

BRUSSELS (BE)

A reinvention of a listed park will embody a new Belgian and European identity

Scale

XL
L

Team representative: architect/urbanist/ landscaper

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Population: City 1,2 million inhab.

Reflection site: 93 ha

Project site: 14 ha

Site proposed by: asbl Horizon 50-200

Actors involved : asbl Horizon 50-200, European Commission together with its New European Bauhaus initiative, Brussels Capital Region

Owner(s) of the site: Belgian Federal State

Commission after competition: Feasibility study



INHABITED MILIEU'S CHALLENGES

THREE SYMBOLIC AMBITIONS

1. Inspired by the bicentennial anniversary of Belgium in 2030, the asbl 50/200, the Brussels Capital Region together with the European Commission wish to create a new vision for the existing Jubilee Park. The reinvented city park should become a new creative area embodying the presence of Europe in Brussels. Its shape and new types of public uses of its built and green spaces will make this presence visible and tangible to the citizens.

2. The masterplan elaborated by the asbl HORIZON 50/200 identifies a landscape and architectural intervention in the historic axes and in the parameter of the tunnel opening "Trémie Kennedy" as a possibility to "reinforce the links between the City, the Park and the European Institutions". The idea of this intervention would be to make Commission's achievements more accessible and tangible to the public in this parameter.

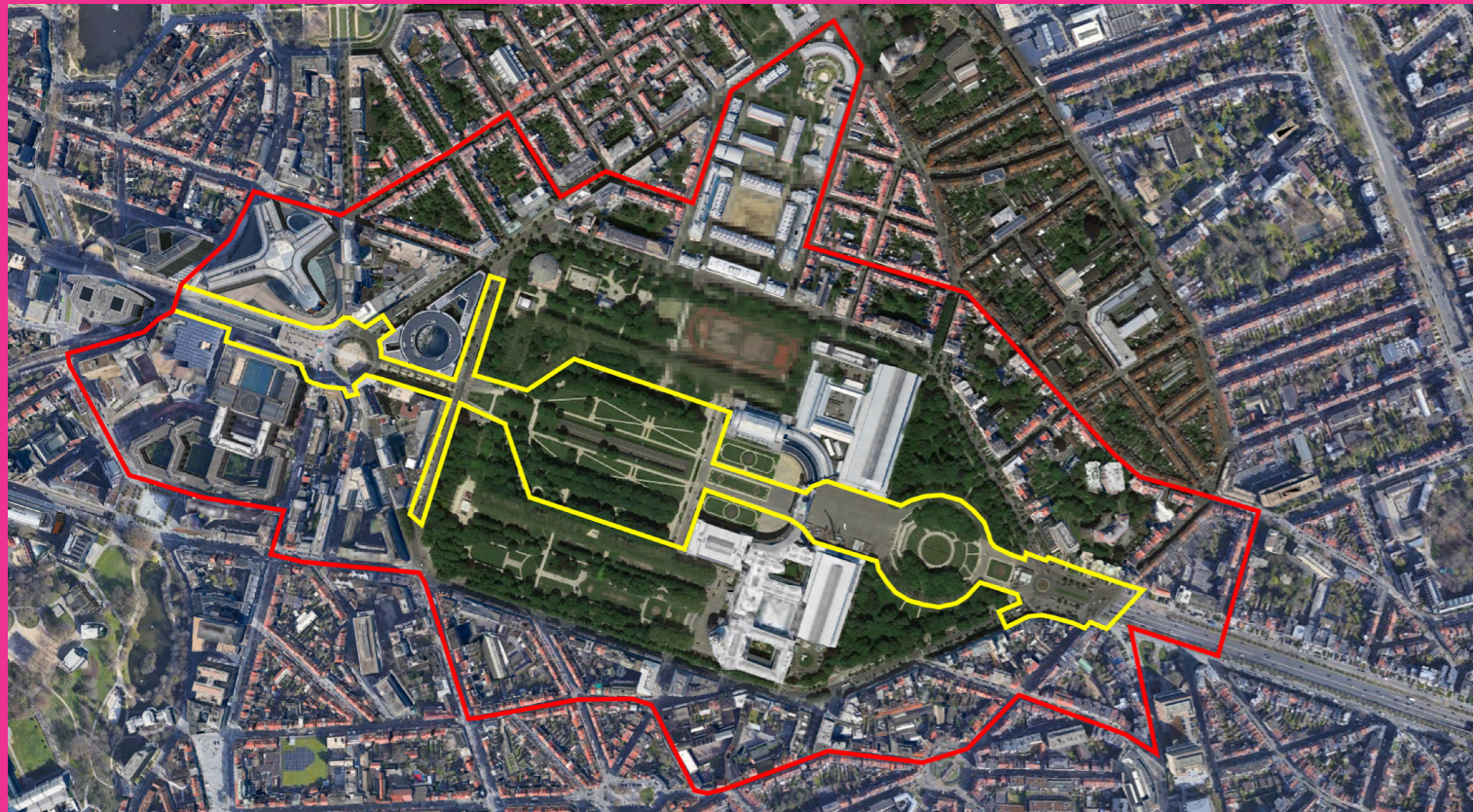
3. The brussels site submitted to the "European 17" competition is a flagship project of the Commission's New European Bauhaus initiative, which aims at a positive and tangible, culture-oriented, people-centred and inclusive experience.

