANGLING OVER THE EDGE, WITH THE WATER BENEATH THEIR FEET. THE QUAYS ARE A FAVOURITE HAUNT OF LOCALS AND TOURISTS ALIKE. THE WATERFRONT IS A GREAT PLACE TO WHILE AWAY THE TIME WITH A VIEW OF THE PASSING BOATS, THE CRUISE SHIPS THAT HAVE MOORED AT THE TERMINAL, THE GREEN TREES ON THE LEFT BANK AND THE AMAZING ARCHITECTURAL GEMS ALONG THE QUAYS. ANYONE STROLLING NORTHWARDS ALONG THE SCHELDT FROM THE CITY CENTRE WILL AUTOMATICALLY END UP IN THE EILANDJE DISTRICT. HERE THE BRAND-NEW MAS | MUSEUM AAN DE STROOM RISES UP OVER THE HOUSES LIKE A BEACON OF INNOVATION (OPEN FROM 17 MAY 2011).

A WAVE OF INNOVATION IN THE EILANDJE DISTRICT

The new wind of change in Eilandje also brought a marina to the area, with moorings for 250 yachts. The **Felix warehouse**¹ was thoroughly renovated to accommodate the municipal archives and a nice restaurant. One of the finest Renaissance buildings in Antwerp, the **Hessenhuis**, has now been restored to all its glory, comprising an exhibition space, a café and a restaurant. Furthermore, the old **Red Star Line** buildings will reopen their doors as a museum in 2012 reflecting on the stories of the shipping line and its passengers who migrated to America. The Royal Ballet of Flanders has also permanently moved to the Eilandje district. But the change does not stop there: cosy restaurants, lounge bars, swinging pubs and summer terraces now also populate the district. All within walking distance of the city centre, overlooking the water and the world's sixth largest port.

THE NEW NORTH

Another fine example of urban renewal can be found in the north of the city, only a five-minute walk from Eilandje: **Park Spoor Noord**². What used to be an old and decrepit railway marshalling yard has been transformed into a beautiful, contemporary landscaped park with trees, lawns, playgrounds, a fascinating pool and a renovated shelter. In short, there is plenty of space for greenery and recreation in this new attraction. A stone's throw away you will find **Extra City**, a new centre for contemporary art, which has opened its doors to the public in an industrial complex. Both initiatives have helped breathe new life into a neighbourhood, which, in recent years, was overlooked to some extent.

A WORLD PORT BY NIGHT

If you have a few hours during your trip in Antwerp, why not take a **boat trip**³ along the Scheldt? You can choose between a short trip along the quays, with a view of Eilandje⁴ in the north of the city and further south of the hangars and Antwerp's innovative architecture. If you prefer a longer trip, then you can explore Antwerp's port. Find out more about the activities of the second largest port in Europe while you learn more about its millennial history. The **port cruise** is even more enjoyable at night when the industrious port lights up the sky.



ARCHITECTURAL GEM BY THE RIVER

The architects of the newest tower building in Antwerp, the 60-metre high **MAS**, drew their inspiration from the sixteenth-century warehouses, which are so typical of this port city. They stacked the 'museum boxes' in the form of a vertical boulevard. As you walk up, your view of the city will continuously change and at your feet you can make out the beautiful Museumplein and the wide river. MAS is home to a series of diverse collections in the field of ethnography, folklore and shipping. MAS thus symbolises a new lease on life for Eilandje district.

In 2012 the **OLYMPIC FLAG** will be flying in London, in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro and before this it also travelled to Athens (2004), Beijing (2008) and many other large cities. But where was the Olympic flag raised for the first time? That's right, in Antwerp on the occasion of the 1920 Olympics.



NISHIT PARIKH

diamond trader

NISHIT PARIKH, WHO HAILS FROM INDIA, ARRIVED IN ANTWERP WITH HIS FATHER IN 1975. PARIKH LEARNED ALL ABOUT THE TRADE FROM HIS FATHER, WHO WORKED IN THE DIAMOND INDUSTRY, WHILE STUDYING AT THE ANTWERP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND THEN IN PARIS. TODAY PARIKH PRESIDES OVER THE ANTWERP WORLD DIAMOND CENTRE AND IS THE CEO OF DIAROUGH, WHICH HAS 50 EMPLOYEES AND OWNS DIAMOND POLISHING FACTORIES IN INDIA, THAILAND, BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA AND CANADA.

“When people ask me where I’m from, I always answer Antwerp. My culture and my background may be Indian, but Antwerp is my home. I know every corner of the city, the best restaurants where you can eat after 11 p.m. at night. After 35 years of living here, I know this city inside out. The best part about Antwerp is that people are so open-minded: I’ve been living here for all this time and I still do not speak Dutch, but nobody really cares. I don’t have a knack for languages, just give me a Sudoku instead. I’m really good with numbers.”

“My American customers love it here. And why shouldn’t they: Antwerp has some of the best restaurants in the world and everything is within walking distance. There are good business hotels, you can visit many interesting museums and you’re in the heart of Europe. This aspect is invaluable in the diamond business. Not only because of the accessibility but also because you can trade with almost every time zone in the world, from Tokyo to Los Angeles. When you live in Hong Kong and you want to sell a rough diamond to an American, you will have no choice but to wake up in the middle of the night to do so.”

26 “How many cities do you know where you can take an evening stroll around the park and have a chat with your neighbour? I don’t know a single one. I live in a green area, a fifteen-minute drive from the city centre, isn’t that amazing? There’s something cosy and homely about Antwerp, which I really like. At the same time, despite Antwerp being a small city, there are stores of all the leading brands in London and Paris here too. Here you will only find the best, whether it be art, fashion, food or anything else. There may be less of it, but the quality is all the more impressive.”

“In Antwerp you will only find the best, whether it be art, fashion, food or anything else. There may be less of it, but the quality is all the more impressive.”



