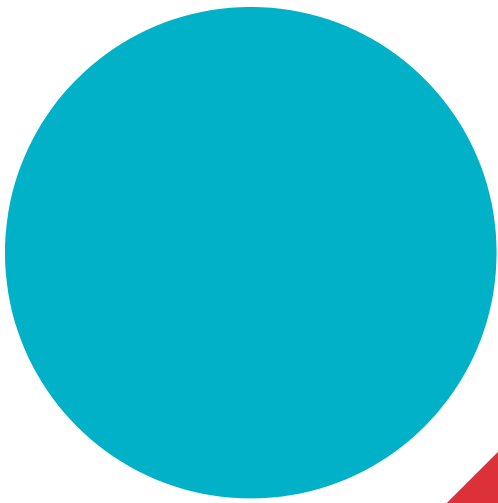


# 30

years of Heritage Day in  
Flandres,  
30 ideas for participation



A European Heritage Year,  
a European Heritage Day





# 30

## years!

It is a beautiful coincidence: Heritage Day celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and 2018 has been declared as the European Year of Cultural Heritage. These are two excellent reasons to take part in a festive edition of Heritage Day, *and* to focus on 'Europe' as part of our heritage this year; a broad subject that allows you to go down many different (European) routes, both as a large metropolitan area as well as a small municipality.

In 1989 the first Heritage Day took place in Flanders. Other European countries preceded us. The theme of the first edition was: 'Experiencing Monuments'. Thirty years on, the event still enjoys the same solid foundation, although it has obviously evolved over time and according to developments in the sector. However, the basic idea – offering free visits to heritage sites across Flanders at agreed times, making sure visitor experiences are of the highest quality and, due to the number of visitors, strengthening the impact of these heritage sites within society – has remained unchanged. Heritage Day has already brought about much change in its thirty years of existence. We will look back on that later this year, while at the same time focusing on the future: what's next?

In 1975, many years before the first Heritage day in Flanders, the European Year of Architectural Heritage was organised. This event became the influential beginning of many developments within our sector. Within that tradition, the European Year of Cultural Heritage takes place in 2018 - a European project. The EU takes its own initiatives to emphasise the great importance of heritage by, for example, providing the very valuable and encouraging report: *Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe*, but the success of the year primarily depends on the heritage subjects themselves, who also have a vested interest in this. The Year provides an opportunity to more prominently and sustainably place heritage at the top of the European agenda. (The Statement of Bruges in 2010, at the end of the Belgian EU Presidency, marked the beginning of the preparations of the European Year.)

It is no surprise that this year, in Flanders and elsewhere, we are focusing our offering on Europe. This guide provides a lot of inspiration.

[www.europeeserfgoed\\_year2018.be/doe-je-mee](http://www.europeeserfgoed_year2018.be/doe-je-mee)

You can download the *Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe* report and the *executive summary* (36 pages) for free at [https://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/2015/cultural-heritage-counts-europe-concluding-conference\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/2015/cultural-heritage-counts-europe-concluding-conference_en)



# What is Heritage Day?

The central focus of Heritage Day is on the many **heritage sites** across Flanders. The programme will be diverse: from castles, factories, private homes and other architectural heritage sites, to historic landscapes, maritime heritage and archaeological sites that are **freely accessible** to everyone on that day.

Heritage Day is more than just an 'open-the-door-of-your-monument' day. Therefore, we invite you to not only open the doors of your heritage site, but also to organise **fun activities** such as fascinating tours, walks, bike rides, games... This will enable different target groups to enjoy your heritage site at its best!

Your activity should take place **on Sunday 9 September 2018**. You can determine our own opening hours.

For more information, inspiration and practical tips, visit: <https://sector.openmonumenten.be>.

## 5 reasons to participate in Heritage Day

1. You will be part of the **largest cultural one-day event** in Flanders, with approximately 400,000 visitors annually in nearly 200 municipalities.
2. Heritage Day is the time to exhibit your valuable heritage site to an **interested and varied audience**. The media also provides a lot of coverage regarding Heritage Day.
3. You contribute to **raising awareness about and the future of our heritage**.
4. Herita will **assist you with advice and practical support in the organisation** of your Heritage Day and its promotion.
5. Your programme will be included on the **popular website** of Heritage Day.

## Important dates

In 2018, Heritage Day will take place on **Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of September**. Like every year, there are a number of important dates for the organisation of the event.

Make notes of the following dates in your schedule:

- **Monday 26 March**: registration system 2018 goes live
- **Thursday 31 May**: deadline for requesting free promotional material
- **second half of June**: delivery of free promotional material
- **Friday 20 July**: deadline for registration of activities 2018
- **Wednesday 1 August**: launch of complete online program
- **Sunday 9 September**: Heritage Day!



Of course, we are taking part again this year!

## 30 years of Heritage Days:

### A testimony

Interview with Lieve Geerts and Peter Vermeulen, The Herring Smokehouse, Antwerp

WHEN THE FIRST HERITAGE DAY TOOK PLACE IN 1989, ONLY 150 MONUMENTS TOOK PART. THE HERRING SMOKEHOUSE AT THE KRONENBURG STREET IN ANTWERP WAS ONE OF THOSE AND IT STILL TAKES PART TODAY. LIEVE GEERTS AND PETER VERMEULEN, WHO CREATED A CO-HOUSING PROJECT HERE WITH A GROUP OF ELEVEN PEOPLE, SHARE THEIR STORY.

