open from October 9th 2010

information for the public, trade and press
1. the permanent collection

2. technical data

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5. the *pièces de résistance*
Introduction

the city’s memory, pulse and future
From October 9th 2010 STAM – Ghent City Museum provides the perfect introduction to Ghent. Here you will find not only the memory of Ghent, but also the throbbing pulse of the contemporary city and a glimpse of the future. After that STAM refers you on to its show-piece: the city itself.

the city as STAM’S show-piece
Once the renovation of Bijloke Abbey and the addition of a contemporary entrance building are complete, STAM will open its doors to the public. The story of the city is explained by means of significant items from the extensive ‘Ghent Collection’. The abbey’s ambulatory follows a chronological trail, the rooms off it bringing the successive periods into view. Multimedia applications take visitors on a journey through time, gradually peeling away the city’s various layers and making it easy for everyone to decipher. STAM looks at the past from the present and paints a picture of the future. It does all this in a historical framework with a contemporary approach – an echo of Ghent itself.
STAM on the Bijloke

Restored façades of the C14 Bijloke Abbey, April 2010 © Phile Deprez

STAM occupies historically important buildings on the Bijloke site. This green oasis close to the centre is a haven of culture on the banks of the River Leie (Lys). The permanent exhibition circuit will be housed in the fourteenth-century Bijloke Abbey which boasts one the most beautiful medieval refectories in Western Europe and marvellous pre-Van Eyckian wall paintings. Temporary exhibitions and other projects will be mounted in the adjoining seventeenth-century monastery buildings.

For further information about the Bijloke site, go to: http://www.stamgent.be/nl/over-stam/locatie
STAM’s temporary exhibitions
In addition to the permanent circuit, STAM will present temporary exhibitions which home in on topical issues and explore the universal concept of ‘urbanity’ under different themes.
The first temporary exhibition is ‘Enlightened City’ and it will open in October 2010.
A city is a permanent ‘chiaroscuro show’: squares bathe in sunlight, tower blocks cast their shifting shadows, town houses reach for the light, a cheerful cacophony of light banishes the night, artificial light attacks our biorhythm, dark sides of the city spurn the bright lights...
Life in the city is conditioned by light and darkness.
You can download the ‘Enlightened City’ file from www.stamgent.be/pers.

STAM, a welcoming gateway to the city
STAM acts as a springboard for a day-out in Ghent. Even the reception desk doubles as a cultural-tourist information point. Not only does STAM provide the perfect introduction to Ghent, but it refers you on to other places which help make Ghent the city it is. STAM inspires you to go out and explore the city. What is more, the trip from STAM to the heart of the city is pure pleasure, a chance to soak up the atmosphere of this vibrant city, whether you go by boat, bicycle or on foot.
1. permanent exhibition: ‘the story of Ghent’

(0) the introduction: getting a feel for modern-day Ghent
The induction area on the first floor of the new building is the stepping stone to Ghent’s history proper in the abbey.

This induction area focuses attention on modern-day Ghent. An enormous aerial photograph of the city on the floor and a maquette of the historic centre introduce the story of the city. The 1/1000 scale (1 meter is 1 kilometre in reality!) ensures that every Ghent resident will be able to find his house in a photograph or maquette. Pictures of Ghent are projected onto the walls. Numerical data comparing Ghent with other European cities show its evolution in a wider context. Visitors come away with a picture of contemporary Ghent and a real feel for the city.

the chronological trail
The chronological trail that makes Ghent legible by analyzing time begins once you have entered the abbey via the rood loft in the church.
(1) growing city, until 1200

Though the city’s oldest nucleus occupies centre stage in this area, many relics also refer to the presence of human beings here in the preceding period. Stone sculptures and illuminated manuscripts illustrate the importance and burgeoning of the rival St Bavo and St Peter’s abbeys.