WOUTERS&HENDRIX

jewellery designers

KATRIN WOUTERS AND KAREN HENDRIX BOTH STUDIED SILVERSMITHING AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS IN ANTWERP. THE TWO FRIENDS HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER FOR OVER 25 YEARS, IN THEIR STUDIO IN THE CITY CENTRE. HERE THEY CREATE JEWELLERY WHICH EXUDES EMOTIONS AND CONTRIBUTES SOMETHING TO YOUR LIFE. OFTEN CUSTOMERS WILL SAY THAT IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT AS THEY STEPPED INTO THE WOUTERS & HENDRIX STORE. EACH OF THEIR TRADITIONALLY CRAFTED JEWELS IS A GOOD INVESTMENT, BECAUSE THEY CREATE TIMELESS AND REFINED COLLECTIONS. THE EPITOME OF INDULGENCE.

“We have lost our hearts to Antwerp. The city is still small enough to know everyone. In Antwerp you can get to the other side of the city on foot or by bicycle. Here all the designers really influence and stimulate each other. I’m addicted to the Saturday Market. Graanmarkt is my favourite square in Antwerp. It is very pretty and quiet, with nice cafes. Then, of course, there is the diamond district. On Friday night you can see the Orthodox Jewish community near the municipal park in their Sabbath finery. All these cultures living together make Antwerp an irresistibly fascinating city.” - Karen Hendrix -

“Antwerp is a city where the neighbourhoods are continuously changing. A really nice neighbourhood is the neighbourhood around Sint-Jansplein. With the recently built Park Spoor Noord, which is such a fun place to go. The renovated Art Deco bathhouse in Veldstraat is also an absolute must. And of course all the places where you can see the Scheldt always have that extra dimension. I regularly take the retro wooden escalators in the pedestrian tunnel under the river to the Left Bank for a Bolleke in a cafe with a view of the cathedral. Our environment also influences our designs. We visit museums and walk through the city. In the past we were inspired by the motifs of the Art Deco mosaics on the arches of Central Station for one of our collections. We try to distinguish ourselves from mass production, by doing as much as possible ourselves. We work with local craftsmen such as diamond dealers and engravers. This allows us to maintain our individuality and keeps the prices of our jewellery affordable.” - Katrin Wouters -

“If I could make a jewel that symbolises Antwerp, it would be something that can be flipped open, with hinges. A jewel that can be transformed. Something dynamic, like the city itself.”

- Katrin Wouters -



THE WHOLE WORLD IN ONE LIVELY NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Japanese love luxury pastries and fine chocolates, so a visit to one of the four DEL REY PATISSIERS in Japan is usually a real treat! But where are Del Rey's headquarters? In Antwerp, of course. Since the late 1940s Del Rey's store is a paradise for people with a sweet tooth. Today Del Rey dispatches chocolate treats⁴ all over the world, which can be easily ordered online.



THE RAILWAY CATHEDRAL

The eye-catcher in this square has to be the magnificent **Central Station**¹ itself, which has been restored to its former splendour after years of renovations. The Antwerp locals call Central Station their "Railway Cathedral" and Newsweek magazine even called it the fourth most beautiful station in the world. Amazingly, this landmark was saved in the nick of time from demolition in 1975. Decades of renovation and expansion followed: now the high-speed train travels under the station. Because of this, Antwerp is even easier to reach from all corners of the continent.

A ZOO BRIMMING WITH NOSTALGIA AND NEW LIFE

The Antwerp Zoo⁵ is one of the oldest zoos in the world and has appealed to the imagination of its visitors for over 160 years. No fewer than 5,000 exotic creatures live here. Some of them even reside in beautiful, historic buildings. Visit the new hippo enclosure, an elephant palace, the arctic Vriesland for the penguins and a landscaped enclosure for the bears. The Zoo is an annual must for people of all ages from all over the country and every time the Zoo welcomes a new-born, its fans are quick to visit.



28

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AROUND THE STATION IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL PLACE, IN EVERY CITY: IT MAY BE A MEETING PLACE, BUT ALSO A VIBRANT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT. BUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AROUND ANTWERP'S CENTRAL STATION HAS A FEW ADDITIONAL ASSETS. BECAUSE AROUND THE RECENTLY REFURBISHED KONINGIN ASTRIDPLEIN YOU WILL FIND CENTRAL STATION, AS WELL AS THE ZOO, THE DIAMOND MUSEUM AND AQUATOPIA. BEHIND THE STATION LIES THE WORLD-FAMOUS DIAMOND DISTRICT. AND TO THE SIDE OF IT, THE ELEGANT DE KEYSERLEI BOULEVARD CONNECTS WITH MEIR, TOWARDS THE HISTORIC CITY CENTRE.

THE WORLD DIAMOND CENTRE

Antwerp was already a world diamond centre in the fifteenth century. Today 85% of all rough diamonds in the world are traded here as well as about half of all cut and industrial diamonds. This is done in one of the four diamond exchanges. This is quite remarkable given that there are only 29 diamond exchanges worldwide.

The **Diamond Museum**, located in a beautiful historic building, highlights the history of this special district and of diamond jewellery from the sixteenth century to the present. Here you will also learn more about how diamonds are cut and polished and you can also visit one of the temporary exhibitions. If you are interested in seeing diamond cutters, setters and goldsmiths at work then go to the Diamondland² showroom. And then, of course, there are the many diamond jewellers and designers, which make the city so interesting.



3

THE LIVELY NEIGHBOURHOOD AROUND THE STATION

The neighbourhood around Central Station has to be one of the liveliest neighbourhoods of the city. Especially now that Central Station and Koningin Astridplein have undergone a welcome facelift the neighbourhood once again attracts visitors.

