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Belgium: Architecture and Design 2023

4 OCT - 14 OCT 2023

Code: 22341

Tour Leaders Stephen Crafti

Physical Ratings 🏴 🏴 🏴 🏴

With design writer Stephen Crafti explore the very best of Belgium's contemporary art, architecture, furniture and fashion in Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp.



Overview

With design writer Stephen Crafti explore the very best of Belgium's contemporary art, architecture, furniture and fashion in Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp.

- Based in the 4-star The Dominican begin in Brussels, Art Nouveau capital, with a visit to architect Victor Horta's private house and studio.
- By special appointment, visit the interiors of the Art Nouveau Hôtel Hannon, Maison Autrique, the UNESCO World-Heritage listed Hôtel Max Hallet and Hôtel Solvay, which features a decorated staircase, mosaic floor, painted walls, wrought ironwork and custom designed furniture.
- Tour the fine Art Deco Musée David et Alice van Buuren, a private house containing sublime furnishings, stained glass and fine art.
- View exceptional 19th-century art in the Musée Fin-de-Siècle and the Belgian surrealist artist, René Magritte's paintings in the Magritte Museum.
- Visit Design Museum Brussels dedicated to 20th-century art and design.
- Accompanied by interior designer Danny Venlet, explore contemporary interiors including Danny's own private home and studio and architect Ivo Van Hamme's private house.
- With architects Dries Vens and Maarten Vanbelle (partners of Atelier Vens Vanbelle) view a number of their projects, in Ghent.
- In Antwerp, based in the 4-star boutique Hotel Franq, visit Pulcinella Youth Hostel and Hotel August designed by architect Vincent Van Duysen.
- Tour the home of Renaat Braem (1910-2001), considered one of the finest representatives of Belgium's Mid-century Modern, and Middelheim's open-air museum's modern sculpture collection.
- Take an architecture tour of Antwerp including visits to Art Nouveau's Zurenborg district, the exterior of Le Corbusier's Maison Guiette (1926), the MAS, Zaha Hadid's Port House.
- Meet fashion designer Jan-Jan Van Essche in his studio and Atelier Solarshop.
- Explore MoMu Antwerp's fashion ModeMuseum, and tour the city's finest boutiques: Dries Van Noten, Ganterie Boon and A.F. Vandevorst.
- With lead project architect from AlDarchitecten, tour the Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp housed in a former 15th-century monastery, and enjoy a farewell lunch at Fine Fleur restaurant led by Michelinstarred chefs Jacob Jan Boerma and Thomas Diepersloot.

Overnight Brussels (6 nights) • Antwerp (4 nights)

Informal Professional Development for Architects

Practising architects who travelled on this program in past years qualified for Informal Professional Development points. The tour program includes over 10 hours of on-site learning delivered by qualified architects. For details about the Continuing Professional Development point requirements please refer to the Australian Institute of Architects website: www.architecture.com.au

Testimonial

The tour was a highlight of our travelling life the offerings of ASA have captured us over the past several years and we enjoy the learning, the convivial company and the exceptional access to places, people and experiences we could never replicate as independent travellers 'Belgium: Architecture and Design' introduced us to the very best Belgium has to offer. Deb & John, VIC.



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Leaders



Stephen Crafti

An Honorary Member of the Australian Institute of Architects, Stephen is a leading architecture & design writer of over 40 books & many articles including for 'The Age', 'Sydney Morning Herald' & 'Wallpaper' magazine (London), Stephen has pioneered ASA's new special design tours to London, Glasgow, Japan, Belgium, Finland & Auckland, as well as Australian programs to Hobart & Sydney.

With more than 40 books to his name and writing for Australia's leading newspapers and magazines, including the Sydney *Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The Australian Financial Review*, Stephen is highly regarded in his field. Whether it's writing about a contemporary home or a design luminary, he makes the subject both intriguing and highly accessible. He started writing on architecture and design in the early 1990s, after purchasing a modernist 1950s home. "I've always been drawn to design, whether it's a building, an interior, a beautifully crafted chair or fashion. I'm fascinated with the stories behind each creation. I never stop looking. It's a continual search for the best in design, whether in Australia or overseas". Stephen Crafti also produces and hosts 'Talking Design', a popular fortnightly RMIT podcast, which features interviews with experts and professionals from all areas of the design world. In 2021 he was awarded an Honorary Membership of the Australian Institute of Architects.

