



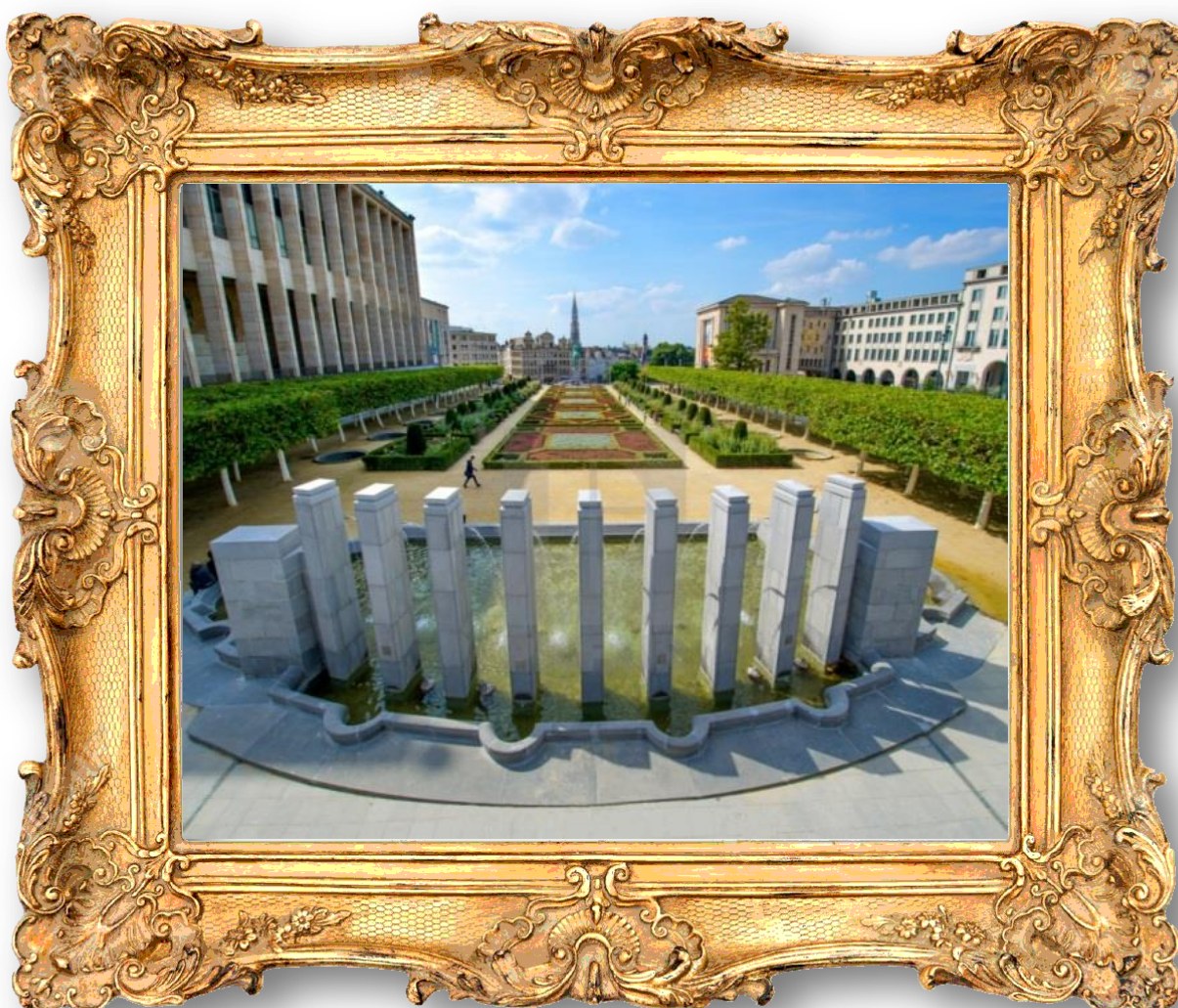
*Projet Erasmus+ Namur - Marsala*

## *"Patrimonia"*



*A la découverte du patrimoine historique, architectural et culturel*

# *Arts Hill*



Zoé Deweer



Institut « Ilon Saint-Jacques » - Namur

# ABSTRACT

## General presentation of the site.

In the 11th century, the Counts of Leuven built a castle on the Coudenberg situated higher. This decision is at the root of the rivalry between: the "top" and "bottom" of the city. This place has become "the Mountain of the Court". This place connects and separates two totally different worlds. In 1731, the old Palace was destroyed by fire. Abandoned for 40 years, the place became "the burnt-out courtyard". In 1775 Charles of Lorraine had the Royal Square built.

