



# VISIT OF THE “GRANDE HALL” PROGRAMME 11.10.2023

**09:15****Bus Departure at Thon Hotel****09:45****Arrival and Coffee**

Quai de l'industrie, 79, Nijverheidskaai  
Molenbeek-Saint-Jean 1080 Sint-Jans-Molenbeek

**10:00****Welcoming at the “Grande Halle”**

Welcoming by **Geert De Roep**, Head of Unit, Europe  
Direction, Brussels Regional Public Service

Welcoming by **Catherine Moureaux**, mayor of Molenbeek

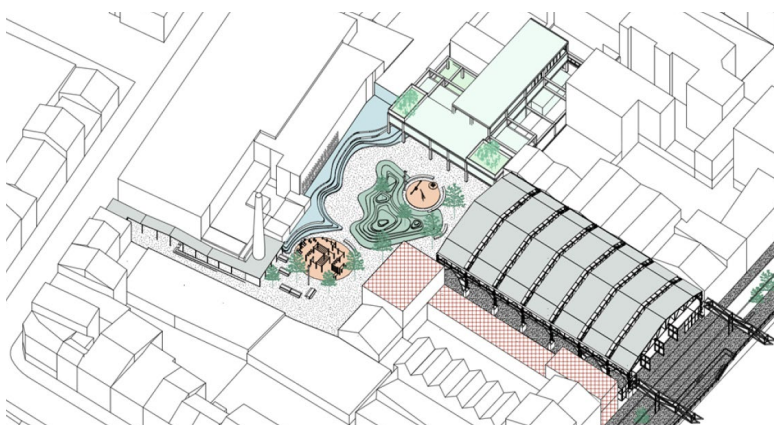
**10:10****Presentation of the “Grande Halle”**

Olivier Bastin, architect at l'escaut.

- Presentation of the Hall, explanations over the renovation process (15')
- Questions and Answers

**The “Grande Halle”**

The Grande Halle was the flagship project of the “Petite Senne” Sustainable Neighborhood Contract. This former 1,638 m<sup>2</sup> industrial hall was built in the 1910s. It was previously used as a car depot and was renovated, with respect to its industrial past, in response to a cruel lack of green, airy spaces in the district, enabling community activities (games, sports, markets, exchanges with peripheral functions, events) and public services to be brought together. It also creates a link between the dock and Rue Heyvaert for pedestrians and cyclists, improving the local soft mobility network. Work began in January 2020 and the space was inaugurated at the end of 2022, despite the sanitary crisis it traverses. A leisure and meeting space, the heart of a project bringing together workshops, intergenerational social housing and a nursery, helping to strengthen social ties in the neighborhood. The project, costing €1,783,757.44 (for a total of €8,593,909.78 including the hall, nursery, public space and dock), was designed and built with citizen participation and is an outstanding example of industrial conversion in response to current social and urban challenges.



**Mathilde Renson**, educational assistant at Circus Zonder Handen

- Presentation of the association and his role in the site activation, plans presentation of the coming space dedicated to the project (15')
- Questions and Answers

#### **Circus Zonder Handen - main activation actor of the Hall**

Circus Zonder Handen is a Brussels-based circus school dedicated to making its high-quality courses accessible to the greatest number. The project lies at the crossroads of four themes: youth, culture, well-being and sport. It aims to play a role in the development of a self-confident Brussels youth, seeing «superdiversity» as an advantage and inclusion as a matter of course. The association adapts itself to each profile to ensure that its goal of equal opportunity is achieved, and uses a wide range of tools to this end. For this inclusive, social, youth-oriented vision, Circus Zonder Handen has been chosen to be the main activator of the Grande Halle, where it will organize its regular classes as soon as the renovation work on its dedicated buildings is completed. In the meantime, the project occupies the space during holidays.



**10:50 > 11:10**

#### **Coffee Break**

Informal exchanges

**11:10**

#### **Projects Visits**

Each visit will be organized several times for a group of 10 people (nursery).

#### **BOOMERANG DESIGN**

Visit of the workshop with Tom Dedeurwaerder, Groot Eiland Director (20 minutes)

#### **Boomerang - a social and circular project**

Boomerang Design is part of "Groot Eiland" association, whose aim is to provide opportunities for people encountering difficulties to find employment in the mainstream labour market, by offering training and advice. The Boomerang project has been set up to teach woodworking and produce high-quality furniture products from recycled and residual materials treated with biobased products.

Objects are designed in collaboration with established and emerging designers. The floor above Boomerang is home to ArtiZan. This is a workshop of Groot Eiland where people get 'care through work'. They are encouraged to



work as volunteers in a meaningful daytime activity. The team mainly composes gift and goodie packages. For this, they produce tote bags from recycled textiles colored with vegetable dyes. The tissues come from Brussels hospitals via Cyclup. The products in the packages are locally made. The team is always looking for great startups offering sustainable and local drinks and food. The artisanal gadgets that ArtiZan likes to surprise its customers with, are handmade in the workshop.

#### **"LIVERPOOL" DAY NURSERY**

Visit of the building with **Karel Petermans**, architect at Zampone, with focus on the theme "local energy shift" (20 minutes)

**Liverpool Nursery:** A new building replaced the former workshops, warehouses and offices, after a necessary soil decontamination phase. It now accommodates 84 children, making it the largest French-speaking nursery in the commune. Although its exposed concrete gives it a rough appearance, the nursery meets today's highest quality standards. Each classroom has its own terrace planted with medium-sized trees, a storm water basin and photovoltaic panels are installed on the roof and numerous joineries soften the rough appearance. The installation of this nursery meet the need for childcare places in this densely populated area of Brussels and contribute at the same time to the liveliness of the new public space.

**12:00**

#### **Lunch at The "Grande Halle"**

with possibility of interviews

**13:30**

#### **Bus departure at The "Grande Halle"**



#### **CONTACT:**

Brussels regional public service  
Brussels International - ERDF Directorate  
Clara CRABEELS  
E-Mail: ccrabeels@sprb.brussels  
Phone: +32.(0)490 67 67 71  
Pl. Saint-Lazare 2, 1035 Bruxelles