This former industrial site has existed since 1893, when a new urban district was created after the demolition of the 16th-century Southern Castle. The company was run by the Vanden Bemden brothers, a well-known Antwerp family of fish merchants who settled close to the newly constructed Southern docks when they had to vacate their site at the old fish market. That had disappeared due to the straightening of The Scheldt quays at the end of the 19th century. Around 1905, the company began to smoke the herrings; this was a popular way to preserve fish in a time without electric refrigerators. After the Second World War, the economic importance of smoking fish steadily declined, and after the Southern docks were filled in at the end of the

sixties, the company eventually went bankrupt. The last fish was smoked in 1974. In that same year, decline occurred. But a new chapter started. Half a century later, The Herring Smokehouse still exists.

### Co-housing

Peter: "It was 1983. We lived with our family in a small apartment in an attic in the middle of the city. The attic was gradually becoming too small and we wanted to remain living in the city in an affordable way, bigger and greener... We then began to search for suitable buildings for a co-housing project along with a number of families. We were convinced that if we could work together, our dream remained affordable. We started with a small group of friends, which expanded through acquaintances and friends-of-friends. At a certain point there were 25 people. This is how Lieve got involved."

"At a certain morning, we heard that the old Herring Smokehouse was about to be given protected status. We contacted the former Municipal Board for Monuments and Sites to see if we could get subsidies for the repurposing of the site as a residential area.

That led to a very good collaboration. In the end, eleven of us bought the site: five couples and Lieve as a single person."

"The King Boudewijn Foundation also supported us – something we only learnt afterwards - behind the scenes in our project."

## 25 years

It may be a coincidence, but it was also the King Boudewijn Foundation that was one of the founders of Heritage Day in Flanders. And one thing led to another. "When we participated in the first Heritage Day, the actual restoration works had not yet started. We only completed those in 1993. The people who visited our project every year on Heritage Day have been able to see it evolve. At one time, we had the idea of mapping out a course along the various site areas: because of the many visitors it seemed as if a long string of people was moving through the buildings," Peter remembers. We didn't participate in every edition of Heritage Day. It depended on the themes and on the local organising committee. During the period of the fixed themes, our participation did not always fit in."

When asked whether they will reopen The Herring Smokehouse this year for the 30th edition of Heritage Day, both of them enthusiastically agree. "Of course we will! Not only to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Heritage Day, but also because our project has been around for 25 years," Lieve says proudly.

## European story

The Herring Smokehouse also tells a European story. There was a lot of trade with England and Norway, because the fresh fish was imported from those countries. In the museum section of the Herring Smokehouse, the old crates in which fish was transported can be seen. The English and Norwegian names on them reveal their European background.

The real eye catcher of this heritage site? The wooden summer house in traditional Norwegian style one of the directors had built many years ago. It was his favourite place to paint. The garden house was restored and is still used by the six families. "When the children were young, they regularly had sleep-overs in the summer house during the summer months, in sleeping bags on mattresses on the floor. They had a lot of fun doing that!" Lieve explains during our short tour.

**The Herring Smokehouse also tells a European story. There was a lot of trade with England and Norway, because the fresh fish was imported from those countries.**

*You can visit The Herring Smokehouse every first Saturday of the month by appointment. Several smoking chimneys were preserved, together with the spaces around them. Every now and then exhibitions and small events are held here. You can also hire the rooms as conference rooms or party venues. There is even a practical kitchen. Proceeds go towards the upkeep of the buildings.*



A special version of the Remise Tripel will be brewed for the occasion.

# We raise a glass to that!

WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE HERITAGE DAY THAN WITH A BEER? FOR THIS, HERITA RELIES ON PATRICK HASELAARS, BREWING MASTER AND FOUNDER OF THE BREWERY AND GRAND CAFÉ REMISE 56.

Patrick has a name in the brewing industry. He has 25 years of experience in product and process development in brewing and mastered his craft at Inbev, La Chouffe and Moortgat. He was first bitten by the brewing bug when he was a teenager and could never let go of the idea of a private brewery. Remise 56 Brewery is the result of years of passion. It has been Patrick's dream for many years!

Patrick's dream came true after the former bus and tram depot in Koersel was taken out of use in 2001. The property seemed ready to be demolished. However, the City of Beringen launched a project competition in 2013 to transform the depot into a new, original destination. The Remise team finally got the chance to renovate the building thoroughly, while respecting the building's individuality and past.

The authentic site was built in 1907 in order to serve as a depot for locomotives and passenger carriages on the Diest - Koersel tram line. Initially, it housed a

steam tram, and in later years motorised vehicles. In 1954, the tramline was replaced by a bus service, which meant that the trams in the depot had to make room for buses after almost fifty years.

The site was given a second life in 2016 as a traditional brewery alongside a Grand Café. Remise 56 is therefore an ideal partner for us to celebrate with.

For this the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of Heritage Day, Patrick will brew a variant of Remise Tripel for us -with appropriate *heritage elements*- which we will offer exclusively on Heritage Day: **Tripel 30!** We want as many visitors as possible to enjoy this traditional beer on Heritage Day. Would you like to offer Tripel 30 during your activity? Email us at [openmonumentendag@herita.be](mailto:openmonumentendag@herita.be) and order the quantity you would like to sell.

