

wallonia and brussels

summer 2013

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magazine

FUTUROCITE

THE FUTURE OF URBAN
WALLONIA IS SMART AND GREEN

Architecture: East vs West

The Verviers hotel powered
by geothermal energy



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Cover Image
 Atenor: Port du Bon Dieu, Namur



Editorial

Our cover image of a residential project under construction on the banks of the River Meuse in Namur shows the changing face of Wallonia’s urban landscape. The upscale development, Port du Bon Dieu, supersedes a derelict industrial site and sits strategically between the Walloon capital’s major hospital and its city centre. A diverse clientele is targeted: civil servants, single-parent families and retired people swapping over-sized villas for the convenience of an apartment. In line with environmental concerns, solar panels are being incorporated to help power the whole complex.

By building on an urban site the project fits neatly into the regional strategy of rethinking the design, density and strategy of towns and cities. Encouraging and supporting this move is FuturoCité, a private-public partnership which is transforming municipalities into green and smart spaces. Our six-page file on the project outlines how it will rejuvenate the region.

The key is collaboration: from small businesses, international corporations, public authorities and citizens. Architects also play a vital role; in our Home and Abroad series we profile two who draw on Eastern and Western influences. They are fitting examples of how the Wallonia and Brussels regions are increasingly extending their horizons in shaping their future.



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CORBIS

Sonaca soars



Charleroi-based aerospace company Sonaca has signed an important contract with Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer, worth up to \$1 billion and creating work for between 300 and 400 people over the next 12 years. The new regional jet and contract were both unveiled at the 50th Paris Air Show in June.

Sonaca is a world leader in designing and making wing flaps and slats for commercial aircraft manufacturers, principally Airbus and Dassault, in addition to Embraer. Located in the science park at Gosselies, Sonaca is the parent company of a worldwide

organisation with more than 2,000 employees. It will supply slats and flaps for Embraer's future regional E2 jets, an improved and larger model of the company's existing E-Jets. The production of the flaps is a first for Sonaca; they will be made at the Gosselies plant and the company's factory in Brazil.

Embraer's aircraft are due to be built and certified from 2017. Production of 1,000 aircraft, a figure based on the company's present E-170 and E-190 fleet, would generate €1 billion for Sonaca, representing 20 percent of the company's turnover. The company

is the second most important partner in the project after American engine supplier Pratt & Whitney.

There was delight too in the Skywin camp at Paris, as Wallonia's aerospace cluster announced two partnership agreements with Quebec and Russia. The first, with Aero Montreal, will see an investment of €700,000 by Skywin, covered by the Marshall Plan. The second is a collaboration with the Russian aeronautical cluster Inmavis.

➤ WWW.SONACA.COM

➤ WWW.SKYWIN.BE





Up their street

One of the many challenges for a start-up company is finding a suitable workspace. RueDuWeb in Walloon Brabant is offering a solution, with the bonus of saving on office expenses while enjoying the benefits of a creative hub. The growing collective of largely internet and technology businesses gathers 13 companies on the fourth floor of a building in Axisparc in Mont-Saint-Guibert.

Just five minutes from the centre of Louvain-la-Neuve and major roads, the business park is also close to the city's university. With around 50 people sharing 600m² of open office space, the collective still has room to welcome further businesses. The modular space is divided into three distinct but connected areas, designed to encourage teamwork. There are also 'bubble rooms' for private discussions, meeting rooms and recreational areas.

Website creation companies Akimedia, CommunicationWeb.be and Tesial first launched an association of three companies in 2009, which expanded to six by the time it moved from Court-Saint-Etienne at the beginning of this year. It now consists of a range of businesses, from start-ups with more than two decades of experience to new companies in full development. Working groups have been set up to enhance the office design and internal communication and RueDuWeb is now working on strengthening cooperation and encouraging further pooling of services, such as accounting, marketing and HR. The collective also promotes entrepreneurship through a series of events including 3D business simulation game Startup Heroes, together with Creative Wallonia start-up programme Nest'up and the Wallonia-wide IT network Café Numérique.

➤ WWW.RUEDUWEB.BE



International platform for local creativity

Wallonia is one of two regions to be selected from 44 candidates by the European Commission to be named European Creative District. The other chosen region is Tuscany in Italy. Over two-and-a-half years, the project will bring together private and public players from various spheres to generate innovative programmes.

Framework programme Creative Wallonia was launched in 2010 by Jean-Claude Marcourt - minister for the economy, SMEs, foreign trade and new technologies of the Walloon government and minister for higher education of the French community - with a budget of €8 million; the Commission's backing and 50 percent investment elevates the programme to a European level. The project aims to promote creative businesses internationally and serve as a benchmark to other European regions.

The new designation's four key themes are mutual policy learning, business support, access to finance, and facilitating clusters and networking activities. Belgian prime minister Elio Di Rupo launched the project in Namur in April, saying that Wallonia would become a creative laboratory on a European scale and had been chosen because of its exemplary strategy in supporting creative industries.

➤ WWW.CREATIVEWALLONIA.BE



Coffee on the go in the streets of Brussels, courtesy of Karsmakers coffee house and its mobile espresso bar. The customised three-wheeled 1964 Piaggio Ape serves up house blends and an array of Arabica varieties from around the world. Karsmakers is in Rue de Trèves, in the EU quarter.

➤ WWW.KARSMAKERS.BE

Google invests in Wallonia again

American technological giant Google is injecting a further €300 million into its Mons site in Saint-Ghislain. It is expanding its Datacenter, a €250 million investment built on 90 hectares in 2010, due to the growing demand for its services. The increasing financial stake has led to speculation that Wallonia could become Google's European hub; the multinational has two other database centres in Ireland and Finland. While 120 people have joined the company since its opening, the latest investment is not expected to have a similar impact on the local job market. Prime minister Elio Di Rupo inaugurated work on the new building in April, saying the expansion proved that Belgium was still attractive to international companies wanting to invest. According to Google, the new site will be revolutionary in its energy efficiency, an important factor as data centres consume a high level of electricity.

Life science briefs

Gosselies-based OncoDNA has begun a significant partnership in molecular diagnostics with US company CollabRx. OncoDNA provides next-generation DNA sequencing tests for clinical use in cancer. The partnership, a first for a company outside the US, is a multi-year agreement in which the data analytics company, which focuses on informing clinical decision-making in molecular medicine, will provide technology and content resources to be used with OncoDNA's cancer mutation panels.

BioWin, Wallonia and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center signed an agreement on developing R&D projects at the International Bio convention in Chicago in April. The partnership is a massive boost for BioWin, Wallonia's competitive pole for biotechnology and healthcare. It will enable members to take part in collaborative R&D projects that are ready for commercialisation with companies in Massachusetts. Jean-Claude Marcourt, Wallonia's economy minister, said: "Wallonia is a world leader in the field of life sciences. Indeed, the region is the leading producer of vaccines in the world. The realisation of this agreement demonstrates the political wish of Wallonia to reinforce and globalise its clusters, notably BioWin."

Mithra Pharmaceuticals founder and CEO François Fornieri has announced an investment of €40 to €50 million in the company's Liège factory and laboratory, and expects to create 160 jobs in the region. The 2011 Trends-Tendances manager of the year is investing his own money, while funding is also coming from institutional investment organisations SRIW and Meusinvest, financial institutions and local families. The company, which specialises in women's health, is close to Liège Airport at Bierset and employs 43 people. The new posts will be for employees at all levels, including production workers, pharmaceutical engineers and lab specialists. A new factory is also planned on the three-hectare site.

