

charleroi

The station

a new district, a new vitality



Access to the gallery under the tracks on the Sambre side

The Project's lines of strength

Placing the station in the spotlight, affirming its presence and role as the gateway to the city

Making the urban fabric denser and enhancing the commercial appeal of the city centre

By developing new constructions that will be used as housing, offices, local shops and for services.

By renovating and highlighting the former Railway Hotel (1938).

Improving mobility in and around the station

By developing intermodality and gentle modes of travel, to make the station more accessible.

Embodying the station's unifying role between the low town and the La Villette

By partially covering the site with an architectural element that reinforces its identity.

Making the station translatable

By creating a wide gallery under the tracks broken up by light shafts, punctuated by the presence of shops and services that opens onto wide, attractive, convivial public spaces on both the Sambre and the La Villette sides.

Highlighting the River Sambre

By redeveloping and creating access to the right bank.

Contrasts

In and beyond the limits of the inner ring road

Charleroi has a twofold image: the compact city within the boundary formed by the motorway ring road; the diffuse city beyond these "ramparts", inherited from modern development.

Between the high town and the low town

If the high town forms a homogenous whole, the low town by contrast lacks coherence. The station district forms one aspect of this.



Reorganising the bus station

To Improve the quality of modal transfers.

On the La Villette side

Creation of an extensive underground car park that connects with the gallery under the railway tracks, incorporating a multi-purpose performing arts centre there.

Adding conviviality and attractiveness alongside the station, through the creation of a leafy park.



Acces to the gallery on the La Villette side



Ring Road

Resistance bridge

Station

La Villette

La Villette bridge



The gallery under the tracks



Using the station to structure the low town

As things stand

Having crossed the Sambre, the station district, between the river, the railway line and the ring road offers a disparate image that is not easily defined, poorly adapted to the traffic flows and built up of eclectic elements. Beyond the railway, on the La Villette side, an area of land alongside the station offers potential for the development of large-scale projects.

Breaking down barriers to reveal the possibilities of the site

Developments in and around the station aim to breathe new life into the low town and link it to the La Villette.

The objectives are threefold:

- to break down the barrier created by the railway, by making the station truly translatable and permeable;
- to structure the space delimited by the railway station, the River Sambre, the Resistance Bridge and the La Villette Bridge;
- to develop facilities and green spaces on the La Villette side.

Taking the context into account

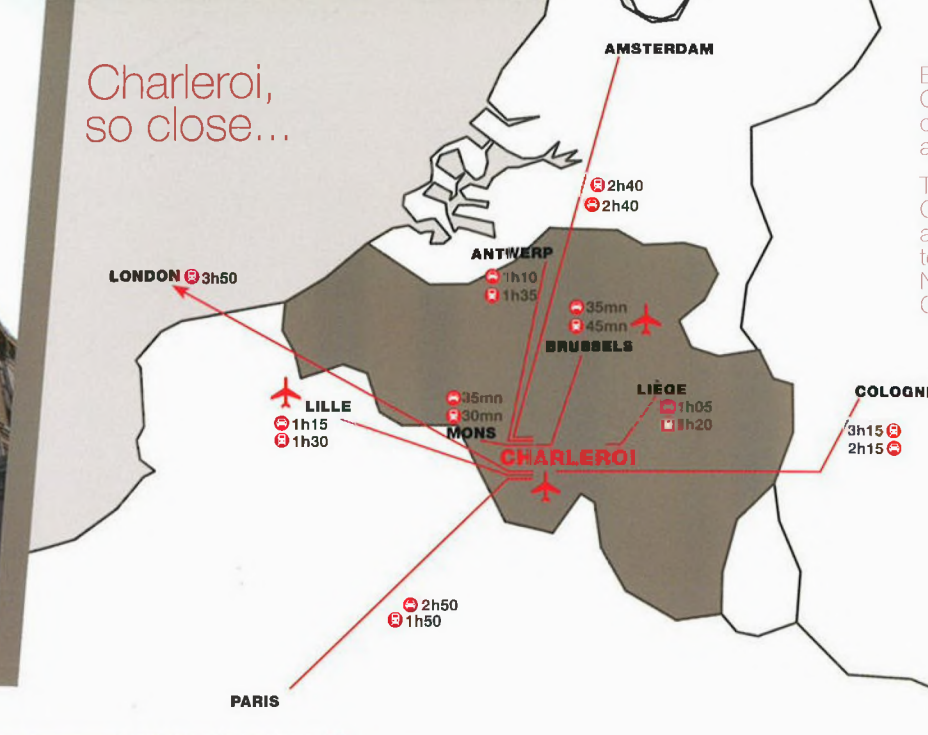
By highlighting remarkable elements: the Sambre, the station and the former Railway Hotel.

By integrating unavoidable elements: the inner ring road and the metro.

The River Sambre: greater presence and accessibility



Charleroi,
so close...



Brussels South Charleroi airport: the country's second airport.

The Brussels-Charleroi canal: a transit route to France, the Netherlands and Germany.



Charleroi is...

- The largest metropolis in Wallonia: over 200,000 inhabitants; an agglomeration in excess of 500,000 people.
- A catchment area of more than 650,000 people.
- An industrial structure based on large multinational groups and a major incubator of SMEs.
- A science and technology park, AEROPOLE: 160 businesses employing 4,000 people.
- A centre of excellence: biotechnologies, energy, new materials, information and communication technologies and aeronautics.
- Skill centres which offer training and expertise at the cutting edge of technology.
- Synergies between the Universities in Brussels and Mons and the dynamism of Higher Education Colleges.
- A leading hospital centre.
- High-level sports' facilities.

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Charleroi is also

- A remarkable Art Déco and Art Nouveau architectural heritage.
- Acclaimed cultural institutions: dramatic arts, dance, photography, contemporary creation, etc.
- The «Black Country» with its 62 slag heaps, vestiges of the coal mining activity, which have become green hills.
- A cradle of memory – the former Bois du Cazier colliery – a Unesco World Heritage site, which also houses the museum of glass and the museum of industry.
- One of the birthplaces of comic strips.



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