Dive into the neighbourhood via De Keyserlei, as you exit Central Station through the side entrance. Along the boulevard you will discover a mix of convivial terraces, exclusive jewellers, shoe stores and several covered shopping arcades. In the side streets, such as Quellinstraat and Frankrijklei, you can also shop the collections of internationally renowned fashion designers and check out some prestigious interior design stores. Once this was a rather posh neighbourhood, as you can see from some of the establishments including stylish restaurants and nostalgic Grand Cafés, which are ideal for a quick break and a coffee in grandiose surroundings, next to the Zoo. Another tip: opposite Central Station, in Van Wesenbekestraat, you will find Antwerp's **China Town** with a slew of Asian shops and supermarkets. It is easy to recognise, thanks to the colourful **pagoda gate**³. The restaurants here serve authentic Chinese cuisine and are very popular with the Asian population of Antwerp and far beyond.



ANTWERP, A CITY WHICH COMBINES BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

From Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, Shakira, Alicia Keys, Lady Gaga to Guns N 'Roses and Massive Attack...they have all performed on the stage of SPORTPALEIS on the outskirts of Antwerp. No wonder that the American Pollstar magazine proclaimed Sportpaleis to be the third most popular concert hall in the world.



UNIQUE LOCATIONS IN A HISTORICAL SETTING

Thanks to its excellent location and strong meeting offer, Antwerp is the second largest convention city in Belgium, making it the ideal meeting place for all your meetings and conferences. Throughout the city you will find unique and beautiful locations that are equipped with everything you need and specialised companies will do everything to meet your every need. What better way to combine business with pleasure?

A meeting with a view of the city² and the water? Why not! Stuurboord, the Barcelona Room, the Felix warehouse³ and the new MAS | Museum Aan de Stroom, will give you a warm welcome. You will experience first-hand that we are a city by the river when you book one of our boats for a trip around the port¹. Our hotels also offer the perfect accommodation for meetings with good food, meetings and entertainment gathered under one roof.

Or are you more interested in a meeting in a historic setting? Antwerp is teeming with buildings that have a history. Not only museums but places where you can enjoy the charm of yesteryear, with all the mod cons. How about the Town Hall, Elzenveld, the Happaerts House or even the Paleis op de Meir? Architectural gems such as the Horta complex or the Design Center | De Winkelhaak will gladly take care of all your needs.

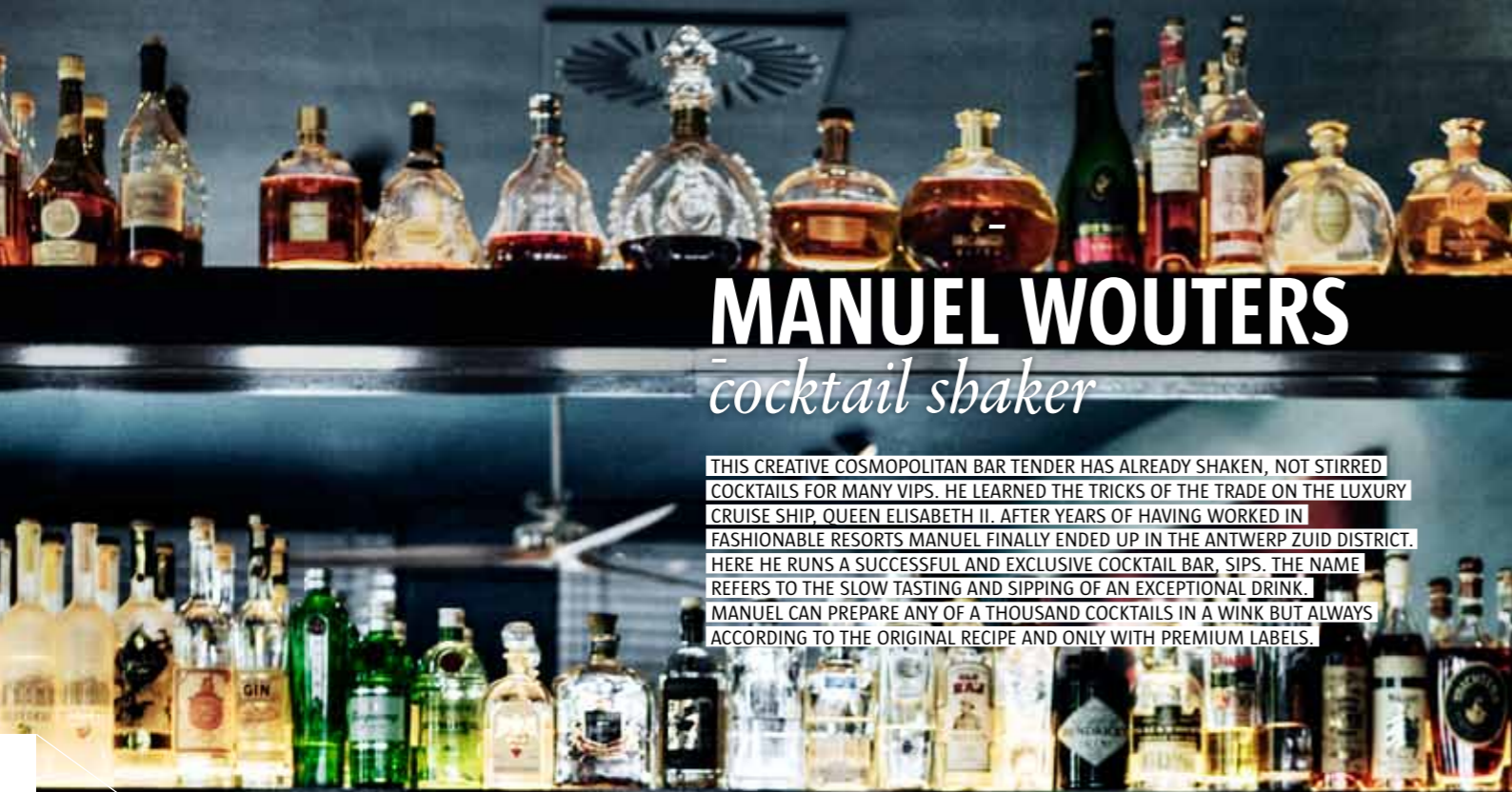


If you are organising a major event, then we prefer to refer you to Antwerp Expo, Waagnatie or the Lotto Arena near Sportpaleis. These spacious events halls are perfectly equipped for large exhibitions and conferences. And finally, Antwerp will be opening a brand-new convention centre in 2015, which can host up to 2,000 participants. A unique property in a prime location: next to Central Station.