Pullman Hotel opens in Brussels

The four-star Pullman Hotel has opened next to Midi station in Brussels, targeting international travellers. The chain is part of the Accor hotel group and has 80 hotels in 24 countries, though it is planning to almost double this number by 2020. The hotel in Place Victor Horta has 237 bedrooms, meeting rooms, restaurants and a fitness centre, and its location and luxury design are aimed at attracting business and leisure clients using the high-speed European train network. The opening has created 80 jobs with a further 20 planned.



No more bottlenecks

Walloon expertise is helping to guide the drinks industry around the world

BY ANDY FURNIERE



“

You always have to adapt your solutions to the unique context

JEAN SCHRURS

The consulting firm of Jean Schrurs and Dominique Huret is in Braine l'Alleud, just outside Brussels, but its name refers to a place far off in Alaska. Cape Decision is the tip of Kuiu island, where a lighthouse has been providing guidance to passing ships since 1932. “Just like this beacon on the coast, we suggest the right decisions to entrepreneurs in the beverage and packaging sectors, so they know the best route to follow,” explains operations manager Schrurs.

Cape Decision offers companies and institutions an array of independent advice. For example, they optimise technological systems to increase the efficiency and eco-friendliness of the production. But they also help enterprises find new market opportunities, recommend interesting collaborations, evaluate

the feasibility of projects and assess entrepreneurs' long-term business strategies. Through workshops and training, they share the specialised know-how that they've built up over several decades.

Mechanical engineer Schrurs' first expertise in the business world came at the steel wire specialist Bekaert and global energy company Shell. At the beginning of the 1990s, he entered the drinks and packaging sector at the Coca-Cola Company. For a decade, he developed Coca-Cola's activities in Europe and abroad, until he was appointed to lead the European manufacturing operations of packaging multinational Amcor. His last stint as an employee was at AB InBev, the largest brewer in the world, which he quit in 2005 to start his own consultancy.

His partner, Huret, comes from a family active in the water and soft drinks industry, but developed an international career as journalist and producer at the American news channel CNN, the BBC World Service and the European Commission. This varied expertise formed an ideal basis for her role as communication specialist at Cape Decision, where she is in charge of the company's commercial and administrative aspects. The two also regularly employ specialists in fields such as hydrogeology and financial planning.

The firm's first assignment came from a company Schrurs knew well: Coca-Cola. Since then, Cape Decision has coordinated more than 45 projects all over the world. A major part of its work focuses on food quality and 80 percent of project activity takes place outside Belgium, with a focus on Asia. Their clients include businesses, governments, development agencies and international organisations such as the UN.

A clear example of Cape Decision's global scope is a project from last year, when a packaging multinational asked the team to assess the quality systems of plants in three very different countries: Japan, China and Kenya. "You always have to adapt your solutions to the unique context," says Schrurs. "There is not one magic way of removing the bottlenecks in a plant's production."

In Mongolia, the consultants spent a year and a half coaching Vitsamo, a local producer of fruit juice. In a country where natural vitamin-rich food is rare because of the harsh climate, there is a large demand for fruit juice. But the transport of the juice concentrates from the Netherlands and the competition from multinationals pose a lot of challenges.

Cape Decision's strategic and commercial advice helped to double Vitsamo's production volume and



increase the enterprise's efficiency. "Our priority was to make sure they produce what they can sell, not sell what they can produce," says Schrurs.

The consultants are no strangers to demanding circumstances. In 2010, they assisted a rum producer in Haiti during the move of a plant to a temporary location after an earthquake had devastated the region. The assignment was an initiative of the Walloon government and the Inter-American Development Bank. Development banks are regular clients; the pair have also carried out several projects for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Another high-profile customer is the UN, for whom Cape Decision assessed the working methods at water plants in Burkina Faso and Mali, in West Africa.

The main evolution in the beverage and packaging sectors is the growing attention to eco-friendliness. "We have been aware of green innovations from the start, but sustainability is now almost a standard concern," explains Huret. For example, bottles are gradually becoming lighter and the design simpler, to reduce the impact on the environment. Recycling is a hot issue and, fortunately for Cape Decision, Belgium has a good reputation as a recycling nation.

Companies are also increasingly interested in best practices when

it comes to water usage. Two years ago, Cape Decision carried out a complex project for the Indian Ocean fishing industry. In countries such as Mauritius and the Seychelles, the tourism and the fishing industries are the most important economic sectors, and they sometimes have conflicting needs. The job of the consultants was to update the eco-friendly operations of the fish canning plants, including optimising the recycling of the water so natural resources are protected.



CAPE DECISION

Established in 2005

Headquarters at Braine l'Alleud
Consulting for the beverage and packaging sectors

Annual growth of around 7 percent
80 percent of activity abroad, with 40 percent in Asia

➔ WWW.CAPEDECISION.BE

A well-oiled machine

Pioneering Tournai company develops high-performance tools for testing engines and lubricants

BY JULIAN HALE



PHOTOS: BROSILLO

Our company is actively involved in research programmes with local universities

THIERRY DELVIGNE

For more than 10 years, award-winning Delta Services industriels (DSi) has been leading the way with innovative products that help companies in the development of low-emission engines and high-performance lubricants.

Despite its youth and size, the company has an admirable track record. It won a Wallonia Innovation Prize in 2005 and then picked up a global award for its research into lubricants. The company has also built up an impressive list of clients from the automotive, lubricant, and aeronautical industries, including major vehicle manufacturers such as

Renault, PSA, Volvo, Chrysler, Toyota and Ford and lubricant producers Total, Castrol and Shell. In addition, DSi supplies industrial equipment and measurement services around the world, and it is involved in the high-octane world of racing, with the development of Formula 1 and Nascar engines.

Currently employing 20 people in the industrial zone of Tournai-West, DSi works with its clients as a research and development partner, helping them develop products and solve their technical problems. More specifically, DSi's niche is to offer services and



equipment to help customers measure engine wear more accurately, to measure oil consumption and fuel dilution in internal combustion engines and to develop better lubricants. Its major success story has been to develop and apply radiotracer techniques, which help research engineers gain a better understanding of, for example, engine wear, engine oil consumption and the lubricant aeration process, where bubbles appear in the lubricant, potentially leading to failures of bearings and other engine parts. DSi is the world leader in the use of radiotracer techniques applied to the development of lubricants and power trains: engines plus gearboxes and axles which are therefore, to all intents and purposes, vehicles without a chassis.

One of the challenges engine manufacturers are facing is the fact that vehicle emission regulations are becoming more and more stringent. As a result, manufacturers are being obliged to equip their vehicles with after-

treatment systems such as catalysts and diesel particle filters. However, using these filters can lead to fuel dilution in lubricants, meaning unburned fuel is mixed with the lubricant. This changes the properties of the lubricant (oil), which in turn accelerates the wear of critical engine parts such as camshafts and bearings. It's a particular problem with direct fuel injection systems.

Radiotracers help measure levels of fuel dilution and the extent to which engine parts are wearing out. There are two major advantages to this. Firstly, they make it possible to generate real-time results while an engine is in operation. Secondly, the fact they are extremely sensitive means that tests take less time. The company's key product is called Thin Layer Activation, a method that allows online wear measurements to be performed on running engines without dismantling them. A range of radiotracers are now commercially available for testing internal combustion engines and lubricants.

