

Brodie Pond Floating Biosculpture

Location: Brodie Castle, Scotland

Client: National Trust Scotland

Objective: Habitat Creation

Project in collaboration with:

FINDHORN BAY ARTS



Photo Credit: Paul Campbell, Findhorn Bay Arts

Challenge:

Biomatrix was commissioned to develop a series of floating ecosystems to form a biological sculpture on the grounds of Brodie Castle in the north of Scotland. This project created not only habitat for birds, fish and other species, but also allowed local students to engage in an exciting hands-on learning project.



Before



After

Solution:

The project was part of the Findhorn Bay Arts Festival in 2016, a six day event that showcases Scottish creative talent. Biomatrix partner Lisa Shaw exhibited a series of accompanying paintings inspired by the project and the aquatic pond environment. The floating ecosystem demonstrated the exploration of a symbiosis between nature and technology. The biosculpture design consists of a series of gently curving floating islands, all with preening and nesting platforms for birds. It forms an attractive aesthetic water feature, while also improving the water quality and providing wildlife habitat. Local primary school students and volunteers from Scottish National Heritage helped with the installation and planting of the islands.



The bird platform is part of the island and provides a refuge for local wildlife (Photo credit: Paul Campbell, Findhorn Bay Arts)



One of the paintings by Biomatrix partner Lisa Shaw as part of the exhibition in Brodie castle



Hands-on learning (Photo credit: Paul Campbell, Findhorn Bay Arts)

Outdoor education

28 local primary school children took part in an exciting hands-on learning session to plant the islands together. They learned about aquatic biology, water quality, nutrient cycles and environmental design in a fun and practical way. They collected wetland plants from the pond to be placed on the island and put together the entire central island in a group effort.



Outdoor education session by Biomatrix (Photo Credit: Paul Campbell, Findhorn Bay Arts)

“The Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design presented a fantastic opportunity for us to work with Biomatrix and to explore the connection between nature, biodiversity and creativity. It was great working with Lisa and Galen to develop the idea which included an engaging learning programme for school children too”

Kresanna Aigner, director Findhorn Bay Arts



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