Combine this tour with

Parma: History, Gastronomy and Verdi 2023 24 SEP – 4 OCT 2023



ASA CULTURAL TOURS

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Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of museums, galleries, buildings and design projects which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission, which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in museum opening hours and privately hosted visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals as indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch, and D=dinner.

Brussels - 6 nights

Day 1: Wednesday 4 October, Arrive Brussels

- Tour commences at 4.00pm in the foyer of the Hotel The Dominican, Brussels
- Walking tour of Dansaert design district
- Visit and Light Dinner at Brasserie Surréaliste

Meeting Point: The tour commences at 4.00pm in the foyer of The Dominican which is ideally located in the historic centre, 400m from the Grand Place (Grote Markt). Following a brief welcome meeting there will be an afternoon tour of Brussels downtown fashion and design district. Rue Antoine Dansaert and rue de Flandre, we find exclusive designers and boutiques such as Stijl and vintage stores, jewellers such as Els Vansteelandt and Saskia Shutt, and Belgian milliners. We end the day with an architectural visit and a light group meal at Brasserie Surréaliste, a brewery, bar and restaurant housed in a renovated Art Deco building of 1932, previously a banana warehouse.

We return to our hotel on foot via the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Grand Place, which is beautifully lit in the evenings. Historically, the Grand Place was a market place where traders and citizens sold and bought food. All the streets surrounding the square are named after food like chicken (*poulet*), herbs (*herbes*), cheese (*fromage*) and so forth. Nowadays you will see grand old buildings standing in the place of market



shelters. (Overnight Brussels) D

Day 2: Thursday 5 October, Brussels

- Horta Museum, Saint-Gilles
- Art Nouveau coach tour, including exteriors of Maison Hankar, Maison Ciamberlani and Hotel Tassel
- Hôtel Max Hallet (by special appointment)
- Hôtel Solvay (by special appointment), Ixelles
- Wiels Contemporary Art Centre
- Welcome Dinner at La Quincaillerie

Brussels is the capital of Art Nouveau and magnificent structures throughout the capital city are recognised as 'world heritage' by UNESCO. At the turn of the 19th century Brussels went through a period of unrivaled effervescence. The middle classes, merchants and artists opted to have their houses built in the style in vogue: Art Nouveau, marking the beginning of modern architecture and design. The Austrian architect Josef Hoffman, the painter Gustav Klimt and the French architect Hector Guimard all joined the Belgian architects Victor Horta, Paul Hankar, Henry van de Velde, the furniture designer Serrurier-Bovy and the jeweller Philippe Wolfers to get their inspiration.

We begin our study of Brussels Art Nouveau with a guided tour of the Horta Museum, located in the private house and studio of architect Victor Horta (1861-1947). Built between 1898 and 1901 at 23-25, rue Américaine in Saint-Gilles, the two buildings are typical of Art Nouveau at its height. The interior decoration has largely been retained, the mosaics, stained glass, and wall decorations forming a harmonious and elegant whole, down to the last detail.

Led by a specialist guide from ARAU (Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines) we take a walking tour of the Art-Nouveau buildings of Saint-Gilles and Ixelles, viewing the exteriors of Roosenboom House designed by Albert Roosenboom a pupil of Victor Horta; the Maison Hankar and Maison Ciamberlani – both designed by architect Paul Hankar; Hôtel Tassel by Victor Horta 1893-1897; Hotel Otlet by architect Octave van Rysselberghe and Henry van de Velde and Hôtel Hannon by architect Jules Brunfaut.

By special appointment, we view the interiors of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Hôtel Max Hallet and Hôtel Solvay, both designed by Victor Horta.

On avenue Louise, the restored Hôtel Max Hallet is a restrained structure of 1904 where the straight, slender façade is decorated with elegant doors and windows plus an elongated stone balcony with a wrought-iron balustrade.

Also on avenue Louise, the Hôtel Solvay is a luxurious residence built by Victor Horta in 1894 for the Solvay family. The 33-year-old architect was given complete freedom and unlimited funds to design the interior and furnishings. This is generally considered the most ambitious and spectacular work of Horta in the Art Nouveau period. It features a decorated staircase, mosaic floor, painted walls, wrought iron work and custom furniture.