The company's online oil consumption measurement is a good example of how radiotracer techniques can shorten the periods needed for engine tests. This is probably the most remarkable development in radiotracer techniques on the market because it means engine tests can be reduced by a factor of 100 compared to conventional methods. Plus, DSi has developed and patented a methodology for the real-time measurement of engine oil consumption. Radiotracer techniques are used in a test centre at the company's base, and these methods offer a quick response and highly accurate results online. Other advantages are that engine parts do not have to be dismantled and the company can produce tailor-made products adapted to the client's specific needs.

The company has a 1,400sqm test facility in Belgium, with modern test cells equipped with radiotracing tools. The facility is a fully independent contract service centre offering real-



time results and a significant reduction in costs as well as in the time clients need to develop products. It also has highly qualified and experienced technical staff and can perform measurements at the client's testing centre or manufacture and sell equipment adapted to the client's needs.

Two DSi methods dedicated to the improvement of lubricant formulations were developed thanks to a joint research programme with the oil and gas group Total France. One of them, for monitoring oil dilution on running engines using a new radiotracer compound, received



an award from the Society for Automotive Engineering in 2005 for research on automotive lubricants.

DSi's base in Tournai has proved "an excellent location for a company like ours with 98% of our sales going to foreign countries", says CEO Thierry Delvigne. "We have easy access to local airports (Lille and Charleroi) and to Lille TGV station (for French customers) and we are only an hour from Calais (Eurotunnel for UK customers). So Wallonia Picardy is the place to be for companies involved with international business.

"Our company is also actively involved in research and development programmes with local universities for the development of new products. We have found in Wallonia competent and reliable partners based at the universities of Namur, Liège and Louvain-la-Neuve. They have contributed actively in extending our range of products," he added.

DSi clearly has new goals in its sights. In November, it bought a plot of land in

the Tournai-West industrial area, where construction of an additional building will start in September with 10 full-time jobs created as a result. The aim is to increase DSi's test capacity with six more test cells dedicated to engine and lubricant development and testing with the use of radiotracer techniques applied to oil consumption, fuel dilution, lubricant aeration and engine wear.

2000: Company founded by Thierry Delvigne

2001-2004: Development of methodologies based on radiotracers

2005: SAE Award

2007: New engine and lubricant test centre at Tournai-West

2012: Enters the aeronautics field

➔ WWW.DELTABEAM.NET

Keeping the heat in

Knauf Insulation is developing environmentally friendly business solutions, including a new insulation material

BY JULIAN HALE



Our Visé factory will be a model of the kind of high-performance factory we need in Europe

LÉON BUSTIN

Combating climate change and caring for the environment are major preoccupations of the European Union. In addition to the policy debates taking place, a growing number of companies are working on practical, environmentally friendly solutions in a range of fields. One of these areas is the insulation business, and a good example of a company that is committed to the environmental cause is Knauf Insulation, an international company with one plant in Liège province and European headquarters in Walloon Brabant. It produces insulating materials for industrial and commercial buildings and new houses, and for the refurbishment of existing dwellings.

Knauf Insulation has years of experience and is one of the fastest growing and most respected names in the industry. The company is committed to meeting the increasing demand for energy efficiency in new and existing homes, non-residential buildings and industrial applications. Its results speak for themselves, with a turnover in excess of €1.2 billion in 2011 and over 5,000 employees in more than 35 countries and 30 manufacturing sites.

“Wallonia has a unique location for any company that manufactures in this region and exports products to neighbouring countries. Our plant in Visé near Liège is very well located and



▲ The Visé plant in Liège province

has easy access to and from France, the Netherlands and Germany. Wallonia is also undergoing major economic changes that are attractive for foreign investors,” says Mark Leverton, Knauf Insulation’s managing director for western Europe (pictured right).

In Liège province, Knauf has factories for insulation in Visé and gypsum in Engis, and provides employment to more than 600 people in the region. Its European insulation headquarters are primarily in Mont-Saint-Guibert, in Walloon Brabant.

Knauf Insulation’s Visé plant produces glass mineral wool insulation using ECOSE Technology, a revolutionary new binder technology. It took five years of intensive research and testing, part of which took place in Belgium, to develop this new generation of wool. But the investment is now beginning to bear fruit. ECOSE Technology is based on rapidly renewable materials instead of petro-based chemicals. The big advantages of this mineral wool are that it has a softer feel, is odourless and easy to cut. In addition, it is non-combustible and its excellent

insulation properties allow users to keep their energy bills down. According to the company’s 2012 sustainability report, it has up to 82% recycled content; it has also received awards and endorsements from several countries (see box on page 15).

A sign of how highly the company rates its ECOSE Technology is the decision to spend around €81 million on its Visé



factory. Prior to the investment, the factory had a production capacity of 90,000 tonnes of mineral wool. That now stands at around 110,000 tonnes, making it the biggest glass mineral wool plant in Europe.

“The €81 million investment makes a lot of sense when you look at the strong prospects for future success in our sector in France, Germany and the Benelux countries,” says Léon Bustin, Visé plant manager. “Our Visé factory will be a model of the kind of high-performance factory we need in Europe both from the point of view of what it can produce and from an environmental perspective.”

“This expansion shows once again that the development of the insulation sector is in full swing in Europe. At a time when European energy needs are constantly rising and solutions to save energy, particularly in buildings, are increasingly necessary, a bright future lies ahead for the insulation sector and our factory in Visé,” Leverton adds.

The products made by Knauf Insulation will undoubtedly make



Knauf Group

Knauf Insulation is part of Knauf Group, a family-owned German manufacturer of building materials and construction systems established in 1932. It was originally a producer of conventional gypsum materials but now produces innovative systems for buildings worldwide

Core business

- Dry wall construction and gypsum plasters
- Insulation materials
- Injection moulding/moulded parts

Turnover

€6.1 billion in 2012

Employees

25,000-plus worldwide with more than 150 factories in over 50 countries

➔ WWW.KNAUFINSULATION.BE

a major contribution towards the sustainability of buildings. However, the manufacturing process will have both positive and negative impacts on sustainability, and this is something the company is actively working on. It aims to keep the energy impact of office operations, product transportation and employee travel to a minimum and has made commitments with regard to waste and water emissions: by 2020, it wants to achieve zero waste to landfill

Glass mineral wool produced using ECOSE Technology

- Manufactured from naturally occurring and/or recycled raw materials and bonded using a bio-based technology free from formaldehyde, phenols and acrylics and with no artificial colours, bleach or dyes added
- Contributes to improved indoor air quality compared to conventional mineral wool
- Low environmental impact
- Keeps polluting manufacturing emissions to a minimum
- Improves the overall sustainability of buildings in which it is used

and has committed to a 50 percent reduction of waste water by then, both for office and manufacturing.

Understanding the environmental impacts of its products and systems is also important for Knauf Insulation. By conducting Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) on its products, it will be able to provide even more credible information on their environmental impact. According to the 2012 sustainability report, the company expected half of the products it manufactures to be covered by an LCA by the end of that year and it has trained 100 employees in 'LCA thinking' to ensure this information is communicated to the markets it serves.