**The purchase price is € 1.50 per 33 cl bottle (quantities x 24). The sale price for Heritage Day is fixed at € 3.00 per bottle.**

You can pick up your order in **boxes of 24 bottles** at a **Prik & Tik branch in your area.**

More information about the project and the *Remise 56* beer can be found on this website: <https://www.remise56.be>.



Heritage in Europe  
Europe in Heritage

# 30

## European ideas

to inspire your Heritage Day.

Europe is a very broad subject, and we want to keep it that way. The following thirty ideas might inspire you for your local 30th Heritage Day. There are undoubtedly dozens of other European ideas to locally add to Heritage Day. We wish you a lot of fun searching and finding the most suitable ones for you!

## Call upon the citizens!

*Crowd science or citizen science:* the knowledge of the masses, of the citizen. This concept is becoming more prevalent in our participatory times. It means calling upon citizens to achieve a well-defined goal. Think of initiatives to measure the (im)purity of the air, to count various types of animals, to gather mass data on human behaviour, health, etc.

Heritage Day has actually been a big citizen movement in the past thirty years: tens of thousands of people show their appreciation and fascination for our heritage. Many also actively participate in the organisation of the event as a volunteer or as a professional. Why not call on all that accumulated knowledge? Do people from your municipality know about European stories with regard to the heritage in their area? Let them share their story and persuade them to open their heritage site. You can also limit it to one European country: how much of France, the Netherlands, England, Italy can be found in the heritage of your municipality?

This way you make Heritage Day an interactive event full of local involvement.

# 1

## Travelling Architects

How does a construction style spread? Or inspiration in general? Through travelling architects for instance. Laurent-Benoit Dewez is a good example: he spent some years in Rome, observing the old monuments and the new classicist style. On his return, he brought that knowledge back with him and thus he introduced our regions to classicism. Other of 'our' prominent architects also drew inspiration elsewhere in Europe, although they did not always have to travel there. Cornelis Floris de Vriendt (who discovered the Renaissance in Rome and designed Antwerp's city hall in that style), Peter Paul Rubens, Henry Van de Velde, Léon Stynen ([www.stynen2018.be](http://www.stynen2018.be)), etc. come to mind. The opposite also happened: For example, with the French-Italian architect Servandoni who was active in our region.



### La Motte Castle and grounds

Sint-Ulriks-Kapelle (Dilbeek)

Now it is part of the cultural centre of Dilbeek, but it was built in 1773 as a classicistic castle that served as an elegant "playground" for architect Dewez's mother-in-law. Such an establishment clearly needed to be accompanied by a beautiful park. Both the castle and the park are listed monuments. In addition, the interior has been preserved to a large extent.



### Castle d'Ursel, Hingene (Bornem)

We can still admire one of Giovanni Niccolò Servandoni's achievements in Belgium: Castle d'Ursel in Hingene, which was renovated in the 1760s upon request of the then Duke d'Ursel into what can be seen and enjoyed today. Twenty years ago, the dilapidated castle wasn't worth a penny, but now it is once again radiant, thanks to the efforts of the Province of Antwerp. Nearby, you find The Notelaer: a hunting pavilion by Charles De Wailly, a French architect and former pupil of Servandoni. The pavilion used to belong to the estate.



### Predikheren Church, Leuven

Anyone who knows the famous Sainte Chapelle in Paris - the court chapel of the French kings on the Île de la Cité - and finds similarities with the chancel of the Predikheren Church, is correct: the references are deliberate. The Paris chapel dates from 1241-1268 and Leuven was very quick to adopt the new style: the tall chancel of the city's oldest Gothic church was finished in 1276. The church stands on the spot where the Dukes of Brabant once held court. It came under threat during the French revolution (and the Predikheren monastery was largely demolished).





# 2

## International nature

Italian villa gardens, French gardens, English parks, monastery gardens, botanical gardens, vineyards ... Many of our parks and gardens clearly have a European influence. The essence of gardening: how do you imitate, control and 'improve' nature? How do you create diversity, variety and often also an illusion? Sometimes the foundation is based on straight geometry and measured greenery, and sometimes on meandering paths and sprawling plants. In addition, exotic and extravagant structures allow people to leave behind their mark on cultivated nature.

### Castle Gavergracht, Lovendegem (Drongen)

Castle Gavergracht in Lovendegem dates back to the French period (1807). The castle is a peculiarity in itself. And that is before you have seen the 'English' landscaped garden, with its water features, orangery and romantic spots.



### Castle Blauwhuis, Izegem

Since last year, Izegem can boast of a park of 11 hectares (and a green 'city lung'). In 2014 Castle Blauwhuis opened its doors. The estate dates back to the 16th century, while the current castle was built in 1880. When the German troops retreated from here in 1918, the entire forest burned down with the exception of one beech tree. That beech tree is still standing, now located in the so-called 'English landscape'.



