



Holiday House, Arnhem. *Designed by Sander van Schaik & Robert-Jan de Kort.*
Inhabited by Joris Bak & Astrid Bergman

UNDER THE RADAR

Buitenplaats Koningsweg, near De Hoge Veluwe National Park, close to the city of Arnhem, is an estate with a somewhat dark past. During the Second World War, the site was home to the barracks of a German airbase, Fliegerhorst Deelen. To hide the aircraft hangars and other structures on the site from the Allies, the Germans disguised the buildings as barns and planted fake cows in the fields to reinforce the impression.

Those days are now long gone and the former base barely visible. Instead, the site has been transformed into an estate where artists and other creatives live and work. The most recent addition consists of 11 small vacation homes arising from a design competition in 2021. Tech company director Joris Bak and communications adviser Astrid Bergman approached

architects Sander van Schaik and Robert-Jan de Kort, having read about their design for a villa inspired by a boulder. They asked for a small, tranquil retreat that would encourage them to do nothing.

The architects came up with a design titled “under the radar,” referring not only to the camouflaged buildings that were once on the site, but also to the nearby radar tower. The holiday home has a steel A-frame—a structure often seen in mountain huts because of its simple but sturdy qualities. The black steel structure is reminiscent of the stealth attack aircraft F-117 Nighthawk, developed in the 1980s to remain invisible to radar using stealth technology. Bak and Bergman celebrated their first vacation in their retreat in Christmas 2023. It allows them to do exactly what they wanted: nothing.