Knauf Insulation is also working with experts to understand why buildings do not always deliver sufficient insulation and to see how it can help make improvements. "It is important to better understand the real performance of buildings and our insulation products in situ. We have brought together from across the world thought leaders in building physics and we actively support academic research

in this important area. In the end, we all want to make sure that we provide high-performance quality construction solutions that are installed to achieve the best energy efficiency for buildings new and old," says Leverton.

The company hopes that the new integrated product systems it is bringing to the market can make a real difference in the delivery of low-energy buildings.

Selected awards and certification

- Global Insulation Product of the Year (2009)
- First prize in the DuBo Award (2009): An award for revolutionary sustainable construction innovations in the Netherlands
- The Save the Energy award (given by the city of Moscow, the Russian Energy Ministry and the Russian energy agency in 2010) in the best energy-saving insulation material category
- Blue Angel certification (2010): For the mineral wool's environment-friendly and low-emission nature

FuturoCité is a fantastic laboratory making 'green' technologies available to city-dwellers ►

CORBIS



Smart Wallonia

A revamped public-private partnership puts Wallonia at the forefront of a global movement to make urban zones smarter

BY NICHOLAS HIRST

In March Walloon minister, Jean-Claude Marcourt, announced the creation of FuturoCité, a new public-private partnership pairing the region with international giants such as IBM and Cisco and dedicated to making Wallonia's cities smarter. In doing so, the minister for the economy, SMEs, foreign trade and new technologies of the Walloon government and minister for higher education of the French community has placed the region at the head of a worldwide movement dedicated to using technology and the reams of data generated by modern cities to make them more efficient.

Imagine a city where weather information is used to prevent traffic jams and diminish crime, where doctor's check-ups and student

classes can be done remotely, where energy consumption is adjusted daily according to conditions and where city officials answer citizens' requests through personal videoconferencing. Though all this may seem worlds away from the ancient cities of Namur, Liège or Mons, the future may arrive sooner than expected.

The FuturoCité partnership, which also involves Deloitte, one of the world's largest consultants, and Mobistar, Belgium's second-largest mobile operator, is a bridge-building and advocacy platform designed to rejuvenate Wallonia's cities, towns and villages. Like many urban areas across the world, which now account for more than half of the globe's population, they face numerous challenges to their

budgets and infrastructure systems as economies sputter and living habits change.

Yet help is at hand. FuturoCité will help Walloon public authorities understand how other towns have dealt with such issues and how they themselves can approach similar challenges. It also introduces them, with local SMEs, to multinational organisations such as IBM and Cisco who have pioneered 'smarter city' solutions.

"FuturoCité is a fantastic laboratory making 'green' technologies available to city-dwellers," Marcourt told *Wab*. "It should help fundamentally transform urban life and governance. We are proposing a set of innovative solutions to the challenges raised by urban



crowding, mobility, energy costs and the need to protect the environment.”

“Almost all cities and communes face challenges with their budgets,” explains Frank Butstraen, the executive director of FuturoCité. “But they also have problems optimising their energy use, catering to an ageing population, managing their transport services and maintaining their infrastructure.”

While FuturoCité draws on the experience of its partners and helps Wallonia’s cities understand how they can modernise, it stops short of fully analysing their data and implementing the changes. “Our strategy is two-pronged,” explains Butstraen. “On the one hand, we help public bodies realise that they can go to the market

for solutions to cut costs and become more efficient. On the other hand, that will create opportunities for existing companies as well as start-ups.”

Over three years, FuturoCité aims to create a €100 million market, plus 20 new start-ups and at least 200 full-time equivalent positions. Such jobs, says Butstraen, could include researching hi-tech software, installing urban wi-fi networks or making a detailed inventory of all a city’s property holdings.

“Liège, for example, has four to five hundred public spaces. Just to understand what is happening with those buildings and to manage them in an efficient way, you need several people, especially since many towns do

not have complete plans or inventories for their property holdings,” he explains. “A lot of work needs to be done before you can make your buildings management more efficient. FuturoCité uses an incremental methodology to help cities optimise their energy management.”

In addition to advising public bodies, FuturoCité will also help SMEs looking to move into the ‘smarter city’ business. This help will take the form of workshops on using specific technologies, assistance in designing business plans and business advice. Universities will also be encouraged to participate in and contribute to smart cities projects, with the partners providing cloud infrastructures for them to conduct research.



FuturoCité is also intended to serve as a vector between the various cities for good practices. “One of our concerns is that each city will do its own thing and its structures won’t be applicable elsewhere,” says Butstraen. “We want to make sure that solutions can be standardised and replicated so the costs of implementation are lowered and small communities can also ride this innovation wave.” For the moment, FuturoCité’s priorities are the 40 largest cities where 60 percent of Wallonia’s population lives, although collaboration is open to all 262 cities and communes.

Shortly after being launched, FuturoCité is already in the process of selecting local SMEs with which to work

and has begun to collaborate with three large towns. The towns are currently collecting their data, which will be analysed by IBM to understand where data mining can help, says Butstraen.

“Cities have various services which will not share any data at all,” he explains. “The first thing to do is to define the different services operating and gather all the info they have amassed.” Often public authorities underestimate the potential of smarter cities solutions, observes Butstraen. “Generally people think they know what a smarter city is, but do not actually realise what and how much can be done through such an approach.”

“FuturoCité is a bridge between the public authorities and the private companies,” explains Philippe Dubernard, smarter cities leader for IBM in the Benelux. The public-private partnership instils a sense of mutual trust in all the actors, helping to build the kind of ecosystem on which these multi-disciplinary, public-private projects depend.

Emmanuel Routier, director for business-to-business partnerships and the International Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Centre of Competence at Mobistar, highlights the benefits of “sitting round the table with companies with different knowledge bases, specialisms and experiences”. Creating an ecosystem



◀ The future is coming to Namur, the capital of Wallonia



FuturoCité is a bridge between the public authorities and the private companies

PHILIPPE DUBERNARD



Philippe Dubernard ▶

is key, he says, because ‘machine-to-machine’ projects are too complex for any one company to go it alone. “Mobistar’s aim is not to develop water management software, for example, but to work out what we as a mobile company can put into that process.”

FuturoCité itself is majority-funded by the private parties, with 45% of the budget coming from the public sector. Yet the private contributions take many forms. IBM provides hardware, software and manpower for the partnership, within the context of IBM’s global entrepreneur programme, says Dubernard. Mobistar is also contributing manpower, in the form of technicians and engineers, equipment

and telephone services, as well as finances. Cisco declined to disclose its contribution.

The companies do so because the smarter city business is seen by all as a large potential growth area, whether in Europe or worldwide. Indeed, Pike Research estimated that the smart city technology market would triple over the next few years, growing from a 2012 value of €4.5 billion to €15 billion by 2020. One key aim for the companies is to become involved in developing products and projects that can be replicated more widely. Pol Vanbiervliet, general manager at Cisco Benelux, says his company would like to see FuturoCité facilitate the creation

of a number of pilot projects that can then be rolled out in other cities. “We also hope that we would be in a good position in any ecosystem that comes out of the partnership,” he says.

The experience and man-hours contributed by the partners is highly valuable. IBM Research has undertaken pioneering research on smarter cities, creating three years ago a laboratory in Dublin, Ireland, dedicated to researching smart cities solutions. The IBM Smarter Cities Technology Centre in Dublin, according to Olivier Verscheure, a senior scientist at IBM Research – is growing to 200 permanent research scientists and software engineers.



