4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam

Open City: Designing Coexistence

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Preface

The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) is an international urban research biennale founded in 2001 with the conviction that architecture is a public concern.

Architecture’s major challenge, in the eyes of the IABR, is to design and realize decent day-to-day living conditions for billions of people. With the theme Open City: Designing Coexistence, the 4th edition of the IABR places special emphasis on the social aspect of this challenge: how can architects and urban planners make concrete contributions to diversity, vitality, and livability—in short, to the sustainability of the urban condition.

One of the many projects in which the IABR is involved, and that will be exhibited during the 4th edition in Rotterdam, is situated in the Paraisópolis (Paradise City) favela in the heart of Brazil’s metropolis, São Paulo. With relatively affordable and sustainable alterations, the aim of the project is to provide the inhabitants of Paraisópolis better access to the amenities of the city.

In São Paulo, the IABR closely collaborates with SEHAB, the Municipal Housing Secretariat. Its director, Elisabete França, took me aside during a presentation of the project to a delegation of the favela’s inhabitants. She suggested that we refrain from trying to sell the idea that architects can turn Paraisópolis into paradise. Of course I agreed. History has rarely been kind to those who want to build paradise on earth. So when the 4th IABR raises the issue of how architects and urban planners can concretely contribute to the design of coexistence, it has to be done with reserve.

Yet the question needs asking.

Whether exploding or shrinking, cities all over the world often tell tales of waste and neglect. Municipalities face issues as diverse as dysfunctional infrastructure, crime, terrorism, pollution, migration, inadequate housing, the disconnect between the formal and the informal, and the lack of access for all to education, public transport, health care, information, and markets. Yet, a consistent and integrated approach to urban development rarely is a political priority.

In the 21st century, cities will, in many ways, be more important than countries. Cities are the engines of the world’s economy, but only when they are socially robust and culturally resilient, economically viable and ecologically sustainable, as well as diverse, safe, and open to the world, can they be places where more and more of us can focus on making better lives for
nourished in a unique way by the curator, Kees Christiaanse, and brought about through the huge effort and energy of his team at the ETH Zurich and the Biennale team in Rotterdam.

George Brugmans
director IABR
The Open City – Curatorial Statement

In the history of utopias, the reflection of the ideal society often takes the form of a city. In this way, we can view the Open City as a spatial translation of an open society.

The Meerpaal in Dronten, the Netherlands, is an attempt by architect Frank van Klingeren to “un-clot” society. The building, which opened in 1967, consisted of one huge space within which activities took place without visual and acoustic separation. The Meerpaal became a symbol for the “makeable society,” characterized by openness, transparency, and tolerance. The makeable society became a paradigm for social democracy, for an open society. The spatial model was the Netherlands, depicted as one large space in which the multi-cultural society could develop in openness, transparency, and tolerance, without visual and acoustic separation.

This vision did not materialize. The diverse social identities did not result in a multicolored chaos, but rather in a coexistence of communities based on differences, as elsewhere in the world. The compartmentalization of the built-up area increased, resulting in mono-functional areas with limited contacts, to which—although not formally restricted—accessibility was reserved for certain groups.

Twenty-five years after construction started on the city of Almere, Rem Koolhaas retroactively designed a new city center, known as Dutchtown. This revision is illustrative of the unpredictability of urban development, particularly for changes in the Randstad (conurbation of Western Holland) as a spatial reflection of an “un-clotted” to a “re-clotted” society. Instead of a peaceful suburbia of 50,000 inhabitants, in which the middle class could live in houses with gardens, Almere developed into an archipelago of 200,000 people with ethnically dominated neighborhoods and streets with prostitution. In this way, the city became an inseparable part of the hierarchic Randstad, from “bundled de-concentration” to “carpet” metropolis, a patchwork of identities.

This condition is simultaneously threatening and promising. The threat stems from spatial and social segregation that could produce a “city as a tree,” an archipelago ultimately leading to a gated community, impeding cultural exchange and innovation. It is promising because interaction in an Open City takes place from within the community. The Randstad does not have any no-go zones. Social intercourse afforded by transportation systems and social networking is extensive. In this way, as an Open City it can function if the mobility of people,
goods and ideas between communities is guaranteed.

Global networks can shape transnational communities, whereby mutual ties within a community are stronger than those with the city in which it finds itself.

