

Press Release 22 March 2012

Experience the city of the future during the 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam
5th IABR: Making City presents an extensive programme with exhibitions, events, tours, publications and radio and TV productions.

The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) is a unique, bi-annual event for everyone with an interest in urban design. The 5th IABR: *Making City* reveals how the city of tomorrow is created, and the role that designers, politics and citizens play in the process. From 20 April – 12 August, over 20 global cities reveal their visions for the future at the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI). Test Site Rotterdam, in and around the Schieblock, is an experimental zone for urban design and offers an engaging and diverse program of events, exhibitions, pop-up stores and pocket parks. The 5th IABR also presents exhibitions in Almere, São Paulo and Istanbul, inspiring bike tours through Rotterdam and, in conjunction with the VPRO, TV and radio productions; Long Live the City!

Exhibitions with a future

The world is becoming increasingly urbanised and urban design must seek alternative, better ways of making the city of tomorrow. In the main exhibition *Making City* at the NAI, over 20 world cities reveal their inspiring scenarios for the future in an engaging exhibition format designed by Kossmann.dejong. Instrumental to these plans are innovative and ever-changing partnerships between designers, administrators and citizens. Besides *Making City*, the biennale includes four other exhibitions in Rotterdam - *Smart Cities - Parallel Cases 2* at the NAI and in and around Test Site Rotterdam *I/We/You Make Rotterdam* by ZUS - the travelling exhibition *Making Douala 2007-2013* and *Design as Politics* by Delft University of Technology.

Programme Test Site Rotterdam

For the exhibition *Making City* architecture firm ZUS transformed the Schieblock area into Test Site Rotterdam. Visitors can come and learn about the city-making process and take part in using the zone as a test site. ZUS divided twenty projects into five categories: routing, making place, transformation, density and local economy. Light boxes installed on location explain about what's going on in the area – everything from pop-up stores and restaurants to a park, an open-air cinema, a roof garden and the elevated promenade 'De Luchtsingel', which was voted best urban design project in Rotterdam.

Events at the NAI and Schieblock

The IABR is organising a host of activities at Test Site Rotterdam and at the NAI: from lectures and festivals to film screenings. From 8 May to 12 August, every two weeks on Tuesday evenings from 20:00 to 22:00, (inter)national experts talk about their experiences with Test Site Rotterdam in a series of eight lectures. And, between 11 May and 12 August short talks and screenings will be held each Friday from 17:00 to 19:00 in the Dépendance Café. The IABR is also teaming up with its partners and organising a varied programme including lectures and debates at the NAI.

Inspiring IABR cycle tours

Share your ideas about the city of tomorrow. Take the IABR's inspiring bike tour of Rotterdam and discover how policy-makers, architects and the people of Rotterdam are changing the city. Your guide will take you on a tour of the Biennale exhibitions at the NAI, the Schieblock and the Mini Mall and a variety of other (lesser)known locations in Rotterdam. The bike tours are organised for groups of 10 or more, but individuals are also welcome to book a place and join in.

Media / VPRO

From 16 April 2012 on, the VPRO broadcaster is staging a follow-up to the successful 'Eeuw van de Stad' project organised in partnership with the 4th IABR in 2009. Entitled 'The City Forever', the new series looks at the city, its makers and its inhabitants during two weeks of programs on radio, television and internet, and in the VPRO's program guide.

Catalogue

The 5th IABR: *Making City* catalogue, containing the complete festival program, will appear on 19 April 2012. The publication features the projects presented in the main exhibition Making City and in other exhibitions, as well as statements from the curators and extensive articles about the three Test Sites in Rotterdam, Istanbul and São Paulo. Moreover, the catalogue includes essays by key figures in spatial planning, among them Melanie Schultz van Haegen (Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment).

END OF PRESS RELEASE

NOTE TO THE EDITORS

For more information or requests for interviews, please contact the IABR department of Marketing & Communication at press@iabr.nl or call press officer Nancy van Oorschot directly on +31-(0)6-41684324.