

Press Release, 6 March 2018

## **IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK**

**Double edition in the Delta of the Low Lands takes place in Rotterdam and Brussels**

On 1 June 2018, the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam will launch its eighth edition, part one of IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK, in one go in two cities: Rotterdam and Brussels. In Rotterdam, the main exhibition is on show in the HAKA Building, a national monument in the Merwede-Vierhaven area (M4H), until 8 July 2018. In Brussels, the IABR will partner with Architecture Workroom Brussels for an exhibition at the World Trade Center, open until 30 September 2018.

Arguing that spatial design is crucial leverage, the IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK raises the question of how we can effectively realize the urgent acceleration and scaling of the transition to a resilient future, initially with a focus on the Delta of the Low Lands. The 2018 work biennale will concentrate on research, exchange, debate, and brainstorming. The work will continue across 2019, and the results will be presented in 2020.

### **HAKA Building Main Location IABR 2018**

From 1 June to 8 July 2018, the main location of the eighth IABR in Rotterdam is the HAKA Building, a national industrial monument in the Merwede-Vierhaven area that is better known as M4H. In that period the HAKA building and the surrounding M4H area host an extensive IABR program including debates, work sessions, lectures, conferences, and guided tours.

### **IABR–2018+2020: One Program, Two Biennales**

George Brugmans, IABR's president, decided to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and the Paris Climate Agreement the focus of the two upcoming editions of the IABR. Between 2018 and 2020, the diptych's curator team, which includes Dutch Chief Government Architect Floris Alkemade, Flemish Government Architect Leo van Broeck, and Belgian architect Joachim Declerck, will work on the single, consecutive program of the two biennales with the objective of mobilizing designers and many others for a research by design process that focuses on spatial transformations that can facilitate the realization of the SDGs, first in the Delta of the Low Lands, in the Netherlands and Belgium, and subsequently across the world.

### **THE MISSING LINK**

In order for us to achieve the climate goals we will have to truly change our behavior, knowing that our destructive lifestyle is coming at the expense of what is, in fact, our

home: the planet. We need to create space again for and share it wisely with our ecosystem. But how, and why are we progressing so slowly? What is the MISSING LINK, and how can we break the deadlock we now find ourselves in? These are questions that concern every one of us and that will be investigated in detail by the IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK. First of all, in our own delta.

### **Delta Atelier**

During the 2018 edition, a three-year work process will start in which more than 40 practices from the Netherlands and Belgium, including the IABR–Ateliers, will jointly take steps towards a design practice that is better equipped to bridge the gap to the effective realization of our goals. The Netherlands and Flanders are both part of the same unique spatial system in the Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt delta, a densely urbanized area that plays an important part in the global economy. Here, the revolutions and transitions we face now and in coming decades will manifest in their own, specific way, and therefore also require specific spatial strategies. This is why the IABR, Architecture Workroom Brussels, and the Government Architects of the Netherlands and Flanders have set up the Delta Atelier: to develop concrete prospects for action that will reposition our delta as it faces the climate goals in the Netherlands and Belgium, and to create a laboratory for other deltas across the world.

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### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

For more information about the IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK and to register for the press opening plus preview on Wednesday 30 May 2018, please contact press officer Nancy van Oorschot at [nancy@iabr.nl](mailto:nancy@iabr.nl) or 06-41684324. Downloads are available at the [press page](#) of the IABR website.