▲ Liège-Guillemins train station

Dublin granted the centre access to historical and real-time data from its various services. Computing water, traffic, energy and other data simultaneously allows the laboratory to draw up complex predictive models.

For example, these can not only predict but also optimise traffic volumes and bus times or pinpoint leaks in the water distribution system. Acting on these predictions can, in turn, unleash huge hidden savings. It's indeed not unusual for a city to lose around 40 percent of its water in the distribution network, representing a significant cost in terms of chemicals, electricity and capacity, says Verscheure.

As for Mobistar, it houses the international research centre on smart cities set up by its parent company, France Telecom. The International M2M Centre of Competence was created by Orange Business Services, another subsidiary of France Telecom, to provide wireless M2M communications services to hardware

makers, otherwise known as original equipment manufacturers. The Mobistar Centre counts US wireless network giant Sprint Nextel, Italian med-tech leader The Sorin Group and Swiss aviation technology specialist SITA among its customers.

Indeed, Mobistar has developed a 'smart metering' system with Veolia, the French water, waste, energy and transport management giant, allowing public authorities and end users to monitor remotely over mobile networks their consumption of utilities. It has also recently agreed with a leading car manufacturer to provide 4.5 million SIM cards for new vehicles. Looking towards the future, the Belgian operator sees opportunities in providing internet connections in urban areas and for commuters, helping public transport authorities manage their fleets, and in the general trend to more remote working.

Cisco, which specialises in developing and manufacturing network

equipment and related software, helped the French town of Drancy, on the outskirts of Paris, to revolutionise its public services.

The city first increased the productivity of public officials by harmonising their various IT systems and introducing various 'cloud' applications. Second, the installation of security cameras throughout the town has, reportedly, led to a 30 percent reduction in crime. Finally, the provision of free wi-fi in public buildings as well as an improved infrastructure for internet connections has pleased inhabitants and helped attract business to town.

Another project led by Cisco resulted from the merging and centralisation of six public authorities in the Danish town of Guldborgsund, as a consequence of which, citizens no longer had the same proximity to public officials as they had previously. To remedy this, the authorities created five local antennas equipped with Cisco videoconferencing systems which

The futuristic cultural hub
Le Manège, in Mons ►

MF PLESSART



The ICT industry is estimated to produce as much greenhouse gas as the airline industry

allowed remote access to officials on request.

Wallonia's collaboration with IBM and Cisco has history. FuturoCité grew out of a previous private-public partnership called Euro Green IT, which was focused on using technology to improve the ecology and sustainability of public authorities and policies in Wallonia.

Based like FuturoCité in Mons, Euro Green IT was part of a series of projects in the zone that gave it the name of Digital Innovation Valley, a cheeky nod to the US's own Silicon Valley. Microsoft, which was a part of Euro Green IT, had founded its Innovation Centre there to stimulate and foster tech start-ups in the area. Google also set up a data centre near Mons in 2007, with an initial investment of €250 million, and it recently announced that it would invest a further €300 million.

Euro Green IT, which was founded in 2010 and involved a greater number of partners from the private sector,

has given light to several successful projects. It established a Green IT certificate, which taught candidates in France, the UK and Wallonia how to organise data centres and IT systems to be more energy-efficient – not a bad thing to know given that the ICT industry is estimated to produce as much greenhouse gas as the airline industry and rising. The training in Wallonia was given by Ophiteo, a local consultancy specialising in using IT solutions to help organisations reduce their carbon footprint, whose clients include the Paris-Dakar rally and the Tour de France.

In another project, various actors teamed up for a pilot project with Hainaut province to analyse data relating to the energy consumption of Mons, Charleroi and Tournai, who were then able to reduce their energy costs. The study involved Walloon companies such as Dapesco, energy-optimisation consultants based in Louvain-la-Neuve, Bizzdev, a mobile technology company from Tournai,

and eWon, a supplier of industrial routers from Nivelles, in addition to larger firms like Mobistar and IBM. Liège-based Star-Apic also participated in Euro Green IT. The company uses geospatial software, drawing heavily on maps, to help authorities manage their land and infrastructure.

- FuturoCité aims to create a €100 million market in three years, with 20 new start-ups and at least 200 full-time equivalent positions
- Pike Research estimates that the global smart city technology market will be worth €15 billion by 2020, up from €4.5 billion last year
- 262 Walloon towns and communes could benefit from FuturoCité's advice and innovations

➤ WWW.FUTUROCITE.BE



Li Mei Tsien

Raised in Louvain-la-Neuve, Chinese-Belgian Li Mei Tsien is an award-winning architect. She is a founding director of Brussels urban planning company B612associates and lectures and writes on contemporary city architecture. She has worked in the offices of IM Pei in Taipei and Bruno Albert in Liège

➤ WWW.B612ARCHITECTES.COM

What's your view on the future design of cities?

Architects need to rethink existing typologies, particularly in housing, to address evolving living patterns. There must be a focus on public amenities being better integrated into a coherent urban fabric, prioritising parks, squares and public facilities. They need to be built from an anthropocentric perspective, making a city more habitable. Densification needs to be multi-purpose, and on a scale that has a positive effect on the living environment. This is realised by the quality of the building, its environment and the services provided.

How does your dual identity influence your work?

I grew up in Louvain-la-Neuve, an 'experimental' university town built at the start of the 1970s, which is extremely cosmopolitan and multicultural. This, along with my Chinese and Belgian background, has contributed in forming my perception and indirectly my approach to design and architecture.

What can Europe learn from the Far East and vice-versa?

Europe pays attention to the preservation and quality of its environment; as much on the level of its built and natural heritage as in its reflection on the future environment. Citizens have integrated the notion of sustainable development. There is a philosophy on quality of life and real know-how, which China could certainly benefit from. But Europe could equally gain from contact with China. Each time I return, I am impressed by the audacity of its architecture, not only on a technical level or by the height of buildings, but above all by the mentality that tries out new things. It's a very positive attitude.

How does B612associates design low-energy, sustainable buildings?

Our preoccupation is spatial quality and finding the best solutions for people. This is what will guarantee a building's perpetuity. Architecture should not lose itself in technical constraints. Our reflection on architecture and urbanism consists of conveying the context in which a building belongs, and integrating these spaces into this context. A city is in a state of constant change and new buildings should contribute to preserving and generating coherence. We search for the best solution that goes beyond being technically correct and energy-efficient, in that it should also convey emotion and be a pleasant living space.

What do you most appreciate about Brussels and Wallonia?

I like the human side to its inhabitants, but also the quality of life, from the atmosphere of its towns and cities to its countryside: Condroz, Fragnes, Famennes, the Ardennes. We have a tendency to recall this when the first rays of sunshine return. It's such a beautiful country!



Europe pays attention to the preservation and quality of its environment

LI MEI TSIENT



Gilles Vanderstocken

Originating from the Hainaut region, Gilles Vanderstocken studied at Liège University's architecture faculty. He started his career in Liège before moving to Luxembourg, Brussels and now Hong Kong where he is a facade consultant for the French architectural company VS-A

➤ WWW.VS-A.EU



We have to work together, without compromising each other's qualities

GILLES VANDERSTOCKEN

Can you describe your job?

