

Bas Smets has a background in landscape architecture, civil engineering and architecture. He founded his office in Brussels in 2007 and has since constructed projects in more than 12 countries with his team of 17 architects and landscape architects.

Starting from a precise reading of the existing land, his projects reveal a landscape, visible but yet unseen. These projects vary in scale from territorial visions to infrastructural landscapes, from large parks to private gardens, from city centres to film sets. He often teams up with architects, artists, and scientists.

His realised projects include the 10 hectare park of Thurn & Taxis in Brussels, the park of the Estonian National Museum in Tartu, the Himara Waterfront in Albania, the landscape along the new motorway between the ports of Antwerp and Zeebrugge, the rooftop garden of the PMQ Design Centre in Hong Kong, the Sunken Garden in London, and the memorial for the victims of the attacks in Brussels of 22/3.

A number of his large projects are under construction: the public plaza around the new Trinity Tower in Paris La Défense, the public space around the station of Lyon Part-Dieu, the large park of the Nieuw Zuid project in Antwerp, and the Parc des Ateliers in Arles in close collaboration with Frank Gehry and Annabelle Selldorf. Recently he was selected as the landscape architect for the public space around the new Performing Arts Centre at the World Trade Center in New York City.

Each of these projects is considered as part of an encompassing research into the possible roles of landscape projects. The aim is to invent "augmented landscapes", by using the logics of nature. These augmented landscape projects create a more sustainable environment while producing exciting atmospheres for their visitors and inhabitants. Artistic and scientific research takes a central role in this endeavor. Bas Smets has worked with many artists, among whom are Philippe Parreno and Sophie Calle. He designed the film set for Parreno's movie "Continuously Habitable Zones", where he explored the border between landscape architecture and land art. He has been actively integrating scientific studies into his projects, through collaborations with a number of universities and research centers.

Bas Smets received a Master's degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering from the University of Leuven and a postgraduate qualification in Landscape Architecture from the University of Geneva. He regularly lectures at international institutions, such as the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and the EPF in Lausanne.

In 2008 he was awarded the biennial French prize for young landscape architects "Les Nouveaux Albums des Jeunes Architectes et des Paysagistes". In 2013-2014 a first monographic exhibition of his projects was co-produced by the International Arts Campus deSingel in Antwerp and the Arc en Rêve centre for architecture in Bordeaux, and in 2016 he curated the exhibition "The Invention of Landscape" at the Bozar in Brussels. He was appointed General Commissioner for the Biennial of Architecture of Bordeaux in 2017.