Antwerp is the city of fashion, diamonds and Rubens, situated along the wide River Scheldt. Four assets, which conference participants can make the most of during workshops, incentives and activities before, during or after the congress.

ANTWERP TOURISM & CONVENTION, OR ATC, ADVISES AND PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS. WE KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT ANTWERP'S VENUES FOR MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND INCENTIVES AND WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR SEARCH FOR AN ORIGINAL OR THEME-ORIENTED ACCOMMODATION. WE ALSO LIKE TO HELP YOU WITH ACTIVITIES BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER YOUR CONFERENCE AND WILL GLADLY PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH PROFESSIONAL EVENT AGENCIES. WHAT'S MORE, WE HAVE A HOST OF INFORMATIVE BROCHURES AND INFORMATION ABOUT EVERY ASPECT OF ANTWERP. SO TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.ANTWERPEN.BE/VISIT AND CLICK THROUGH TO MEETINGS.





MANUEL WOUTERS

cocktail shaker

THIS CREATIVE COSMOPOLITAN BAR TENDER HAS ALREADY SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED COCKTAILS FOR MANY VIPS. HE LEARNED THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE ON THE LUXURY CRUISE SHIP, QUEEN ELISABETH II. AFTER YEARS OF HAVING WORKED IN FASHIONABLE RESORTS MANUEL FINALLY ENDED UP IN THE ANTWERP ZUID DISTRICT. HERE HE RUNS A SUCCESSFUL AND EXCLUSIVE COCKTAIL BAR, SIPS. THE NAME REFERS TO THE SLOW TASTING AND SIPPING OF AN EXCEPTIONAL DRINK. MANUEL CAN PREPARE ANY OF A THOUSAND COCKTAILS IN A WINK BUT ALWAYS ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL RECIPE AND ONLY WITH PREMIUM LABELS.

“Antwerp really is a pioneer when it comes to gastronomy.”



32 “Antwerp really is a pioneer when it comes to gastronomy. We like the good life, we love good food and there’s plenty to choose from, especially here in Zuid. I am also a member of the Flemish Primitives, a group of world-famous chefs who experiment with food and flavours. We focus on food pairing, on combining flavours in different ways. For example, we may think that the combination of tomato and shrimp is perfectly normal, but Professor Lahousse, who thought of the project, for example, feels that strawberry and shrimp are perfectly suited for each other.”

“Fortunately, in a city like Antwerp, there is a lot of margin for experiments. Obviously you have to educate your audience. Some people know nothing about cocktails, but the art is to be able to

find out what they prefer: what do they like to drink? Do they like sour, sweet or bitter? And so on. I do not limit myself to the popular mixes such as mojitos and caipirinhas. My cocktail list, for example, includes a cocktail with Brussels endives, pomegranate juice and honey. This is a bitter cocktail which opens up your stomach during the aperitif. Another one is based on Bourbon. We soak pancetta in this bourbon for fourteen days, which gives it a salty flavour and then add old vermouth and caramel, coriander and shaved lemons. Of course you cannot only serve this type of cocktail or you might as well close your doors. But people in Antwerp don’t mind experiments, provided they are well informed. It’s no wonder that new food and catering concepts are developed here, especially in the Zuid district: Antwerp is a perfect test case for pilot projects in the hospitality industry.”



ROGER VAN DAMME

masterchef and culinary artist

EVERY DAY ROGER VAN DAMME CREATES ENCHANTING DISHES WITH NEW FLAVOURS AND TEXTURES. LIKE NO OTHER HE KNOWS HOW TO COMBINE CULINARY TECHNOLOGY WITH FINESSE AND COMPLEXITY. GAULT MILLLAU ELECTED THE CREATIVE ANTWERP CHEF OF HET GEBAAAR THE “2010 CHEF OF THE YEAR”. AND HE IS KNOWN IN BELGIUM AND BEYOND FOR HIS MOLECULAR INVENTIVENESS. SOON HE WILL BE LAUNCHING HIS OWN ROGER DESSERT LINE IN JAPAN. ROGER VAN DAMME HAS RAISED HIS CUISINE TO THE LEVEL OF PURE ART IN 2010 FOR WHICH HE WAS AWARDED A MICHELIN STAR.

“This city is also a culinary trendsetter. New culinary concepts are constantly tested here. A new concept which fails here will fail anywhere.”

“As a child I always dreamt of a restaurant in Antwerp. I come from Sluis and started my career in Noordwijk. Even in Zeeland Flanders Antwerp is considered the cultural-culinary capital. Today I call myself a Zeeland Antwerp local, and I’m proud of this.”

“There are so many things in this city that inspire and energise me. A stroll through the Botanical Garden may give me ideas for new herb combinations. Hanging over the railing along the quays gives me the same amount of energy as one week of vacation. I love the atmosphere of Antwerp’s China Town and regularly explore the stores in search of new products. But the happy faces around the city also energise me.”

“The culinary offer in Antwerp is unparalleled and diverse. All the cuisines of the world are represented here in a very qualitative way. We have great Japanese restaurants, classic Michelin-star restaurants, the best world cuisine, trendy coffee bars, original lunch concepts, and even the perfect chip shop. There’s something of everything, within easy reach and what’s more, it’s affordable. That is quite unique.”

