J224 - Urban park ‘De Porre’, Ghent, Belgium
Conversion of an old factory to city park

Ever since the park was realised, there has been a resurgence of activity in the neighbourhood. The reconversion has rubbed off positively on the buildings and quarters around the park. Thanks to the public participation sessions, locals have felt very involved with the project. The park is now being used intensively across the generations (senior citizens, families, children), becoming, much like it used to be, the meeting place for the neighbourhood.

City Park De Porre wins awards!
The city park was awarded the title of ‘Exemplary and innovative environmental project’ by the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests in 2010.
In 2015 the park won the Provincial Architecture Prize East Flanders, which was themed around the ‘Repurposing of historical heritage’. The project was declared the unanimous winner by a jury which boasted renowned architects Paul Robbrecht, Marie-José Van Hee and Marc Dubois.

LEGEND:
1. grandstand + multiport terrain
2. play and expo corridor
3. dry well
4. steam turbine
5. people + dust tower
6. cooling tower
- preserved structures
- existing buildings

black and white portraits of former workers in the preserved remnants of the old textile factory versus color photographs of today’s life in the park
new city park surrounded by houses, schools and future housing development