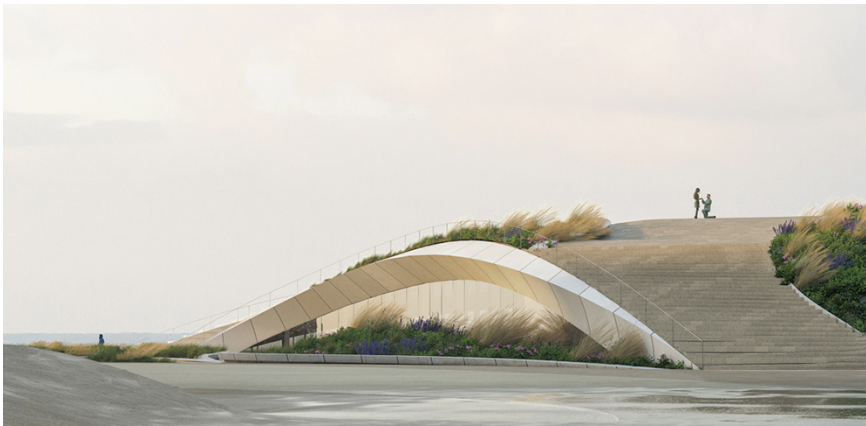




Venue Building Middelkerke | Middelkerke, Belgium | 2020

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Venue Building Middelkerke | Middelkerke, Belgium | :

Architects: ZJA
Associate Architects: Bureau Bouwtechniek and OZ
Landscape Architects: DELVA Architecture Urbanism
Client: Municipality of Middelkerke
Photographers: The Nautilus Consortium and Proloog



Project Description

Additional Credits

Contractors: Furnibo and Democo
Consultants: COBE, VK Engineering, Beersnielsen, Witteveen+Bos, Plantec, MINT, Sertius
Developer: Debuild, part of Democo Group

The requirements for a new casino building in Middelkerke encompassed a wide array of objectives. The design had to accommodate a reinforcement of the sea embankment, a plan to enhance the quality of the public space by removing car traffic and also unify the boulevard and the Epernay square. This describes the starting point for the design the architectural studio ZJA made, in collaboration with OZ, DELVA landscape architects and Bureau Bouwtechniek, as members of the Nautilus Consortium.

The soul of the design resides in its intimate integration with the landscape, the transformation of the town centre into one that is pedestrian friendly and the introduction of a landmark building that combines public space, casino, hotel, restaurant, multifunctional event space and underground parking garage. All this while reinforcing the sea dike providing Middelkerke with its needed security, urban renewal and an economic impetus.

A large public space is created by moving the dike further onto the beach, creating an extension of the existing Epernay square while integrating it in the landscape. An underground parking garage ensures a car free zone on street level. Connecting the town, the square and the beach is a huge artificial dune in which the casino, the public hall for concerts and exhibitions and restaurant are located. They are built underneath the extension of the public space, but all have transparent facades and spectacular views.

The event space serves as a social and cultural meeting point for Middelkerke; a new living room for the town. Sea lyme grass, water elements and sand gullies flowing towards the beach simulate a dune experience. The new public space, with the climb to the green square on top of the dune is a tourist attraction in its own right.

Attached to it is the beach hotel with its enigmatic sculptural silhouette, an understated icon with an open grid of curved beams in accoya wood. The design optimizes energy, waste-management and production processes, and applies recyclable materials where possible. Credits: Client: The municipality of Middelkerke, The Nautilus consortium is a collaboration between developer Debuild (ismCiril), chief

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(http://www.zja.be/about/works/11994/11994_ino.html)

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designers ZJA (architecture) and DELVA (landscape architecture), OZ (casino and hotel design) and Bureau Bouwtechniek (executive architect), contractors Furnibo and Democo. They are assisted by experts from COBE, VK Engineering, Beersnielsen, Witteveen+Bos, Plantec, MINT and Sertius.



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