“This city is also a culinary trendsetter. People are always testing innovative culinary concepts here, the public really likes new experiences. This gives us the opportunity to grow and to continue to innovate. A new concept which fails here will fail anywhere.”

“Food is a total experience and I create taste experiences. A beautifully dressed plate is like a highly personal artwork. If I draw a line it must not only taste right but also have the right relief and the right depth. Everything has to be just right. I want my audience to understand what I make. Ravioli filled with praliné in a soup of passion? If you do not provide a word of explanation, then people may lose interest. I think that a dish, which tastes and looks right, is pure art.”

48 HOURS IN ANTWERP IN SUMMERTIME

Day 1

SATURDAY

09.00 a.m.

You will have to fight for a spot on a sunny terrace around Vrijdagmarkt, but it's definitely worth eating a delicious breakfast bun here in one of the tiny cosy eateries. On Friday morning a flea market is held in the square, selling bikes and old furniture, although we do admit that you may have a difficult time to fit this into your luggage.

10.00 a.m.

After your morning coffee, enter the **Museum Plantin-Moretus/Prints Room**¹, the museum of the first printer and also the only museum worldwide with UNESCO World Heritage status. The historical sixteenth-century printing house has been well-preserved, and in the beautiful library you will also find a number of unique specimens, including a Gutenberg Bible. Don't forget to take a stroll around the picturesque courtyard of the museum after all these typographic wonders.



10.45 a.m.

Walk towards the trendy shops in Kammenstraat, the place to go in Antwerp to shop all the new up-and-coming brands with a rock'n'roll attitude. Be inspired by the **window displays**² and enjoy a refreshing smoothie on a terrace on the corner of Kammenstraat.

Antwerp has a reputation to uphold in terms of fashion. So you won't only find shops here but also the **Fashion Museum**³ (MoMu for the in-crowd) with historic nineteenth-century costumes and ball gowns, but which will also take you on a tour of twentieth-century fashion history with creations by designers such as Dries Van Noten. The Dries Van Noten flagship store and the stores of many other prominent designers can be found along Nationalestraat.

12.30 p.m.

Need a break? Then walk over to the lovely **Botanical Garden**⁴ in Leopoldstraat without having to leave the city centre. It's like stepping into an exotic paradise full of strange greenery, and you can also enjoy a delicious lunch here, because in the tiny gardener's cottage next to the entrance you will find Het Gebaar, a Michelin-starred lunch restaurant. Well hidden, but still world famous, because this is where Roger Van Damme runs the kitchen. He combines the strangest flavours into pure indulgence, but don't be surprised if you are served sponge cake with a young Gouda sauce.



02.00 p.m.

Time to explore the other side of the Antwerp Leien. Take tram 8 to Zurenborg for a walk down **Cogels-Osylei**⁵, without a doubt the most beautiful street in Antwerp. Once upon a time, this neighbourhood was dilapidated, but now the splendour of the fabulous Art Nouveau mansions has been beautifully restored. As you continue your walk you will find yourself in Draakplaats, which is cleaved in half by the railway bridge. There are some cosy terraces around the square where you can stop for a tea or coffee break.

04.00 p.m.

If you are not ready to head into the bustling city centre just yet, then take bus 21 to **Middelheim Park**⁶, one of the few open-air sculpture museums in Europe. Lay down in the grass, surrounded by some beautiful statues. The park is actually an open-air museum with more than 200 sculptures where you can catch your breath and read a book.

06.00 p.m.

Head back into town with bus 17 for a walk around the Schipperskwartier around Falconplein. The former red light district of Antwerp has now been 'swept clean' as locals say. During the day there is a student-like atmosphere, in the evening things may become a bit noisier.



08.00 p.m.

You can also enjoy an excellent meal nearby, for example in Veemarkt, the place to go for classic cuisine, which serves Belgian-French cuisine without too many frills, but with a lot of flavour. Unless you really want to stay in the maritime atmosphere... then walk over to one of the restaurants along the quays where chefs serve seafood, in all sizes, colours and weights. Just what you need before one last evening walk along the **quays**⁷, overlooking the famous lights of the Scheldt. Need a last drink? Then walk past Het Havenmeisje in Rijnkaai, one of the sculptures by Eugène Van Mieghem towards **Eilandje**⁸ where you can take your pick from one of the many summer bars.

10.00 p.m.

Dive into Antwerp's nightlife if you want to dance the night away. The possibilities are endless, but a few clubs that stand out are the alternative clubs, Petrol and Scheldt'apen on the south quays as well as **nightclubs**⁹ such as Cafe d'Anvers, Red & Blue and Noxx, which attract well-known DJs. The locals will direct you to the best parties!



SUNDAY

09.00 a.m.

Rent a **bike**¹⁰ and peddle from your hotel to Wapper, near the **Rubens House**¹¹, for a luxurious Sunday breakfast with a glass of champagne. Digest your breakfast as you stroll through **Vogelenmarkt**¹² and enjoy the typical Sunday market atmosphere.

10.30 a.m.

After this copious breakfast you will be ready to visit the Museum Mayer van den Bergh, which houses Fritz Mayer van den Bergh's collection. He single-handedly collected a whole museum full of masterpieces from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Stained glass windows, tapestries, paintings... We now know that Fritz had impeccable taste.

11.30 a.m.

Hop on your bike and rush to Veldstraat, the most beautiful pool in the region, for some laps or relax in one of the herbal baths, steam baths or the hammam.

01.00 p.m.

You are now near **Park Spoor Noord**¹³, the perfect spot for a picnic in the sun. Did you not pack a picnic basket before leaving? No problem, because you can



Day 2

always pick up a take-away picnic basket in Damplein. Also good to know: if you've just woken up, because you danced the night away, they also serve a hangover breakfast here, with or without aspirin.

