

## 51N4E

51N4E is a Brussels-based international practice that concerns itself with matters of architectural design, concept development and strategic spatial transformations. The name of the practice refers to the capital's coordinates. The practice is led by 3 partners: Johan Anrys, Freek Persyn and Peter Swinnen. "51N4E is a self-steering collective that wants to empower people to be both autonomous and connected. It does so by organizing the supportive processes needed for a collaborative design culture. This collaboration platform combines the internal studios with a growing network of external partners. As such, it mirrors today's complex reality and produces an ecosystem of knowledge."

The firm was established in 1998 and has since been well-known for projects such as Lamot (2005), TID Tower Tirana (2004), C-Mine (2006), and Skanderbeg Square (2008). Peter Swinnen was named Flemish Government Architect in 2010. 51N4E has won numerous international awards for its architectural work, and it is currently working on strategic visions for large-scale metropolitan areas such as Bordeaux (50.000 residents), Brussels (Bruxelles Métropole 2040), and Istanbul (Making City).

This name is more significant than one might imagine for this agency, which conceives of architecture as a point of convergence of a spatial reality. Rethinking the notion of architecture, its practice, its methods, they consider each of their projects as a vector of urban and spatial transformation, the result of the most thorough questioning possible with the client.

This voluntarist approach engages the program beyond its limits towards wider spheres, to demonstrate that architecture can seize values of exchange, improvement of the public domain, and quality of life. Their buildings thus conceived gain a great freedom and formal imagination. The kindergarten in Merksem and the old people's home in Nevele, the last of their buildings, both enter into a cleverly orchestrated interaction with the city. The school, a kindergarten, is conceived as a double building combining a school and machine depot. Each part looks at the other in the reciprocity of this rationalized space. The school is arranged in a circle, floating slightly on the ground, and advances into the landscape while remaining connected to the urban activities allowed by this dual nature of the building.

## BOOKS:

Fshazi, F., & Graziani, S. (2016). *51N4E - how things meet. Falma, Fshazi, Stefano, graziani.* Ape.

Garutti, F. (2021). *The things around us: 51N4E and Rural Urban Framework.* Jovis Berlin.

51N4E, Double or Nothing, 2011 <https://www.51n4e.com/reflections/double-or-nothing>

## WEBSITES:

51N4E Website <https://www.51n4e.com/>

DIAGNOSE! Interview Series #3 - 51N4E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xQIUKbNE4Q&t=2785s>

Ringpark Zuid: Freek Persyn, 51N4E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjxAEgXGShA>

## ARTICLES:

ROOM IN THE CITY IN LEUVEN, BELGIUM BY 51N4E.

<https://www.yellowtrace.com.au/51n4e-room-in-the-city-leuven-belgium-architecture-biophilic-design/>

Skanderbeg Square by 51N4E

<https://www.metalocus.es/en/news/skanderbeg-square-51n4e>

SPEELPLEINSTRAAT, KINDERGARTEN & GREENERY SERVICE

<https://www.metalocus.es/en/news/speelpleinstraat-kindergarten-greenery-service>