



## Nature Calls for Artistic Expression

SFER IK Museion by Roth Architecture is an interdisciplinary creative space in Tulum, a coastal town on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Jorge Eduardo Neira Sterkel, the self-taught architect behind Roth, built the intriguing structure on his eco-conscious Azulik resort.

Art, nature, local materials, and traditional techniques coexist in this unconventional structure that resists the definition of "gallery" because it is entirely devoid of straight lines. Designed to be sensitive to the natural environment of the site, SFER IK stands on stilts that allow wildlife to pass beneath it, and trees grow through its curved walls. The vegetation is wholly integrated with exhibitions of art and sculpture, and the verdant landscape can be appreciated through numerous circular windows and gaps in the walls and roof. These perforations allow dappled light to interact with the building and give the impression that it is a living organism.

The floors are laid with a material that resembles concrete, contrasted with bejuco, a flexible vine that grows abundantly in the Yucatan jungle and has been used by Mayan artisans for thousands of years. A traditional method of weaving these vines has also been employed for the walls, where it is combined with chechen wood, which is resistant to rot and termites, and softer wood from the abundant local chaca tree. A fiberglass canopy covers and protects the structure.

Guests are invited to enter barefoot, which heightens the sense of imbalance when walking along the undulating floors and ramped walkways. The intention is to encourage visitors to explore mindfully and allow themselves to become immersed in nature and art.

The SFER IK philosophy succinctly conveys this concept: "We believe that art is a bridge to the sacred. To cross it, it is necessary to lose control, to let go and surrender to the experience."

Architect Roth Architecture  
Project SFER IK Museion Tulum  
Location Tulum / Mexico



Natural vegetation is integral to the organic design of the gallery space.