

PROJECTS

C-Mine Square, Genk

The recently completed C-Mine square by Hosper Landscape Architecture and Urban Design is the central open space of the new cultural centre of Genk, Belgium. Situated on a former coal-mining site, it will become an urban square with a cultural, creative, design and recreational function. The half-hectare site is made up of an even, obstacle free surface to create opportunities for a wide range of activities. However the intricate detailing of the square ensures the space

will not feel desolate at times when there are fewer visitors. The square is paved with black slate slabs of different sizes and laid in an informal pattern. The black slate refers to the “black gold” from the mines and is the same material as the waste material from the mining activities that was placed on the terrins (cairns) around Genk. The paving includes lighting in the surface as well as the possibility for a water surface, the creation of mist just above the surface and removable seating. A great deal

of attention is given to the appearance of the square by night, with lighting illuminating the surrounding façades and the former mining shaft towers. The two shaft towers are both given a function on the square. The Belgian office Nu architectuurstudio designed an attractive route that follows the former mining corridors under the oldest shaft tower and the ruin of the former mining reception building and ends with a fantastic view on top of the youngest and tallest shaft tower.



Pieter Kers

The “single scatter” street furniture, designed by industrial designer Carmela Bogman, is concentrated in a number of “clouds” on the square, where the chairs and stools are arranged in an informal pattern.



Opened in 2012, Hosper has been working on the design of this square on the former mine site of Genk since 2006, in cooperation with Atelier Ruimtelijk Advies, Carmela Bogman, Painting with Light and NU Architectuurstudio.