

Samyn and Partners: Contextual Use of Steel

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The philosophy of Samyn and Partners is based on unorthodox questioning, supported by lateral thinking. The resulting style can be encountered in the search for morphological rigour, a response to the senses and *genius loci*, as well as in the appropriate choice of materials. This naturally excludes any repetitive formalism. Moreover, in order to give an answer to the contextual features of the architectural and technical aspects, a wide range of materials is regularly combined. Because steel plays a preponderant role in conveying lightness and slenderness, combined with the refinement of structures and architectural elements, it is often present in the architecture of Samyn and Partners.

Because of concern about sustainable architecture, economy in general, and energy saving in particular, expensive devices and structural elements such as cast building components are carefully avoided. The structural, constructive and architectural elements, such as large glazed structures, sun screens, stairs, . . . , are most of the time realised in cut-folded iron sheets or in industrial profiles, taking advantage of resulting rhythms, such as the one of bolts, to make the scale of the work perceptible. Together with this concern, the search for easy maintenance also has an influence on the works of Samyn and Partners, small or big, past, recent or in project. © 1998 Elsevier Science Ltd. *All rights reserved*

KEYWORDS

Architecture, Belgium, bridge, building, civil engineering, context, energy saving, morphology, research and development, Samyn and Partners, structure, sustainable architecture.