

Dossier.

Concours --we-traders

We-Traders re-use and re-design their city and invite co-citizens to take initiative themselves and to share the city in new ways.

OPEN CALL

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A 100M2 IN BRUSSELS?

In Brief.

--n'UNDO proposes an intervention with minimal footprint and maximum impact.

--100m2 = 1cm x 10km

Instead of focusing on only one location, we propose to see 100m2 as line that reconnects the historic city, its landscape and its people.

--the Zenne

We choose the path of the Zenne river as the site of our intervention

Brussels was founded on the banks of the Zenne, built up along its twists and turns. It continues to be the principal water source for the city. 'Zinneke' is a nickname for people from Brussels.

--The Zenne is a hidden line in the city.

The Zenne flowed through the city center until it was hidden by massive urban interventions in the 19th century. The covering of the Zenne is one of the defining events in the history of Brussels. Today it is hidden and remains a polluted waterway unknown to the citizens. The river reemerges on each side at the periphery of the city.

--Proposal

n'UNDO proposes to trace the natural line of the Zenne on to the current streets of Brussels. People can follow the course of this path through the city. It reconnects the city centre of Brussels with the periphery. Markers placed along the walk create an urban camino that can be enjoyed by both visitors and citizens.

--Impact

The intervention recognizes and recovers landscape in the heart of the city. It brings into equilibrium landscape, the urban environment and people. It reveals what is hidden.

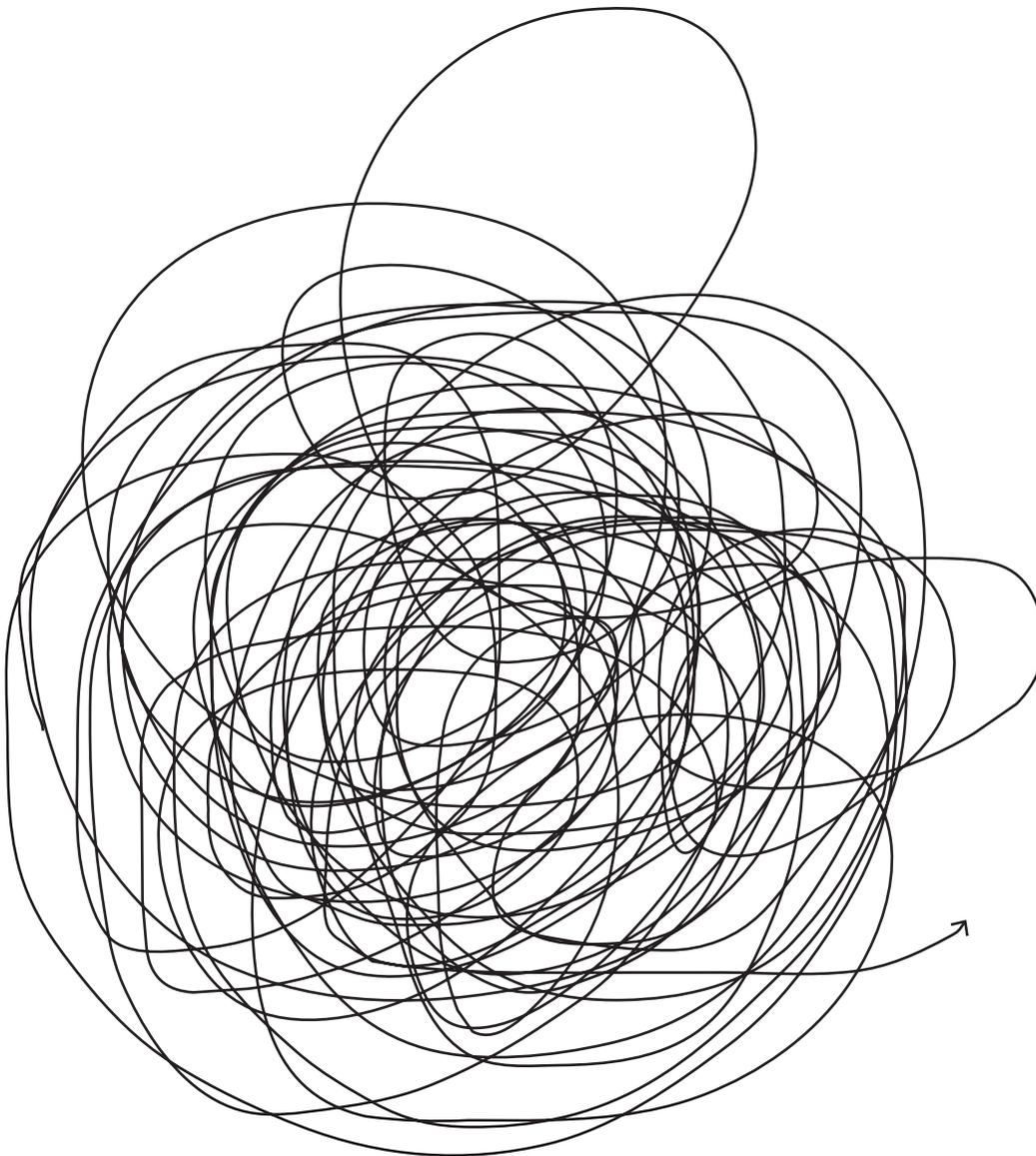
By placing a line, n'UNDO proposes an intervention that respects the present and past of Brussels.



