

# Architecture for homes and hospitals

Architecture is an evergreen in the economy. No matter what the circumstances, people always need homes and buildings for work, government or other purposes. A staple in this sector is the Belgian SVR-ARCHITECTS nv in Antwerp. Winner of the 2007 Los Angeles Award of Excellence for Sustainable Design for building renovation in the city of Brussels, the architects' office, which turns 40 this year, serves customers with building projects around the world.



SVR-ARCHITECTS

Founded in 1972, SVR-ARCHITECTS works on the design and planning of primarily larger properties. Roughly half of its work is in new buildings, while the other half is renovation work. "Our number-one area is the healthcare sector," explains CEO Philippe van Goethem. "That includes hospitals, nursing homes, retirement homes and social institutions. Beyond that, we are involved in the conception of hotels, laboratories – both for medical and research purposes, leisure centres and shopping malls, and other buildings, such as offices." The firm's prime target group is private and public hospitals, though other firms and investors are also of interest. For the past six years, SVR-ARCHITECTS has been active on the international market, with foreign projects making up about 15% of its contracts. "So far we have had projects in China, Romania, France, the Netherlands and Germany," the CEO highlights. The assortment of services offered by SVR-ARCHITECTS runs the gamut from research to construction. The firm explores the latest technology for creative ways to put it to use. Feasibility studies afford building companies a realistic picture of the project, allowing for a more realistic budget. Space planning takes into account the area of the project and the most effective use of the space. SVR-ARCHITECTS also considers the quality of a building and its historic context in the sector of renovation. When a completely new building is

not necessary, the architect's office can also carry out the refurbishment. Finally, one of the most important topics in construction today is that of sustainable buildings, and SVR-ARCHITECTS is no exception to this. The firm looks into methods and materials that will work not only in the present but also in the future. SVR-ARCHITECTS was founded in Antwerp by Jef van Ranst and Paul Storme when they won a competition for the design of a hospital. Today the firm is owner operated by the CEO and Jean Pierre van Liefferinge. SVR-ARCHITECTS boasts a staff of 45 and had a turnover of six million EUR in 2011. The CEO foresees positive development for SVR-ARCHITECTS. "We are currently planning a new children's hospital for

Philippe van Goethem is partner and CEO of SVR-ARCHITECTS



One of SVR-ARCHITECTS's many projects was the city hall in Koksijde

the university clinic in Antwerp," he says. "That should be finished in about two years." Mr. Van Goethem emphasises the importance of his employees in the future of the company. "We are specialised and have many years of experience to offer our customers," he points out. "With our comprehensive, competent consultation, we assist our clients in realising their projects." ■

## SVR-ARCHITECTS nv

Volhardingstraat 26  
2020 Antwerp  
Belgium  
Phone: +32 3 2428200  
Fax: +32 3 2377698  
architect@svr-architects.eu  
www.svr-architects.eu