In Rotterdam, for example, this is the case with immigrants. Whole streets of Turkish families originate from a single region in Anatolia, with parallel communities in Cologne and Berlin.

In cities such as Istanbul, Jakarta, and São Paolo, where there are few statues and a viscous political structure, social differences are reflected in the spatial planning. In the absence of a public sector, people develop their own cities—the wealthy in luxurious enclaves, the poor in gececondus, kampongs, and favelas.

Despite the inequality, lack of public transportation and the wearing down of the ecosystem, these cities bubble with life and show numerous complementary symbioses between segregated city areas. The “potential difference” on both sides of the gated-community wall is broken by improvised spatial structures that lift the barriers and enter into micro-economic relations.

Even in conflict situations, under difficult circumstances, one can find pieces of the Open City. There is no totally Open City. By definition, it is fragmented, like weeds in the grass. On the West Bank, one finds the ultimate “gated-ness,” whereby every spatial intervention for self-protection severs the vital arteries of the surroundings. Patrolled supply routes provision Jewish enclaves, like water pipes whose contents must be prevented from leaking. At the same time, Palestinians manage to maintain functioning transnational networks, despite impenetrable barriers.

The Open City must not be understood simply as an appealing 19th-century district with street level access, a finely-meshed network of streets, and an affable mixture of functions, where anonymity is guaranteed, strangers walk around, and pedestrians dominate—in short, those qualities that one might extract from a superficial reading of the work of Jane Jacobs(*).

The structure of the Open City functions as an operating system in which city life can nestle. A complex network of public spaces, physical and electronic, is the most important component of this operating system, where exchanges among people, ideas and goods can take place. The Open City is therefore not a utopia or a clear-cut reality, but rather a situation, a balance between open and closed between integration and de-integration, between control and "laissez-faire."

In 1961, urban writer and activist Jane Jacobs published her best-known book, The Death and Life of Great American Cities. It remains one of the most influential commentaries on urban development and city planning.

Kees Christiaanse curator 4th IABR

*In 1961, urban writer and activist Jane Jacobs published her best-known book, The Death and Life of Great American Cities. It remains one of the most influential commentaries on urban development and city planning.
The Biennale and the City

Commissioned by the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, architects, urban designers, and academics have been active for two years at countless locations around the world. One developed, in cooperation with housing associations, specific interventions in the city of Rotterdam. Another has been working to provide decent living conditions in Palestinian refugee camps; and still another on the living standards of live-in housekeepers in Jakarta. In São Paulo, with its millions of inhabitants, a fourth collaborated with local architects to improve infrastructure.

These activities are typical for the IABR, a biennale that sees itself as a platform for research, debate, and exchange of knowledge—but which, with each edition, strives to make concrete, demonstrable contributions to society, and leave its mark. This fourth edition presents many dozens of projects with the aim of creating a better urban living environment and stimulating social cohesion.

With the theme of Open City: Designing Coexistence, the IABR opted for an ambitious task. That is why cooperation was sought with local authorities and urban services (in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Jakarta, São Paulo, Addis Ababa, and others); with organizations such as the Netherlands Architecture Institute and the VPRO; and with educational institutions such as the Berlage Institute, the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design, and the IHS of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Perhaps the most important partner is the prestigious European knowledge center in the field of architecture and urban development, the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, ETH Zürich, a Swiss Institute with a venerable research tradition. The ETH is second home to the Dutch architect and urbanist Kees Christiaanse (Amsterdam, 1953), curator of the 4th IABR. With colleagues, academic staff, and students—along with a worldwide network of sub-curators, he researched the theme of the Open City, elaborating six sub-themes: Maakbaarheid (‘ma:kba:r hɛ:it’), Refuge, Reciprocity, Community, Squat, and Collective.

For each of these six themes and projects, a corresponding exhibition was conceived and built in the NAI. The main theme itself is introduced in the Forum, the heart of the main exhibition, Open City: Designing Coexistence, in the largest hall of the NAI. The Forum is laid out as a metaphor for the Open City, which can be seen as an exploration of the issues and problems facing contemporary cities.
For 12 weeks, the Forum also serves as the home to the interdisciplinary **Open City Event Program**. The lectures, films, workshops, debates, tours, performances, and symposia explore the entire spectrum of the Open City theme. Additionally, the Forum also houses a databank (facilitated by the VPRO), conferences and presentations, such as the **Open City Master Class** organized by the Berlage Institute. The master class will study alternative urban planning agendas for the Rotterdam port area. Students from ten institutions of higher education participate, including TU Delft; ETH Zurich; Architectural Association, London; Tsinghua University, Beijing; and Columbia University, New York.