100m<sup>2</sup>



=



100m<sup>2</sup>  
10m x 10m

100m<sup>2</sup>  
1cm x 10km

Imagine a line that creates an urban camino  
and reveals a hidden path



1834

Senne in blue



1901

Senne removed due to urban intervention

THE COVERING OF THE SENNE  
is one of the defining events in the history of Brussels

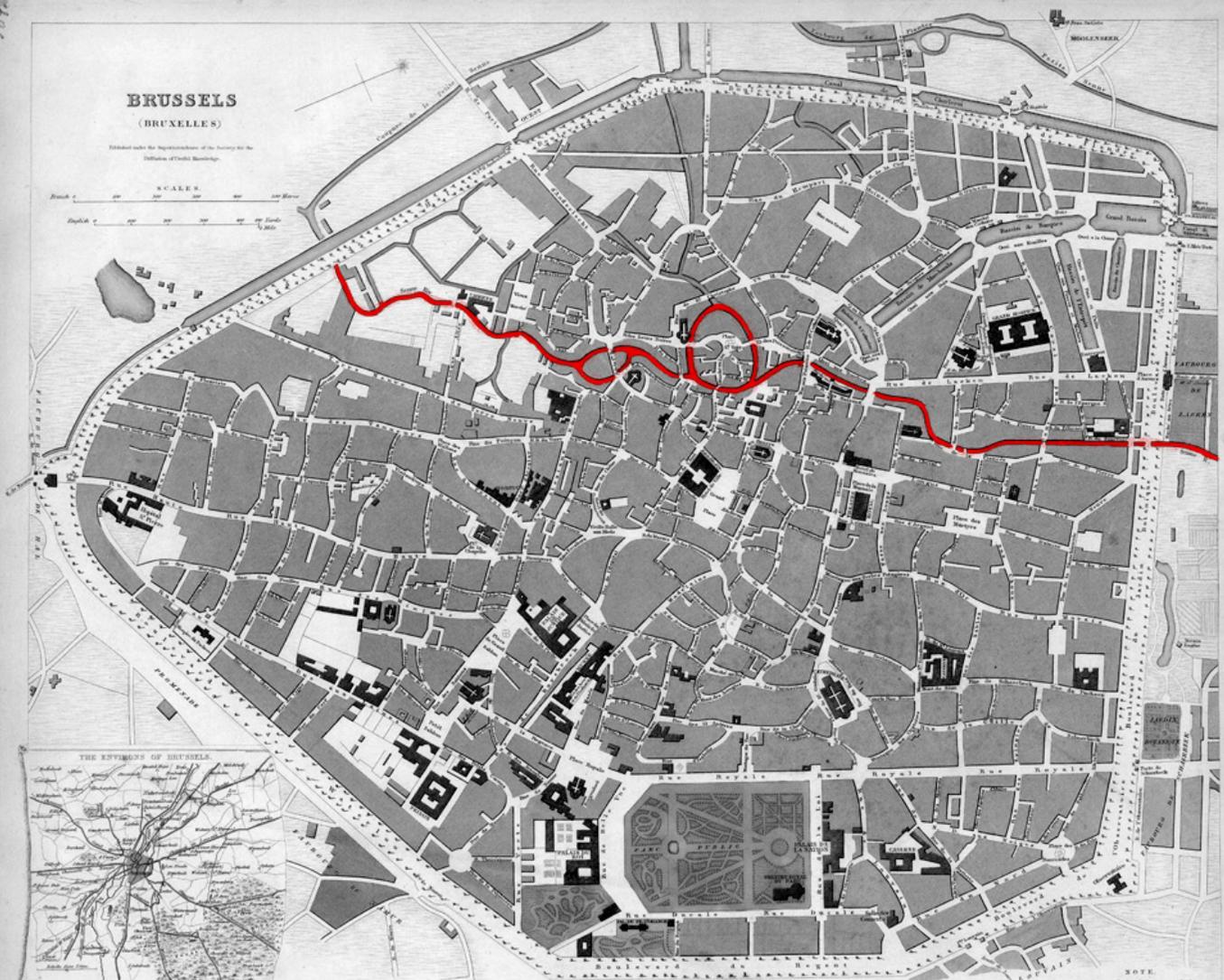


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# BRUSSELS (BRUXELLES)

Published under the Authorisation of the Surveyor-General of the Kingdom of Belgium.

SCALES  
French 1 : 50,000  
English 1 : 78,740



NOTE.  
Buildings...  
Streets...  
Rivers...  
Canals...  
Railways...  
Telegraph...  
Lighthouses...  
Fortifications...  
Public Buildings...  
Churches...  
Cemeteries...  
Parks...  
Gardens...  
Waterworks...  
Mills...  
Windmills...  
Windmills...  
Windmills...

--the Zenne  
Facts and Figures

In 1976, the pre-metro took the place of the Senne in the vault underneath the boulevards and continues to circulate there.



In the centre of Brussels, the Zenne was completely covered up and major boulevards were built over top in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is still visible in the outskirts of Brussels and outside the city, though within the city it now runs mostly underneath the small ring.

The courses of the two traced a meandering path through the city centre, forming several islands, the largest of which was known as Saint Gaugericus Island.

'Zinneke' is a nickname for people from Brussels, which came from the stray dogs which hung around the streets by the Little Zenne (part of the river Zenne which ran through Brussels) in the Middle Ages.

