

## CV architect Bart LENS

**BART LENS** (°1959) obtained his diploma from the Provinciaal Hoger Architectuur Instituut in 1982. After carrying out an internship with Jo Spaas at St-Huybrechts Lille he gained professional experience working for several different architects such as M. Jaspers (Projects: SAS Hotel in Brussels, CERA Headquarters in Leuven, Limeparts in Genk and the Dockside Discotheque in Hasselt) and the Headquarters of the Kredietbank Real Estate Division (34 staff for the central building department). In 1995 he took an important decision: he started up his own business in Hasselt called LENS°ASS. The business has since grown into a young, dynamic team that works under his leadership on a wide range of projects: interiors, shops, homes, industrial complexes, residential districts, etc. The designs bear witness to a pragmatic realistic approach to building assignments and a great attention to the actual execution thereof where different design choices have a great impact on the desired ambiance. Ambiance that is not a result of decorating and adding accessories, but ambiance that is an actual part of the ensemble of the architecture. Bart Lens was recently appointed guest teacher at the St. Lucas Institutes in Gent and Brussels for the Department of Architecture. On 31 October 2007 he opened his second office in Brussels.

**Vision** *The path of tangible atmosphere.* 'Architecture is more than simply producing images, spaces and thinking of technical solutions. It is a far more complex process in which one looks for a synthesis on various levels of scale, from the town planning dimension up to the careful detailing of every part of a building. The financial aspects and technical pre-conditions have their repercussions on the final result. As far as the creative process is concerned, many years have passed since the architect was someone who possessed specialist knowledge in every aspect of the building process. An architect does need to have the capacity and knowledge to direct the building process, and to ensure that the whole becomes more than the sum of the parts. The acquisition of the art of architecture, an expression one hardly dares to use these days, is the mastery of the 'art'; the art of bringing together a multiplicity of very varied factors into a final result that is more than the delivery of some square metres of usable surface area. In order to go beyond the purely functional the architect needs to introduce themes into his work. This can happen in a variety of ways, in the area of compositional options or in the area of use of materials. Turning a concept into reality requires a great deal of energy, mastery in holding on to the essential and the ability to make the design explicit in the final result. The architect's work cannot remain fixated in free-form intellectualised concepts, simply applying fanciful and superficial ideas. One's total attention is directed towards that which is solid; transforming an idea into a tangible and surprising visual whole remains the main preoccupation. There is a story to tell with each design, but the story is always dominated by making something solid, the tangible final result where one does not forget to create a specific atmosphere'. Marc Dubois 2004 *Lens°Ass Architecten*, Lannoo, ISBN 90 209 5452.

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**Professional qualifications** 1978-1982 Provinciale Hoge Architectuurschool, Hasselt (B)

**Work Experience** | 2007 opening 2<sup>nd</sup> office of Lens°ass architects in Brussels | 2004-2007 Guest teacher at St. Lucas Gent and Brussels, Department of Architecture | 1996-2004 Member of different juries and workshops (St. Lucas Brussels, St. Lucas Gent, Kath. Hogeschool Mechelen, Van de Velde Institute Antwerp, Department of Architecture Hasselt) and member of different competition juries | 1995 Lens°Ass architects | 1989-1994 Architect Headquarters of Kredietbank Real Estate Division | 1986-1989 M. Jaspers & Partners architects | 1982-1984 Jo Spaas, St-Huybrechts-Lille

**Awards & Prizes** | 2008 competition for project restoration and exhibition concept 'Schuur van Oorderen' - Open Air Museum Bokrijk | 2007 Winner of the competition project for the 'Brouwershuis' auditorium for St. Lucas Gent | 2006 First prize - Product Design Award 2006 – China International Home Textiles Design Competition | 2006 Selected prize Henry van de Velde 2005 with °ass3, °2cheveaux en °bain noir | 2005 Winner of the competition project "Renovation and conversion of the Maldegem town hall" as part of the Open Oproep competition | 2005 Winner of the competition project for a new building for the St. Gillis Primary School as part of the Open Oproep competition | 2004 Winner of the competition project "Conversion, restoration, renovation and techniques of the Groenendaal Castle", Hoeilaart as part of the Open Oproep competition | 2004 Winner of an open ideas competition for the Station Surroundings in co-operation with J. Mayer H. and A2O architects, Hasselt | 2004 Winner of the Architecture Prize for the Hasselt Project 't Leerske | 2004 Nomination for the Architecture Prize for the Hasselt Project Donum | 2004 City of Hasselt Creative Prize for Bain Noir | 2002 City of Genk First Prize for the Restoration of the Jans-Daenen Building | 2001 City of Gent First Prize for the Niesten New Building | 2001 Public Prize for Limburg Building Innovation | 2001

Nomination Awards for Belgian Architecture, New Single Family Dwelling | **2001** Decors Architecture Prize | **2000** Noël Bijmens Architecture Prize of the City of Genk, Niesten Home | **1998** Decors Prize for Buckinx Stevoort House, Kolmenstraat | **1984** Prize of the French Cultural Committee 'George de Vestel' for Art Nouveau house in Brussels, Clovislaan