02.30 p.m.

Yesterday you already crossed the Leien but there is always something going on on the other side of the River Scheldt too. The Left Bank, or **Linkeroever**¹⁴ is the often forgotten, somewhat nostalgic part



of Antwerp, where you can sip a glass of lemonade on the beach of Sint-Anne. Hang around, enjoy the sun, watch the boats sail by and then stop at your hotel or bed & breakfast, as you return to the city centre through the beautiful **pedestrian tunnel**¹⁵, to freshen up.



06.00 p.m.

Choices, choices... It's so hard to choose from the bars and restaurants in Zuid, because there are so many of them and wherever you turn you smell grilled prawns, garlic and fresh vegetables. Enjoy dishes with an exotic touch while overlooking the **Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp** | KMSKA¹⁶.

08.00 p.m.

During the Summer of Antwerp, a festival that takes over the entire city and which, each year, brings more culture to the city, you can attend any of the many events scheduled. Concerts, street theatre, film, circus and much more. Every local likes to end the evening with a view of the sunset on a **terrace**¹⁷ in Zuid or along the waterfront. Good people-watching over a cocktail.



48 HOURS IN ANTWERP IN WINTERTIME

Day 1

SATURDAY

09.00 a.m.

Breakfast always tastes better when you do not have to prepare it yourself, for example in Wolstraat. Enjoy a croissant and a hot chocolate and read your newspaper after which you are ready to head into the city centre.

10.00 a.m.

It's still early; this is the perfect time to admire the Baroque splendour of **St Charles Borromeo Church**¹ in lovely **Conscienceplein**². One of the amazing features of this church is the mechanism above the altar, which still functions, enabling the deacon to switch around the paintings over the altar, an impressive spectacle. Once outside, check out the fun stores in Wijngaardstraat as you walk towards **Grote Markt**³.

10.30 a.m.

If you are interested in finding out more about the stately facades of the Guild Houses and about Brabo, the young man who has been frozen in time as he elegantly lobbed the giant's hand into the Scheldt, then walk over to the Antwerp Tourism & Convention visitor centre. But you can also ask a passer-by as you sip a **Bolleke**⁴ in one of the many traditional pubs around the square, which are populated by locals and politicians from the nearby Town Hall.

From the traditional pub back to architectural grandeur: after a Bolleke the Cathedral of Our Lady looks even more impressive. Here you will come face to face with the great masterpieces of Rubens. Walk past Groenplaats and Boerentoren and then make your way to Meir, a succession of large chain stores which have set up shop in a series of beautiful houses. One of the eye-catchers along Meir is the former Royal Palace 'Paleis op de Meir', the old Rococo retreat of our royal family, and before that of Napoleon. Now you can buy delicious addictively chocolates here. For more Rubens walk around the corner into Wapper, where the walls

of the flamboyant Rubens House are covered with artworks and where you can see how the master himself lived.

01.00 p.m.

All this history will have made you hungry. Fortunately, Antwerp's palaces are quite democratic: You can look, you can even touch and what's more you can also eat here. The traces of the grandeur of the past are still evident in the foyer of the **Bourla Theatre**⁵, but now you can also sit down to a delicious lunch here.

02.00 p.m.

In Antwerp old artworks are harmoniously juxtaposed with trendy stores. **Wilde Zee**⁶, the area around Schuttershofstraat and Huidevettersstraat, is the place to discover authentic Antwerp craftsmanship. Shop in the many **small stores**⁷ where you can buy a pair of designer shoes or a beautiful jewel, before warming up in a vegetarian eatery.

05.30 p.m.

Time for an aperitif, in one of the cafes in Mechelseplein, before walking over to the **Scheldt quays**⁸

for a breath-taking view of the river and the Left Bank. If you prefer to stay out of the wind, then seek cover in **Zuiderterras**⁹, which is moored along the quay like a ship. **Bob Van Reeth's**¹⁰ architecture and the menu are inspired by the water outside: lots of fish, shrimp croquettes and other delicious seafood. Wash it all down with a beer in one of Antwerp's legendary **music cafes**¹¹: Hopper is a classic, as are Muze and Buster. Feel free to follow your intuition, the city is full of life and the places you discover and explore yourself are always the places you will remember in a city.



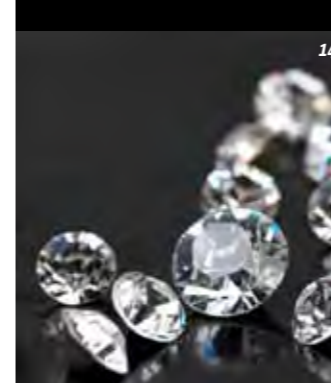
SUNDAY

09.30 a.m.

If you're not in the mood to hang around the hotel, then why not take a relaxing walk near **Central Station**¹²? Even if you're not going anywhere on a train, just enter the station and admire Antwerp's railway cathedral. The trains are like toys against the backdrop of this enormous building, which Newsweek named the fourth most beautiful station in the world. Every Antwerp local is proud of it.

10.30 a.m.

Central Station is located in the centre of the diamond district, formerly run by Jews¹³, but now mostly run by Indians. Every window display is sparkling with expensive jewellery, but the **Diamond Museum**¹⁴ still has the finest collection. There's more to this museum than the bling factor: the Diamond Museum shows film and sound clips, a host of ancient tools for diamond cutting and polishing and much more. Then head over to the station buffet in Central Station and admire the gilt decorations as you sip your coffee.



12.00 a.m.

Stroll along De Keyserlei and take tram 12 to Bolivarplaats. From a distance you can already see the distinctive wings, or gabled roofs of the brand-new **Palace of Justice**¹⁵ sparkle in the sun. Slightly less striking but just as impressive is the architecture of **M HKA**¹⁶, the museum of contemporary art, which lurks behind high white walls in the Zuid district. End your visit with a pit stop at the M HKA FE on the fourth floor for a healthy lunch. With a little luck you can enjoy the sun on the large roof terrace.

