

Day 4

At the Horta van Eetvelde Hotel, 2002 April 12.

Location.

The location for the Friday talks was the Hotel van Eetvelde. It is described in the book *Great Architecture of the World*:



"The Hotel van Eetvelde in Brussels was designed in 1898 by Victor Horta, undoubtedly the key European Art Nouveau architect. While most other architects flirted with the new style, Horta found it gave the best expression to his ideas. His skill is demonstrated in his ability to slip his domestic designs into narrow constricted sites. The interiors become of great importance as centers of light, which permeates through the filigree domes and skylights—usually in the center of the building. The Hotel van Eetvelde is a remarkable example of the way Horta handled the situation and used it to highlight the imposing staircase, which leads up to the first-floor reception rooms."

The superb house can only very occasionally be visited. During the Monument Days in September, the house is open for the public, but there are lengthy cues. Owned by the federation of gas suppliers of Belgium, FIGAZ, the Mat@mium organization could get access to the building thanks to colleague Arch. Jan Bruggemans, of the Brussels' Sint-Lukas Archief.