

Bouvigne Breda



Welcome to the castle gardens





POORTGEBOUW

The Bouvigne



The Bouvigne Estate, on the Bouvignelaan 5 in Breda, dates back to the 15th century. The property consists of its fairy-tale like castle, a gatehouse and coach house, a chapel and the tomb of Monseigneur Frencken. In the midst of these buildings are three spectacular gardens and an orchard. In 1972 the Brabantse Delta Water Authority became proprietor of the estate, undertaking the responsibility of running and maintaining the upkeep of the national monument.

Visit the gardens

The Bouvigne's gardens are open to the public and their beauty makes them well worth visiting. The gardens are open from Monday to Friday between 08.00 and 17.00 and visitors are requested to report to the reception before entering the castle grounds. The estate's buildings are closed to the public except on special occasions. No dogs are allowed on the grounds

Visit www.landgoedbouvigne.nl for more information.



Willem and Mary room



Blue room

Castle Bouvigne

Taken from archives the earliest reference to the estate dates from 1494 where mention is made of a moated stone house. Yet the first reference to Castle Bouvigne in an official deed dates from 1554.

In 1802 the name Bouvigne appears for the first time in an actual sales contract and ever since the ownership has frequently changed hands. The estate was often occupied by stewards in the service of the Princes of Orange. In 1930 the Government took control of the property and, in turn, rented it to the Pius X foundation. From 1930 through to 1970 and under the guidance of Mgr. Frencken the Bouvigne became an important centre for helping disadvantaged girls receive a basic education. In 1972 the newly established West-Brabant Water Authority,

now the Brabantse Delta Water Authority, bought the property and between 1975 and 1977 undertook a complete restoration of the buildings and grounds. In 2010, after a six year absence and upon the completion of the new office complex, the estate once again became the head office of the Brabantse Delta Water Authority.

Castle weddings

Because of its romantic surroundings the Water Authority decided in 2010 to make the estate available for wedding ceremonies. More information can be found on the Bouvigne website: www.landgoedbouvigne.nl. And for any remaining questions regarding holding a wedding ceremony at the Bouvigne telephone 076 564 11 60 or e-mail trouwenbouvigne@brabantsedelta.nl



Photographer C. Binnenkamp



Frensch garden

The Water Authority will gladly assist in organising a unique, happy and memorable wedding ceremony at the Bouvigne Castle.

The gardens

Inspired by the fashions of the period the French, English and German gardens are another of the estate's attractions. On the southern perimeter of the estate is a newly planted nut tree orchard based upon a landscape design taken from a map by J. Lips dating from 1621.

The French garden

The first of the gardens was designed by the then owner L. de Bruyn around 1913.

Within the symmetrical layout the garden reflects upon itself along the middle axis. The symmetry is further highlighted by the low box hedging that surrounds the flowerbeds. The hedging, conifers and the round yew trees are cut into shape every year. The garden also features a fountain and various types of rose bush.

The English Garden

Crossing the small bridge from the French Garden one enters the English Garden. Dating from around 1920 the English Garden is more spaciouly laid out than its French neighbour. The extensive lawn and curved flower bordering help to give it a country-like feel. The chapel situated at the head of the garden was built in 1932 by the then resident Catechists of the Eucharistic Crusade (Pius X Foundation) and is now used for meetings and educational purposes. The pathways surrounding the garden are lined with rhododendrons in combination with tall trees such as plane, oak and birch.

The German garden

Taking the bridge near the 'Borito' bull sculpture and following the signposts one arrives at the German Garden. This relatively narrow garden was created in the 1930's. Its most striking feature is the



English garden



German garden

meandering path running through the middle of the garden dividing the lawn into two narrow strips. The path is flanked by tall trees, including some variety of chestnut. The garden's outer perimeter is bordered by a pretty lane with a row of oak trees.

The small stone building in this garden is the burial chapel of Mgr. Frencken, the spiritual leader of the catechists. When the catechists left the Bouvigne in 1971 Mgr. Frencken was also moved to a new resting

place. More recently the chapel became the final resting place for two mentally handicapped girls who died during the evacuation in 1940 and were temporarily buried in the garden of the Bouvigne. Sadly the graves were only discovered again in 2015. After a request from the children's families and permission from the Breda county council to use the Bouvigne estate for this exceptional purpose the girls were reburied in January 2016 in this small burial chapel.





Legenda

- P** Parking
- F** Bicycle rank
- ^** Gateway
- 1** Gatehouse
- 2** Castle
- 3** Coach house
- 4** Chapel
- 5** Tomb
- 6** Hof van Bouvigne (head office)
- 7** French garden
- 8** English garden
- 9** German garden
- 10** Orchard



www.landgoedbouvigne.nl



Sculptures

Sculptures

There are several sculptures on display throughout the Estate.

Human Figures

In front of the head office entrance, in the reception hall and outside, at the entrance to the gardens, are a series of wooden sculptures by the German artist Stephan Balkenhol. The figures are of everyday people, familiar and yet at the same time vague. The wood used in the sculptures originated from trees felled on the estate.

Bather

A woman's torso in bronze with the Dutch title 'Baadster' by the Amsterdam based artist Karin Beek.



Bather



Borito



Gezin en levenscyclus

Borito

A Bronze bull set upon a two metre high hard bluestone base. This Spanish titled sculpture is by the Limburg artist Wim Steins.

Family and Life Cycle

Commissioned for the new social educational program in the 1960's, the sculptor F. van der Linden, from Vught, created this piece symbolising the cycle of the family.

Starting on the left are a young couple courting, in the middle is a family with two children while on their right sits an elderly pair.

Flamingo's

A group of five flamingos by the Polish artist Bronislaw Chorny. The flamingos are made of oxidised bronze and natural stone originating from the Black Sea.

High Door

Designed by the artist Cor Litjens the gateway's distinct profiles attempt to awake in the observer an inquisitiveness as to what lies on either side of its entrance.



Flamingo's



High door

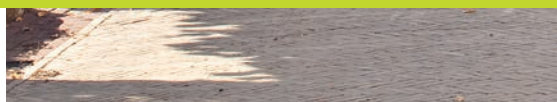
Hof van Bouvigne

The Hof van Bouvigne is the head office to the Brabantse Delta Water Authority. The structure was designed by the architects Claus and Kaan from Rotterdam.

Important aspects taken into account in the building's designing were the height of the building in coordination with that of the castle, the view from and through the office towards the estate's buildings and over the estate itself.

The building was constructed using natural and durable materials wherever possible. For example sections of the roof have been planted with stonecrops (sedum) and moss while special techniques are in use such as concrete core activation, compensating measures and durable water management.

Finally, 60 nesting boxes have been cut into the façade on the north side of the building to facilitate a colony of swifts displaced by demolition activity elsewhere in the vicinity of the Bouvigne. The Castle, Chapel and Coach House are used for meetings, courses and interviews.









Brabantse Delta Water Authority

The Brabantse Delta Water Authority ensures that dykes and jetties are safe, purifies sewage water, regulates water levels and protects the local environment. In carrying out these activities the water authority works together with many other organisations and groups from urban dweller to farmer, from industry to local council, and from the environmentally conscious to all other interested or affected parties. In so doing the authority remains constantly aware of the interests and concerns of all those within its domain and is better prepared for future developments.

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