



Taturo Atzu's *The Garden Which Is the Nearest to God* on the roof of Oude Kerk in Amsterdam.

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## Artist Taturo Atzu Creates a Sky-High Installation in Amsterdam

Artist Taturo Atzu creates a large-scale installation atop Amsterdam's oldest building

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Photography by Wim Hanenberg

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Artist Taturo Atzu (formerly known as Tatzu Nishi, as well as a number of other aliases) brings his latest large-scale project to Amsterdam's oldest building, Oude Kerk. The church's roof is now home to an expansive temporary platform that visitors access via scaffolding on the exterior of the structure. Titled\* *The Garden Which Is the Nearest to God*,\* the installation offers panoramic views of the red-light district and gives visitors a unique opportunity to interact with the architecture. Atzu also built an enclosed living room on the platform, centered around the church's angel-shaped weathervane; a seating area surrounds the church bell.



A sunken seating area surrounds the church bell.

Atzu is known for his sky-high architectural interventions. In 2012 he constructed a living room around a marble statue 60 feet in the air for *Discovering Columbus* in New York City, and in 2014 he built a hotel room around a fountain in Helsinki for an installation titled *Hotel of Manta*. *Oude Kerk* offers an ideal setting for Atzu's domestically inspired work: the church's nickname is "Huyskamer van Amsterdam" or Amsterdam's living room, for its role as a public space for both secular and religious activities since the 13th century. After the platform closes to the public, the scaffolding will be used to make repairs to the church.

*Through September 6 at Oude Kerk, Amsterdam; [oudekerk.nl](http://oudekerk.nl)*

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