

Wieringermeer Viskringloop >>>



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project
spawning and nursery ground for fishes

location
Wieringermeer

designers
Hilke Floris
Claudia Wikse-Barrow
Guillaume Zeender
Raquel van Donselaar

partners
Pé Okx (artist)
Cor ten Haaf (ecologist)

client
Hoogheemraadschap Hollands
Noorderkwartier

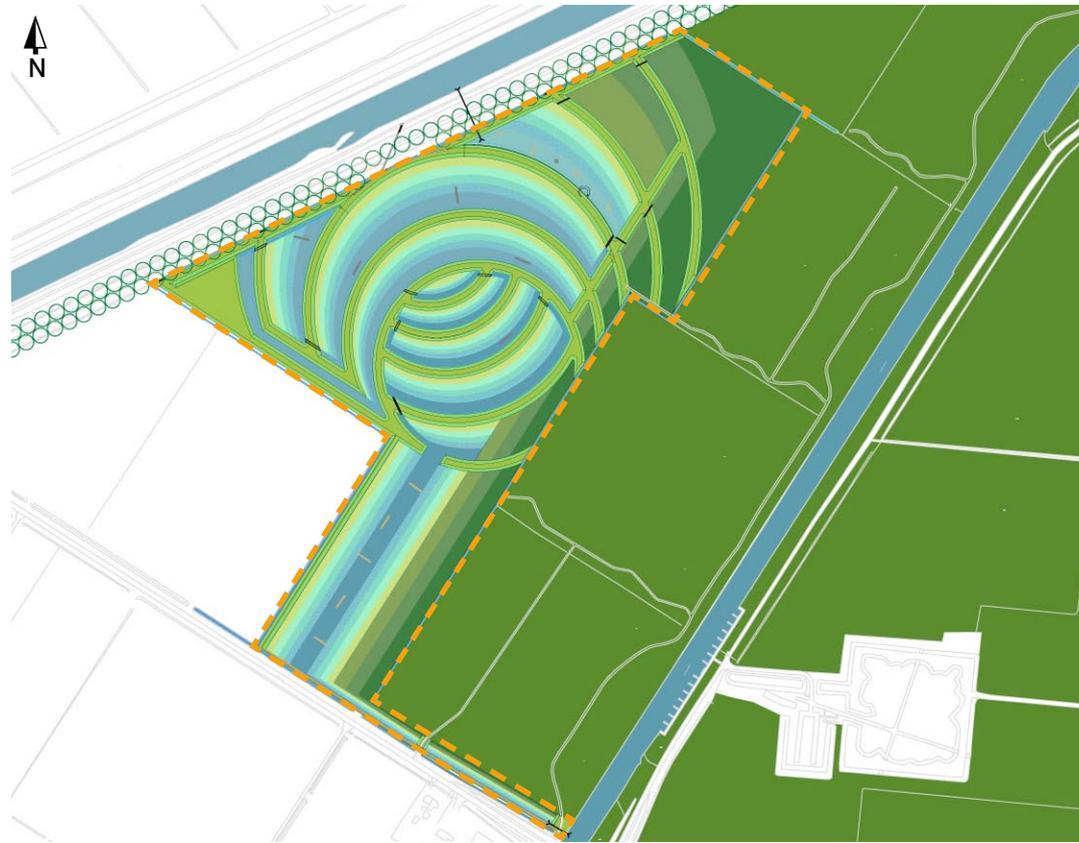
size
11 ha.

year of design
2016 - 2018



Land(-scape) art

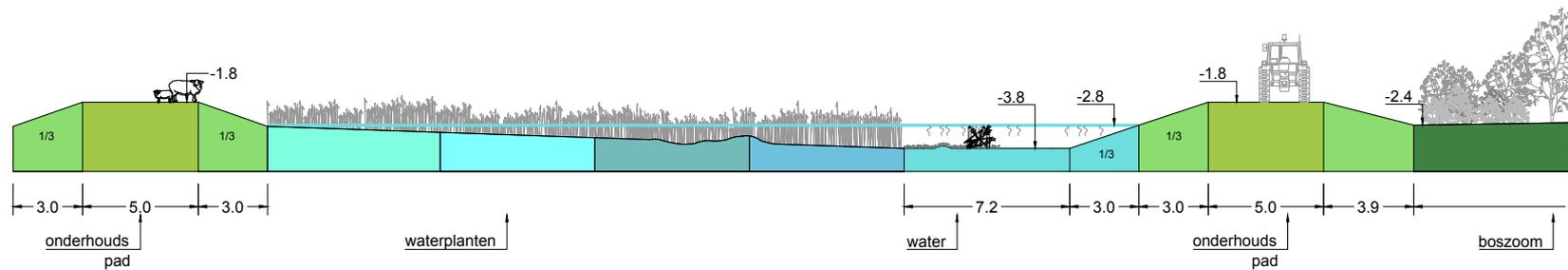
The Water Board Hollands Noorderkwartier commissioned HOSPER to design a spawning and nursery ground for fish in the agricultural landscape of the Wieringermeer. Landscape architecture and art are fully interwoven in the design. The concept of 'Art from Nature', developed by artist Pé Okx and ecologist Cor ten Haaf, is based on artistic design of the landscape using regional resources, while creating a good starting point for the development of a high quality nature. The combination of landscape, art and ecology creates a unique habitat for fish and a new 'landmark' in the Wieringermeer.



Concept

Two stones are thrown in the water and their fall creates ripples which knock together and create a perpetual cycle. Those circles make up a strong structure which gives space to water, grass dikes, reeds and a diversity of (under) water vegetation. The various directions and orientation towards the sun determines a richness of ecological environments, colours and shapes.

The design is spectacular in its simplicity. The clear and large-scale shapes echo the robust size of the polder. The choice for contemporary landscape art fits the cultured character of the agricultural Wieringermeer polder.



Water system

Water is obviously one of the most important elements of this project as spawning space and habitat for fishes. To provide a wide range of diversity, the water level varies in depth from puddles on the edges of the plan to 1 meter in the centre. Special structures such as tree trunks and gabions, will be added in the water to provide a diversity of shelters to the fish and the aquatic fauna.

More important, however, for both for the fishes as for the water quality will be the development of aquatic vegetation. Sweet water enters the plan area from the Wieringerrandkanaal via entrances with fish passage-ways. It winds through the area via a radiator structure and ultimately ends in the Den Oeverschevaart.

Area management

To keep the structure of the dikes visible and to have a low impact on the environment, the planning area will be grazed by sheep. The reeds will occasionally be mowed with a truxor. The clippings are temporarily stored on the southwestern point of the area from where it can be easily removed via public roads.

Observation tower

In order to observe the artistic landscape of the Viskringloop an observation tower is established inside the area. The design of the tower is derived from the circular shape of the Viskringloop. The round shape circles up, creating a view point for the public. The observation tower is positioned in such a way that it offers the best view of the area and also forms a strong eye-catcher.

