



The 'Winter Garden of Ursulines' in Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-Waver, near Mechelen (BE), opens its doors to the general public after restoration work. Flanders' largest publicly accessible art-nouveau site and heritage pearl.

The colourful stained-glass dome is part of a building complex protected as a monument. The Ursuline Sisters had the structure built in 1900 as a reception room for the daughters of the wealthy bourgeoisie around the world, putting this place on the international map.

With its remarkable history and unusual architecture, the site has huge tourist potential. The brand-new experience trail takes visitors from home and abroad back to the heyday of the Ursuline Institute.



### Authority

Stichting Kempens Landschap  
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### Location

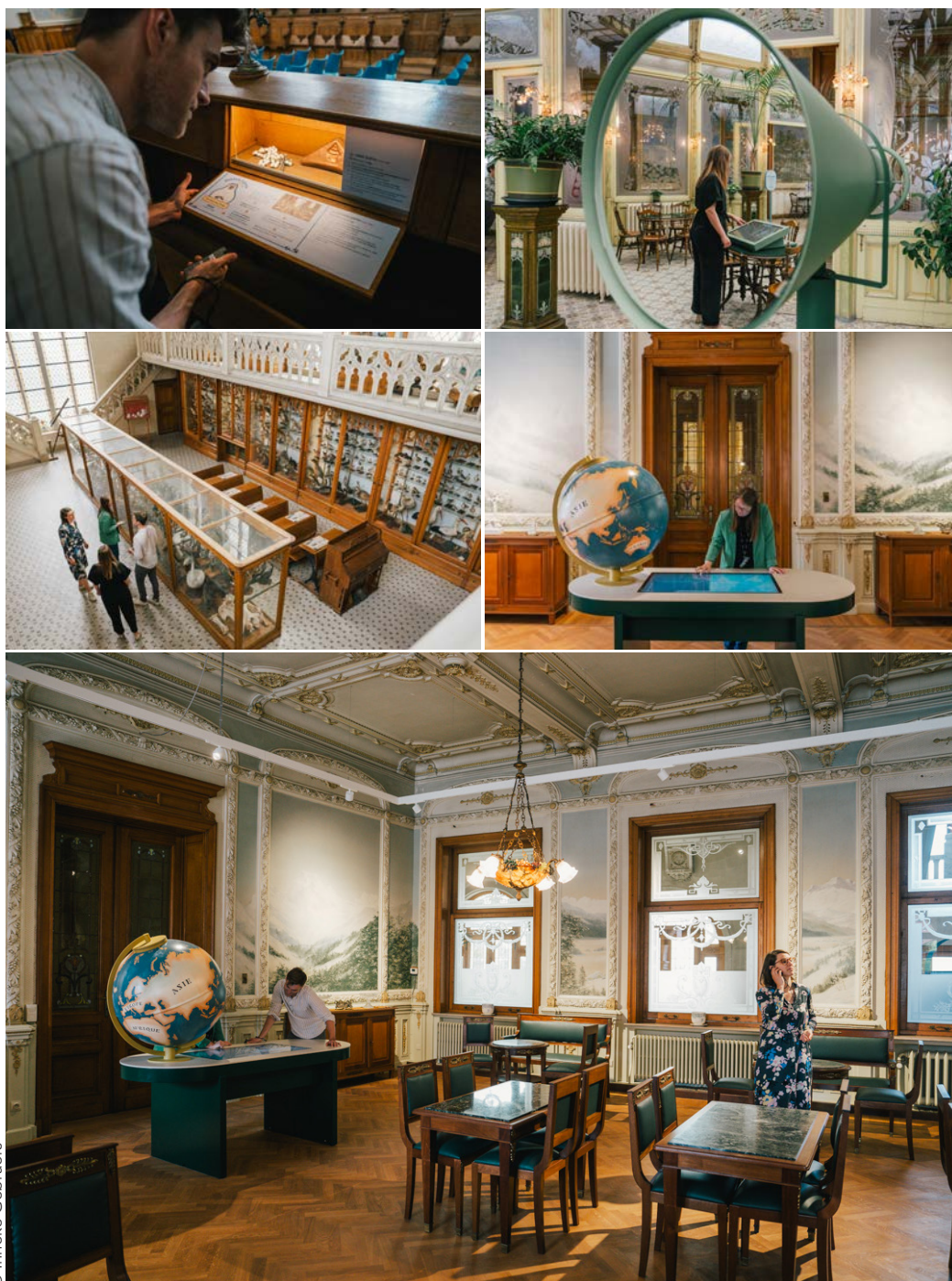
Sint-Katelijne- Waver,  
Belgium

# Ursuline Institute

Bruns was responsible for the development and production of the experience trail at the Ursulines Institute, according to Wondering's design. A trail that visitors can visit independently without a guide. Various furniture has been realised while respecting the historic architecture of the building. New additions seamlessly complement the various existing materials such as marble tops, wood panelling, terrazzo floors and etched windows.

Part of the furniture is a large maquette table depicting the 10-hectare estate and the history of the Ursuline Institute. The domain, consisting of several buildings, was printed in transparent resin and these were placed on a large screen. When visitors choose a location on the estate, the buildings light up and stories and photos are displayed.

The spaces have been kept as pure as possible, with the scenography in each room adapted to the space. Through audio, visitors are introduced to the former residents of the Ursuline Institute: a student, the sisters and the architect. The trail is indicated by three different pillars; the yellow and green ones contain audio stories and the blue ones show the way.



## Destination

Visitor centre

## Type of exhibition

Permanent

## Project director

Maarten Taborsky

## Design

Wondering

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## Year

2024