(2) metropolis, 1200-1600

In the Middle Ages Ghent was one of the largest cities in Europe. Much of the wealth accumulated through the cloth trade and grain storage was ploughed into new buildings: large stone dwellings, guild houses and monumental public buildings. A growing self-awareness also led to long-drawn-out conflicts with the centralization policy of counts, dukes and emperors.
(3) chastened city, 1600-1800

Paintings, flaming processional torches, engravings and the like remind us of the festivities organized on a large scale for numerous events, like the joyful entries of sovereigns. The relative political peace and economic revival after turbulent times helped fuel a wave of building activity.

(4) industrial city, 1800-1950

With industrialization drawing more and more people to the city, medieval Ghent was bursting at the seams. The city gates were demolished and various new neighbourhoods grew up outside the (former) city walls. Major infrastructure work was undertaken in a bid to steer that evolution in the right direction. The historic centre was also transformed.
(5) network city, 1950 – the present day

With the decline of the textile industry after the Second World War, the city looked cheerless and grey. However, new economic activity injected new life into the city and its port. Ghent also became Flanders’ most important city in terms of education. Ghent’s amalgamation with the adjoining municipalities made it an urban agglomeration.

(6) city of the future

The city is a living organism, constantly on the move. Urban development and/or architectural projects, some on a large scale, illustrate how the city continues to change. Next in line is the Old Docks project.
themed digressions

As you follow the STAM trail, you will find much more along the way. Two themed digressions focus on subjects which are bigger and more famous than Ghent itself: Charles V and *The Mystic Lamb*. These themes are dealt with separately. In the case of *The Mystic Lamb* special attention is paid to the theft of the panel depicting The Fair Judges. The hunt for the stolen panel is still ongoing and adds a light-hearted touch to the display.

multimedia views of Ghent

Multimedia applications help broaden the chronological trail and give it greater depth. The journey through time and through the story of the city takes the form of four digitalized views of Ghent. This ingenious multimedia application plunges visitors into Ghent’s history and takes them back in time.

For further information, go to: [http://www.stamgent.be/nl/activiteiten/detail/p/multimedia-zichten-op-gent](http://www.stamgent.be/nl/activiteiten/detail/p/multimedia-zichten-op-gent)
Multi-touch tables

For the part of the story relating to the period 1950 through to the present day, STAM is investing in new technologies which enable visitors to search visual databanks with great ease. Several visitors at a time will be able to enjoy browsing the collection in a natural and intuitive manner by touching, dragging, enlarging and reducing visual material on a screen with their hand. No computer experience is required.

![Multi-touch tables](Mutable © Fijne beeldwaren)

carl de keyzer

Large photographs by photographer Carl De Keyzer will be on show in the ambulatory which links the exhibition areas. They add a contemporary dimension to the chronological story of Ghent.

De Keyzer is a member of the famous international photographic cooperative Magnum. For STAM he is taking pictures of places in Ghent which embody many layers of ‘city’. He has passers-by play a crucial role as extras.

![Courthouse](Courthouse © Carl De Keyzer)
The historical splendour of the patrimony in which STAM is housed comes into its own in the abbey church, refectory and ambulatory. To allow the spaces and the interiors to speak for themselves, they are furnished as soberly as possible and museological elements are kept to a minimum. The intention is to hold the occasional concert in the church and refectory where the acoustics are exceptional.
2. technical data

name

STAM - Ghent City Museum – permanent exhibition: ‘The story of Ghent’

where

Bijlokesite, Godshuizenlaan 2, 9000 Ghent

when

Open from October 9th 2010

Floor area

2800 m²

media

1. paintings
2. maps
3. documents and written records
4. maquettes
5. multimedia applications which make map and paintings legible
6. multi-touch table
7. objects and artefacts
8. drawings, prints
9. leaflets
10. excerpts from literature and the moving image
11. story banks
12. photographs

loans

main lenders:

1. Museum of Fine Arts Ghent
2. University Library Ghent
3. Museum of Stone Objects Ghent
4. Public Records Office Ghent
5. Diocese of Ghent
6. Ghent City Archive
7. City Archaeology Department
8. Department for Roads, Bridges and Waterways
9. The House of Alijn
10. Amsab-ISG
11. MIAT
12. Bruggemuseum (Bruges)
13. MAS (Antwerp).

the *pieces de résistance*

*see 5. The pièces de résistance*

concept and execution

STAM - Ghent City Museum in cooperation with Tijdsbeeld/Pièce Montée

subsidizers

Flemish government
Province of East Flanders
City of Ghent

budget

Total budget STAM: new build, restoration, layout of permanent exhibition: 14,500,000 euros

Contribution Province of East Flanders 2,000,000 euros
Contribution Flemish Government 8,676,273 euros
Contribution City of Ghent 3,823,717 euros
3. information for the public

(there may still be a few changes)

where

STAM, Bijlokesite, Godshuizenlaan 2, 9000 Ghent

when

• from October 9th 2010
• from 10 to 18.00 hrs
• closed on Mondays
• closed on December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to combine with city walks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- in the evenings: streets, squares and buildings are beautifully lit – the Ghent lighting plan won an international award in 2004</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to combine with the temporary exhibition ‘Enlightened City’</th>
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<tr>
<td>- opening times are the same as the permanent exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<th>to combine with the light festival</th>
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<tr>
<td>- city trail enhanced with light, lighting and light art</td>
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<td>- from January 27th to 30th 2011</td>
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<tr>
<th>to combine with a concert at De Bijloke Music Centre</th>
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<tr>
<td>- with a stop at STAMcafé or the Bijloke Bistro in-between</td>
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<tr>
<td>- see <a href="http://www.debijloke.be">www.debijloke.be</a></td>
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</table>
admission

- normal price:
  - €6 for adults
- concessions:
  - groups (min. 15 people), senior citizens 55+ and others entitled to a discount: €4.50
  - ages 19-26: €1
  - ages 0-18: free
  - Ghent citizens: always entitled to a discount and on Sundays (10 to 13.00hrs)
    admission is free
- with the same ticket you can also visit STAM's temporary exhibition
- a museum pass provides access to all Ghent’s museums for 3 days and free use of
  busses/trams in the city centre: €20

facilities

- full access for wheelchair-users
- gallery texts in NL FR EN DE ES
- café-restaurant
- cultural-tourist information desk

how to get there

- STAM is one kilometre from the centre of Ghent (a pleasant 15 minutes’ walk)
- public transport:
  - station Gent-Sint-Pieters (15 min. walk)
  - tram 1, Holdaal stop or tram 4/21/22, Bijlokehof stop (5 min. walk)
- bicycle: cycling network junction Bijlokekaai
- car: exit Gent-Centrum, P-route to Parking Sint-Pietersplein (15 min. walk)
- coach: park & ride
publications

- multilingual publications (NL-FR-EN)
- *Ghent. City of all times*, a standard work about the history of Ghent - essays, Marc Boone, Gita Deneckere et al, Mercatorfonds & STAM, 240 pp., €49.95
- *An idiosyncratic view of Ghent and its history*, Marc Reynebeau, Mercatorfonds & STAM, 144 pp., €19.95
- *A city museum for Ghent*, Maria De Waele, Openbaar Kunstbezit in Vlaanderen (OKV), 35-40 pp., €6.20
- available from the museum shop and bookshops

groups

- choice:
  - guided tour of the exhibition in the company of a guide (approx. 1 1/2 hrs)
  - city walk in the company of a guide
  - on request, tour of the exhibition/city walk can be combined with taxi-boat trip or themed round trip
- booking essential – minimum 2 weeks in advance (see below)
- languages: Dutch, French, German, English, Spanish (interpreter for the deaf on request)
- maximum 20 people
- prices:
  - guided tour: €75

schools

- city schools: several days’ total immersion in city life for 10-14 year olds.
  For further information: [www.stamgent.be/stadsklassen](http://www.stamgent.be/stadsklassen)
- workshops combined with a visit to the permanent exhibition
- guided tours for 10-18 year olds from 2011

with the family

- Radar: activity book for use at STAM and in the city on sale in the shop

course

- *Ghent, city of all times*
- in cooperation with Amarant
- from September 2010
- for further information [www.amarant.be](http://www.amarant.be) or 070 233 048
calendar of temporary exhibitions