In the face of an increasingly segmented and specialised approach to architectural design, our job is to help architects establish links between their objectives and the ever more complex issues related to facades, from an aesthetic, technological, ecological or economic point of view.

How are you advising Wallonie-Bruxelles Architectures in its role as partner of the Business of Design Week in Hong Kong in December?

BoDw is a very important event in Asia and I'm proud of Belgium being the official partner country. WBA is playing a great role in the exchange between Belgian, Hong Kong and Chinese architects; they assisted me by introducing me to key people. We regularly collaborate on reinforcing and expanding our mutual network. I would encourage everyone thinking about moving here to contact them.

How do Belgian architects compare to their Asian counterparts?

Belgian architects are used to dealing with social and ecological issues and they are well aware of 'economy of means'. Chinese architects are facing incredible pressure to design iconic, gigantic, impressive buildings. They have no time to deal with these issues, though most would love to. At the centre of all this, Hong Kong architects have a typically hybrid attitude. As naive as it might sound, for me there is no sense in competing. We have to work together, collaborate without compromising each other's qualities, to build tomorrow's Asia.

Can you compare living and working in two such contrasting places?

The intelligence and logic of the architectural process is the same. Apart from that, everything is different: the scale, the speed, the people, the culture. Hong Kong is a city of contrasts: gigantic yet with little personal space, dense but in close proximity to the jungle, 24/7 activities but no time to enjoy them. Hong Kong is very rewarding but also very demanding.

Can you describe Hong Kong beyond its contemporary architecture?

It is in perpetual tension between concentration and openness, whether talking about people, ideas or creative energies. Another characteristic is its continual physical transformation. The phenomenon is so intense that paradoxically it becomes invisible. Only by stepping back can you understand the worldwide issues that are taking place here and in Asia, which is sometimes easier as a European.

Going green

Energy-friendly hotel in Wallonia's water capital supplies high-voltage heritage

BY SARAH CREW



While the town of Verviers once blazed a trail as an international wool manufacturer, a luxury hotel is continuing the tradition of technological innovation as Belgium's only hotel to be heated by geothermal energy.

The four-star Hôtel Verviers approaches its third anniversary with plenty to celebrate: high occupancy rates, a booming seminar and event schedule and social hotspot status. As a pioneering reconversion of a former railway customs depot, the €12 million

investment by Dutch hotel group Van der Valk is transforming the area into a key tourism and economic centre. One flagship project in the pipeline is Au Fil de l'Eau, a commercial and housing venture that includes the City Mall shopping complex.

As you approach the town, the imposing hotel is a distinctive landmark. Dating from 1891, the red-brick former industrial building boasts a magnificent 100m facade, with stylised windows and arches and an extensive parking area. Marco Wohrmann and his wife

Anne-Sophie, already owners of hotels at Charleroi airport and in Nivelles, quickly spotted the building's potential. One of the earliest challenges was how to heat such a vast structure.

After exploring all the possibilities, they finally decided on using geothermal energy – tapping into the heat generated and stored in the earth. More than 80 bore wells were dug to a depth of 80m under the car park in front of the hotel (see box). The hotel is the only one in Belgium to use this system that provides heating, air conditioning

Geothermal energy

Geothermal power, using the heat that rises from the core of the earth to its surface, is cost-effective, reliable, sustainable and environmentally friendly. The 7,000m² hotel uses two heating pumps (100KW) which provide heating in winter and air conditioning in summer. They also enable the pre-heating of water. The installation is housed in the hotel's basement.

and hot water. The hotel's ecological credentials extend to the use of LED lighting and the recycling of kitchen waste to produce biogas, and windows are all triple-glazed to insulate and soundproof.

The year-long renovation completely gutted the building to create 100 rooms. They include nine junior suites with Jacuzzi and five business suites with a spa bath. Third-floor rooms are all duplexes with beds aloft in a mezzanine. The furnishing throughout is similar: anti-dust-mite red carpet and stylish contemporary decor, with free wi-fi everywhere. A fitness and wellness centre occupy the basement, along with seven meeting rooms. There are two more on the ground floor, but the majority of this vast space is taken up by the extensive reception area, lively brasserie and bar and the 200-seater restaurant, L'Entrepôt. This leads on to a south-facing terrace with an outdoor swimming pool that is also largely heated via the geothermal system.

Commercial director Michel Pauquet explains that the hotel's clientele can be divided into three categories: corporate, leisure and event-orientated, such as the Formula One at nearby Spa Francorchamps. "There are many high-profile businesses in the area that use our facilities," he explains. "We have British tourists who stop for the night on the way to the Alps and clients who are exploring the area or visiting Christmas markets, and we are the place to be for locals. The fact that we are just 300 metres from the station also attracts

some people." Among the hotel's many activities are a cinema club, jazz evenings and regular brunches.

The rapport with the town is vital. Situated a few hundred metres from the motorway, the 19th-century building dominates the once prosperous wool town of Verviers. For hundreds of years it produced unrivalled fabric due to a winning combination of local skills and particularly soft water from the River Vesdres. The early arrival of mechanisation thanks to English-born local industrialist William Cockerill established the town as a leading European wool manufacturer until the

economic decline of the 1950s.

In recent years, the Vesdres area has been undergoing a revival. As Wallonia's official water capital since 1984, it stages a number of themed projects. The beautiful nature of the surrounding countryside includes the nearby High Fens national park, abbeys and castles. The Hôtel Verviers, with high-profile local events and successful businesses, is playing a key role in revitalising the historic town and region.

➔ WWW.HOTELVERVIERS.BE



Verviers

The town is full of reminders of the age when, from the late 18th century, its wool industry reigned in Europe. The Grand Théâtre and Law Courts are examples of Neo-classic buildings, the Post Office Neo-gothic, while Haussmann-style architecture is evident in the rows of fine houses and squares. Visit the Wool and Fashion Tourist Centre to see how wool was made and then don a headset to walk around the town's Strand of Wool, a series of monuments from the wool trade. There are more themed walks that illuminate its wool and cultural heritage.

➔ WWW.PAYSDEVEDRE.BE

Holding on to a star

Exquisite dining at Michelin-awarded restaurant in new Ardennes home

BY SARAH CREW



Winning a highly cherished Michelin star is one achievement; holding on to it is another. But when restaurant hotel Le Cor de Chasse moved from Barvaux to the picturesque village of Wéris last summer, food critics continued to be wowed by owner chef Mario Elias's fine cuisine in its latest, magnificent setting.

Their seal of approval was confirmed by the gastronomic bible announcing its awards for 2013 at the end of last year. Elias was delighted – if not entirely surprised: “Everything is better here, there is more room and everything is new and chic.”

Le Cor de Chasse is certainly spacious. The restaurant's new quarters are in a renovated castle farm in a small, greystone village near the postcard-pretty town of Durbuy. In addition to the 40-person dining room, there is a large communal *table d'hôte* with an

ample, light-filled kitchen overlooking both. The reception area also leads to nine bedrooms, with three more planned. They include suites and rooms with terraces overlooking the garden, outdoor swimming pool and a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside. Downstairs there are two breakfast rooms; one with a large fireplace for winter cosiness, the other leading to a terrace for summer residents. There is also space for hosting seminars.



