

Studio Ossidiana on the art pavilion in Almere

Studio Ossidiana is in Rotterdam and was founded by two Italian architects, Alessandra Covini and Giovanni Belloti. Both come from the Milan region but met at TU Delft.

What does winning this design competition mean for you?

A: 'I won the Prix de Rome three years ago with a project about the water. So, building a floating art pavilion feels like the next logical step. The chance to create a place with such a beautiful programme is a dream come true. We are very happy.'

G: 'All of our interests combine in this project. From material research to storytelling, from design to curating and cultivation, this project allows us to incorporate countless layers into our story.'

How did the design come about?

A: 'We have become fascinated by Flevoland and the province's history. The land is humanmade. In fact, it's an enormous garden where land art is used to collect thoughts about the area. Circular forms kept emerging in our research. The strong relationship between water and circles subsequently informed our design, which features three circles on the water.'

What experiences does the pavilion offer?

A: 'It's a place that encourages discovery. You immediately feel part of it. Though modest, its height, transparency and views offer an experience of spaciousness.'

G: 'The promenade we designed makes it possible to programme both indoors and outdoors. An outdoor sculpture exhibition in the summer or light art in the winter.'

A: 'Even when the pavilion is closed, you can walk on the pier, enjoy the scenery and meet up with friends.'

G: 'I hope there will be plenty of plants and birds will nest around the pavilion, that people sunbathe on the promenade or go swimming even. This is how the pavilion adds something to the Land Art collection of the province of Flevoland.'

A: 'You can even enjoy it at night: it's like a lantern on the water.'

How did you develop the terrazzo for the platforms?

A: 'Our studio does a lot of material research. For this project, we delved into Flevoland's soil and found all kinds of matter: seashells, mussels, but also charcoal and clay. We used these ingredients to develop different types of terrazzo.'

How sustainable is the design?

G: 'Sustainability has been vital to this design from the start. The pavilion has a lifespan of at least ten years. Once we have solar panels on the roof, the pavilion will be mostly self-sufficient.'