We then take an architecture tour of the Wiels Contemporary Art Centre, named after a famous Belgian beer. The architecture tour focuses on the restoration and the renovation of the brewery building designed in the 1930s by Belgian architect Adrien Blomme, one of the rare examples of modernist industrial architecture in Brussels.

Tonight we enjoy our welcome meal at La Quincaillerie, located in a former hardware store. The building



was designed by an apprentice of Victor Horta and a lot of elements of the former business were kept intact (Overnight Brussels) BD

Day 3: Friday 6 October, Brussels

- Musée David et Alice van Buuren
- Pierre Marcolini Chocolate, Grand Sablon
- Guided tour of Musée Fin-de-Siècle

We start our day with a visit to the David and Alice van Buuren Museum, a private house built from 1924 to 1928, decorated with sublime furnishings, stained glass and fine paintings covering five centuries of art.

Following our tour of the museum, we head for the Grand Sablon where there will be time at leisure for lunch and to visit the Pierre Marcolini Haute Chocolaterie. Marcolini's creations are designed in collaboration with Tom Dixon, stylist Olympia Le-Tan and fashion designer Kitsuné.

This afternoon we take a guided tour of Brussels' Musée Fin-de-Siècle, dedicated to arts and crafts at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Opened in 2013, the museum includes displays of paintings, contemporary photography, architecture, film, music and literature – and a home for the outstanding collection of Art Nouveau furniture and decorative art work donated by the Gillion-Crowet family in 2006.

Artists represented include Belgian painters such as the impressionist-influenced Hippolyte Boulenger and Guillaume Vogels, the powerful imagery of Léon Spilliaert, and the remarkable expressionist and surrealist painter and printmaker, James Ensor. Major international figures are also well-represented with works by Van Gogh, the Pre-Raphaelites's Burne-Jones, and the key French artists of the time, including three contrasting works by Gauguin, sculpture by Rodin and paintings by Bonnard, Sisley and Seurat. (Overnight Brussels) B

Day 4: Saturday 7 October, Brussels

- Interior tour of Hôtel Hannon (by special appointment)
- Interior tour of Cauchie House (by special appointment)
- Afternoon guided tour of Schaerbeek including the interiors Maison Autrique (by special appointment)
- Guided architecture tour of Mix (Hotel, Co-working space, Library, Gym, Studios & Restaurants)

This morning we visit the Art Nouveau masterpiece Hôtel Hannon, the private home of Marie Debard and Édouard Hannon, commissioned to the architect Jules Brunfaut, in 1903. The interior conceived as an enclosed, dreamlike and symbolic universe features an impressive central staircase and stained glass windows. We also tour the temporary exhibition "Belgian Art Nouveau", which presents Art Nouveau in all its diversity through works by Paul Hankar, Henry van de Velde and Gustave Serrurier-Bovy.

Then we take a guided tour of Cauchie House, considered to be one of the most beautiful Art Nouveau masterpieces in Brussels. It was built in 1905 by Art Nouveau architect, painter and designer Paul Cauchie. It bears many exceptional decorative elements, including the famous Art Nouveau *sgraffito*. The *sgraffiti*, or engraved drawings, that you can see on the wall, represent the allegories of the arts.

The sleepy farming village of Schaerbeek was completely transformed in the early years of the twentieth century for the city's burgeoning middle classes, many of whom employed the period's best architects to design their new homes. Victor Horta, Gustave Strauven, François Hemelsoet and Henri Jacobs were just



four of the architects who reinvented family houses, apartment buildings and educational buildings in the Art Nouveau style.

Accompanied by a specialist guide, we take a tour of this district which will include interior visits of the Maison Autrique. The Autrique House was the first town house built by Victor Horta in the Art Nouveau style. This house built in 1893 represents an essential step in the evolution of the greatest Belgian architect.