The oldest parts of the building date from the 17th century and the renovation retains many rustic features. They include bare stone walls and enormous fireplaces, while the contemporary decor features stylish lighting and fittings. In one suite, the bathroom is glass-walled to reveal the fine oak mantelpiece and resplendent oval bath sitting in a stone surround. One decorative motif that appears throughout the hotel and restaurant is wood in myriad forms: furniture, beams and the wood relief artworks that adorn the dining room. Outdoor sculptures, designed by the chef, are illuminated at night and visible to diners.

With the Michelin star assured, Elias says his cuisine “can now naturally evolve”. He is a strong believer in local food. “People are no longer familiar with home-grown vegetables. We are starting to grow our own vegetables and herbs here and much of our produce is



sourced locally. We can get everything here.” While game is probably the most typical regional product, Elias also likes to use Ardennes pork and bacon in his dishes, and with dairy being the other regional favourite, cheese, milk and butter are in plentiful supply. His cuisine reflects the Ardennes, albeit with a gastronomic angle.

There are two menus: the €50 four-course Discovery (plus €28 with wine selection) and the €68 six-course Prestige (€33 for wine), as well as the *à la carte* menu. A three-course lunch menu is €33 (€50 with wine). Le Cor de Chasse has a cellar of about 150 wines, predominantly from France, with a selection from Germany, Spain and Italy.

Elias changes the menu approximately every two months. “I prefer to take my time; a lot of reflection is required as I never create the same dish twice,” he explains. He is sometimes motivated by a particular product, while other influences can come from top kitchens around the world, such as El Bulli and Noma, as well as from Asian cuisine, and chefs closer to home such as Sergio Herman at Oud Sluis in the

Netherlands. “But I don’t follow fashion in cuisine,” he insists.

One of his personal touches is to invite diners to begin by inhaling a perfume such as lemon or mint before feasting on a dish that contains the same perfume. Inventive and adventurous while perfectly fusing simplicity and sophistication, he is no stranger to molecular cuisine for a sense of drama and excitement. Playfulness is another signature touch. Asked to define the key elements of his cuisine, Elias cites “taste, creativity and presentation, in addition to quality ingredients”.

His spring menu included red tuna with cucumber, radish and fennel; mackerel with crab; Anjou pigeon served with morels, parsnip and Serrano ham;



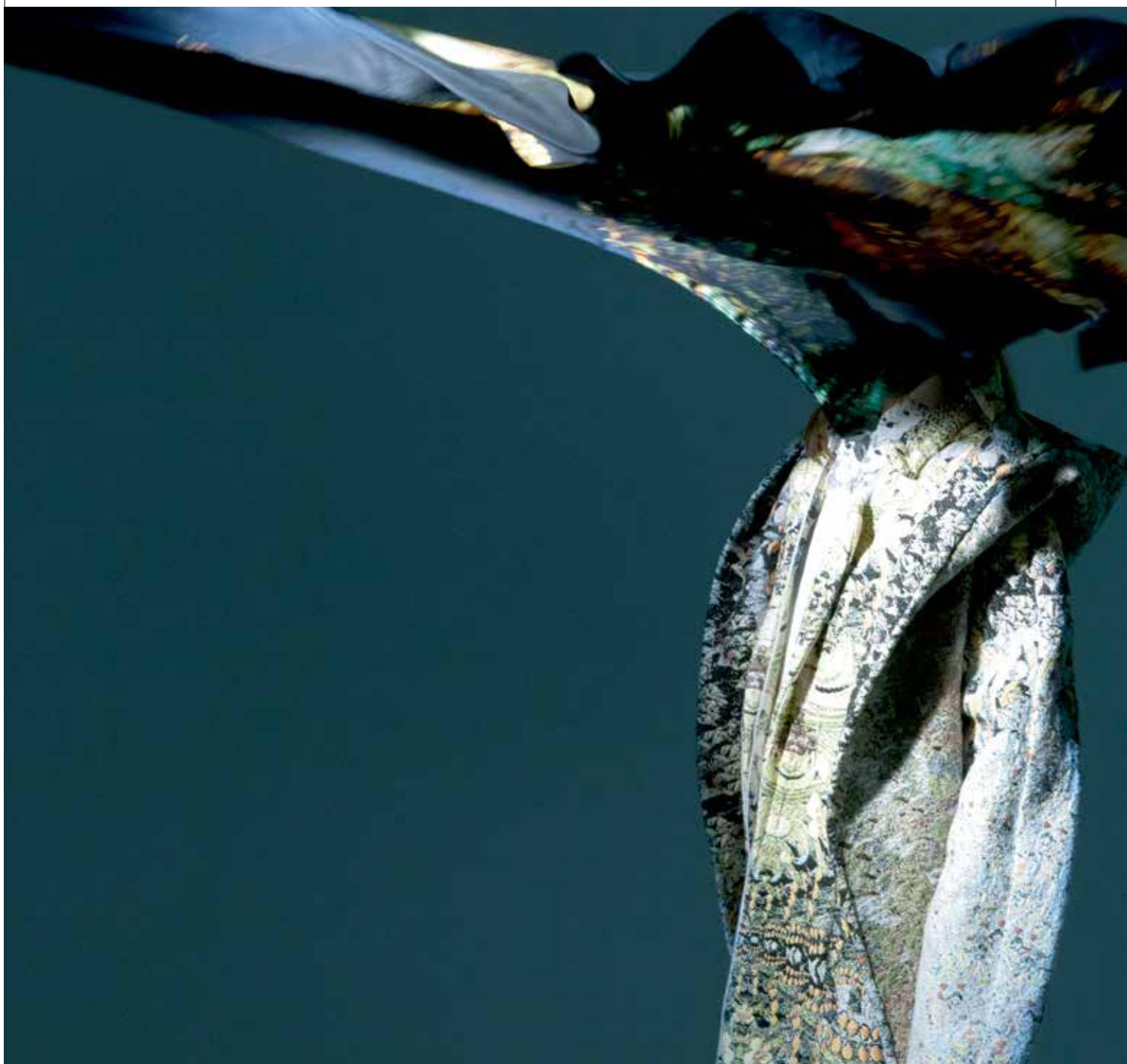
tiramisu revisited and rhubarb and strawberry with white chocolate, lime, sorrel and mint. Another signature touch is to combine meat with fish or seafood for a ‘surf and turf’ experience. Favoured products include pigeon, sweetbreads, langoustines and scallops.

Elias and his family – wife Aurore, who heads front of house, and two children, aged 15 and 17 – conveniently occupy living quarters adjacent to the kitchen. The couple met while working in restaurants in the Ardennes region, at reputed local addresses such as Château d’Hassonville in Marche-en-Famenne and Le Sanglier des Ardennes in Durbuy. Originally from Ostend, Elias moved to Wallonia as a child. He has an extensive culinary heritage as his parents were in the restaurant business and his grandmother was also a cook. It was in 2001 that the couple launched their own venture in the nearby village of Barvaux, receiving the Michelin accolade in 2008. As one of the most exciting chefs in Wallonia, Elias and his team are now in a position to become one of the region’s leading culinary ambassadors.

➤ WWW.LECORDECHASSE.BE

Krjst is born

The debut fashion collection of the Brussels-based Krjst collective is an innovative 50-piece series that explores androgyny, religious imagery and playful psychedelic prints. Founded by La Cambre graduates Justine Moriamé and Erika Schillebeeckx, Krjst presented its first collection at the Autumn/Winter shows in Paris this spring. Providing the platform for this leap into the highly competitive fashion world is Wallonia Brussels Design/Mode



(WBDM), the government agency that promotes designers from Wallonia and Brussels on the international stage. Krjst was one of five young talents selected by WBDM to join the No Season showroom in Paris, a showcase for upcoming talents.