### Lourdes Caves, everywhere in Flanders

On February 11, 1858, in Lourdes, Mary appeared before the girl Bernadette Soubirous. And after the Vatican canonised this wonderful event in the South of France, many other countries adopted it: in numerous (green) places in Belgium (and also in the Netherlands), copies were made of the miraculous Lourdes cave, with images of Mary and of Bernadette kneeling and praying, with or without an altar. Small and large, shabby and chic, plain and 'dressed up' versions exist. More than two thousand caves have been spotted in the meantime (<http://lourdesgrotten.skynetblogs.be/>). Houthulst was the first in 1860. Some of these caves were created at churches and chapels, as well as in quite a few monasteries, but you will also find them in many private gardens.

# 3

## Thinking on a European scale

European thinking is not an invention of the European Union. Humanists, for example, and many artists, travelled much and exchanged ideas, inspired by Greek-Roman antiquity and Christianity. Many of them took Europe for granted. It is no coincidence that one of the important projects of the European Union is called 'Erasmus', after the great humanist. There are impressive remnants of this European spirit in our regions, places where ideas were exchanged on a European scale and where that wealth of ideas was taught, studied and preserved in books.





## Hof van Busleyden, Mechelen

In June 2018, the Hof van Busleyden Museum opens its doors in the (restored) city palace that Hieronymus van Busleyden commissioned around 1500. In this palace, van Busleyden welcomed Erasmus and Thomas More, two of the greatest humanists, to discuss and philosophise about the topics of their times. The Burgundian-humanistic heritage is showcased and reimagined in the Hof van Busleyden Museum.



## Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp

Christoffel Plantijn is a very good example of a true European. He was born in France and travelled to Antwerp where he founded his printing and publishing office. Plantijn became an influential humanist and his office became a centre for humanism. Many scholars visited it, and important books were printed - mostly in Latin - at a time when sciences became increasingly popular. This year, the renovated museum received the Ultima, the Flemish cultural prize, in the Heritage Property category.

## Irish College, Leuven

Around 1600, catholic education was prohibited in Ireland. That is why Irish Colleges were set up in Europe, three of which were in Leuven. This was due to the reputation of the University (and to the neighbouring European printing centre: Antwerp). The

location attracted young Irish priests and laymen who studied here, before they moved back to their country. The main language that was used was Irish. Parts of the considerably renovated Franciscan St Anthony's College with its convent monastery dating from 1617 still exist. In the 1970s, the College almost ceased operating, but Europe came to the rescue. Nowadays, this building is the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe, with space for conferences, meetings etc.

# 4 Underground I

Can we also discover Europe in our soil? Of course! Prehistoric evidence and traces of the itinerant hunter-gatherers can be found across Europe. There are also numerous traces dating to Roman times, when the Empire reached from England to Morocco, and from Portugal to the Middle East. Or think of battlefield archaeology, where evidence of many European, and even worldwide, conflicts can be excavated. These days, archaeology is no longer limited to digging and hunting for treasure, but instead is a very multidisciplinary activity that delivers spectacular results as well as raising large and open questions. How can you 'translate' these sometimes invisible and not always 'spectacular' results for a wider audience? Many examples are being established around Europe. Flanders needs this too.



## De Rieten, Meeuwen-Gruitrode

In the archaeological Park De Rieten in Wijshagen, a European story awaits you. Visitors go three centuries back in time in order to discover farming communities that have been in touch with other communities across Europe: in Germany, Central-Europe, ... Archaeologists have recovered objects from this site originating from France, Northern Italy and central Europe. Import and export are not just contemporary economic phenomena.

## Archaeological site under the basilica, Tongeren

Brand new, yet very old! In the centre of Tongeren you can walk under the basilica (August 2018). When wandering through the remains of the basilica, fancying Rome is easy. This is not that hard if you know that many luxurious Roman houses with under floor-heating and impressive wall painting stood here, years before the successive churches and the current basilica were founded in Tongeren. These are the oldest traces of the Romans in our country.

# 5

## Underground II

Migration is a practice that dates back to the beginning of mankind in prehistoric times. But the discovery and mining of large stocks of coal brought about a very special and large-scale migration wave in the 20th century, especially in the province of Limburg. Initially, people from Southern Europe came to work as mineworkers, later on mineworkers from Eastern Europe, and North-Africa moved to Limburg as well. Even though the mines have been closed in the meantime, many workers stayed. The new composition of the population left its traces, traces that can be found on heritage sites as well. A perfect opportunity to involve international (heritage) communities in the story of Heritage Day!

# 6

## Evidence of conflicts

The picture is familiar: Flanders as the battlefield of Europe, as a strategically situated place where many conflicts were fought. And were people defended themselves against conflicts. These conflicts left behind evidences of strongholds, fortresses and bunkers, military cemeteries, war and remembrance memorials... But also of destruction, which sometimes resulted in completely different cities after the conflict. Conflicts are mostly about land, and thus about borders. These were often relocated throughout the course of history.

## Military cemeteries

In times of conflict, many nationalities came to fight in Flanders: think of the Spanish era, the French expansion under Louis XIV and Napoleon, and of course the First World War. Often, these were pan-European wars. The First World War was a genuine world war, with people from all over the world who came and fought in our regions. This is clearly visible from the graves of the thousands upon thousands of soldiers.



## Strongholds and forts

You can find these (or traces of them) in and around many Flemish cities: city walls, strongholds, forts. They may or may not have been fully preserved and may or may not have ever been used. Because technology evolved so rapidly, such military structures were often outdated quite quickly; sometimes even immediately. A lot of military heritage has been repurposed in the past decades, with nature playing an important role in most cases.



