

The FROM THE EDITORS AND BUREAUX OF MONOCLE MAGAZINE FORECAST



• A VIEW BEYOND THE HORIZON

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Puffins not muffins, how to revive the taxi, plus stormy fortunes

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Talking the talk UN style, think-tank thoughts, war craft

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BUSINESS

Beep, beep! The scooter is back. Moo, moo! And life on the farm too

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ESSAYS

Gustav Klimt would like a flat white please, why screen stars die younger, the axe man cometh and are you perhaps a 'roamer'?



BELOW THE SURFACE: THE WORLD IN 2016+

From the editorial team at MONOCLE, our annual focus on the currents, trends and monkey business to watch out for in the year ahead

** 250+ page compact covering global affairs, new business and handsome looks*

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CULTURE AND MEDIA

Singapore's bid for cultural cachet, animators sketching out new blockbusters and why reading these words marks a pivotal cultural moment

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How to build better homes and 'hoods in 2016 and beyond

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ANTWERP SURVEY

Our 24-page guide to a gem of a city that's recently added some extra vim and start-up polish

ANTWERP

A MONOCLE GUIDE

We've taken a shine to a lot more than the famous diamonds in Belgium's second city: it is a gleaming centre for culture, business and fashion too. Here is our round-up of what not to miss on a visit to this Flemish gem.

BUSINESS

Meet the start-ups and family firms shaping Antwerp, not least the beer-brewers and the jet-setters

CULTURE

Antwerp is reliving its golden age, come and see the city's cultural renaissance

DESIGN

The architects and designers shaping the look of the historic city and adding momentum to Brand Belgium

DINING

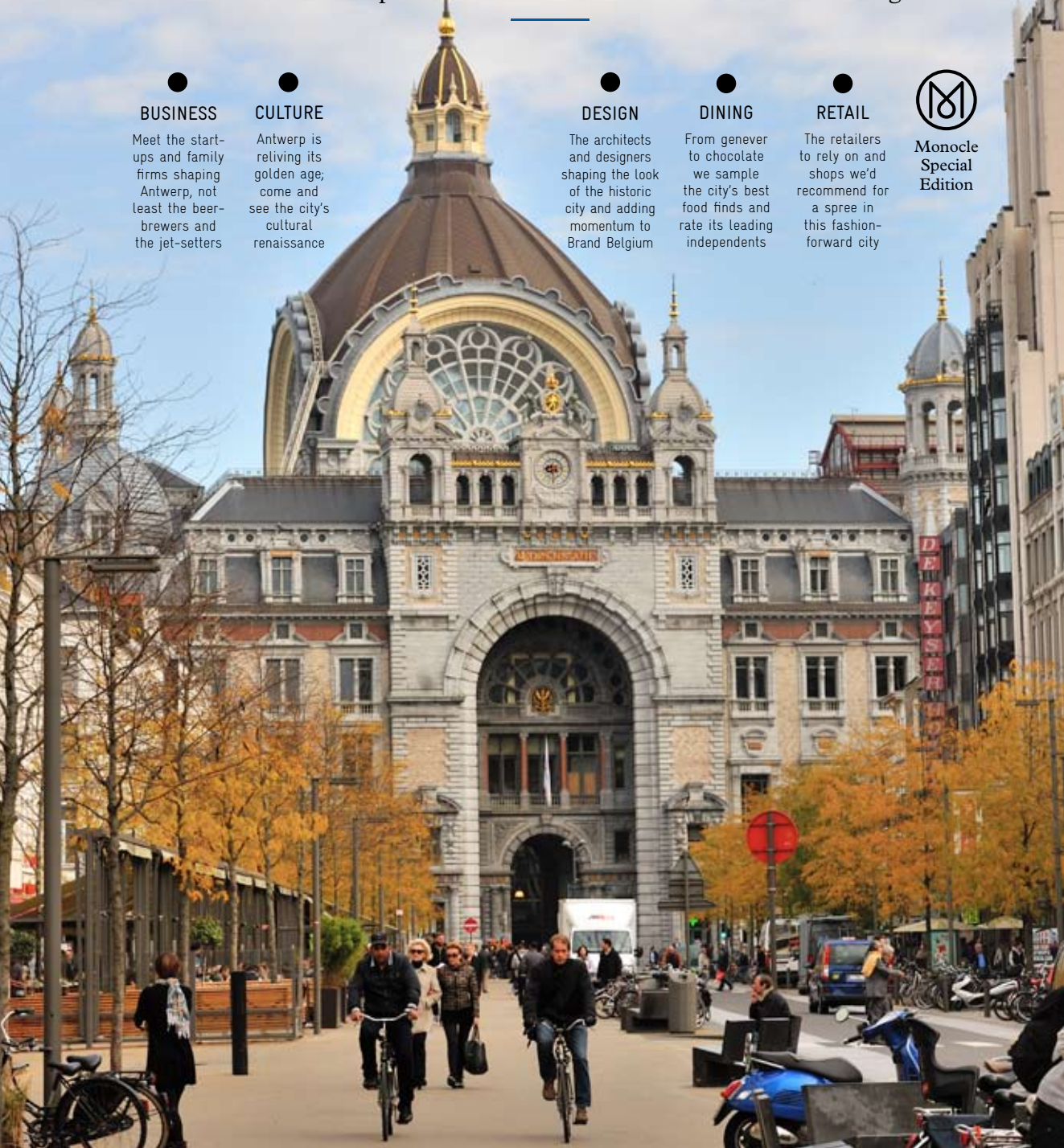
From generer to chocolate we sample the city's best food finds and rate its leading independents

RETAIL

The retailers to rely on and shops we'd recommend for a spree in this fashion-forward city



Monocle
Special
Edition



We meet some of Antwerp's best designers and visit the city's historic neighbourhoods and newest buildings.

