

first prize invited competition  
nomination public Belgian public space  
award 2013

project: design cultural square C-Mine

location: Genk Belgium

designers: Hanneke Kijne,

Petrouschka Thumann, Remco Rolvink,

Ronald Bron, Hilke Floris, Han Konings

partners: ARA Atelier Ruimtelijk Advies,

Carmela Bogman industrial design,

Painting with Light, NU architectuurstudio

client: City of Genk

area: 5.000 m<sup>2</sup>

year of design: 2006 - 2012

photography: Pieter Kers



#### Previous state

The C-mine square is situated on the grounds of the former coal mining complex Winterslag in Genk. Genk is a city of about 65.000 inhabitants, and one of the main cities in the province of Limburg in Belgium. Genk used to rely heavily on the industry of the coalmining; which started around 1917 and ended with the closing of the last mine in 1988. In Genk there were 3 coalmining complexes, of which Winterslag was the main one. The city of Genk became owner of the complex Winterslag in 2001. The transformation of Winterslag into C-mine was one of the ambitious projects of Genk to develop the city. Genk planned to transform the Winterslag complex into a new centre with cultural, recreational, creative economy and creative education functions. It was a public-private collaboration with investments from the city, the province, Belgium and the European Union. 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. The two grand shaft towers on the square form landmarks and show insight in the functioning of the site as a coalmining site, as does the (ruins of the) former mining reception building. The C-mine square is the central open area of the new cultural heart of Genk.

# Genk C-mine Cultural Square