We end our day with a guided architecture and design tour of Mix (hotel, co-working space, library, gym, studios & restaurants). Located within the iconic building of the insurance company La Royale Belge. Originally designed in 1969 by Stapels and Dufau, the place has undergone a remarkable transformation under the artistic direction of renowned artist Lionel Jadot and his team of Belgian artists from Zaventem Atelier. (Overnight Brussels) B

Day 5: Sunday 8 October, Brussels

- Atomium, 1958 Brussels World Expo Building
- Guided tour of Design Museum Brussels
- Old Market, vintage market
- Guided tour of the Musée René Magritte

Today we begin with a visit to the Atomium, the landmark building constructed for the 1958 Brussels World Expo, and enjoy spectacular views of the city. We then take a guided tour of ADAM Brussels Design Museum. Opened in 2015, this new museum and art centre is dedicated to design and art from the 20th century. This unique collection includes Pop Art, everyday products, artworks and iconic industrial designs, all in a museum with a minimalistic interior. The museum's colourful entrance steps were designed by Jean Nouvel. Of particular note is the *Plasticarium*, which contains over 2000 plastic objects ranging from everyday gadgets to works of art. Two special exhibitions are on display: *Design Generations* as part of the biennale of contemporary design and *Graphic 58* devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Atomium, the landmark building originally constructed for the 1958 Brussels World's Fair.

We then transfer to the Old Market or "Vieux Marché" in French. The Place du Jeu de Balle flea market is known throughout the world. Not only is it the place where the famous Tintin bought a model of the tall ship "La Licorne" in Hergé's *The Secret of the Unicorn* (1943), but also a true paradise for vintage hunters, as are the shops dotting on and around nearby rue Blaes and rue Haute.

We end the day with a guided tour of the museum devoted to displaying works by Brussels' most famous modern artist, the Surrealist painter René Magritte. The Musée René Magritte displays some 200 original paintings, drawing and sculptures, mostly donated by his wife Georgette and by his principal collector, Irène Hamoir Scutenaire. This is the world's largest collection of Magritte's work. (Overnight Brussels) B

Day 6: Monday 9 October, Brussels

- Full day with Danny Venlet, Advisor to MAD Brussels
 - Private home of architect, Ivo Van Hamme
 - MAD (Mode and Design Centre)
 - Kanal-Centre Pompidou (office)
 - Private home and studio of Danny Venlet

Danny Venlet was born in Victoria (Australia) from Dutch parentage and studied Interior Design at the Sint-Lucas Institute for Architecture and Visual Arts in Brussels. In Australia, working as an independent designer



and interior architect, he went on to add a series of high-profile projects to his name with which he managed to draw considerable international attention before going into partnership with Marc Newson. In the mid-90s he moved back to Belgium where he currently works on projects from across the globe out of his Brussels workshop.Today Danny is advisor to MAD Brussels' new Mode and Design Centre.

We spend a full day with Danny Venlet exploring a number of Brussels' contemporary interiors including the private home of architect Ivo Van Hamme (partner of BOB 361 architects) and Danny's own private home and studio. We also visit the MAD (Mode and Design Centre) and view the exhibition Jaime Hayon with MAD Creative Director Dieter van der Storm. In Kanal-Centre Pompidou, we discover the renovation plans for this new art museum with lead architect of noArchitecten. (Overnight Brussels) B

Antwerp - 4 nights

Day 7: Tuesday 10 October, Brussels - Ghent - Antwerp

- De Krook Library, Ghent
- Market Hall by Marie-José Van Hee and Robbrecht en Daem
- Architecture projects by Atelier Vens Vanbelle: Pieter & Ruth, Stijn & Annemie and Brecht & Nele

Today we make the short 60-kilometre journey to the port city of Ghent, located at the confluence of the Leie and Scheldt rivers. The city is known for its medieval castle, guildhalls and art treasures.

On arrival we visit De Krook Library. The monumental building, which incorporates works by artist Michaël Borremans, was designed by the Ghent architecture firm Coussée & Goris Architecten and their partner TV RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes. This Spanish architecture firm also won the Pritzker Prize (2017), the highest international distinction for architecture.

