

# IABR–2016– THE NEXT ECONOMY–

Press Release, 11 July 2016

## **SUCCESSFUL SEVENTH EDITION ROTTERDAM ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE**

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On 10 July 2016, the seventh International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY, investigating the relationship between design and tomorrow's economy, struck its final chord. At the heart of the eleven-week exhibition IABR-2016 was a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, debate, and brainstorming sessions by designers and academics, administrators and policymakers, stakeholders and entrepreneurs, citizens and audiences from the Netherlands and abroad.

Informed by debate and knowledge exchange, the results of the IABR research by design projects in particular generated concrete, valuable input for decision- and policymaking. The IABR mapped the possibilities of an energy transition in Groningen, made plans for the large-scale production of wind power on the North Sea, and formulated proposals to use spatial design to transform Utrecht into a Healthy City, results that will be further developed by the authorities and organizations concerned after the Biennale. The IABR will intensify its existing collaboration with the city of Rotterdam: the IABR–Atelier Resilient Rotterdam 2016 – 2020 will continue to work on plans and projects for a more climate-proof and resilient Rotterdam. Results will be presented at the IABR–2018 and IABR-2020.

During its seventh edition, designed as an urban work space, the IABR once again succeeded in achieving its main objective: the effective use of creativity, imagination, and the strength of design to realize genuine social change through innovative projects for the city of tomorrow. The results of the research by design carried out in the IABR–Ateliers yielded important, tangible input and added value for decision- and policy making at home and abroad.

Now that the government has withdrawn, alternative practices like those of the IABR are increasingly important for the work on the city of tomorrow. Authorities agree: four Dutch cabinet members, ministers from more than 30 countries and numerous mayors, deputies and councilors from the Netherlands and abroad took part in the Biennale to be inspired by the results of research by design, as did senior representatives of ministries and international organizations and alliances such as the Delta Coalition, HLPW, The World Bank, UN Habitat, UNESCO–IHE, 100 Resilient Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation, the China Council, and nature conservation organizations as well as CEO's of companies such as Shell, Siemens, and port authorities and academics associated with universities all over the world.

Crucially, the eleven weeks of debate took place in the heart of the main exhibition of IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY, framed by a range of possible futures, from radical scenarios for the energy transition to examples of experimental, cooperative area development, and from mega projects in the North Sea and in Africa to local initiatives in South America, China, and Rotterdam.

### **Energy Transition in Groningen, Wind Power on the North Sea, and Healthy People in Utrecht**

In its Ateliers, the IABR collaborates with governments, companies and citizens using research by design in to explore which future we can actually want. The results, representations of possible tomorrows underpinned by strategies, plans, and detailed project proposals, are exhibited at the Biennale to subsequently be implemented.

In Groningen, provincial, city, and village authorities together with the companies of the Eems Delta will continue to prepare the concept of the Nordic City, the result of the research carried out in the IABR–Atelier Groningen into opportunities for an energy transition in the northern Netherlands, for use in actual practice. Especially the integrated approach, the accumulation of challenges and thus of the investment possibilities as well as the regional focus offer Groningen huge opportunities. The proposals for Onderdendam are currently being developed in a so-called Dorpsvisie (Village View) as part of the Housing and Livability Plan Eemdelta and are integrated in the program of the National

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Coordinator Groningen as a pilot project. And the city of Groningen will incorporate the results of the Atelier in its environmental view in the making, Next City.

In the Atelier 2050 – An Energetic Odyssey, the IABR, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Shell, Tennet, RWE, Van Oord, the Port Authorities of Rotterdam and Amsterdam, and Natuur & Milieu examined the concrete possibilities and implications of the large-scale production of wind power on the North Sea. On the occasion of the Dutch EU presidency, Minister Kamp of Economic Affairs presented the installation to his colleagues of the 28 EU member states. In the press, the Minister was reported to say that the concrete visualization of the future and the visualization of the possibilities contributed to the realization of the North Sea Alliance, a regional collaboration between countries bordering on the North Sea now ready to start work on the production of wind power on the North Sea. At the Biennale, strategies proposed by the IABR were further developed during work sessions organized by parties such as Shell and Natuur & Milieu.

The city of Utrecht, which sets great store by health (care), will further develop the results of IABR–Atelier Utrecht: The Healthy City. The departments of urban development, spatial planning, and health will collaborate more than ever before. Urban authorities will critically monitor how investors and real estate developers contribute to the health of the city of Utrecht and adopt the proposal of the Atelier to, rather than demolish them, use vacant schools in the Overvecht area for local initiatives encouraging social inclusiveness in this part of the city, where the average life expectancy is relatively low.

## **IABR–Atelier Resilient Rotterdam 2016 – 2020**

In the coming years, the IABR will intensify its existing collaboration with the city of Rotterdam. In the newly established IABR–Atelier Resilient Rotterdam 2016 – 2020, the IABR and the department of urban development will collaborate closely to make Rotterdam even more climate-proof and resilient, especially in terms of the energy transition, cyber resilience, and social inclusiveness. The results will be presented at the IABR–2018 and IABR–2020, as well as used in the context of the Rotterdam resilience approach and, to that end, linked to the city’s strategic agendas such as Programma Duurzaam (Sustainability Program), the Next Economy agenda, and the ‘Toekomstagenda Sociaal’ (Social Future Agenda).

## **IABR on Tour**

After the closing of the IABR exhibition in Rotterdam, the results of the research carried out in the IABR–Ateliers Groningen and Utrecht will be made available locally and regionally. The Nordic City is touring seven locations in the province of Groningen to touch down at the Provinciehuis in September. Utrecht: The Healthy City is on show in Utrecht city hall this summer. And the results of Atelier The Productive Metropolis Brussels will be shown this fall as part of an exhibition organized by the IABR in collaboration with Architecture Workroom Brussels at the BOZAR in Brussels.

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## **NOTE TO THE EDITOR**

*The research by design in the IABR-Ateliers is carried out under the supervision of IABR executive director George Brugmans. Chief Curator Maarten Hajer and the Curator Team were responsible for the exhibition and programme of IABR-2016-THE NEXT ECONOMY.*

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