Links with international institutions of higher education were also sought for the exhibition **Parallel Cases//IABR@RDM**. These resulted in an exhibition in which student teams from 28 universities and universities of applied sciences from 20 different countries present 45 projects inspired by the Open City theme. This exhibition also features the presentation of the **Parallel Cases Biennale Award** by the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design to the best student project.

The third exhibition, **The Free State of Amsterdam (Vrijstaat Amsterdam)**, takes place in Amsterdam. Nine young urban design offices will offer their visions of nine city areas of the future Amsterdam. The models are not intended as blueprints for the city, but as inspirational vistas and starting points for discussion. Around the exhibition, the Amsterdam Spatial Planning Department has organized dozens of activities designed to ensure that the inhabitants engage in a discussion about their city: how will Amsterdam develop itself as a successful, livable, core city in the metropolitan region? The results will take the form of “Structuurvisie 2020” (Structural 2020 Vision) that the city of Amsterdam will present in 2010.

**Eeuw van de Stad (Urban Century)**, a wide-ranging collaborative project with public broadcasting network VPRO, invites every resident of the Netherlands to participate in discussions and reflection on “the city.” During the 4th IABR, the VPRO is focusing on the city on all media platforms—television, radio, magazine, and the internet. The VPRO has also constructed a databank of audiovisual materials (digitalized radio broadcasts dating back as far as 1926 and visual material from as early as 1913), all of which are made available free of charge on the internet and at the VPRO pavilion in the Forum.

For more than four months, and with a choice of international partners, the **International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam** focuses broad attention on social cohesion in the city: **Open City: Designing Coexistence**. Whether in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Palestine, São Paolo, or on television, radio, and the internet, the IABR is researching and designing the city of tomorrow.
Open City: Designing Coexistence

Curator: Kees Christiaanse
Co-curator: Tim Rieniets

Exhibition Design: Maxwan architects + urbanists

25 September – 10 January

Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI), Rotterdam

Open City: Designing Coexistence is the main exhibition of the 4th IABR. With a newly built and direct link from the street to the Forum, the NAI literally "opens itself up" to the city of Rotterdam.

A visit to Open City: Designing Coexistence starts in the Forum, where introductory exhibitions, commercial program, public activities, and the extensive Open City Event Program are mixed. The Forum leads to the six sub-exhibitions in other rooms of the NAI: Maakbaarheid (‘ma:kba:rɦɛːit), Refuge, Reciprocity, Community, Squat, and Collective.
The Forum
Introduction to the Open City

Kees Christiaanse, Tim Rieniets and Fabienne Hoelzel

Gallery 1

There are at least two ways to approach the phenomenon of the Open City. One is that of architectural theory, of discourse. There, the focus is on designing access to living, working, and knowledge—the coexistence of different views and different cultures. In effect, it entails all the conditions that an architect or urban designer can create to facilitate freedom and quality of life in the city.

But every city dweller knows that there is also a second reality—everyday experience. Even those who love the city know it is sometimes polluted, often overcrowded; traffic is backed up; curbs are being repaired; some areas are unsafe; and a good place to live is not always affordable.

At the Forum, the heart of the exhibition Open City: Designing Coexistence, both urban design discourse and the reality of everyday experiences are explored. There has been research into places around the world, where examples of Open City can be found (Guide to Open Places). There is speculation about redistribution of all goods and space (Neotopia: The Equitable Distribution of the World), about what would happen if the earth were one endless urban space (Stadt–Igel). In addition, careful studies were conducted about ordinary lives in ordinary cities, how they differ and where they interface (Crossing Rotterdam: Migrant Dependency); about unexpected cultural exchanges, such as in belhuizen, international calling centers where migrants from all corners of the world meet their kinsmen (Belhuis at the IABR); and about the social aspects of different dining cultures (The Meal), because eating stands for cultural identity.

In this way, the Forum forms a rich collection of empirical facts, but also playful theories and strategies that touch the problems of the Open City. Strolling past the various presentations, visitors to the Forum also encounter “urban facilities” including a café, a bookshop, a library, and a small hall for lectures, films, and debates called The Hood. The VPRO presents documentaries in its own pavilion where the visitor can consult the digital archive Open City that will facilitate free downloading of radio broadcasts dating back to 1926 and visual material from as early as 1913.

