

The Vlotwateringbrug or popularly “batbridge” by NEXT architects or popularly “batbridge” is a unique bridge. It was built not only to provide a pedestrian and bicycle connection to The Poelzone, but also to function as an ideal habitat for accommodating various species of bats.

The Poelzone, an elongated area located in the Westland between the existing centers of 's-Gravenzande, Naaldwijk and Monster, has been dominated by outdated greenhouses and business parks that were very inaccessible for public. How

to make the Westland a more sustainable and liveable Greenport, serving as a pleasant connection point and broader ecological network between the Dutch coast and the surrounding metropolitan areas of The Hague and Rotterdam? The Westland municipal is rearranging the area to increase accessibility for public and to make space for water and greenery.

The development of the Poelzone aims to increase the water buffer and create a natural and recreational green connection right through the greenhouse area of the Westland. The

Vlotwatering is located in the Poelzone. NEXT architects has been asked to build an inviting, sustainable bridge that crosses the Vlotwateringbridge and plays a role in the ecology of the Poelzone. Along the waterway a new 21-hectare green recreational zone with natural banks and spawn sites for fish is being realized, designed by LOLA Landscape architects, to strengthen the existing green and ecological connections in which natural and recreational values complement each other.

LOCATION →
Monster / NL
CLIENT →
Municipality of Westland

REALISATION →
Preliminary design: Jan 2014
Final design: Mar 2014
Start building: Dec 2014
Completion: Oct 2015

SPAN →
25 metre

DESIGN →
NEXT architects

IN COLLABORATION WITH →
LOLA Landscape architects

CONSTRUCTION →
Pieters Bouwtechniek

CONTRACTOR →
Kroes aannemingsbedrijf



PREVIOUS: THE HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED WESTLAND HAS TOO LITTLE SPACE FOR WATER AND NATURE. LANDSCAPE DESIGN & IMAGE: COURTESY OF LOLA LANDSCAPE.



THE ECO-FRIENDLY VLOTWATERINGBRIDGE BRIDGE, FOR BOTH PEOPLE AND THE ANIMALS



AFTER: A NATURAL CORRIDOR HAS BEEN MADE. LANDSCAPE DESIGN & IMAGE: COURTESY OF LOLA LANDSCAPE.