Then we view the city's Market Hall. Designed by Marie-José Van Hee and Robbrecht en Daem in 2012 the hall stands gracefully between the Belfort (a late-medieval belfry), St Nicolas's Church, Cathedral of St Bavo and the city hall. As an urban interior, the inside embraces the passer-by with a dual modulated wooden ceiling, whose small windows scatter light inwards. The building seems to assume a respectful role relative to the nobler historic stone buildings, by using a wooden, almost humble, finish. A glass envelope protects the wood and provides a soft shine, with the sky reflected.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, by special arrangement, we meet with Dries Vens and Maarten Vanbelle from Atelier Vens Vanbelle to view a number of their projects. Established in 2006, Atelier Vens Vanbelle is a Ghent based studio spawned from Dries Ven's and Maarten Vanbelle's fun-enthused love for redefining the everyday. Breathing new life into existing architectures and also establishing harmonies between the practicalities and the potential quirks of daily space, the duo are known for their impressive use of internal journeys, unusual material pairings and refined form/void compositions. Projects we shall visit include Piet & Ruth, Stijn and Annemie, and Brecht and Nele.

In the late afternoon we depart Ghent for the historic city of Antwerp, where we shall spend four nights at the upscale and beautifully designed Hotel Franq. Situated in a former bank, the hotel has been lovingly restored; authentic neoclassical features are effortlessly combined with contemporary furnishings. (Overnight Antwerp) B

Day 8: Wednesday 11 October, Antwerp

• Pulcinella Youth Hostel by Vincent Van Duysen



- Art Nouveau's Zurenborg district
- Groene Kwartier: Hotel August and The Jane
- Middelheim Open Air Sculpture Pavilion: Braem Pavilion & Het Huis
- Renaat Braem's House
- Maison Guiette, Law Courts, Huis van Roosmalen
- Architecture tour of the MAS (Museum aan de Stroom)
- 'New Faces of Harbour Cities': An architecture tour of Antwerp's Port including the Port House by Zaha Hadid Architects, Red Star Line Museum, Montevideo warehouses, FelixArchief and Westkaai-Kattendijkdok Project
- Dinner at restaurant Het Pomphuis

Antwerp, with its rich history of culture and commerce, is home to cutting-edge fashion, vintage style and great places to eat. During the 16th century, Antwerp was one of Europe's most prominent cities. It was home to artist Peter Paul Rubens, a hub for both architects and consumers of art, design and culture, and at the centre of the world's diamond industry, which formed the backbone of the city's commerce. This backdrop sets the scene today for a modern city full of medieval charm, its narrow winding lanes and cobbled streets leading the way to a playground for lovers of design, fashion and food.

Accompanied by a local architect, we spend a full day exploring a range of Antwerp's architectural projects.

We begin with visit to the Pulcinella Youth Hostel designed by architect Vincent Van Duysen, in 2010. 'By using a single volume adjusted to its surroundings, choosing a classical window typology and rhythm, and selecting a grey palette of materials a building is created that seamlessly fits into its surroundings.'

We make brief stops to view the exteriors of three distinctive buildings. Designed by Le Corbusier in 1926, the Maison Guiette was built as the residence and studio for painter René Guiette. It's an early and classic example of the International Style. It was later inhabited by Belgian fashion designer Ann Demeulemeester who employed Georges Baines to restore the house in 1985.

Designed by Richard Rogers Partnership in 2006, 'the Law Courts echo the characteristics of the landscape around Antwerp: the expansive, complex roof variously resembles sails, bent trees and church towers, as if seen through squinting eyes.'

The Huis van Roosmalen, (an iconic black and white striped building along the Scheldt quays), was designed by architect Bob Van Reeth, one of the most important Postwar Belgian architects, in 1990.

Then a stroll down the Cogels-Osylei, in the Zurenborg district, allows us to admire its wonderful houses built in styles including Art Nouveau, neo-Gothic, and Greek. We stop to view the façade of the Art Nouveau house *de Zonnebloem* designed by architect Jules Hoffman in 1900.

Nearby we visit the Groen Kwartier, the site of a former 19th-century military hospital. First, we visit the Hotel Augusta, another major project by architect Vincent Van Duysen (2019), where he renovated and connected three gardens and five public buildings including a convent.

Then, we view the restaurant The Jane, housed within the chapel of the former military hospital, renovated by Dutch Studio Piet Boon. The Jane's kitchen takes the place of the altar. An enormous chandelier – created by Beirut-based PSIab – hangs in the centre of the room. Stained glass windows that surround the room were illustrated by Studio Job. The 500 panels that make up the windows include contemporary motifs referencing food and drink.