The Forum is also an introduction to the six sub-themes of this IABR: Maakbaarheid, Refuge, Reciprocity, Community, Squat, and Collective. Together with the Forum, these themes form the core assignment of this 4th IABR: reflecting on what will keep the city vital and livable in the coming decades.

The Exhibition

Open City is...

Fabienne Hoelzel and curatorial team

Although half of the world lives in the city, only a fraction of the city’s inhabitants can access its many resources and opportunities. Especially in the Global South that will absorb an overwhelming portion of the worldwide populati-
growth, the ideal of the Open City—with equal access to work, transport, and social networks—has become an insurmountable challenge.

Open City is... presents subjective perceptions and experiences of urban inhabitants. Each poster in this series presents a city from which two people with different social backgrounds report on their daily lives, focusing on themes such as mobility, communication, knowledge and many more. “How long is your daily travel time from home to work and back in São Paulo?” or “How accessible are communication infrastructures in Addis Ababa?” Posing questions like these, the posters offer both an intimate insight into daily lives, as well as a focused investigation of various topics. Completed by brief general statistical statements, Open City... aims to show how the peculiarities of the spatial and social fabric of the city affect the possibilities, opportunities, and habits of the individual.

delon Vriesendorp contributes with a giant “chess board” where visitors can play chess, moving buildings on an urban grid.

Open Buildings: The Meerpaal Revisited
Fabienne Hoelzel and Pieter Vollard
The Meerpaal opened in 1967 in Dronten. Designed by Dutch architect Frank van Kligeren (1919-1999), it may be the most radical attempt in the past century to “dissolve the clusters” (ontklontering) of Dutch culture. The Meerpaal aimed at radical integration in order to overcome society’s “pillarization.” With this building, and others such as the Agora in De Bilt and the Karregat in Eindhoven, Van Kligeren pursued the idea—or utopia?—that a certain kind of architecture can change society and integrate all parts of it. Open Buildings: The Meerpaal Revisited describes the early years of the Meerpaal and how it worked, with pictures, newspaper clippings, and videos. Taking the Meerpaal as a point of reference, this exhibition presents a collection of building projects that embody the spirit of openness.

Urban Breeding Grounds
Kees Christiaanse with Tim Rieniets and Fabienne Hoelzel
Urban Breeding Grounds is a collection of objects, books, photographs, drawings, projects, and models, as well as a video interview with the curator of the 4th IABR, Kees Christiaanse. The installation is a frozen illustration of his and his colleagues’ quest for ways to facilitate conditions of openness through the practice of urban design. For Christiaanse, an urban design should act as a “breeding ground” for coexistence, prosperity, and cultural exchange. He has extensively practiced research by design, first as a partner at OMA, and later through his own office, KCAP, and as a professor of Architecture and Urban Design in Berlin and Zurich. Urban Breeding Grounds shows the designs for the Parc de la Villette by OMA, the Patchwork Metropolis by Willem Jan Neutelings, and the Wijnhaven in Rotterdam by KCAP, as well as other projects that were seminal for the curator’s development as an urbanist. Additionally, a model produced by the Urban Design Studio at the ETH Zurich (scale 1:500) shows one possible future condition of Rotterdam’s City Center. Ma-

Urban Islands: Mapping an Emerging Spatial Order
Tim Rieniets
In the discourse on globalization, cities are often depicted as fluid spaces, traversed by flows of goods, people, and information—as realms that are becoming disconnected from their geographic locations and historic identities. But at the same time, self-segregating spaces are proliferating: shopping malls, business parks, theme parks, research compounds, gated communities, and other places for voluntary segregation. There are also spaces for involuntary separation: the slums, ghettos, refugee camps, and detention camps. One could argue that today the city is not a flux or a flow, but a collection of urban islands. The emerging spatial order may seem to contradict the notion of an Open City, but these islands are woven together with hardly visible threads. Urban Islands: Mapping an Emerging Spatial Order presents models of exemplary urban islands, arranged as a mobile; floating in space, these islands interrelate in a complex, fragile balance. Additional plans and images describe these islands in more detail.

