

Working closely with the heritage department of the City of Brussels, the architectural team carefully navigated the challenge of preserving the building's iconic features while upgrading its performance. From addressing structural issues like water leaks, fire safety, and thermal bridges, to improving ventilation, heating, and energy efficiency, the renovation was akin to a large-scale "brain surgery," requiring precision and respect for the original architecture.

A significant part of the project involved giving the building a «new skin» – replacing the outdated glazing with double-glazed, extra-clear glass panels that maintain the look of the original while dramatically improving energy performance. The former canteen, now a shared space, directly connects with the upper garden levels, maintaining a dialogue between the indoors and the surrounding landscape.

This sensitive renovation showcases how the past and present can coalesce to create a building that not only meets modern standards but also honors its heritage. The Royale Belge now stands as a prime example of how circularity can breathe new life into an architectural masterpiece, ensuring it remains relevant and vibrant for decades to come. By integrating mixed-use functionality, modern energy efficiency, and ecological enhancements, the Royale Belge project demonstrates how heritage architecture can be adapted for the future without losing the essence that made it iconic in the first place.

