

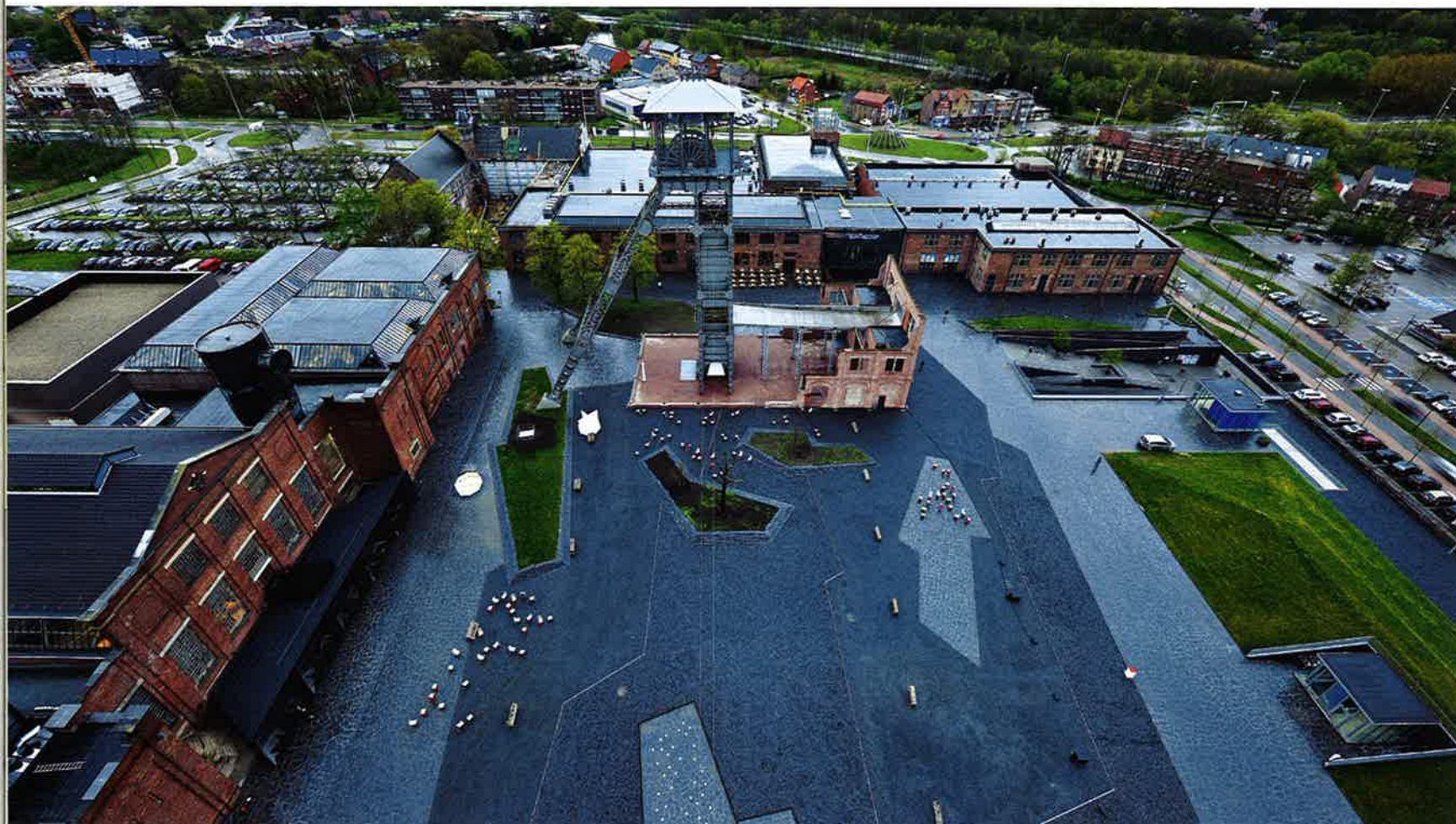
# Genk C-mine

Design / HOSPER landscape architecture and urban design

Client / City of Genk

Location / Genk, Belgium

Photography / Pieter Kers / HOSPER



The C-mine square is situated on the grounds of a former coaling mine and is the central open area of the new cultural heart of Genk. The former mine buildings around the square have been renovated and were transformed into buildings with a cultural program; a large theatre, a cinema and restaurants. At the Westside of the square a new building has been added: the Media, Arts & Design Faculty.

HOSPER has made the site into the vibrant cultural heart of Genk and has designed the square so that it provides space for all sorts of events and activities. An obstacle-free surface was chosen with removable seating. The square is paved with Belgian black slate as a reference to the “black gold” of the former mine. The slate is used in big sized flagstones and much smaller chips of slate. The floor gets a lively character due to the integration of a water surface, mist fountains, removable seating and lighting elements. The seating elements “Single Scatter” were designed by Carmela Bogman together with

HOSPER. These chairs and stools, made of folded stainless steel, shine as glittering diamonds on the dark square floor.

The proposals for the light on the square have been brought towards construction by Painting with Light. The buildings around the square are illuminated with great respect for the historical character of the site. The two original shaft towers on the square are illuminated with LED lamps, thus providing a lighted beacon from a large distance. The lighting on the square, with light lines in the paving and illumination of the mist fountains and the seating, gives the square a spectacular appearance during the night.

For the design and construction of the square, HOSPER collaborated with the Belgian office Atelier Ruimtelijk Advies. The Belgian office NU architectuurstudio designed the C-mine expedition.