The Antwerp-born architect Renaat Braem (1910-2001) is considered one of the finest representatives of Belgium's Mid-century Modern. He began his career as a trainee with Le Corbusier and worked incessantly from his hometown base from the late 1930s. Today we visit his own home, which following his death, was carefully restored and now opens as a museum by special appointment. Built by himself in 1958, the house is considered one of the best-preserved examples of his work. Here, "...the architect created a constellation of functional, interlocking cubes, which create games of volume and void both inside and outside. The mostly open-plan interior, containing his home as well as his L-shaped office space, uses natural materials and muted tones with Bauhaus-style bright prime colour accents – red, blue and yellow. Exotic objects from all over the world as well as a number of personal objects, souvenirs and designer products – mainly Italian and Danish – furnish the house's several areas, from the sitting room to the bedroom and black tile bathroom." *Wallpaper*, April 2011.

Bream designed some of the most representative modernist examples in Belgium, including the Middelheim Open Air Sculpture Pavilion which we next visit. This open-air museum for modern sculpture, set in a 27 ha park, includes works by Ai Weiwei, Alexander Calder, Jean Arp, Dan Graham, Per Kirkeby, Henry Moore, Panamarenko, François Pompon, Auguste Rodin, Joep Van Lieshout and Ossip Zadkine. To house smaller sculptures and more fragile works, Renaat Braem was commissioned to design an exhibition hall. Throughout his career he saw architecture as the art of organising space in order to liberate human kind. His architecture gradually adopted a more organic style, which is apparent in this pavilion.

Following some time at leisure for lunch at the museum's café we view the Het Huis, a semi-open pavilion designed by Robbrecht and Daem. This temporary exhibition site, which consists of plaited grey-green curved steel plates, has been seamlessly incorporated into the green surroundings of the park. Together with the Braem Pavilion, Het Huis is an example of the museum's ideal of merging art and architecture.

At Antwerp's dockside we take an architectural tour of the Museum aan de Stroom. Located on the former site of a Hanseatic warehouse in an area known as Het Eilandje ('the little island'), the MAS is intended to be a bridge between the city centre and the port. Designed by Dutch architects Willem Jan Neutelings and Michiel Riedijk, this 60-metre-tall tower block consists of wide panels of undulating glass separating 10 giant stone containers, stacked one on top of the other and clad in violent red Indian sandstone. Every storey of the tower has been rotated a quarter turn, creating a gigantic spiral staircase. This spiral space, in which a facade of corrugated glass is inserted, forms a public city gallery. During our tour we explore how this design is consistent with the historical function and atmosphere of the location, visit the promenade, and enjoy dramatic views of the city from the viewing depot.

Across from the MAS is Antwerp's Port Authority. A coach tour of this area will include a visit to the Port House (exterior only) designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, and the Red Star Line Museum. Designed by New York architects Beyer Blinder Belle, the museum's steel and glass observation tower provides panoramic views of the city and its historic port.

We also view the renovated heritage-listed Montevideo warehouses with their distinctive façades, the Sint-Felix warehouses converted into the FelixArchief by architects Robbrecht and Daem in 2006, and the impressive Westkaai-Kattendijkdok project with its six residential towers. Designed by leading architectural collectives from Belgium (ELD and De Architecten nv), Great Britain (David Chipperfield and Tony Fretton) and Switzerland (Diener & Diener), the six towers are surrounded by a beautiful park designed by Parisian landscape architect Michel Desvigne.

We end our day with an evening meal at Restaurant Het Pomphuis, which occupies an old pump house in Antwerp's harbour area. (Overnight Antwerp) BD



Day 9: Thursday 12 October, Antwerp

- Antwerp ModeMuseum (MoMu)
- Copyright Art and Architecture Book Store
- Walking tour of Antwerp's fashion district: Dries Van Noten, Ganterie Boon and A.F. Vandevorst
- Jan-Jan Van Essche Studio and Atelier Solarshop (by special appointment)

This morning we visit MoMu, Antwerp's fashion museum which looks back at four decades of Belgian fashion including masterpieces by Martin Margiela, A.F. Vandevorst, Ann Demeulemeester and Raf Simons. Next we visit Antwerp's spacious Copyright book store, which covers everything from architecture and design, to fashion and more specialist art books. Then we take a walking tour of Antwerp's fashion district discovering Antwerp's style icons and stores by Dries Van Noten, Ganterie Boon and A.F. Vandevorst.