## Strongholds, Ypres

The Strongholds of Ypres tell a Spanish-French-Dutch-Belgian story. At the time when Louis XIV commissioned his engineer Vauban to modernise the old fortifications of the border town in 1678, a Spanish citadel had only been established here for ten years. Parts of the oldest fortifications date from the 14th century. Their current form was achieved during the Dutch occupation under King William I.

# 7 Buildings of art and culture

Art and culture; we often experience them in specific places, in buildings that are specifically built to emphasize and display beauty and excitement. Although mostly different, they are often recognisable across Europe: our 'classical' museums, concert halls, theatre buildings, opera houses, old cinemas... Nowadays, cultural organisations are more and more prone to break out their classic walls and presenting the heritage in surprising locations. In many cases, these have a heritage value and provide a European dimension. For example: industrial sites.

## Municipal theatre, Leuven

The 'Stadsschouwburg' of Leuven, which was rebuilt after being destroyed in the First World War, is a fine example of 19th-century inspired theatre architecture: civil, monumental, luxurious, classicistic. Its archetype was the Parisian opera (1861-1875) by Charles Garnier. Leuven's 'bonbonnière' also has a wealth of 20th-century art to offer.



## Academy hall, Sint-Truiden

The old auditorium of the seminary of the diocese of Liège, with its rich stucco, is an architectural gem from the 1840s and one of the most beautiful constructions by architect Louis Roelandt, who also designed the opera in Ghent. He was inspired by the Italian neo-Renaissance and the octagonal form of English theatres. Because of its acoustic qualities, the academy hall is an ideal venue for chamber music or acoustic sets. Italian painters and plasterers were also active in other areas of the former Benedictine Abbey of Sint-Truiden.



# 8

## Prayer journeys

Is there a church of St. Jacob in your area? Or a guest house named after St. Jacob? If so, it is likely that they lay along an old European pilgrimage route, towards the destination of Santiago de Compostela. Even before the year 1000, pilgrims from all corners of Europe travelled to the alleged tomb of the apostle James. There might be a that you will find traces of this in a St. Jacob's Church, as well as in its immediate surroundings, because pilgrims rested there, obtained the necessary stamps, or required overnight accommodation in guest houses... Examining historical pilgrimage routes is a great opportunity to discover different types of heritage like buildings, cultural artefacts, intangible heritage that tell the same story. In times of several attempts at relaxation, internalisation, stillness and slowing down, this is very contemporary story.

# 9

## A European revolution

The Industrial Revolution changed European societies drastically. The revolution changed small-scale, manual society to a large-scale and steam-machine powered one. Flanders and Belgium were among the pioneers. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this had a major impact on the patrimony of industrial buildings, on spatial planning and housing, and on society as a whole. The industrial revolution meant a huge growth in the size of Belgian cities.

Meanwhile, we are a few revolutions further on - and are experiencing a new revolution ourselves - but traces of the first waves of mechanisation still remain.



### Zuiderpershuis, Antwerp

A power plant for the constantly growing port of Antwerp: that was the Zuiderpershuis (1882) situated on the Waalse Kaai, a symbol from a period of optimism and belief in technical progress. The complex is also built with a sense of (neo-baroque) style, in the baroque city of Antwerp.



### La Fabrique, Ruten (Tongeren)

When there was a threat of a sugar shortage due to the continental blockade, Napoleon determined that sugar beet cultivation should be carried out in the fertile Haspengouw and Brabant. This was duly carried out, and it still determines the character of the landscape. The buildings in Ruten date back to 1838 and housed a sugar factory and an alcohol distillery (and later two farms) and used a steam engine very early on. A hidden piece of European history.

# 10

## A world class invention

Capturing wind to generate energy and then using it: it sounds contemporary, but it is an ancient principle. And although we are not really sure, let's be proud of it anyway: the first windmills are said to have existed in the county of Flanders shortly before 1200. (Watermills and 'horse mills' had already been in existence much longer.) This was a kind of industrial revolution on a European scale: windmills can be found in a number of countries and regions. Ingeniously, these windmills can be turned to the right wind direction on a stake, and can be moved. In short: a world class invention. It is worth cherishing, and so are the many intriguing stories linked to the windmills, and the valuable knowledge of the profession.



# 11

## European prizes

Heritage can also become 'European' as it enters the picture at a European level, for example as the winner of a prize, as a typical example of a successful restoration or as a best practice case of repurposing.



**De Hoorn Brewery**, Leuven

In April 2016, this former brewery, birthplace (1923) of Stella Artois, won the prestigious European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award 2016. De Hoorn was vacated in the 1980 and was put under protection 17 years later in 1997. In 2007 young entrepreneurs from Leuven purchased the complex. They transformed it into a creative hub where larger companies and smaller businesses share facilities.

The old building received innovative add-ons.

# 12

## Multinationals before their time: abbeys & monasteries

You could call a monastery a kind of European Multinational. The largest and most important ones spread across the whole of Europe. Their complexes were built according to a specific plan, with the necessary adaptations to the local environment - an example of global thinking. Thanks to the specific building plans, abbeys and monasteries are very recognisable throughout Europe. The resident monks

lived – and live - according to 'house rules'. For example the rule of Benedict of the rule of Augustinus which are still valid nowadays. These European 'rules' left traces in their environments.

