

## RENOVATION OF HUISBOIS MANOR

Huisbois manor, with its two rounded wings flanking the central building, sash windows, mansard roof with dormer windows, sunken terrace, and walled internal courtyard, has all the architectural features typical of the stately homes and manors built in the 18th century in the Boulogne region.

It is entirely built in local stone. The wall ties just under the roof show the date of construction to be 1755.

### A short history of the manor

This building used to be home to a community of sisters of charity who tended to the poor and the sick and took care of the instruction of poor girls until 1813. The house was then bought by the Lamarre family. It was later inherited by the Framezelles before Ernest Hamy, a doctor, bought it from them in 1901.

It was then sold to Auguste-Paul Dutertre, a professor of science and law who had a passionate interest in geology. It was he who gave it the name "Huisbois". In 1982, the Espace Naturel Régional purchased the house with funding from the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, and made it head office of the Parc naturel régional.

The manor was in great need of renovation to bring it up to standard in terms of its insulation, safety and accessibility. With one condition: that the outside walls of the building were preserved. Its authenticity was actually enhanced when the skylights in the roof at the front of the house were removed. The walls were insulated from the inside using a range of ecological materials according to their function: wood wool under the roof, cellulose flock on the suspended ceilings and Biofib Trio on the walls. The windows were renovated and insulated by installing a second double-glazed window inside. Upstairs there are sash windows that open by sliding the bottom section upwards. Some of the blocked-up windows were re-opened and double-glazed windows made of local oak timber installed.

The building perpendicular to the manor used to house the stables. Their interior volumes have been preserved whilst making optimal use of natural light.

The dormer windows are typical of the local architecture. They feature a rounded pediment built out from the wall, capped with a triangular bonnet known as a "gendarme's hat" . To respect the harmony of the façade, they are perfectly aligned with the ground floor windows. Two of these windows were fully reconstructed to the original design using local stone from the Vallée Heureuse quarry.

The roof was completely renovated using Welsh Violine slate which is closest in appearance to the original slate from the Ardennes.