



# Capital gains

Golf course architect Bruno Steensels has followed up his design of The International in Amsterdam with another new layout in a European capital, The National in Brussels. Toby Ingleton paid a visit

**L**ightning never strikes twice. Unless you are Belgian architect Bruno Steensels, it seems. “I couldn’t believe it,” says Steensels, recounting the moment when developer Frank Monstrey shared his plans to name his new club in Brussels ‘The National’. Having just completed ‘The International’ in Amsterdam, the architect was finding the similarities between the two projects – for completely different clients – remarkable. Both sites are located very close to the airports of their respective European capital cities. Both, as is to be expected in Belgium and the Netherlands, began with a flat landscape. They would require the excavation of lakes to create fill for contour. And both would be furnished with a contemporary, low-lying minimalist clubhouse. Unlike its Dutch counterpart though, The National is located on the site of a former horse racing track – the Sterrebeek