Dries Van Noten (born 12 May 1958 in Antwerp) is a leading Belgian fashion designer, who won the International Award of the Council of Fashion Designers of America in 2008. That same year, he dressed actress Cate Blanchett for the Academy Awards, and has continued to dress her for other red carpet events. He currently creates four collections a year (men's and women's, both for summer and winter).

Ganterie Boon is a family-owned business specialising in Peccary and Chevreaux leather gloves. One of the few remaining glove businesses in Belgium, this 120-year-old shop still retains its 19th-century features including original glove boxes, countertops, cabinets and chairs.

Belgian husband-wife team An Vandevorst and Filip Arickx launched their first collection in Paris in 1998 after graduating from the Fashion School of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp. They launched a shoe collection in 2003 and a lingerie line three years later. The pair is known for their deft contrasts in fabrics, textures, and colours, often layering silky lingerie-inspired pieces with tailored jackets, reworked white cotton button-downs, or dramatic capes.

This afternoon we are invited to visit the design studio and shop of Antwerp born Jan-Jan Van Essche. Also a graduate of the famous Antwerp Fashion Academy, praised for its innovation and simplicity, we discover Van Essche's slow approach to fashion and his concept of an annual wardrobe, rather than by season. (Overnight Antwerp) B

Day 10: Friday 13 October, Antwerp

- Theo Eyewear Atelier and Warehouse (by special appointment)
- Tour with lead architect and Farewell Lunch at Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp
- Time at leisure

This morning we start with a visit of Theo Eyewear. Theo is the house brand at Theo-Somers Optiek. In 1987 Wim Somers and Patrick Hoet launched their own range of spectacles and today have grown into an important player in the niche market for designer eyewear. We take a private tour of their atelier and warehouse.

The recently opened 5-star Botanic Sanctuary Hotel stands on the foundations of a 12th-century monastery. We tour this unique restoration project with the lead architect from AIDarchitecten. The monastery historic character has been preserved all over the place, enhanced by a sophisticated contemporary touch, revealing ancient stonework and structures. The hotel's setting adjacent to the Botanical Gardens is integral to the 1,000sq m Botanic Health Spa, which has been designed to reflect a cloistral devotion to healing plants and herbs. The focus on herbal healing stems from the monastery's history when the original



convent's brothers and sisters would grow vegetables and herbs for food and to provide medicinal remedies. In the 16th century, renowned apothecary Pieter Coudeberg established a medicinal herb garden next door. It is considered the precursor of the city's modern-day Botanical Garden. As part of the restoration, the monastery's former pharmacy was also brought back to life. The herbal apothecary brand Saint Charles Apothecary has opened its flagship store within the pharmacy.

Following the architecture and design tour, we enjoy a farewell lunch at Fine Fleur, one of Botanic Sanctuary's four fine dining restaurants, led by Michelin-starred chefs Jacob Jan Boerma and Thomas Diepersloot. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (Overnight Antwerp) BL

Day 11: Saturday 14 October, Antwerp, Tour Ends

- Tour concludes in the morning
- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Antwerp after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Brussels Airport. B



Accommodation

ASA has selected a range of 4-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

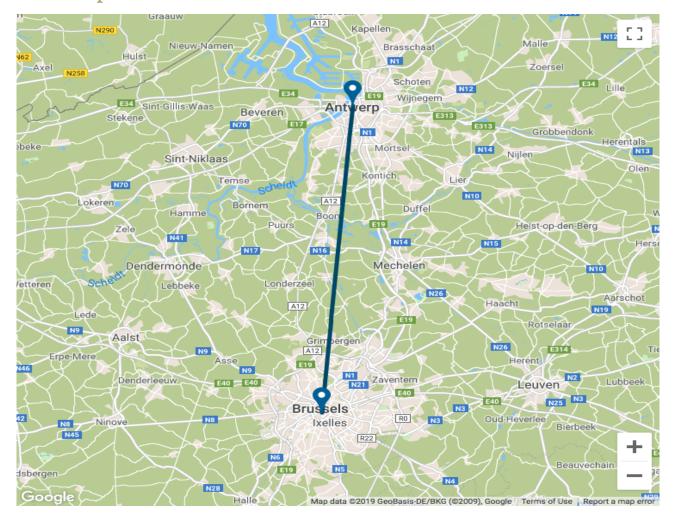
- Brussels (6 nights): 4-star The Dominican located in the heart of Brussels, a 2-minute walk from the Grand-Place and Central Station. This charming boutique hotel is housed in a former Dominican Abbey with renovations by renowned Dutch design team FG Stijl. www.thedominican.be
- Antwerp (4 nights): 4-star Hotel Franq located in the historic centre, a 2-minute walk from the Gothic-style Cathedral of Our Lady. Housed in a former bank, this design hotel features a 1-star Michelin restaurant. www.hotelfranq.com