Financial investment by WBDM and the Prix Modo 2013 cash award have helped Krjst launch its first collection, the unofficial muse of which was iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

Moriamé and Schillebeeckx, who possess distinct personalities and complementary design credentials, launched their own label after leaving the prestigious Brussels fashion college last year. The intuitive decision to seek their own creative path in fashion as well as in art resulted in an open collaboration with several artists.

Young Belgian photographer Quentin De Wispelaere shot the image pictured here after being given carte blanche

by WBDM for the No Season project. The 23-year-old La Cambre graduate approached the brief with his own poetic and offbeat vision. He created two complementary photographs, the first showing a design in a studio, the second in the form of a still life as shown here.

➤ WWW.KRJST.COM

➤ WWW.WBDM.BE





FESTIVALS
CHASSEPIERRE

For two days every summer, the village of Chassepierre in Luxembourg province becomes one big stage. Comedians, musicians, clowns, acrobats and many others share the pavement and do their thing for the public's viewing pleasure as the 200-strong population is swelled by thousands of visitors. Dozens of companies from around the world will transform pavements, squares and the most unexpected places with a host of visual treats in this charming Walloon village in the Semois valley.

WHAT? CHASSEPIERRE INTERNATIONAL STREET THEATRE FESTIVAL
WHEN? AUGUST 17 & 18
WHERE? CHASSEPIERRE, LUXEMBOURG PROVINCE
www.chassepierre.be



SPA THEATRE FESTIVAL

As summer draws to a close, the Spa Theatre Festival gets going, with 12 days of intense live French-language performance in front of 10,000 spectators. This year, the festival strengthens its ties with the public through a programme of encounters with artists, readings, theatre internships and workshops. *The Jealous Lover* opens the festival with 17 singers-actors-musicians paying tribute to composer Grétry who died in Liège 200 years ago; Hervé Guerrisi continues his exploration of Italian emigration in *Turnàta*, and 11 actors star in the stage adaptation of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (pictured).

WHAT? SPA THEATRE FESTIVAL
WHEN? AUGUST 9-20
WHERE? SPA
www.festivaldespa.be



FESTIVAL OF WALLONIA

The theme of this year's extravaganza of classical music is love, explored through more than 150 concerts including *Romeo and Juliet* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Liège. The seven festivals that make up the event – Saint-Hubert, Brussels, Namur, Stavelot, Liège, Walloon Brabant and Hainaut – each have their own characteristics: an emphasis on choral singing in Namur, chamber music in Stavelot, early music in Liège, varied across instruments and epochs in Brussels... Spanish soprano Raquel Andueza (pictured) plays Namur's Saint-Loup church on July 12.

WHAT? FESTIVAL OF WALLONIA
WHEN? UNTIL NOVEMBER 15
WHERE? VARIOUS
www.festivaldewallonie.be



BRUSSELS SUMMER FESTIVAL

The biggest summer music events might be out in the Belgian countryside, but Brussels Summer Festival never fails to deliver. For 10 days it celebrates contemporary rock and pop from Belgium and beyond, with plenty of opportunity to sample some excellent food and beer while you're at it. Confirmed names this summer include Brits Madness and Amy Macdonald and local favourites Puggy and Arno.

WHAT? BRUSSELS SUMMER FESTIVAL
WHEN? AUGUST 9-18
WHERE? BRUSSELS
www.bsfb.be



BROSELLA FOLK & JAZZ

The leafy Théâtre de la Verdure in northern Brussels is the setting for this annual jazz and folk fest, with artists from around the world. Families are well catered for, with plenty of activities for kids in a relaxed and family-friendly atmosphere. At the time of going to press, the programme hadn't been confirmed, but previous acts include The Chieftains, Philip Catherine and Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

WHAT? BROSELLA FOLK & JAZZ
WHEN? JULY 13 & 14
WHERE? THÉÂTRE DE LA VERDURE, BRUSSELS
www.brosella.be



THEATRE
FRANKENSTEIN

The atmospheric ruins of Villers-la-Ville's abbey are the perfect stage for this dramatic adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic tale. Combining horror and philosophy, the original mad scientist story is fascinating and terrifying all at once, with a rivalry between creator and creation that builds to a terrible denouement, specially tailored to such an unusual venue. Open-air theatre at its finest.

WHAT? FRANKENSTEIN
WHEN? JULY 11-AUGUST 10
WHERE? VILLERS-LA-VILLE ABBEY
www.frankensteen2013.be



EVENTS

BRUSSELS URBAN BBQ

Food, sunshine, fresh air and good company: everyone loves a picnic. This summer, the organisers of Brussels Urban BBQ invite you to share all of the above at Woluwe Park for a community picnic catered in part by Michelin-starred chefs Yves Muttage and Gaetan Colin. For €10 you can enjoy tapas and a barbecue in a friendly atmosphere that brings together Brussels dwellers of all ages.

WHAT? BRUSSELS URBAN BBQ

WHEN? AUGUST 5

WHERE? WOLUWE PARK, BRUSSELS
www.urbanbbq.be



BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

The annual race at Spa-Francorchamps is one of the most popular among both drivers and fans, with its spectacular Ardennes scenery, unpredictable weather and famous Eau Rouge bend that demands the very best of drivers. Known for its exciting, high-octane layout, Spa is a fast, old-school circuit with dangerous sweeping bends. A must for Formula One fans.

WHAT? BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

WHEN? AUGUST 25

WHERE? SPA FRANCORCHAMPS
www.spagrandprix.com



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PURCELL FOR A WHILE

At an age when many children are into setting fire to small insects, Brussels-born Nicolas Achten had already tried his hand at the piano, guitar, flute, viola and clarinet and was busy collecting and comparing recordings of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. Now 27, this "musician with the thousand arms", as he is known, in reference to his extraordinary versatility (he sings, plays various string instruments and conducts, often all at the same time) is one of the fastest-rising stars of the new generation of Baroque performers. His ensemble, Scherzi Musicali, already has five CDs to its name, most of them of previously unrecorded music from the early 17th century. The latest, *How Pleasant 'tis to Love*, is an exception and revisits well-trodden songs by Henry Purcell. *Sound the Trumpet, O Solitude, Music for a While*: these songs, let's face it, have long topped the Baroque charts. But Achten manages to make them fresh and new. "The idea was to tackle this well-known repertoire as if we were discovering it for the first time," he says. He has therefore dug up instruments that are seldom used today but "were common in England at the time, like the triple harp, or the English theorbo". These lend the music an easy, conversational quality – as do the voices: Achten's own baritone and the finely inflected tenor of young Fleming Reinoud van Mechelen, both lower than the sopranos and countertenors usually heard in these songs.

NASSOGNE, JULY 7

WWW.FESTIVALDEWALLONIE.BE



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 Financial incentives for exports and investment, lower business taxes, easy access to capital – all boosting growth in Wallonia.



> A culture of partnership
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> A competitive region
 Transport and logistics, aeronautics and aerospace, agribusiness, mechanical engineering, life sciences, environmental technologies: 6 competitiveness clusters and several other high-tech clusters put Wallonia at the forefront of progress.



www.wallonia-international.be

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