



CARRIÈRES DU HAINAUT

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PRESS RELEASE

FIRST ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION ON THE THEME "HAINAUT BLUESTONE®" BY HAINAUT QUARRIES (CARRIÈRES DU HAINAUT) IN ASSOCIATION WITH ARCHI-EUROPE: BLUE STONE AWARDS 2013

Soignies, October 16th - Everybody who attended the grand prize-giving ceremony in Soignies, the six winners of the Blue Stone Awards competition, clearly demonstrated the power of Hainaut Bluestone®, as a living material, to enhance façades, structure terraces, work as a setting for swimming pools, operate efficiently in care homes and offices, and imbue very old dwellings with character and contrast.

Hainaut Bluestone®, a non-porous limestone, has established itself as one of the premier building materials in the world, mainly because of its enduring quality. Its range of shades and the ways in which the surface can be treated – polished, matt, uneven, very fine grooving and carving – allow for very subtle nuances to be achieved. To celebrate its 125 years in existence, the Hainaut Quarries Company which is maintaining this tradition of quality and craftsmanship, albeit now using cutting-edge technology, wanted to pay homage to the creative versatility of this material through the Blue Stone Awards. Organised in association with Archi-Europe, this competition has awarded prizes to six projects which feature Hainaut Bluestone® in a range of environments and categories.

www.carrieresduhainaut.com

www.archi-europe.com

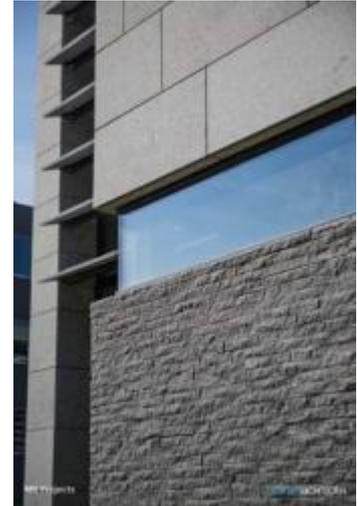
DARING CATEGORY

Offices Alverberg, Hasselt, Belgium – Architect: Jamaer

The building has been designed as flexible office space, with considerable emphasis on energy efficiency (all floors, roofs and walls are fully insulated, with solar protection on the south-facing façades). A single material used for the façade – Hainaut Bluestone® treated using a range of methods in combination with glass – has allowed for the creation of a tranquil, timeless architecture. Mention should be made of the various ways in which

the surface has been treated: the finish used for the façade covering, fitted using alternating joints, uses an old-fashioned cut which endows the façade with energy, while the solar protection has been achieved using Hainaut Bluestone® panels with a blue milled finish (sanded surface angle), mounted on a steel frame, as though this were the place where the cladding opened. The flat front wall has been constructed in what looks like split-faced Brickeno®, providing a colour contrast with the rest of the building.

www.jamaerarchitecten.be



COMPOSITIONS CATEGORY

Thon Hotel, Brussels, Belgium – Architect: Altiplan Architects



In their task of renovating three former offices in such a way as to develop a mixed urban project, including a hotel, homes and shops, the architects have opted for a composition in which a white lacquered glass skin is contrasted with a stone pediment. On one of the façades which, because of its function, called for a more closed, more opaque aspect, the stone slab layout is used to great effect to create a random motif, contrasting with the regular framework of the glass façade. With the same concern to keep the

ecological footprint of the whole project to a minimum (recovery of the structure of the building, and so on), it was decided that this section of the façade would use the first slices of the blocks of Hainaut Bluestone®, a material which is usually bypassed.

www.altiplan.eu

CONFRONTATIONS CATEGORY

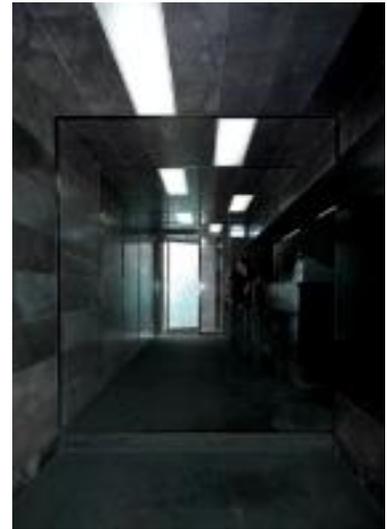
Renovation of an old bakery, Anento (Zaragoza), Spain – Architect: Sergio Sebastián Franco

The aim of the design strategy was to open up the existing building to the rural beauty of this little village which is hoping to attract tourism, and to display this old 14th-century bakery as part of a living eco-museum, while at the same time providing an image which is true to historical memory while consistent with the current needs of the project. A



huge quantity of light-coloured wood spans the building; a split-level space showcases the old oven, bathed in natural light. To "dramatise" the passage from outside to inside, a second space called for particular care in the choice of material. Sectioning off the bar and the main entrance and gently emerging at the street side, a massive Hainaut Bluestone® rock completely envelops the visitor, enhancing the sensation. The unique dark hue of the Hainaut Bluestone® symbolises the passage from light to darkness and back again.

www.sergiosebastian.es



ELEMENTS CATEGORY

Hainaut Bluestone® terrace, Tournai, Belgium – Landscape architect: Marc Meuwis



What has been created here is a terrace built of rough-sawn Hainaut Bluestone® (format 80X80 cm) and a sideways-overflow swimming pool. The edges, the overflow and the continuation of the pool are in flame-finish Hainaut Bluestone®. Very sober and carefully structured, the construction provides a feeling of tranquillity. The designer has highlighted the contrast in texture between the almost smooth

finish of the rough-sawn stone, the ruddy look of the scorched stone and the dark shade of the overflow. The dark blue mirror effect of the pool also brings out the contrast with the light stone on sunny days.

www.mmap.be

HARMONIES CATEGORY

AZ Groeninge Hospital, Courtrai, Belgium – Architect: OSAR Architect / Baumschlager-Eberle

The new hospital built on the edge of the city is a combination of the four hospitals currently in existence in Courtrai. The building has been designed as a health village where all residential rooms are bathed in direct light with different outlooks on the various external spaces. To accentuate the tranquil aura of the project, the architects



have chosen identical concrete elements for the external façade, while inside Hainaut Bluestone® has been used as the floor covering for common areas to contrast with the light walls. The sawn-finish Hainaut Bluestone® used on some of the walls as an overall look adds to the strength and acts as a signal.

www.osar.be

www.baumschlager-eberle.com



CATEGORY PAYSAGES

Harbour Tower, Beirut, Lebanon – Landscape architect: Francis Landscapes



The challenge in the case of this small area – 1,000 square metres – enclosed in a very dense urban environment was to create a space where residents could relax, a smooth transition between the controlled environment of the home and the hustle & bustle of the street. A repetition of elements, linearity and symmetry, water and a collection of green-hued flora adapted to the tough climatic conditions,

have been brought together to create a small urban garden. With the play of the Hainaut Bluestone® lines contrasting with the white rock, the garden also acts as an extension of the building. With the appearance of a carpet, the linearity of the façade is deployed on the horizontal plane. In this way, the harmonious combination of the vegetable and the mineral in this urban garden project succeed in creating a natural, peaceful space in the heart of even a city as vibrant as Beirut.

www.francislandscapes.com

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Pictures available on request

