Smart Cities at the NAI

Smart cities create more jobs, are cleaner, more flexible, more efficient and safer. They contribute to a sustainable world in social and economic terms too. The exhibition 'Smart Cities – Parallel Cases 2' shows 23 projects designed to make the city smarter. The exhibition can be seen from 20 April to 12 August in the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) as part of the 5th International Architecture Biennial Rotterdam (IABR): Making City. 'Smart Cities – Parallel Cases 2' has been compiled by the joint Academies of Architecture in the Netherlands.

Smart Cities – Parallel Cases 2
The 23 projects in 'Smart Cities – Parallel Cases 2' come from students from all over the world and show their vision of the making of the city. The emphasis is on design and research projects to which other disciplines besides architecture and urban design also make a contribution. The exhibition not only shows the work of the latest generation of designers, but is itself a design of theirs. Students of spatial and graphic design at the Willem de Koning Academy (WdKA) in Rotterdam place the contemporary designs in an appropriate décor.

Solutions for society
The projects in the exhibition show the interest of young designers in the existing cities and landscapes. The project Tar Creek Supergrid, for example, from the University of Toronto , is focused on recycling. An enormous area that has been ruined by the extraction of oil is given a new function as a centre for sustainable energy. A superstructure with a roof of solar panels stands on tall columns so that the landscape beneath it can be given the opportunity to recover. Dwellings and roads are built on the structure, which is constructed from remnants of local rock. Besides making a clever use of new technologies, this project also shows that the latest generation is looking for solutions to social dilemmas.

5th IABR
5th IABR: Making City shows how tomorrow's city is made and the role that designers play in that. Various exhibitions and debates will be organised in the NAI from 20 April 2012 on. 'Smart Cities – Parallel Cases 2' is the second edition of Parallel Cases. Running parallel with the main exhibition, it gives the latest generation of designers an opportunity to present their design and research projects. Plans for the future will be presented on other locations in the Rotterdam inner city too within the framework of the IABR. For the full programme click on www.iabr.nl.

Note to Editors:
For further information, please contact the NAI's Marketing and Communications team, press@nai.nl or tel. +31 (0)10 440 1241

For further information about the IABR, please contact IABR's Department of Marketing & Communications via press@iabr.nl or call Nancy van Oorschot (press officer) directly, tel. +31 (0)6 41 68 43 24.

The NAI

The Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) is one of the largest and most active architecture centres in the world. It is the guardian of a unique architecture collection, stages exhibitions, organises lectures and debates, and provides educational programmes. The NAI's mission is to raise public awareness of architecture and the discipline's capacity to answer the major questions of our time. For further information, visit www.nai.nl.