# 13

## Art Nouveau

Art Nouveau, with its many variants, can be found in large parts of Europe, and in many art forms. Even before 1900 and shortly thereafter, the style quickly spread to buildings and interior design, both in large and central cities as well as in smaller areas. You can find Art Nouveau – or derived versions of it - in private homes, but also in school buildings, commercial buildings, casinos, in some religious buildings, etc. The style promotes, among other things, a return of traditional craftsmanship and the pursuit of beauty. Its inspiration often flows from nature and her different forms. The First World War brought an abrupt end to this joyful style.



## Sint-Niklaas

It is remarkable how many traces of Art Nouveau - and also of Art Deco and the New Objectivity - are left behind in Sint-Niklaas. This is thanks to the construction of new city districts at the beginning of the twentieth century. Hence the dense concentration of the style in a few streets. The residents, often textile barans, wanted to keep pace with the new era and the associated new art.

# 14

## Gothic skin, Baroque meat

In many of our churches you get two European styles for the price of one: their exteriors are Gothic, and their interiors are Baroque. Baroque represents the theatre, spectacle, rhetoric, pathos, conviction. Decor and decorum. The triumphant grand gesture meant to convince people. With its own furniture that found its way in during the counter-reformation: the pulpit, the confessionals, the communion bench. They tell a story of a faith that – by any means - wants to appeal. A story of all times. A unique European story.

# 15

## A war without a war

The Cold War: a war that shaped Europe for decades without us being involved in violence. But that Cold War did leave traces, for example in the form of military infrastructure. It was built with the motto: 'if you want peace, you must be ready for war'. It varies from a military command centre under the Kemmelberg, a British base in the province of Antwerp and a German ammunition depot in Arendonk, to nuclear shelters, for example, in Ghent and Antwerp. Do we pay enough attention to these 'forgotten' decades and their 'cold' heritage sites?

# 16

## New land, European context

In 1830, a kind of provisional government proclaimed Belgium's independence. William I had to give up his republic of the Netherlands. This did not happen without struggles, and for centuries there was a certain 'nervousness' in the air, for instance in the relationship with the Netherlands. The small 'new' country had to make a name among the other European nations. It did so by erecting statues of national heroes and historic figures in public spaces. Many of them still stand. Young Belgium left traces in Diest, Leopoldsburg and, for example, Gingelom (where the first Regent had his castle). The period of independence similarly did not go unnoticed in many places along the Dutch border.



## Colonies of Benevolence,

Merksplas and Wortel (Hoogstraten)

'The Colonies of Benevolence', it sounds benevolent. King William was determined: "we will extinguish poverty and vagrancy by educating people and letting them work on agricultural lands. The idea made wave across all of Europe, and even world-wide. There were seven Colonies of Benevolence, two of them in Flanders: Merksplas and Wortel. But the solid plan quickly went awry. The former vagrant colonies later evolved into the striking landscapes: world-class heritage.



# 17<sup>100 years of</sup> World War I

This is 2018, one hundred years after the end of the First World War disaster. Commemorations have been intense over the past four years in the Westhoek as well as in many places elsewhere in Flanders and Belgium. The 100-year commemoration will soon come to an end. Heritage Day 2018 is a chance to shine a light, one last time, on the enormous significance and great consequences of the Great War, and of course on the visible traces it has left everywhere across Flanders.

# 18

## Medieval textiles

There are quite a few cloth halls in Flanders: buildings that were built in the middle Ages as a warehouse and covered market. The locally manufactured cloth was also checked and inspected there. This often resulted in a cross-border trade, where cloth from Flanders was sold in many places in Europe and even in Asia.



**Cloth halls**, Ypres

Ypres was a metropolis in the Middle Ages, along with Bruges and Ghent. Not much of it remains after the misery and destruction of the First World War. Fortunately, the impressive Cloth halls and their belfry are there to remind us: this is Europe's largest civil building in Gothic style. This summer, the Ypres halls have a firm advantage: the Ypres Museum will present you the story of (almost) thousand years of Ypres: the cat city with the nine lives. The illustrious history of the Ypres cloth will also be told.

# 19 Ruins

Since the 18th century - and certainly from the 19th century on - people have been experiencing special feelings at ruins. This 'special feeling' meant the introduction of 'romance' in Europe. At one hand, ruins are examples of failed monumental preservation that can be considered as serious warnings. On the other, they remind people of the quickly passing time, of the short duration of a human life. Nature, however, begins its new cycle every year. And will eventually take back what once has been built by people... In the Romantic 19th century; fake ruins were even built to cultivate these feelings. How are we going to deal with these ruins from 2018 onwards? Are there any examples of instances of rezoning? Can this be aided by European inspiration?



**Graven tower**, Rupelmonde (Kruibeke)

The Graven Tower is the only remnant of the once water castle on the Scheldt. Famous names as Margaret of Flanders and Filips de Stoute are attached to the castle. Margaret of Flandes was the first owner of the castle and Filips de Stoute repaired and expanded it into a fortified castle with 17 towers. In 1678, during the war between France and Spain, the castle was destroyed. The building material was eagerly used elsewhere. It was not until 1817 that the debris was cleared, and the remaining tower footings were supplemented by a brick hunting pavilion, so "the memory cannot be lost".