The year Galerie Valerie Traan and designers Muller Van Severen launched a series of shapely wall lights at the Maison et Objet tradeshow in Paris.

The height of Antwerp's imposing Cathedral of Our Lady. Building regulations prohibit construction in the old town from overshadowing its lofty spire.

THE OVERVIEW

Open house

Strewn with gothic and renaissance buildings, Antwerp is also home to new creations by international talent including Zaha Hadid and Richard Rogers, and homegrown luminaries such as Vincent Van Duysen. New developments have revitalised the city's historic centre. There's also a movement to bring Belgian design centre stage and a growing number of young industrial designers are raising the city's game.



1 VINCENT VAN DUYSEN

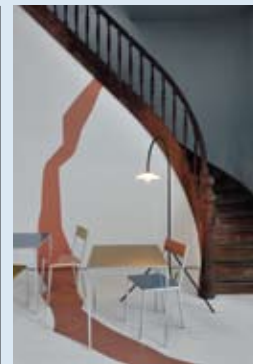
Artful ambassador

"Antwerp's a village with the attitude of a cosmopolitan city," says architect and designer Vincent Van Duysen (pictured). The designer of the ground-breaking Graanmarkt 13 retail space has created furniture and buildings around the world. His simple aesthetic and use of natural materials are seen as hallmarks of Belgian design. vincentvandyusen.com

2 PALACE OF JUSTICE

New lease of life

With 36 courtrooms, administrative chambers, a library, dining room and public hall capped with a striking boat-sail-shaped roof, the Richard Rogers-designed law court opened in 2006. The former site of two 19th-century world expositions was largely left to its own devices before the project injected life into the once-overlooked area.



4 GALERIE VALERIE TRAAAN

Show home

Galerie Valerie Traan opened in 2010 to showcase the best of Belgian and international design talent. From Belgian duo Muller Van Severen to a show on Italian Martino Gamper, owner Veerle Wenes's converted home routinely welcomes visitors who come to admire the innovative space as much as the exhibits. valerietraan.be



Renowned interior designer Axel Vervoordt began his career in the late 1960s when he restored 14 abandoned renaissance buildings in Antwerp's medieval alley Vlaeykengang. Vervoordt and his team are masters of designing tranquil living spaces and have had commissions from as far away as New York and Tuscany. "Inspiration comes from English shabby chic to Italian baroque;

blending this in a natural way is actually quite Belgian," says Vervoordt. His current project, Kanaal, a former distillery complex along Albert Canal, is being transformed into a mixed-use development and office space.



6 ICO

Perfectly balanced

Annemarie van Riet and Marc Merckx (pictured) worked at Vincent Van Duysen's studio before launching their own brand, an acronym of Identified Crafted Objects, in 2015. "All our products feature functional shapes," says Merckx, who has designed 25 pieces ranging from delicate brass bowls to marble vases for the collection to date. "We always try to go back to basics, to the point where you can't remove anything else." Each piece is made by Belgian artisans and is available from retailers across the country as well as international stockists in Paris and London. icocollection.com

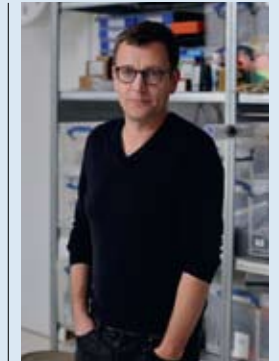
PROMISING DESIGNERS

Flanders style

1 Stephanie Specht
Antwerp-born Stephanie Specht studied graphic design at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and quickly made a name for herself after launching Specht Studio in 2013. stephaniespecht.com

2 Studio Job
Belgian Nynke Tynagel and Job Smeets have been crafting furniture and designing objects as Studio Job since 2000 – and to worldwide acclaim. studiojob.be

3 Roedel
Launched in April 2015, the agency unites branding, interior and graphic design. "We believe in simple but strong shapes," says co-founder Linde Van Eijnde, who dabbles in everything from logos to corporate identities and also recently started a line of birch-wood jewellery. roedel.graphics



Q & A

Stefan Schöning
Founder of Stefan Schöning Studio

Tell us about your company.

We are a multidisciplinary studio in the heart of Antwerp. In order to develop my identity I have worked in a wide variety of fields such as consumer products, design for public space, toys, lighting and interior design, while experimenting with a variety of products and materials.

What were the advantages of these broad influences?

All these industries require a different approach and allowed me to gather knowledge that is interchangeable. It definitely led to creating designs that go beyond standard production.

How do you like working in Antwerp?

There is a lot going on here, which has led to international recognition that Antwerp is an interesting and creative place. My studio, which is a tranquil, white space where I can quietly create, is in the centre of the city so I'm never far away from the vibe and its people. stefanschoning.com

HOUSE RULES

Built to last

There's a saying in Belgium that people here are born with a "brick in their belly": in other words Belgians grow up dreaming of building a house or creating a comfortable space to call home. This is very good news for Antwerp's architects and designers. Housing prices may be up to 60 per cent lower in Antwerp than in London but when buying a house the fees and taxes can add about 15 per cent to the price, so it's worth investing in a once-in-a-lifetime home. Plus, there are no restrictions on foreign buyers.

3 ZURENBORG DISTRICT

Flemish find

The district of Zurenborg is a great place to see the best of Antwerp's belle époque architecture. Particularly striking is the 500-metre-long Cogels Osylei. Built between the late 19th and early 20th century, the street's houses dip through a heady – and often unlikely – melange of architectural styles, ranging from art nouveau to neoclassicism, with eclectic additions thrown into the mix. Few areas of Antwerp survived a 1960s building surge intact but a group of architects joined forces to protect this hidden gem. While you're here stop off at bustling Dageraadplaats for a coffee.