

VITRIFIED CLAY FOR FLEMISH “ARTISTS’ COLONY”
NOT JUST PIPES – 29 MANHOLES, TOO



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Sint-Martens-Latem - Deurle is a double township in the Belgian province of East Flanders, a mere 15-minute drive from Ghent. This small town proudly boasts the byname of “Artists’ Colony”, since this is the birthplace of Flemish expressionism. Along the idyllic banks of the Leie river, numerous painters, sculptors, writers, and poets once drew their artistic inspiration from Mother Nature.

Expansion of the sewage network

But even colonies of artists need a properly regulated and safe infrastructure, and this naturally extends to the matter of sewage disposal. Last year, when new buildings were being constructed on the eastern edge of the town in a council housing project, the “Vlaamse maatschappij voor sociaal wonen” (a public, autonomous agency for selling and leasing residential property) and the private Mategi N.V. company expanded the sewage network accordingly: 1,000 meters of vitrified clay pipes of the DN 250 diameter and 690 meters of house connections in the DN 150 dimension were installed in the open-trench construction method, and the entire system was rounded off by the installation of 29 manholes at a depth of about 4.00 meters. The operator of this new system will be the Farys Water Board in close cooperation with the municipal authorities, the body already responsible for the existing network.

Switch to the separate system

When planning this new construction project, the decision was also made to switch from the combined wastewater system to the separate system as a measure to ease the load on the wastewater treatment plant. This also means, however, that the wastewater will dwell in the pipe system for a longer time, that the system will be flushed by smaller volumes of water, and hence that the potential for corrosion will be greater. No problem in the eyes of the specialists responsible for the project, however: they came down in favour of a system using parts made of vitrified clay – both for the pipes and fittings, and also for the manholes, since vitrified clay is a guarantee of the highest degree of corrosion resistance and tightness throughout the entire pipeline system. ■



The Flemish “artists’ village” decides in favour of system solutions made of vitrified clay.