The redevelopment of the Jubilee Park is integral part of the new urban vision of the European Quarter developed by the Brussels Capital-Region.

MONUMENTS AND NATURE FRAGILISED BY UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURES

The Jubilee Park was created around 150 years ago, to celebrate Belgium's fiftieth anniversary. Initially conceived to represent the political and economic power of the Belgian State, its context has considerably changed since its creation, with the evolution of mobility paradigms and the gradual development of the European institutions on the edges of the park. In the last 50 years, the park has suffered several transformations, due to an incredibly dense underground infrastructure, including the creation of an automobile tunnel, overhanging a metro tunnel, which cuts the park in two at its central axis. The park is also suffering from the new constraints (heavy rainfall and drought) imposed by climate change. It is also intensively frequented throughout the year, sometimes jeopardising the cohabitation with all the ecological and natural environments.

> HOW CAN THE JUBILEE PARK BECOME A GATHERING SPACE ADAPTED TO ISSUES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGES ?



> HOW CAN THE JUBILEE PARK BECOME AN INSPIRING PLACE ACCORDING TO THE «LIVING CITIES» THEMATIC AND THE VISION OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS ?



QUESTIONS TO COMPETITORS

IMAGINE A SUSTAINABLE; BEAUTIFUL AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE

The Jubilee Park, with its cultural institutions and museums, can be considered an emblem of both the history of Belgium and of Europe. For this reason, its renovation/restoration represents a unique opportunity to launch a dialogue between the local scale of the city and the European scale represented by the European Institutions. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) multi-level engagement approach encourages this type of local action that improves the daily lives of citizens and combines the values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics in solutions to pan-European (and global) challenges. The restoration of the listed park should create a new sense of belonging, allow reconnection with nature and allow all citizens to profit from its green and built environment in the spirit of the New European Bauhaus initiative and the «Living Cities» theme of this European session.

FROM SCHUMAN TO MERODE AND ACROSS

The reflection site of the competition (red zone) wants to enhance the necessary urban relations of build and unbuild spaces. Therefore, the reflection site associates the close neighborhoods of the park, as well in their structural as their social, economic and functional conditions. The intervention zone (yellow zone), emphasizes the structural relations between two important urban poles: the Schuman roundabout, on the Brussels municipality territory, identified as the center of the European Institutions area, and the Merode cross point, on the Etterbeek municipality territory. A covering or a catwalk above the tunnel has to be seen as a result of these relations, not as a goal in itself.

> How can the Jubilee Park become an inspiring place according to the vision of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles (Sustainable, Together, Beautiful) and criteria (participatory process, Multi-level engagement, Transdisciplinary approach) while respecting and enhancing the heritage dimension of the site?

> How can the Jubilee Park become a gathering space adapted to issues related to climate changes and the preservation of natural and ecological ecosystems?

> Is an intervention in the parameter of the tunnel opening –Trémie Kennedy – an opportunity to present European Commission’s achievements in an accessible and tangible way to the public?

