The Horta Museum in Saint-Gilles, Brussels is located in the private house and studio of the famous architect Victor Horta (1861-1947). Built between 1898 and 1901 and included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, the building is a prime example of the Art Nouveau architectural style. The Horta Museum was also the winner of the Brussels Museum Prize in 2012. The recently inaugurated extension features a new exhibition space illuminated by Concord Beacon Muse LED spotlights.

In 2013 the museum welcomed 64,000 visitors but the capacity of the house only allowed for 45 people to view the exhibition at once, this meant that visitors were often queuing in the street waiting to get in. The structure of the modest-sized house-workshop was also not intended to host such a large number of visitors whilst also sheltering the archives and the administration. In order to solve this problem, the Saint-Gilles local council purchased the adjoining property in 2007. The building is known as Hilst house and Beliris, a collaboration between the Federal State and the Brussels-Capital Region whose objective is to promote the influence of Brussels as the capital of Belgium and Europe, invested a considerable amount in its redevelopment.

KEY FACTS
Application: Museum & Gallery
Location: Brussels, Belgium
Lighting designer: Feilo Sylvania
Installer: Horta Museum

KEY OUTCOMES
- An energy efficient solution
- Provides high quality of light
- Flexible
After the renovations were completed at Hilst house, the long-awaited expansion of the Horta Museum was officially inaugurated on 20 October 2016 in the presence of the Mayor of Saint-Gilles Charles Piqué and Mrs Françoise Aubry, the curator of the museum. The extension now hosts the reception and administration of the museum, a better ventilated archive, but also a research centre with more than 7,000 books devoted to Art Nouveau. On the first floor of the extension, a new exhibition space allows temporary exhibitions to be organized in order to introduce Art Nouveau to a wider audience.

The museum selected the Concord Beacon Muse LED spotlights to light the works of art in the exhibition hall. In addition to providing an energy efficient lighting scheme, this solution offers enormous flexibility, which is one of the most important requirements in an area with temporary exhibitions. The current exhibition shows the works of Katty Castiau, Julien Lambert, Geert Pattyn, Côme Perché and Aurélie Ranalli.

The extension to the neighbouring house has freed the designers’ studio, the service staircase, the staff premises and the kitchen of the Horta Museum, which are now open to the public. One more reason for a (renewed) visit to this pearl of Art Nouveau.

Museum Horta, Rue Americaine 23-25, 1060 Brussels (Saint-Gilles), Belgium une visite (renouvelée) à cette perle de l’Art Nouveau.
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