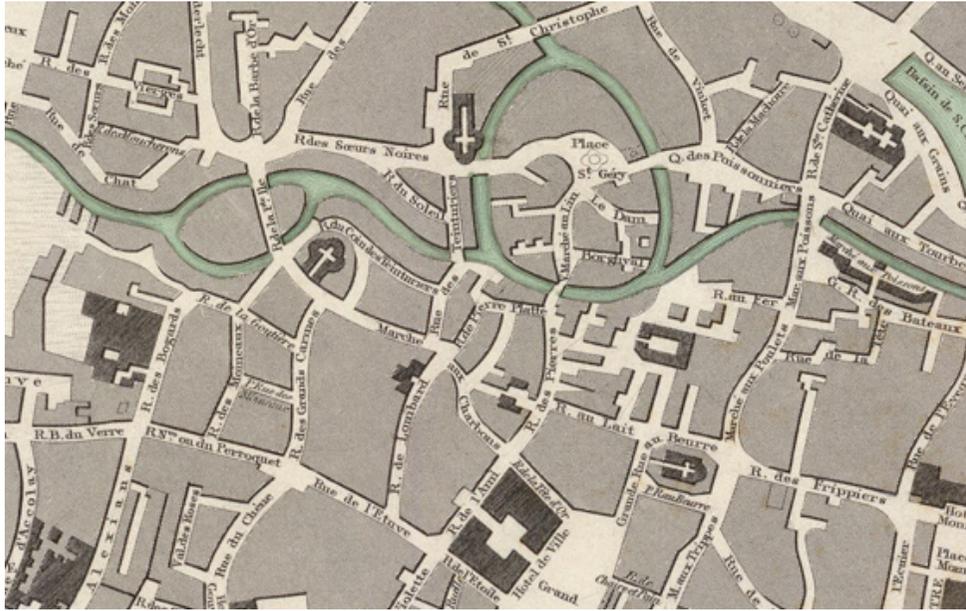
In 1976, the pre-metro took the place of the Senne in the vault underneath the boulevards and continues to circulate there.

In total the Zenne is 103 km long.

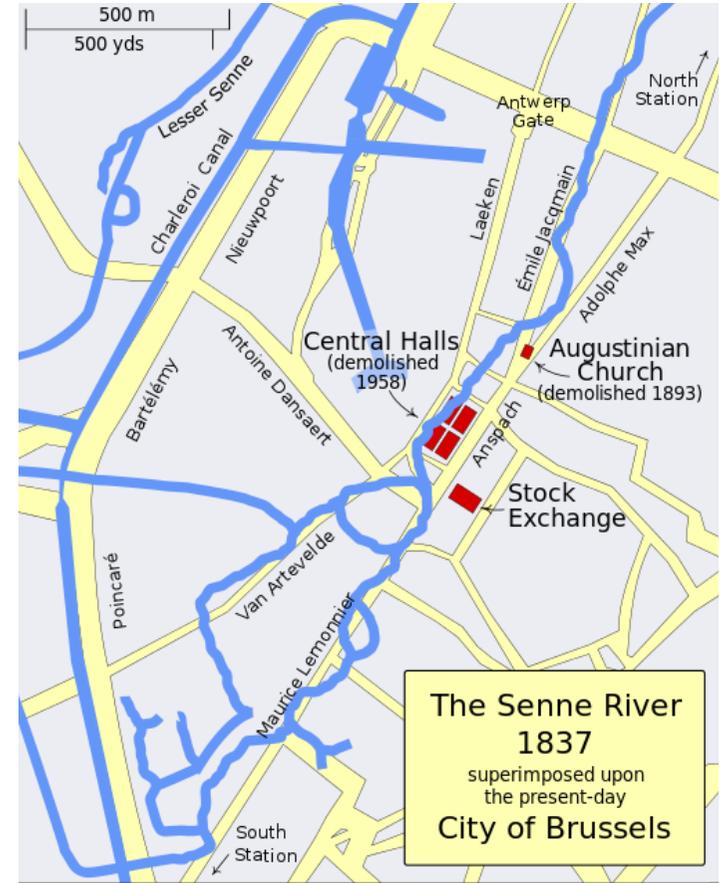
The Senne, which a witness in 1853 described as "the most nauseous little river in the world", had become an open-air sewer spreading pestilential odours throughout the city.

Four years of construction from 1867 to 1871 would relegate the river into two parallel collectors under the current boulevards in the center that would later become pedestrian streets.

Despite the covering up of the Zenne resulting in the river being all but invisible in the centre of Brussels, it has had a cultural impact on the city.



1834



2014  
superimposition of the river

About n'UNDO

n'UNDO emerges as an attitude, a way to re-architecture, intervening in the territory and the city from No Construction, Minimization, Reuse and Decommisioning.