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# ARCHIDEA

INTERVIEW QINGYUN MA

#36 / 2007

*Qingyun Ma*



## 4-11 INTERVIEW QINGYUN MA

According to the Chinese architect Qingyun Ma, his projects are public devices rather than architecture: they are not about architectural language, but about building techniques. He does not believe in giving a building a country label. To him, 'Chineseness' lies in how the Chinese people interact and do business.



## 12-15 FOCUS ON INTERIORS OLD AND NEW

The exterior of the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo (Norway) was left untouched, whereas the interior was changed drastically. The Frosilos building in Copenhagen (Denmark) underwent quite the opposite process. In the case of the Lamot Congress and Heritage Centre in Mechelen (Belgium), only parts of the building were dismantled to create new space.



## 16-33 PROJECTS

The interiors of several projects involving the use of floors and furniture surfacing from Forbo Flooring are included as a form of inspiration. The projects are located in various parts of the world and show the many possibilities provided by Forbo's products.



## 34-35 CREATING BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

The interior of Suncorp corporate headquarters shows a clear focus on the use of sustainable materials. The interior fit out of this Australian bank was designed to score the equivalent of a 5-star Green Star rating.





## LAMOT CONGRESS AND HERITAGE CENTRE

MECHELEN, BELGIUM

The contrast between old and new in the Lamot Congress and Heritage Centre in Mechelen seems enormous, but appearances are deceptive. The architects of the Belgian architectural practices 51N4E and JJS let the changes and additions follow the logic of the former Lamot brewery. Over time, the brewery had grown along with the growth in the demand for its beer. No-one cared about architecture, and any additions were purely functional. The building was geared to the brewing activities and did not lend itself easily to transformation into a congress and heritage centre. The architects kept the old building as it was, wherever such was possible. However, being as pragmatic as the Lamot brewers had been, they dismantled walls and built a large auditorium adjacent to the brewery.

Since the 19th century, the brewery had been pivotal to the economic and social life of this Belgian town. When the brewery closed down in 1995, most of the buildings were demolished to create space for the construction of a hotel,

a department store, offices and apartments. However, the town did not want the history of the brewery, which had been so strongly connected to that of the town and its inhabitants, to be wiped out completely. The combination of a congress centre and a heritage centre would provide the only old building left on the site with an economic and cultural perspective. By pulling down the brick walls on the first floor, the architects created space for a central foyer that overlooks the town and enables a flexible organization of the interior. The foyer allows easy access to the congress hall, the project hotels and the exhibition rooms. Part of the silos was demolished to create room for the auditorium - concrete structural work packed in glass. The design keeps alive the collective memory of the building and monumentalises the brewers' rough logic.

Architects: 51N4E and JJS

Photos: courtesy of Lamot Congress and Heritage Centre