



Press Release

JOKE SCHAUVLIEGE

FLEMISH MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND CULTURE

Saturday 12 October 2013

Kristiaan Borret wins the Flemish Culture Award for Architecture 2012-2013

Today, Flemish Minister of Culture Joke Schauvliege presented chief city architect Kristiaan Borret with the 2012-2013 Flemish Community Award for Architecture. The Culture Award for Architecture is presented every two years, alternating with the Culture Award for Design. The presentation took place during the Architecture Evening of the Flemish Architecture Institute in C-Mine Genk. The jury proposed the chief city architect of Antwerp as the winner because he and his team have proved for seven years now that his approach produces results.

Public buildings are often the result of a complex combination of the wishes and demands of residents, public transport companies, utility companies, highway managers, contractors, developers, heritage providers, action groups, etc. In many instances the parties have hardly spoken one another and yet the result of sharing their ideas would be mutually reinforcing. The solution is a policy that breaks through the sectoral approach and through rigid regulations and that encourages parties to put their heads together on specific projects. This approach guarantees better results. And this is precisely what Kristiaan Borret, the Antwerp chief city architect, has proved. Which is why he has received the Flemish Culture Award for Architecture 2012-2013.

The city must not restrict itself to just ticking the rule boxes, says Kristiaan Borret. The chief city architect succeeds in reaching out to all the different parties in question. He gets all the different divisions in the town council to follow the same principles, he obtains support from the council for his vision and he brings designers, developers and clients together. He may be critical at times, but Borret is never the “enemy”. “He is the sounding board: an independent intermediary with a soundly based opinion who is willing to accept other viewpoints,” according to the jury.

Navigating between so many different parties demands tactical insight, patience and an ability to listen to others. It’s very easy to take a wrong step. Many people who worked with him consider that his role was of inestimable value and marked a positive change in terms of quality in the city planning of Antwerp.

Flemish Minister for Culture Joke Schauvliege said: “My cultural policy tackles fragmentation. Kristiaan Borret does this by looking at architecture not as the one and only paradigm, but as an instrument to unite our space in all its facets. By bringing together city architects, utility companies, developers, investors and residents’ groups, he generates support for sometimes-difficult building projects.”

Day of Architecture 2013

The Day of Architecture on Sunday 13 October 2013 that goes under the title “Blossoming landscapes”, will showcase the opportunities of our townscapes, in search of new designs for living, working and communities. A building culture based on consuming space becomes untenable. All the projects in the

Day of Architecture try, in their own way, to change the direction of this trend by doing more with less space. The theme is a sequel to "The Ambition of the Territory. Flanders as Design".

For more information, please visit www.dagvandearchitectuur.be

Culture Awards Flanders 2012-2013

A jury of experts pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past season made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Flemish Culture Awards create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner.

A cash prize of €12,500 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

More information is available at: www.cultuurprijzen.be and www.vlaanderen.be/cultuurprijzen