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a single occupancy throughout the tour. In all hotels on this tour, this will be a double for single occupancy. The number of rooms available for single use is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



Tour Map





Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$7790.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 September 2022

AUD \$7990.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$1480.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with en suite bathroom in the 4-star Hotel Le Dixseptième (6 nights, Brussels), and the 4-star boutique Hotel Franq (4 nights, Antwerp)
- Breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals as indicated in the itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Lecture and site visit program
- Public transport in Brussels as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Brussels, Brussels-Australia
- Porterage in not available at hotels
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance



www.asatours.com.au



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 🏲 🏲 🏲 🏲 🏲

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion.

This 11-day Architecture and Design Tour of Belgium involves:

- Exploring Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp on foot.
- Extensive walking (up to 5km per day) and standing during museum and other site visits. Walking tours may include steep slopes, flights of stairs, cobbled streets and uneven ground.
- Regular use of Brussels' public transport system.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Porterage is not available.
- The use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please



refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than **75 days prior** to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate

Commencing from November 2021 it will be a condition of travel that all group leaders and ASA travellers are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. All participants must send ASA a copy of their vaccination certificate at the time of submitting their Reservation Application Form. For information on how to obtain either a Covid-19 digital certificate or a certificate in PDF format please view the Australian Government Services Australia "What types of proof there are" web page.



Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport) TITLE Mr Mrs Miss Dr Other			
EMAIL address Date of birth / Jate of birth /			
Passport Number Expiry date / Nationality Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed I'm renewing my passport ASA has a colour copy of my current passport			
Travel Plans I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. Business Class Economy Class I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / / I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option. I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option. Frequent Flyer Name of Airline Airline Seat preference (please note request only)			
Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences) I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion			
Meals Please X the box if you CAN NOT eat any of the following: I do not have any specific dietary requests fish poultry red meat dairy products Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information Other			
Correspondence Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address			
Emergency Contact Details Note: this person MUST be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA Name			
EMAIL address			



Medical Information

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel:1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include generic names of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark ${\bf X}$ in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

1.	Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?	OC
2.	Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?	$\bigcirc \bigcirc$
3.	Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?	ÕŎ
4.	Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?	OC
5.	Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?	$\bigcirc \bigcirc$
6.	Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?	OC
7.	Can you administer your own medication?	$\bigcirc \bigcirc$
		\sim

8.	3. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which ma	
	impact your capacity to participate on this tour?	

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

- 1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? If yes, please specify
- 2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen?

 Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?
 If yes, please specify

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

 Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?

YES NO

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Are you insulin dependent?

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

to O

YES NO

or	unreliable.	
	YES	NO
	\bigcirc	\bigcirc



Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

- 1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
- 2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
 - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
- 3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: \$500*

75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due

45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due

14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

I accept the conditions on this booking form

I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated



Payment Form

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1		
have enclosed a payment to the value of (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour		
The above amount is payable for: Intention to Travel Tour Deposit Balance of Payment Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit Travel Insurance Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation)		

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg.Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges. Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only) Please make cheques payable to <i>Australians Studying Abroad</i>	Credit Card Payment Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%
Direct Deposit or Internet Banking	Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express
 You will need to: Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch Include any fees levied by the banks Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended). Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed). 	I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above Credit Card Number Expiry Date Security Code (CVC) Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)
Australians Studying Abroad bank detailsBankANZBranch420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VicSwift CodeANZBAU3M	Cardholders Name Cardholders Billing Address
BSB 013-423 Account No 3472-32759 Bank confirmation No.	Postcode State Country
Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended	Phone Email
Date Money Transferred	Cardholders Signature

AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD