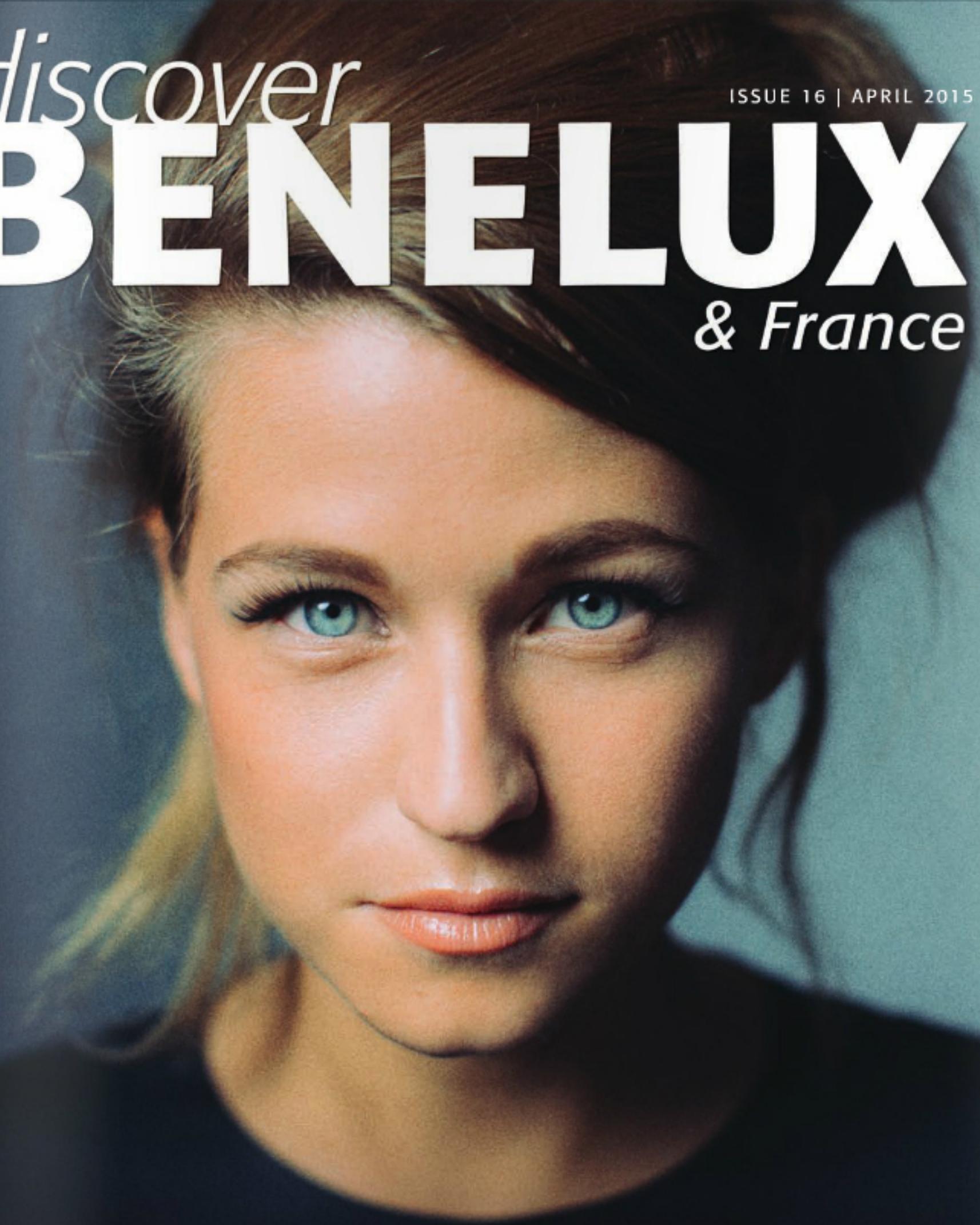


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ISSUE 16 | APRIL 2015

# BENELUX

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## SELAH SUE

AN UNORTHODOX TALENT

**THE DUTCH FEMALE SUCCESS STORIES**  
CITY FEATURE – ETERNAL AMSTERDAM  
**SPECIAL THEME: GOLFING GLORY**  
**PLUS: DESIGN, CULTURE AND TOURISM**



## Unity through diversity

Since 2008, the Atelier A+I Architectes has set itself apart from mainstream architecture by skillfully combining the engineering and architectural expertise of its team-members to create dynamic and innovative structures.

TEXT: BETTINA GUIRKINGER | PHOTOS: A+I ARCHITECTES

From their offices in Paris, this multi-disciplinary and complementary team has been working in different locations in France and overseas on a wide range of projects: from working spaces to housing. "Each time we seek to make space for imagination in our creations," says co-founder Christophe Julienne, "and we base our work on giving accurate professional advice while maintaining clear and transparent communication channels with our clients."

When asked about the house-style of A+I, Christophe says that "it is our collective work and the shared experience that define our architecture. Our diversity is what brings the highest quality to our projects." With all of the partners teaching at university, the trio is constantly riding the wave of innovative approaches. "Take the environmental aspect in architecture. While many of the older generations of architects had to go through a process of adaptation, for us this wasn't the case. At A+I sustainability and environmental awareness are crucial elements at the heart of the build-

ing process." Rather than seeing environmental norms as a limitation, the firm sees them as an invitation to creativity in the usage of materials, design and harmony.

When bringing to life the library of Vincennes, the team also put a strong emphasis on working very closely with the city council to address the needs they had in terms of space, accessibility and materials. "It's important to put the client at the heart of the creative process, to maximise the usage of a public space like the library. We heard shortly after the official opening that the library is often over-crowded. This speaks volumes about the success of the conviviality aspect we strived to bring to the building," explains Christophe.

In the case of the Biomed21 laboratory, the team mostly relied on its knowledge in engineering and design to create a space that would be bright, with a focus on mobility and soft textures. Christophe says their inspiration comes mostly from the challenge at hand and each other's skills

and expertise. Excited to carry out their projects with an international scope, the team is available for requests through their website.

[www.a-plus-i.fr](http://www.a-plus-i.fr)