## Abbey of St. Baafs, Ghent

From the beginning of the 19th century, the ruins of the Sint-Baafs abbey, one of Ghent's gems, were a source of concern for the new Ghent monument conservationists, while at the same time being a tourist attraction. The abbey was transformed into a lapidarium, or museum of (grave) stones. A close connection with the Bijlokemuseum remained until 1997.



Kempen-Broek at the Dutch-Belgian border.

# 20

## Brutal concrete

It is a shame that some architectural styles have unfortunate names. For instance 'brutalism', derived from 'brutal concrete'. That 'naked/rough concrete' is an important characteristic of a number of buildings that were built between 1950 and 1970. Great supporters of brutalism, like Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe, often got bad receptions in the press. Yet they were very fond of The Style and The Style spread across all of Europe.

Flanders has a number of brutalist and brutalist-inspired buildings. Examples are the representative cultural centre Westrand in Dilbeek by Alfons Hoppenbrouwers, a number of private homes and apartment buildings in Antwerp by architect Paul Meekels, and work by architects such as Juliaan Lampens, Marc Dessauvage, Georges Baines, Jul De Roover, the bureau BARO and others.

# 22

## New! The Renaissance

It is nice to see how a new style with European roots carefully penetrates our regions. This is the case with the Renaissance. In Mechelen the Renaissance can be seen in a number of facades of houses. This is no coincidence: Mechelen was the de facto capital of the Burgundian-Habsburg Netherlands around 1500. Margaret of Austria held court here (in the Court of Savoy), attracting artists and all kinds of wealthy people. One of them is Luxembourger Hieronymus van Busleyden. His reconstructed city palace is a brand-new museum

# 21

## Silence please!

It is gradually becoming a European movement (with a real EU directive since 2002), which meets the needs of our hectic, turbulent, noisy times: the creation of sanctuaries that preserve silence and exclude "alien" environmental noises. This often plays a role in landscape heritage, but there are also cities with quiet zones. In Flanders, there even is a quality label for Silent Zones. Some municipalities and provinces already have an active silence policy and the movement is expanding in line with social needs ([www.lne.be/stiltegebieden](http://www.lne.be/stiltegebieden)). Examples are Dender-Mark (border East Flanders and Flemish Brabant), De Liereman in Oud-Turnhout, Gerhagen in Tessenderlo and

# 23

## Domes

When you hear domes: you automatically think of Italy, with the Roman Pantheon as the dome of all domes and of course the many Baroque domed churches. Domes are not typical for the Baroque style, but their construction became popular in that period even in Belgium and The Netherlands. A number of planned domes in the South of the Netherlands never came into existence because of construction problems: the unsatisfactory stability, insufficient control of the masonry technique ... Imagine Leuven's St. Michael's Church, and the problems with the construction of the Mechelen Hanswijk Basilica. In any case, we have been able to connect domes with the story of Europe (and the United States, in the wake of Europe) since ancient times. An impressive 'new' dome, for example, is that of the Central Station in Antwerp.

# 24

## Lighting in stone

In contemporary Europe, the European Enlightenment and its associated norms and values are vivid. It is an intriguing challenge: can we find such Enlightenment in our property heritage? The answer is: yes! For example: the idea that human beings are manageable and that you can therefore adjust their behaviour. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries this led to new ideas about punishing people for a crime, and consequently to new buildings and complexes where these people served their punishment: prisons, colonies, labour and detention centres, institutions for young people... And with some delay, in the 19th century, thanks to Enlightened minds, the inhumane treatment of people with psychological problems made way for a more humane approach. Even this progression can be seen in the buildings.

## Psychiatric Centre and Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent

In 1857, the first patients came to live in Ghent in the new mental institute that was built on doctor Joseph Guislain's request. The new institute was situated in a then rural and quiet area north of the Brugse Poort. The underlying thought was that the architecture and surroundings would enhance the healing process. Hence the very well-cared-for style, the windows without bars, the spacious courtyards, the low pavilions, the vegetable gardens... Today, a psychiatric centre is still in operation here.

# 25

## 'Unchristian' heritage

A lot of Europe's heritage relates to Christianity. This is also the case in Flanders. Yet there are also traces of other (religious) views and 'beliefs' like Freemasonry, Temples of Reason from French times, Judaism, Islam... And if we are to believe the legends, places where, for example, ancient trees stand, are testaments of prehistoric cult sites... True or false?

## Synagogue, Kalmthout

In rural Kalmthout you can find a unique synagogue. This synagogue is the only one in Belgium that is not located in a city. Many Antwerp Jewish diamond dealers, often of East European descent, had country residences in Kalmthout at the beginning of the twentieth century. A number of Jewish people permanently lived here too. The synagogue dates from 1927. Recently, a project group has been set up to try to make this landmark in Kalmthout operational again.

# 26

## The French conflict

The French period (the years 1780 to 1815) has left untold traces in our heritage. It concerns a period of conflicts. The years between 1780 and 1815 meant the end for quite a few monasteries and abbeys, which were dissolved and sold. The history of the monasteries, after centuries of rest and contemplation, took a new turn in the nineteenth century. This new vision was not always beneficial for the properties of the monasteries. Napoleon and his energetic initiatives and regulations, such as municipal cemeteries and so-called 'eternal permits', also left lasting traces. The debate concerning Napoleon's role and significance, including in relation to our regions, is far from closed...