King Leopold II decided to transform the entire district into a "Mont des Arts" ("Arts Hill"). The king dreamt of making Brussels a modern and cultural capital and the Mont des Arts the treasure of his country and a witness to Belgium history. Our first king swore his oath at the Arts' Hill in 1831, more than 175 years ago..

### Arts Hill garden

The Mont des Arts district is a historical area in the history of Brussels. It was an urban planning puzzle, which saw hundreds of projects succeed one another, few of which were successful. As the 1910 Universal Exhibition approached, the existence of this huge wasteland in the heart of Brussels was intolerable. Under Leopold II's impetus, a "temporary" solution was adopted: a garden with a waterfall and terraces designed by the French landscape architect Jules Vacherot. The garden has often been criticized for its falsely picturesque character, but the park is nevertheless adopted by the inhabitants of Brussels as the green junction between the top and bottom of the city.



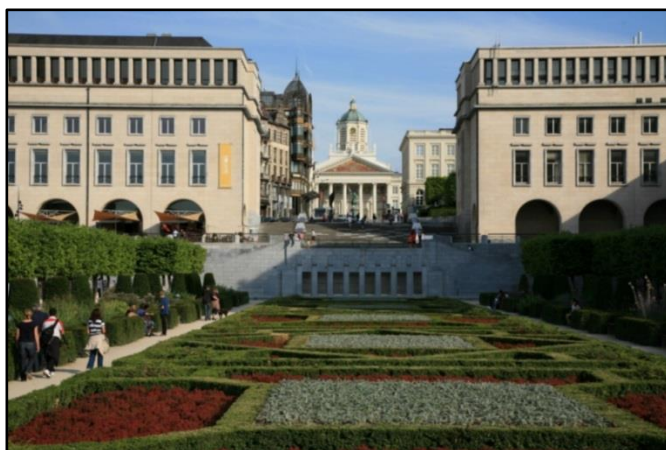


In 1937, an architectural competition was launched to redevelop the Arts district. It was necessary to provide the Royal Library, a memorial to Albert I, the Prints and Drawings Department, the Kingdom's Archives and the Fine Arts Museums. After many adventures, the project developed by architects Ghobert father and son was selected. The project began in 1955 with the destruction of Vacherot Park after a long struggle between defenders and opponents of the project. In the summer of 1955, landscape architect René Pechère was called upon to collaborate in the creation of the garden as an advisor to the city's green spaces.



The development program required the design of a garden whose levels had to be compatible with those of the Royal Library and enabled a view on the spire of the City Hall. It was also necessary to respond to the wishes of the Brussels inhabitants revolted by the disappearance of the Vacherot gardens, by providing flower beds, water basins and orchards.

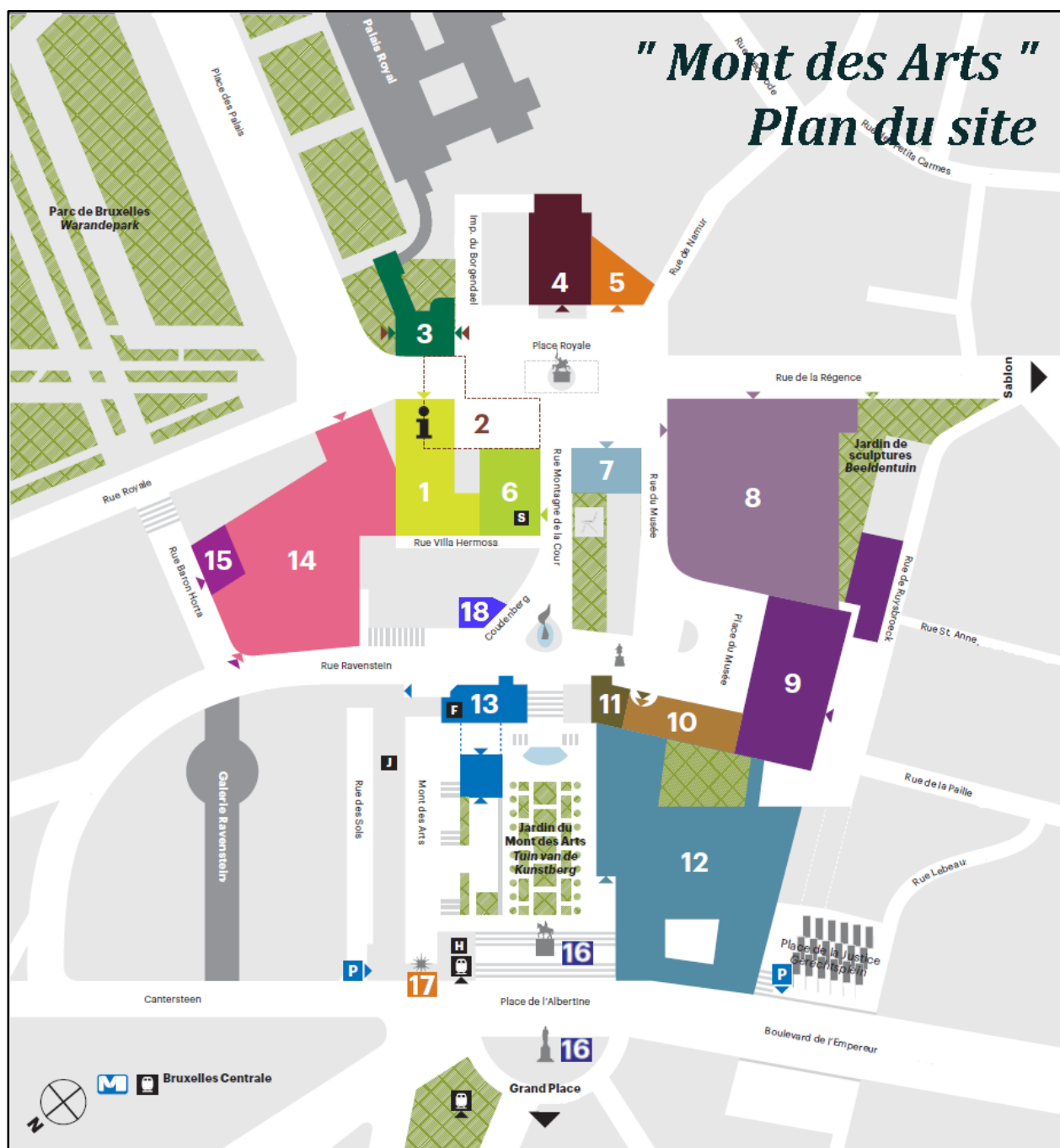
During the study, they also decided to build a three-level car park under the future garden, which transformed this space into a "hanging garden", the first of its kind. For this purpose, René Pechère drew inspiration from the techniques of the Babylonian hanging gardens.



