Reconstruction of the Market and the riverbanks of the Leie
Deinze, Belgium
2009-ONGOING

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in collaboration with
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and artist
BENOÎT VAN INNIS

The course and position of the River Leie defines the centre of Deinze, and offers the possibility to create a convivial meeting place in the heart of the city. The design for the redevelopment of Deinze centers around three principles:

- The square is being divided in a northern and a southern part, whereby the road and the parking lots function as structuring elements.
- Four squares breach the elongated shape of the Market, while at the same time forming a kind of pedestal for the primary buildings that define the character of the square: the church, the city administration, the newly built town hall and the Huis van Thuyne. Each of these four squares is dedicated to a season through the artwork of Benoît Van Innis. Moreover they refer to the parallel Kaandelpark.
- Lastly, the thought-through planting of trees and vertical elements, highlights the depth of the square and connects the open spaces with one another.

The market square was previously a functional space, mainly given over to traffic circulation and parking. The new market square has by contrast been designed as a flexible space, a pleasant place to stay that pays particular attention to accessibility.

The southern square, with its church, city hall and library, is an open paved surface free from any obstacles, thus suitable for hosting events, including the weekly market which is still held every Wednesday.

The northern square is greener and connects to the neighbouring park.

SITE PLAN

2009-2011
1. Square ‘spring’
2. Square ‘autumn’
3. Square ‘summer’
4. Square ‘winter’
5. Sint-Poppoplein
6. Reinsbachplein
7. Emiel Clausplein
8. Skate Parc Briel
9. Kaandelpark

2011-ongoing
10. Leedam
11. Pedestrian Bridge Across Leie
12. Antoon Van Parijspad
13. Staircase Van Rissegembrug
14. Arts Academy square
15. Rac Parking
16. Martinus Bridge

1. Historical reference image of the Onze-Lieve Vrouwekerk
2. Map of Deinze by J. Van Maldeghem, 1786
3. Scheme of the distributive principle of the project © Mijoel Van Hae
4. 19th century postcard of the Markt
5. Plan of the project