

Press Release – May 2019

## The innovation and audacity of Equilis rewarded with the highest distinction for the Docks Bruxsel project.

Docks Bruxsel's happy story continues: after the 2018 award in the Europe category, today Docks Bruxsel receives the International ICSC's VIVA Award 2019, rewarding the best shopping center development in the world.



To encourage innovation and dynamism in retail real estate, the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) recognizes outstanding achievements with an ICSC's VIVA Award every year. These awards celebrate VISION, INNOVATION, VALUE and ACHIEVEMENT in design and development, sustainability, marketing, and retail, honoring projects from around the globe. ICSC's VIVA Awards are the most recognized achievement for professional excellence in the retail real estate Industry. Each year, hundreds of projects are entered in ICSC's regional awards programs for the opportunity to compete for top global honors. Ultimately, the VIVA Awards are the accolades that developers, architects, and marketers from across the world earn, cementing their status as key global retail real estate players.

The VIVA Jury selected two winners for this year's VIVA Best of the Best Award for development : Docks Bruxsel (new development) and Chadstone in Melbourne, Australia (redevelopment). Olivier Weets, development director at Equilis and developer of Docks Bruxsel was in Las Vegas to receive this award.

*“The 2019 winners have clearly demonstrated the talent, vision and creativity of their development teams with significant contributions to retail real estate. The jury of industry professionals particularly appreciated Docks Bruxsel for the interesting blending of modern with historic buildings, sustainable design and great adaptive reuse of a former industrial property”* said JoAnn Laut, director, Global Awards.

With Docks Bruxsel, Equilis and Art & Build Architects have turned an empty industrial wasteland into a modern, convivial and sustainable place that is friendly for everyone. This urban shopping center opened in 2016 in the heart of Brussels offers shops, restaurants, cultural activities, a cinema, an innovative 3,000m<sup>2</sup> event center, panoramic terraces and much more. It provides an entirely modern retail format designed to suit Brussels’ international and cosmopolitan population. Docks Bruxsel was designed to respect the environment, conferring on it the BREEAM certification: (quality: Excellent).

AIMCo and Portus Retail acquired Docks Bruxsel in May 2018 and continue to manage and operate the center.

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## ABOUT EQUILIS

**We are Equilis and we build.**

**We build stories.**

**We create places where people build the stories of their lives.**

**Love stories, business stories.**

**Happy stories.**

Equilis was founded in 2006 by Carl Mestdagh as a commercial real estate developer active in the Belgian market. Today, it develops and supports ambitious projects across a broad spectrum, from commercial and residential real estate, to offices, the rehabilitation of brownfields, residences for senior people or students, leisure sites, car parks, cultural and public spaces, ... In total, Equilis has built 250.000 m<sup>2</sup> and 757 housing units and is currently developing another 230.000 m<sup>2</sup> and 2.832 housing units.

Equilis covers all aspects and trades and has diversified its activities and enlarged its portfolio to cover the European market. Equilis has offices in Belgium, France, Spain, the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Poland. New other countries will follow from 2019.

Further information about Equilis and its projects on [www.equilis.net](http://www.equilis.net)

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