01.30 p.m.

The elite of Antwerp's artists in recent years seem to have converged in Zuid. Besides M HKA you will also find **FoMu**¹⁷, short for Photo Museum, here, as well as a host of art galleries. Zuid with its bars and trendy shops is considered to be Antwerp's trendiest neighbourhood and therefore is the place for spotting famous locals.

03.30 p.m.

Walk past the antiques and design shops in Kloosterstraat (keep an eye out for design from the fifties and sixties!) and you will find yourself in the hip part of town, where concept stores are springing up like mushrooms. Most of the shops in this neighbourhood



are also open on Sunday. Then walk towards Oude Koormarkt through **Vlaeykengang**¹⁸. After all the hip artists, this alley transports you back in time to the Middle Ages.

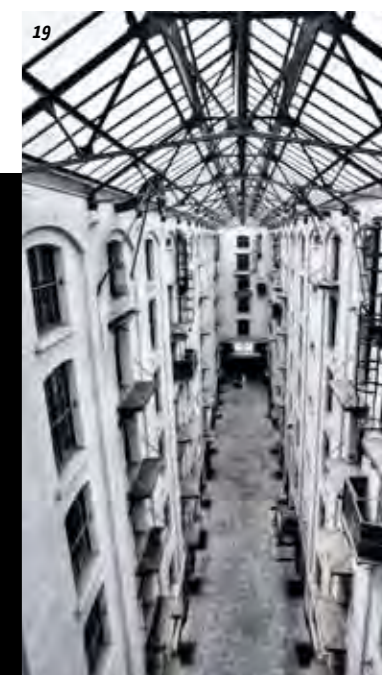
05.00 p.m.

The perfect time for some sustenance, preferably the kind with a lot of sugar and cream, like the delicious cakes in the window display of the old milk house in Oude Koormarkt. You can also have lunch or dinner here but who can resist the lure of delicious pastry? Or as the owners say: droolworthy.

06.00 p.m.

Leave the cosy warmth of the bakery behind you and walk over to Eilandje, which is waiting to be explored. In recent years a lot of good restaurants

and pubs opened their doors here. Walk through the Red Light District to the **Felix warehouse**¹⁹, which now houses the municipal archives. Cross through Binnenstraatje and you will find yourself near Willemdok, the oldest dock in Antwerp. From here you can see **MAS**²⁰, a stately museum tower, which will open on 17 May 2011 from which time you will be able to enjoy some breath-taking views of the city and its river.



ANTWERP TOURISM & CONVENTION

WE PROVIDE FREE ADVICE ABOUT:

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WE ARE IN CHARGE OF TICKETING AMONG OTHERS FOR

- the Ruien | vaulted canals
- MAS
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- the Paleis op de Meir

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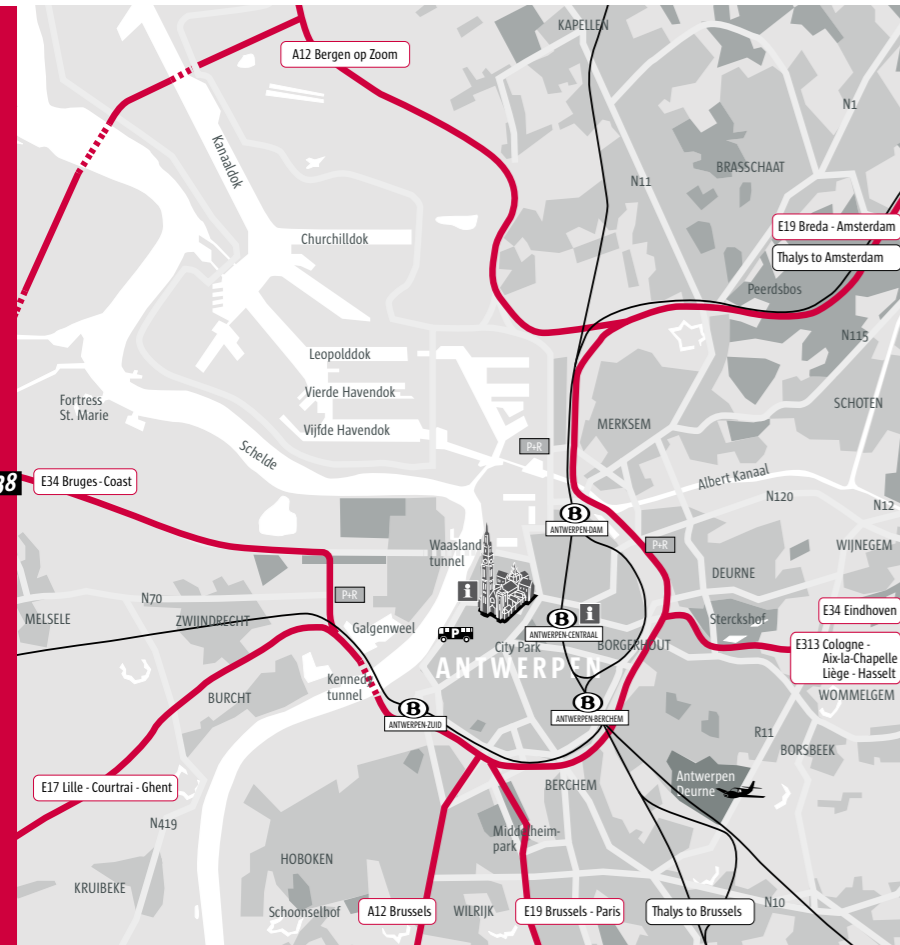
- a professional city guide or museum guide
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- general and thematic map of the city
- accommodation guide
- guide brochure
- events calendar
- a range of walking guides and cycling maps
- the Antwerp City Card

VISITOR CENTRE

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GETTING TO AND FROM ANTWERP

Antwerp is easy to reach, regardless of where you're coming from. Once arrived, the city is easy to explore by bike, public transport and even on foot.