- Enlightened City: 09.10.2010 – 01.05.2011
- Water works: spring 2012

info en reserveringen

- group bookings via BOEKjeBEZOEK: info@boekjebezoek.be
- tel. +32 (0)9 269 60 04

info

- information preferably by e-mail: stam@gent.be
- tel. +32 (0)9 269 87 90
- website: www.stamgent.be
4. information for trade and press

trade

- admission trade: -15%
- contact trade:
  - Sarah Maréchal
  - sarah.marechal@gent.be
  - tel. +32 (0)9 269 87 96
- groups: see 3. Information for the public
- group reservations via BOEKjeBEZOEK:
  - info@boekjebezoek.be
  - tel. +32 (0)9 269 60 04
- information:
  - stam@gent.be
  - tel. +32 (0)9 269 87 90

pers

- documentation for the press (text and photographs) available from www.stamgent.be/pers
- press conference, Opening on Friday October 8th 2010
- guided tours of the construction site available on request
- press contact:
  - Frederik Verstraete
  - frederik.verstraete@gent.be
  - tel. +32 (0)9 269 87 95

promotie

- promotional material (posters and flyers) will be available from July 1st 2010

afbeeldingen

- 6 illustrations are available from www.stamgent.be/pers
- the illustrations are copyright free
- the illustrations may only be used to promote STAM
- captions:
  - S1
    - STAM and the Ghent skyline in the background (2010)
    - credit: Phile Deprez
S2
- Restored façades of the C14 Bijloke Abbey (2010)
  - credit: Phile Deprez

S3
- Aerial view of the Bijloke site (2005)
  - Credit: Henderyckx Fotografie

S4
- Medieval Refectory Bijloke Abbey
  - Credit: City of Gent

S5
- Visualization induction area
  - Credit: Tijdsbeeld & Pièce Montée

S6
- Design sketch of the Belfry, anonymous, first quarter C14
  - Credit: STAM

S7
- Bust of Charles V, C16, Conrad Meit, MSK
  - Credit: City of Ghent, photograph MSK

Other high-resolution illustrations from this press file are available on request.
5. the *pièces de résistance*

| Memorial stone Viscard Hugo II (C15) anonymous, ca. 1232 – 1247, STAM C14 refectory © photograph: STAM |
| Design sketch for the Belfry anonymous, first quarter C14, STAM © photograph: STAM |
Military banner showing the Virgin of Ghent attributed to Agnes vanden Bossche, C15, STAM © photograph: Studio Claerhout

Painting Panoramic view of Ghent anonymous, 1534, STAM © photograph: Studio Claerhout

Bust of Charles V by Conrad Meyt (C16) MSK Ghent

For further information about collection mobility:

http://www.stamgent.be/nl/collectie/collectie-in-beweging
A herald’s coat of mail with the armorial bearings of Phillip II, last quarter C16, STAM
© photograph: STAM

Painting
Investiture of Charles II as Count of Flanders in Ghent in 1666
Frans Duchatel, 1668, STAM/MSK
© photograph: Studio Claerhout

Visualization of the glass light floor showing an aerial photograph of Ghent in the induction area of the permanent exhibition, 2010
Scale 1/1000
© photograph: STAM
Maquette for the ‘Gent Morgen’ competition, by Jurg Lang and Helmut Schulitz, 1971 © photograph: Michel Burez