

Biesbosch Museum Island

Studio Marco Vermeulen

WERKENDAM, NETHERLANDS

Located on a man-made island in the wetlands of the De Biesbosch National Park, Studio Marco Vermeulen has transformed this local museum: adding a 11,000-square-foot (1,000-square-meter) wing, immersive roofscape, and freshwater tidal park. A green roof blankets the scheme, with a weaving walkway that encourages visitors to explore the terrain. The new wing incorporates generous expanses of floor-to-ceiling, heat-resistant windows, looking out onto the marshland surroundings. River water flows through underfloor pipes to effectively cool the building. During colder months, a sustainable biomass stove warms the building using the same system. Sanitary wastewater passes through a willow filter—the first of its kind in the Netherlands—before running back into the wetlands. Willow absorbs elements such as nitrogen and phosphate, nourishing its growth; the wood can later be used as fuel for the biomass stove. This project exemplifies design that integrates sustainable technologies while enhancing the experience of nature—promising new discoveries with every visit.

