# TRACTEBEL
## ENGIE

# CIVIC ARCHITECTURE

## Urban Development

## Builds places with a broad cultural added value

**Tractebel** is a worldwide multidisciplinary engineering, consultancy and design firm working on a wide range of projects in geographies around the world. Every day our teams of engineers, consultants and designers feel the need for a more sustainable urban development to build a better world for all, today and in the future. Therefore we developed together 11 integrated approaches for cities and territories; they represent the needs and interests of cities and citizens and aim to provide solutions to key global challenges.

### why?
Civic architectures and public spaces are vital and primary structuring elements in cities. **Streets, squares, promenades, boulevards, public parks and gardens, buildings, like schools, city halls, hospitals… and public structures, like bridges, tunnels, market halls and pavilions… are all key civic architectures. Civic architectures are** – when well developed – **true democratic places that support local cultures and economic life**. They are the place where a rich civic culture can flourish, where people can interact, encounter and relate to each other. They are crucial places where the collective consciousness of the city is produced.

Today's public spaces are increasingly more controlled and even privatized. The use of public spaces and civic architectures in the cities is also challenged by the effects of climate change (heath-stress, flooding, etc…) or massive (mainly air) pollution. These trends present an issue in relation to the democratic character of public spaces and a threat to their functionality and meaning. **Civic architectures are key in conveying the way we want to live: how we live together, how we relate to nature, how we work and recreate.**

### what?
Civic Architecture resists the above mentioned threats. It focusses **on improving the relation between people and society, between man and nature, enabling the city to become a better-oiled machine for social integration, environmental consciousness and for welfare-wellbeing distribution**. Civic Architecture acts as a catalyst for entrepreneurship, social cohesion and cultural renewal.

The development of civic architectures in cities needs to be sensitive in relation to their context and **open to the appropriation and transformation by its users**. Walking, cycling, playing, cooking, gardening, resting, debating, for example are important activities that need to be accommodated in these public spaces. The urban fabric, the inhabitants and the public program define the daily use and the needs and potential of the site.

Civic Architecture integrates different disciplines to design places and structures able to deal with the issue of 'how to live together' in an open, creative, integrated and socially equal way.

### Dok Zuid, Antwerp

A large parking lot on former docks is transformed into a green heart for the city, a vibrant public space created to accommodate a diversity of uses. A new asset in addressing climate change.
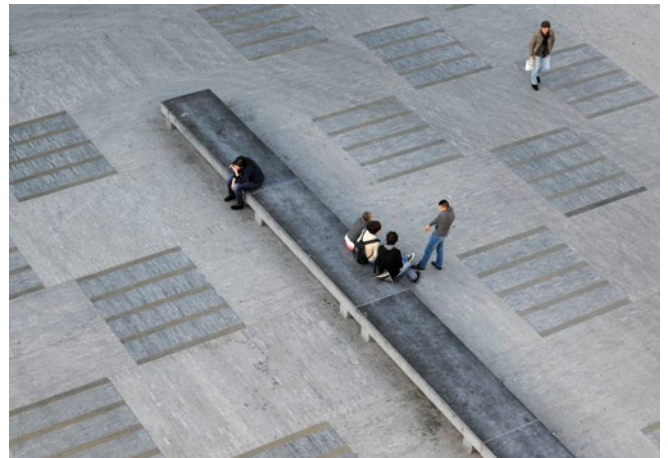


### Urban park and passerelle, Gentbrugse Meersen

With a minimum of means a patchwork of green leftover spaces are moulded into a public park. A new network of paths and a redefinition of an existing creek restructure this green area. Punctual interventions accommodate an alternative use of the park in intense relation with the natural setting.



### Maria Hendrikapark, Ostend

A 19th century park lifted to the 21st century. Finding a balance between the ecological and recreative function of the park. Highlighting the lakes as the original features of the park. Creating a better accessibility and a stronger connection with the city.



### Muntplein, Brussels

The project, located in the heart of the historic center of Brussels, creates a strong spatial cohesion of the urban space through the definition of two different atmospheres in the square and a clear pavement patter: a central space that hosts the busy passage of people on top of and a more quiet and intimate side on the east side.

**10** other integrated approaches to discover

| Urban Resilience | Productive Landscapes | Places of Mobility | Water Urbanism | Eco-Districts | Recycling Territories | Smart Networks | Territorial Transitions | Sustainability @Work | Digital Urban Solutions |

**TRACTEBEL**
tractebel-engie.com