# 27

## New Greeks and Romans

Overwhelming: that is the best way to describe the influence of Greco-Roman antiquity on the development of Europe. Greco-Roman influence can be found in the philosophies and ideas that shaped – and still shape – Europe. The Greco-Roman influence is visible in the arts and architecture as well. Europeans constantly dealt – and still deal – with that Greco-Roman inheritance. You can witness traces of it everywhere around the European continent. And the ones who decipher these traces are our archaeologists. They find more and more Roman remains in our regions every day. Antiquity left a mark on movements like Renaissance and Humanism. In (neo)classicism and baroque references to antiquity are countless.

# 28

## England in Flanders

Now and then, in our regions, popular new types of buildings pop up which are based on - or could even be copies of - foreign models. The sometimes nineteenth-century and often early twentieth-century cottages are examples of this. Their pseudo-timber, corner towers and canopies, asymmetrical recesses and protrusions, typical roofing and colourful brickwork illustrate the English influence. You find these country houses in many places, as isolated curiosities or laid out in a group on parcels of land, for example along the coast. These cottages are usually faithful copies, or mixtures, often accompanied by Art Nouveau elements. Cottages are inextricably connected to their gardens





# 29

## The tour of Europe

From prehistoric, nomadic, travelling hunter-gatherers, up to our globalised times: people travel. They leave their homes and move around Europe, temporarily or permanently: because they have no choice (forms of migration, soldiers), because they are punished (including pilgrims or vagrants), to pursue trade (merchants), to study abroad (students) or to go sight-seeing (tourists). Accommodation is needed for all these journeys: guest houses and other accommodations, temporary camps, colleges and seminaries, hotels, lodging houses... and also inns, harbours, stations, airports and other complexes that accommodate travellers. And of course roads must be built, with sometimes beautiful historic trajectories and stories about our ancestors. All of this heritage is evidence of human beings that have been on the move for centuries.

# 30

## The tour of Europe... in stone

Metamorphosed limestone from a pure calcium carbonate: that is the rather complicated description of marble, a popular material for building and decoration. In fact, it was so popular it was often imitated. It was in such high demand since Roman times that it was imported in vast quantities. Expensive marble was an expression of luxury, for those who could afford it. The use of marble evokes a lot of stories and questions: Where does it come from? How did the marble get here? What are marble trends and fashions? How are we supposed to handle all of this marble nowadays? The same questions can be asked for other types of stone that circulated around Europe.





# Collaborations in 2018



Léon Stynen with the scale model for the economic centre at the Wezenberg in Antwerp, approx. 1969. (Archive Paul The Meyer. Collection Flemish Architecture Institute. Long-term loan, Flemish Community Collection)

## Flemish Architecture Institute

Since last year, Herita and the Flemish Architecture Institute have been working together on Heritage Day. This year, the work of the FAI architect Léon Stynen (1899-1990) will be put in the spotlight, and Heritage Day likes to contribute to that by showcasing his work.

For example, a large part of the programme of the city of Antwerp will revolve around work by Stynen. However, there are also other places in Flanders which contain his works such as the casinos of Ostend, Knokke and Blankenberge. Stynen also designed a real residential area, a school in Kessel-Lo and the Saint Rita Church in Harelbeke.

Are you the manager or owner of one of the Stynen buildings? Is there work by Stynen in your municipality? Can that building or monument be made accessible on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September? Can it be part of a themed walking tour? Please include it in your programme for Heritage Day 2018

For more information: [ellen.vanimpe@vai.be](mailto:ellen.vanimpe@vai.be).

## Network Against Poverty

Everybody should be able to enjoy monuments. That is the main reason we want Heritage Day to be a feast of monuments for everyone. For a long time we have been promoting activities that are organised especially for children aged 4 to 12 years. These have proved to be very successful. More and more local organisers are discovering that our heritage can count on the interest of children, if we take sufficient account of their (social) living environment. This requires us to step out of our comfort zone on occasions.

Or vice versa: sometimes people have to leave their comfort zone to be able to participate in Heritage Day. Socially disadvantaged people often do not do this, because they feel unwelcome or because of the financial connotation attached to Heritage Day. There are many obstructions before socially disadvantaged groups are able to participate in Heritage Day, the biggest and most decisive factor is the fact these groups simply do not know where to go.

To overcome this, the Network Against Poverty and Herita have joined forces, to support projects and activities that make Heritage Day more accessible. Because it's everyone's heritage!

Would you like to do something to enable this target group to participate in Heritage Day? Let us know! We will gladly put you in touch with specialists and experienced experts who can help you with your communication and the development of your programme.

Perhaps you are looking for volunteers to help out? Why not work together with associations where people in poverty take the initiative? We will help you look for solutions. And if your project is successful - regardless of whether it is big or small - it can always serve as an example to others in the future.

Contact: 03/212 29 55 or [tom.dorau@herita.be](mailto:tom.dorau@herita.be).

# Colophon

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We would like to thank everyone who took part in this inspirational guide!



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