



NEWS LETTER

SEPT. 2008 #13 // 2008年9月 第13期

BCECC PUBLICATION

EDITOR: BERNARD DEWIT
MANAGING EDITOR: MIN YAN
ADVISOR: LIEVE PEETERS | LAYOUT: GELUCK-SUYKENS
PRINTING: PUBLISET | PHOTOS: MIN HUYBRECHTS

ADDRESS OF BCECC

RUE WASHINGTONSTRAAT 40, SUITE 40B
1050 BRUSSELS
T: +32(0)2 345 25 54 | F: +32(0)2 649 04 39
M: INFO@BCECC.BE | WWW.BCECC.BE

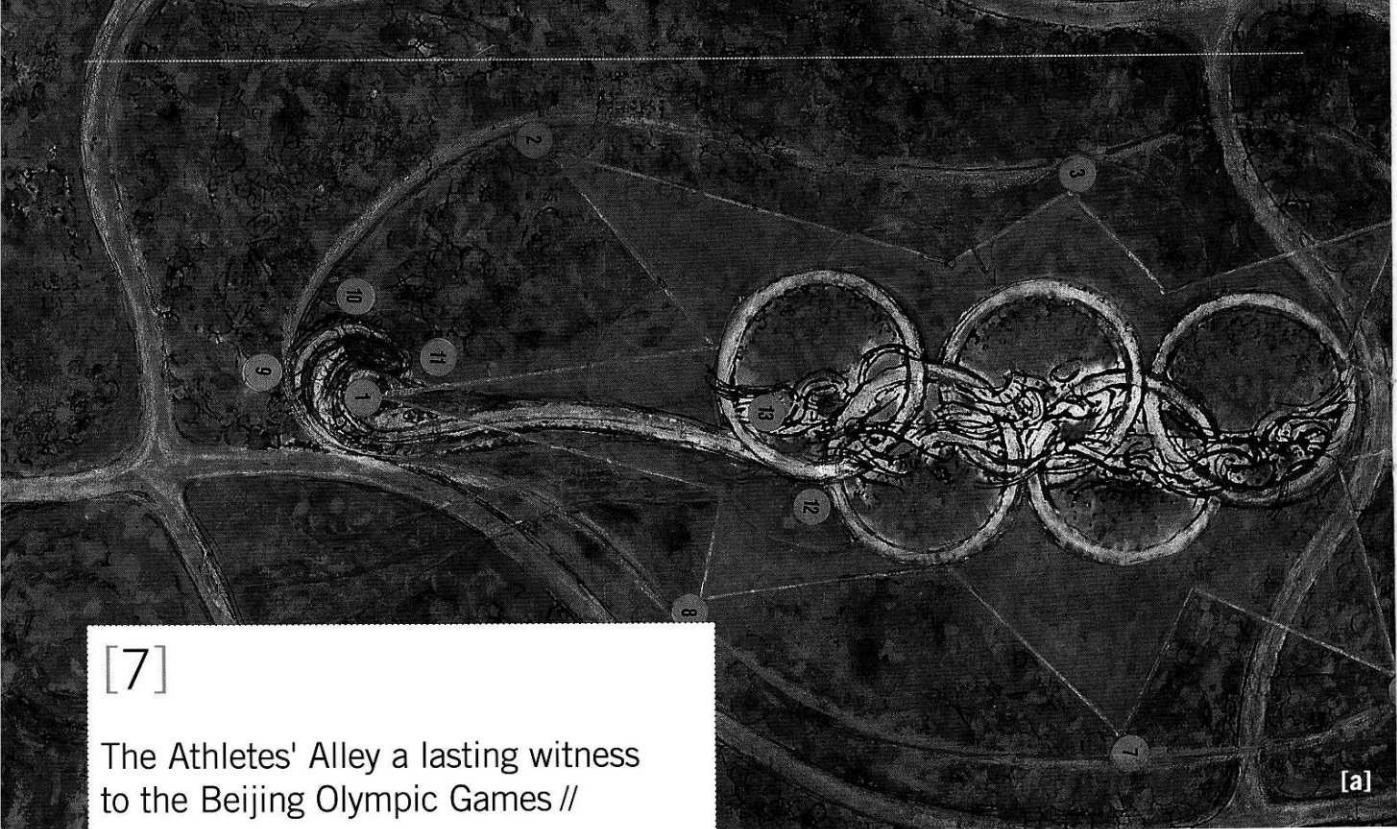
比中经贸委员会 通讯

A PUBLICATION OF THE BELGIAN-CHINESE
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COUNCIL

'The Athletes' Alley', a lasting witness
to the Beijing Olympic Games

“运动员之路”，北京奥运会的永恒见证





[7]

The Athletes' Alley a lasting witness to the Beijing Olympic Games //

Yan Min

“运动员之路”，
北京奥运会的永恒见证 //

阎敏

Olivier Strebelle is an internationally renowned sculptor whose works have adorned public places as far apart as Brussels, Athens, Atlanta, Washington, Moscow and Singapore as well as Italian, Swiss and German cities. Now in his eighties, Olivier Strebelle designed the giant stainless-steel sculpture for the Beijing Olympics. "The Athletes' Alley" stands at the west gate of the Beijing Olympic Forest Park and is the official gift from the Belgian Government to the Beijing Olympics. It will become a permanent feature of the Olympic Forest Park.

The Athletes' Alley – a lasting witness to the Beijing Olympic Games

The sculptor's residence and atelier are in the Uccle district of Brussels. Passing along the path leading to his residence and atelier, I felt I was entering an elegant grove where sculptures are on show and under which his residence and atelier are hidden. It is quiet and cosy. "This is my world," Mr Strebelle could not help saying.

In his atelier is a model of the sculpture "The Athletes' Alley". Another model, themed "Firmus, Altus, Fortis", is on the table and is a work Olivier Strebelle has been developing for the 2012 London Olympics.

He explains: "The sculpture 'The Athletes' Alley' is composed of five tubular stainless steel modules that reach up to 20 metres high and are spread over a length of 160 metres. The sculpture is made of 160 tons of steel, with a total investment of more than five million euro, and is sponsored by nine Belgian enterprises.

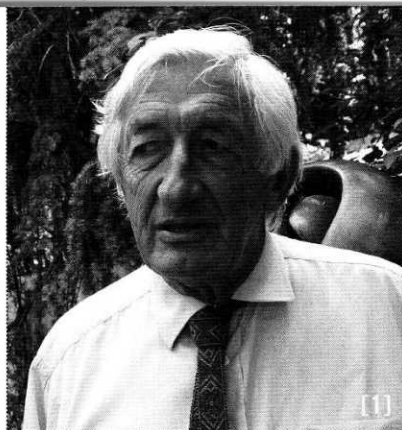
奥利维·斯特贝尔大师是国际著名雕塑家。半个多世纪来，他的艺术作品点缀着比利时和世界许多城市的街景和公众场所。布鲁塞尔、雅典、亚特兰大、华盛顿、莫斯科、新加坡以及意大利、瑞士、德国等城市都留下斯特贝尔不朽的艺术雕塑。如今，年过八旬的他为北京奥运会所创作的大型不锈钢雕塑群“运动员之路”，已屹立在北京奥林匹克森林公园西门处。这是比利时政府赠送给北京奥运会的官方礼物，它将永远保留在北京奥运森林公园。

“运动员之路”，北京奥运会的永恒见证

斯特贝尔大师的住宅和工作室就位于布鲁塞尔市UCCLE区。步入通往他住宅的小径，仿佛走进一个优雅的小树林，映入眼帘的不仅有各式雕塑，其住宅和工作室更是“消失”在郁郁葱葱的树林之中，散发着幽静和惬意。“这就是我的‘天地’”，斯特贝尔先生不禁地对笔者说道。

大师工作室的地上摆着“运动员之路”的雕塑模型。工作台上还有他正在为2012年伦敦奥运会设计的一座以“速度、高度、强度”为主题的大型组合钢雕。

斯特贝尔说：“‘运动员之路’由5件不锈钢雕塑群组成，全长150米、高达20米，共用钢材160吨，耗资500多万欧元，由九家比利时赞助企业和机构共同出资。现在，整个雕塑架构已经落成，只待森林公园的最后完工。”他随手拿出一张森林公园的俯瞰图(a)，并指着图纸解释道：“从高处鸟瞰森林公园，您所看到的雕塑呈奥林匹克五环标志，而置身在公园中却看不



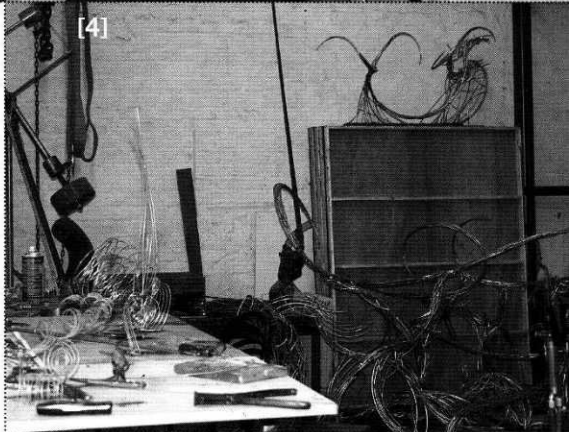
[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]

The main framework of the sculpture has been constructed and is in the completion phase." He takes out an aerial photo of the Forest Park (*see picture a) and continues: "From a bird's eye view of the Forest Park, the figures appear to resemble five Olympic rings, which cannot be seen when one is standing in the park. This optical magic can only be observed from an aeroplane, a satellite image or Google. The Olympic Forest Park covers an area of 680 hectares. From the different angles of the path to be followed around the sculpture, the image changes all the time. One certain view reveals five athletes holding five Olympic rings. From other angles the sculpture appears to reflect abstract images. We plan to hold a formal ceremony after the construction is completed. Here, I would like to take the opportunity to tell the Chinese readers of the BCECC's newsletter the following: "The Athletes' Alley' symbolises the future and will co-exist with the Olympic Forest Park. The sculpture is not only a piece of art, but also offers an artistic landscape which people can move in and enjoy. It is most important to me that the structure will stick together with the Forest Park and become a permanent witness to the Beijing Olympic Games.

Q: How did you come to the idea of designing a sculpture for the Beijing Olympics?

Olivier Strebelle: Life is always full of opportunities or, in other words, life offers a combination of different opportunities, which is important to everyone. When I was young, I loved hang-gliding. In 1982 I flew a hang glider and landed in a golf course in Switzerland close to where one of my friends lived. By chance, at his residence, I met his cousin Juan Antonio Samaranch, the former President of the International Olympic Committee. Samaranch asked me why, being a sculptor, I did not consider designing a piece for the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne (some sculptures made by Olivier Strebelle were already on display in Switzerland). It is a pity this idea could not come to fruition due to a shortage of money and several other reasons. From then, however, the desire to design a sculpture for the Olympic Games arose. In 1996 I developed four sculptures for the Atlanta Olympics, all of which are now standing in the surrounding areas of Olympic sites. A great many projects for the Beijing Olympic Games came on offer and every country wished to open a window in the Olympic sites to exhibit its art. In 2005 China organised a worldwide competition to which 1,892 projects were submitted. I took five designs to Beijing... Later a deputy mayor contacted me and told that my designs had been selected for the Games but were out of the competition. It is understandable, because each design possesses its strong points and uniqueness.

到这一象征，这只有从飞机、卫星或GOOGLE可以欣赏到。整个公园占地680公顷，从一条环绕雕塑的小径可以全方位观赏其不同造型，其中一个视点可以观赏到五个运动员高举五环标志的象征性画面，其余视点则是抽象画面。我们计划在森林公园建设完毕后举行正式落成典礼。在此，我想借助贵刊告诉中国读者：“运动员之路”是奥运之后象征未来的雕塑，它与森林公园共存。雕塑不仅是艺术品，同时也是一个供游人漫步和反复观赏的艺术“园林”。这对我来说是最重要的，它和奥运森林公园息息相关，是北京奥运会的永恒见证。”

问：您为北京奥运会设计雕塑的想法从何而来？

斯特贝尔：人的一生总是充满机遇，或者说人生就是无数机遇的组合。机遇对每个人来说都很重要。年轻时，我特别喜欢悬挂式滑翔运动。1982年，我驾驶悬挂滑翔机降落在瑞士的一个高尔夫球场，因为我的一位朋友就住在附近。出于偶然，我在朋友家见到他的表兄——前国际奥委会主席萨马兰奇先生。萨马兰奇问我，作为雕塑家，为何不考虑为坐落在洛桑的国际奥委会设计一座雕塑（那时斯特贝尔的雕塑已向世瑞士）。遗憾的是，这个设想由于经费等种种原因最后未果，但由此使我萌生了为奥运会设计雕塑的想法。后来我为1996年亚特兰大奥运会设计制作了四座雕塑，现在就坐落在当时奥运会的场馆周围。

北京奥运会有很多项目计划，而且所有国家都希望在北京奥运场地享有展示本国形象的一个窗口。2005年，中国组织了全球范围的项目竞赛，共有1892个项目参赛。我为北京奥运会设计了5个方案，并带着方案前往北京。……后来，北京市的一位副市长同我联系，他告诉我的设计方案被选中，但被列在项目的竞赛之外。这可以理解，因为所有艺术家的设计都各有千秋。

Q: In terms of both scale and investment, the sculpture you have designed is unique in Belgium. 'The Athletes' Alley' is now standing in the Forest Park. When will it be opened to the public?

Olivier Strebelle: It is indeed unique. In the second half of May, Mr De Gucht, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, flew to Beijing especially for the donation ceremony of 'The Athletes' Alley'. Construction of the park is in the completion phase. Some 70 50-meter-long steel tubes still need to be installed for the sculpture. I will return to Beijing in October to complete the final construction. I hope that the Olympic Forest Park will soon be opened to the public. Originally it had been planned to construct the sculpture near the Bird's Nest but due to the large scale and different style of the Bird's Nest, the sculpture - a giant artwork in itself - might have lost some of its artistic effects. The modern artistic style of the Beijing Olympic Forest Park fits in well with the design and scale of the 'The Athletes' Alley'. Visitors can wander freely around the constructions. There is also a round open-air platform in front of the sculpture for various activities such as performances, lectures and concerts.