Vue actuelle du bas



Vue actuelle du haut



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Le « BIP » - Bruxelles Info Place             | 10. Le Palais de Charles de Lorraine                             |
| 2. Le Palais du Coudenberg                       | 11. La Chapelle Protestante                                      |
| 3. Le Musée « BELvue »                           | 12. La Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique                           |
| 4. L'église Saint-Jacques-sur-Coudenberg         | 13. Le « SQUARE » - Palais des Congrès de Bruxelles              |
| 5. L'espace culturel ING                         | 14. Le « BOZAR » - Palais des Beaux-Arts                         |
| 6. Le « MIM » - Musée des Instruments de Musique | 15. « CINEMATEK »  |
| 7. Le Musée Magritte Museum                      | 16. La statue du Roi Albert 1 <sup>er</sup> ( le Roi Chevalier ) |
| 8. Les Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique  | 16. La statue de la Reine Elisabeth                              |
| 9. Les « AGR » - Archives Générales du Royaume   | 17. Le Carillon du Mont des Arts                                 |
|  | 18. La Pharmacie Anglaise  |

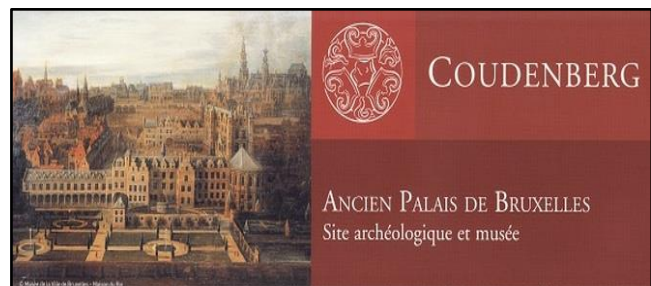




Vue aérienne du complexe

## 2. Coudenberg Palace

In the past, the impressive Coudenberg Palace dominated Brussels city. Charles V and other rulers among the most powerful that Europe has known lived in this princely residence from the 12th to the 18th century, until a terrible fire destroyed it forever on February 4, 1731. The ruins of this palace disappeared for many years in the basements. Today, these remains form an enchanting archaeological site consisting of a rooms network and underground passages.



During your visit, you will discover the main buildings of the palace and stroll along Isabelle street, which are now underground, mainly under the "BeLvue" museum, the "Royal Square" and the "BIP"

Access to the underground happens via the "BeLvue" museum

In the Coudenberg Museum, which is housed in the Hoogstraeten Hotel (at the "BIP"), the most beautiful archaeological discoveries made during the various excavation campaigns carried out on the Coudenberg site are displayed.