BY PLANE

Deurne Airport, with flights to and from the United Kingdom, is situated near Antwerp. Brussels Airport and Brussels South Charleroi Airport are easy to reach by train.

BY TRAIN

The international express train Thalys stops in Antwerp and connects the city with Amsterdam and Paris. Many international and intercity trains also stop in Antwerp.

BY CAR

You can easily travel to Antwerp by car via the A12, E17, E19, E313 and E34 motorways.

BY BUS OR TRAM

The buses and trams of public transport company De Lijn will quickly take you from one end of the city to the other. Buy a ten-journey card at the station or in any newspaper shop.

BY BIKE

Rent a bike while staying in the city.
All information at www.antwerpen.be/visit.

Antwerp City Card



Live the Antwerp way of life



MAS - 2011



MoMu - 2002



Central Station - 1905



Rubens' House - 1610



COLOPHON

The image magazine "Antwerp, city of art" is a publication of the city of Antwerp and Antwerp Tourism & Convention. This magazine was edited with great care. Antwerp Tourism & Convention cannot be held responsible for printing errors or changes. No part of this publication may be used by third parties without prior written consent of Antwerp Tourism & Convention.

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The Antwerp City Card is your key to discovering Antwerp and its treasures over a 48-hour period. The card not only offers a significant discount, but will let you experience the real Antwerp: a historic yet vibrant city at the crossroads of old and new, the home of Baroque painter Rubens, the Belgian fashion capital, with some amazing shopping streets, the diamond capital of the world, a port city which loves the good life. The Antwerp City Card has all that and much more.

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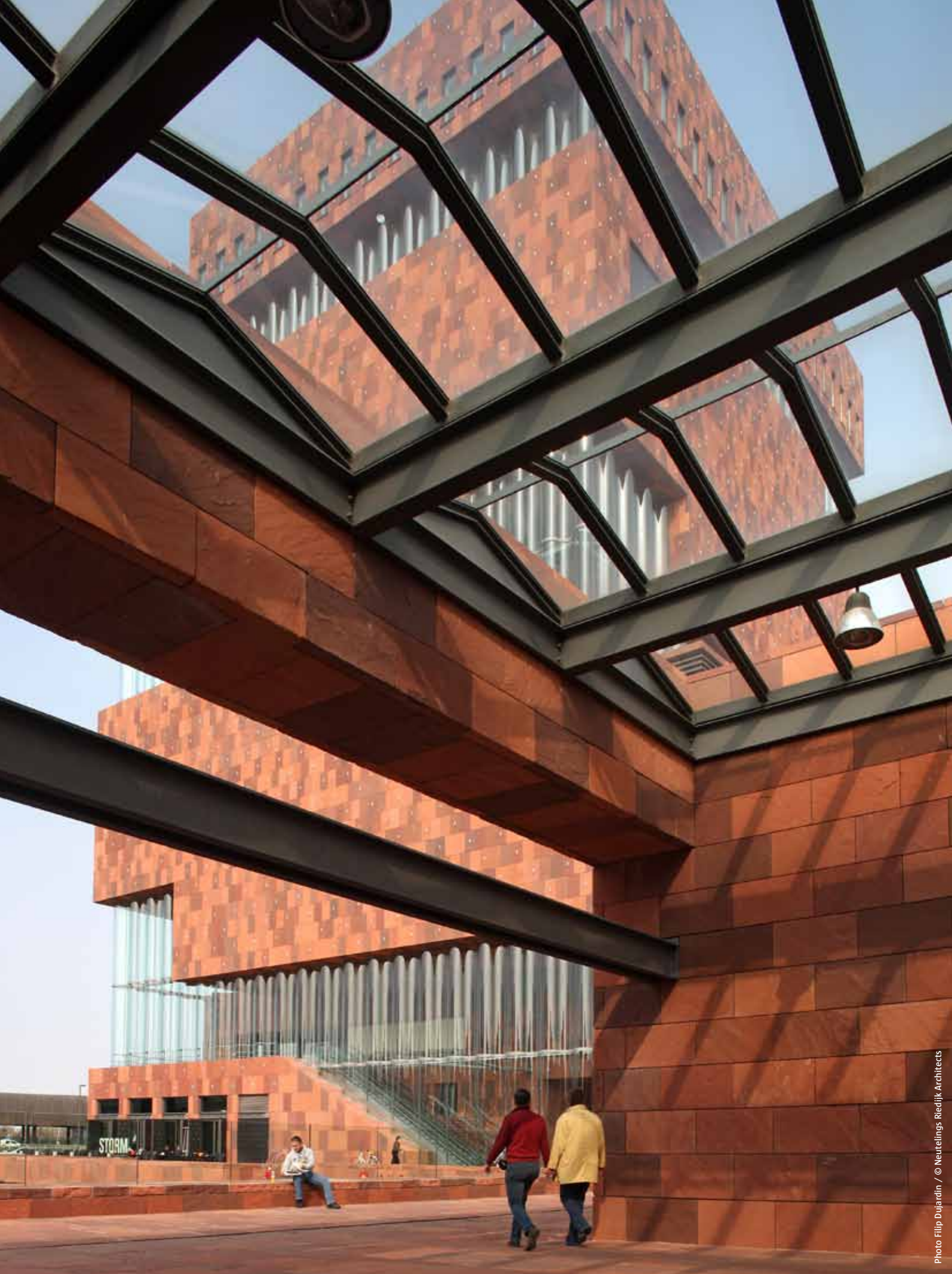


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