Q: This is the first time one of your sculptures has been on display in China. What are your experiences of China so far?

Olivier Strebelle: "It was not easy in the beginning. Chinese people are not as straightforward as Western people. They are often affable and genial, but I don't always know what they really think or what their real opinions are. Chinese are tactful. A lot of friends show sincere respect for the sculpture but often do not speak out for me. Later I found out that a person from the Beijing Government once said: 'Even if we don't like [the sculpture], our descendants might well.' I think time is needed to reveal the real meaning of the sculpture. In general, cooperation with China has been very successful. I have visited China 18 times and my new artworks will be brought out in China.

At the age of 23, Olivier Strebelle became a lecturer at the Royal Institute of Art in Antwerp. He finished this interview by saying: "A lot of my students were then older than me. I gave lectures at 18 different universities in the US. During eight years of residency there, I also gave lectures at universities in Canada, Singapore and Italy. In my whole artistic career as a sculptor, I've created a lot of successful artworks but, of course, there have also been many failures. Although not all of my concepts have proved equally successful, I never give up thinking." ■

问: 无论从规模或投资来说, 您的雕塑都是比利时当今独一无二作品。现在“运动员之路”已坐落在森林公园, 公众何时才能目睹其风貌?

斯特贝尔: 它确实是独一无二的。5月下旬, 比利时外交大臣德古赫特专程到北京, 为“运动员之路”举行了捐赠仪式。目前, 中国正在完成园林修建, 雕塑也还有70根5米长的钢管需要安置。我将于10月前往北京完成最后的构造, 并希望奥运森林公园不久能够对公众开放。起初, 雕塑预计放在“鸟巢”的附近, 但鉴于“鸟巢”的规模和风格, 尤其它自身就是一个巨型艺术品, 我的雕塑就自然会失去其艺术效果。北京奥运森林公园不乏现代风格, 这与“运动员之路”这座巨型雕塑的规模和构思都相吻合, 人们可以自由地穿梭在雕塑群之中观赏。雕塑的正方位还有一个露天圆形舞台, 供公众在此举办表演、演讲、音乐会等活动。

问: 这是您的雕塑第一次落户中国。对这次合作, 您有何感受?

斯特贝尔: 刚开始不太容易, 原因是中国人不像西方人那样直截了当。中国人虽然和蔼亲切, 但我时常不知他们在想什么, 或者说不知道他们的真实想法。中国人比较委婉, 许多朋友都力推这座钢雕, 但往往都不在我的面前。我后来得知一位北京市政府负责人曾这样说:“假如我们不喜歡(雕塑), 但我们的后代将会喜爱它。”在我看来, 这座雕塑的真正韵味还需要一定的时间去感悟。总而言之, 这次与中国的合作非常圆满, 我曾18次前往中国, 今后还将有新的设计问世中国。

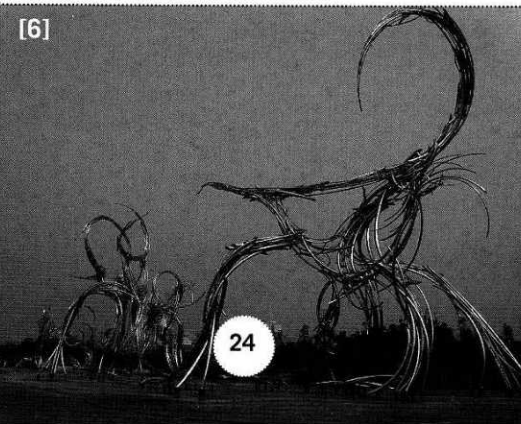
斯特贝尔23岁时就担任了安特卫普皇家艺术学院的教授。“我那时的不少学生年龄都比我大。我曾在美国的18所大学授课, 在那里生活了8年时间, 随后又在加拿大、新加坡、意大利等大学授过课。我一生从事雕塑的设计与创造, 尽管留下了许多成功作品, 但也有不少不尽人意的。虽然每次设计构思并不都能获得成功, 但我一生从未放弃构思。”斯特贝尔最后言道。■

→ PHOTOS

- [a] Aerial photo of the Beijing Olympic Forest Park and the sculpture [1] Sculptor Olivier Strebelle
- [2] In front of his residence [3] Olivier Strebelle and his artworks
- [4] Atelier [5, 6, 7] Pictures of The Athletes' Alley.
- [a] 北京奥运森林公园和雕塑的俯瞰图
- [1] 斯特贝尔大师 [2] 斯特贝尔在住宅前
- [3] 斯特贝尔大师与他的部分雕塑
- [4] 工作室 [5, 6, 7] 北京森林公园的“运动员之路”组图



[5]



[6]

24



[7]