

# DEPETRUS LIBRARY

*When this church needed saving from demolition, a team of architects transformed it into a sanctuary for book lovers*

DESIGNED BY VON MOLENAAR & BOL & VAN DILLEN ARCHITECTS  
CONVERTED IN 2018  
VUGHT, NETHERLANDS



After several years of standing empty, this church, built in 1884 in Vught, Netherlands, was in a sorry state. When the local parish suggested that the former place of worship should be repurposed in a respectful way, a team of architects rose to the challenge. Today the people of Vught have exactly what the community needed: a gathering place complete with a museum, restaurant, bar, and several shops. At the heart of the building is the new DePetrus Library. The original floor plan and stunning stained-glass windows have been carefully preserved. The architects

installed a new mezzanine level with spacious areas for study and meetings in the side aisles, so as not to detract from the majestic views down the nave. The new level also offers a spectacular view over the library from above. The heavy bookshelves are on rails and can be pushed aside, so DePetrus can morph into a venue for all kinds of events.

