



The ARTIS-Aquarium in Amsterdam is one of the oldest still operating aquariums in the world and a national monument dating from 1882. After an extensive restoration, the building has been redesigned as a contemporary water museum where visitors discover how water connects all life on Earth. In doing so, the monumental character and historical elements have been carefully preserved, while the building has been prepared for the future.

Along a route past oceans, rivers, coral reefs, mangroves and the Amsterdam canal, visitors become acquainted with the richness of underwater life as well as the vulnerability of water as the source of all life. In addition to living aquariums, there are interactive installations and experiential elements that present the story of biodiversity, ecology and the relationship between humans and water in an accessible way. The renewed Aquarium thereby aligns with ARTIS's mission to transform wonder into awareness and care for nature.



BRUNS

ARTIS-Aquarium

Authority

ARTIS
Plantage Middenlaan 53
1081 DC Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Location

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Surface area

5000 m²

Scope

Interior
Display Cases
Mounting
Interactive Exhibits
Lighting Integration
Graphic Production
Service & Maintenance

Project Director

John Bootsman

ARTIS-Aquarium

According to the design by Kossmanndejong, Bruns, in close collaboration with ARTIS, YIPP, Bind and Aqualife, realised the experience elements for the renewed Aquarium. Bruns was responsible for the development, production and realisation of interactive installations in various spatial experiences. In doing so, both the visitor experience and the daily use by animal caretakers were central. The custom-made furniture was designed for accessible maintenance and aligned with the integrated aquariums by Aqualife.

The monumental building and the presence of a living collection required a careful technical approach. Due to the not entirely straight walls in the building, the furniture was measured on site and adjusted where necessary. Well-considered material choices were made that are resistant to fresh and salt water, ensuring that the interior is durable and able to withstand intensive use. A suitable fire-safe solution was also developed for natural materials, including seaweed panels.

Because the Aquarium is part of the ARTIS park and freely accessible to park visitors, the interior has been tailored to a broad target group. The result is a sustainable, future-proof visitor experience that supports the story of water, nature and the connection between humans and animals. A story that aligns well in content with the project vision of Bruns.



Destination

Museum

Type of exhibition

Permanent

Design

Kossmanndejong
De Ruijterkade 107
1011 AB Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Delivery

June 2026

Photograph

Kirsten van Santen