



Typology
Office and Administration

Site
Montagne du Parc
Brussels, Belgium
50° 50' 43.901" N 4° 21' 38.423" E

Competition/Award
Competition 1. Prize 2013

Client
BNP Paribas Fortis
Brussels, Belgium

Cooperation
styfhals architecten bv nv
Machelen, Belgium
Jaspers-Eyers Architects
Brussels, Belgium

Interior design
Baumschlager Eberle Architekten

Photography
Cyrille Weiner

Site area
14,300 m²

Area of building
7,400 m²

Gross floor area
108,000 m²

Floor area
63,000 m²

Start of planning phase
2014

Start of construction
2017

Completion
2021

Construction cost
EUR 200 million

Montagne du Parc
Brussels, Belgium



A new address in Brussels. The remit here was to reposition the BNP Paribas Fortis HQ building in terms of planning, design and infrastructure – in exactly the place it has stood for the last 200 years – with numerous yet subtle references to the surrounding urban structure. **The new architecture unequivocally turns the building back into a “house”** with an address in central Brussels. The new building follows the original street plan, now all but obliterated, and makes reference both to the 12 m difference in height that separates Brussels’ Ville Haute from the Ville Basse – clear separations reflecting the city’s topographical boundaries – and to the current building heights in the area. The use of the existing underground space as a seasonal heat store keeps technical plant to a minimum. Landscaped courtyards and an atrium provide the building’s 4,500 users and the public with **high-quality space** – both indoors and out – for meeting and socialising.



Insights

We relished the challenge of creating a functional and poetic space in the midst of Brussels bureaucracy. It’s a joy to hear people talking about the high expectations they have for the building.



A place that enhances its surroundings. The resulting building replaces two towers, now demolished, but reuses the massive underground tank on which they stood. The structure is sheathed in an iridescent green **load-bearing façade** that tames its imposing stature. The idea of a town “house” continues in the design of the outdoor spaces, which feature new pedestrian areas, a **public courtyard** and a green roof designed as an extension of the adjacent park. The quest for sustainability takes into account **aesthetic, social and cultural values** as well as the usual structural and energy-related factors. As a result, both Brussels and BNP Paribas Fortis will benefit from a building that improves its surroundings and provides excellent working conditions for staff. Key figures: 65,000 m² office space, 1,000 m² retail, 2,200 m² public bodies, 200 parking spaces and some 400 bike stands.