© Jan Versnel, MAI

© Robin Arrow

© Willem Jan Neutelings
Belhuis at the IABR
Rotterdam Belhuis Web Guide, Multifunctional De-Territorialization Leaflets, and Moroccan Cyber-Chill-Out
Diego Barajas and Camilo Garcia

Belhuis (Telephone Call Centers) are facilities that transnational communities use to phone their home countries. The users of a belhuis shift according to the steady rhythm of the world’s time zones—from Far-Easterners, to Easterners, to Saharan to Caribbean. Often, a belhuis offers additional services: one can rent a Bollywood movie, surf the internet, get a haircut, and meet others. The belhuis has become a transcultural space and an everyday micro-lab where it is possible to explore spatial models of collective life in the contemporary city.

For the 4th IABR, the Rotterdam Belhuis Web Guide was compiled. It stimulates interaction between the IABR and the belhuizen, as well as with any potential user in Rotterdam or abroad.

Stadt–Igel
Kaisersrot

Stadt–Igel represents a city with no beginning. A globe, five meters in diameter, whose surface is a continuum of urban matter. There is no border between city and country, no hierarchy. Although its form appears comprehensible, the city can never be experienced in its totality. There is no outside vantage point from which the entire surface can be coherently perceived. Because of its curvature, “Stadt–Igel” can’t be drawn as an urban plan. Therefore a set of deliberately chosen rules defines specific localities and connects the city’s infrastructure to its built mass. It looks like a homogeneous mass, but this city is ruptured and spatially differentiated. Looking closely at single buildings, one will soon concentrate on their windows—the only individual expression within this collective spectacle.

Migration: A World in Motion
Philippe Rekacewicz

To migrate is to leave a familiar environment behind—a radical change from one’s daily existence. On a larger scale, it can lead to rich cultural diversity. But the mixing of cultures puts pressure on society. The Western world has become a fortress for many. Every year thousands of people lose their lives by trying to enter these fortresses. The film Migration: A World in Motion invites the viewer to join French geographer Philippe Rekacewicz as he draws and explains the phenomena of mass-migration. He is filmed for this exhibition through the reverse side of transparent paper, while sketching a migration map of the world.

Crossing Rotterdam: Migrant Dependency
Michael Zinganel and Michael Hielsmair

This installation follows the daily routines of ten individuals from different neighborhoods, ethnic backgrounds, and income groups. The project deals with the increasing segregation of the urban fabric and the need to find ways to pass between these islands. Three models comprise the installation: two represent examples of individual living quarters, while a third shows a workplace. For that, the Erasmus MC hospital in Rotterdam was chosen because it is the place where doctor, nurse, student, patient,
and service worker mingle when they leave their segregated neighborhoods. The three models are penetrated by a network of colored tubes representing the daily routes of the ten selected individuals, passing through the hospital, the city, and their private homes. Radio speakers broadcast commentary on each of these ten routes. Neutral voices relate the daily routines from the individuals’ perspectives, emphasizing the necessity of crossing borders and the influence this has on intercultural social interaction.

specific urban states emerged and by researching their socio-economic and political preconditions.

A reading table puts the points of observation into perspective as a discretionary choice of a small group of scholars. Assembled by asking all 4th IABR contributors to suggest five books, its content is radically subjective: the reading table should be understood as a means for approaching and examining the topographies of the Open City.

Neotopia: The Equitable Distribution of the World
Manuela Pfrunder and Beatrice Sierach
How would the world look if everyone had equal access to resources like space, food, and goods? The result could be Neotopia, a designed world where commodities, land, hunger, luxury, and money are redistributed on basis of radical equitability. A piece of land of 279.3 by 279.3 meters is provided to any of us, with a proportionate ration of water, forest, farmland, meadow, desert, urbanized land, and ice.

Underlying Neotopia: The Equitable Distribution of the World is a mass of data on the current state of the world. Visitors to the 4th IABR use magnets to position goods and commodities, forests, slums, fresh water, polluted landscapes, residential areas, and so on.

The Meal
Linda Roodenburg
The food we eat, the people with whom we share it, and the rituals with which we celebrate our meals are strongly related to our identities. When you live outside your homeland, you may long for the flavors and dishes you grew up with, as any migrant knows.

A dinner table is set with places for ten guests from all over the world, living in Rotterdam. Visitors to the 4th IABR are invited to join this table, to break down boundaries. Taking a seat at The Meal, one identifies with one or more of the guests; reads about their food and culture; looks at the photographs of their lives in Rotterdam; understands the hard decisions the host and his cook had to make and engages in the metaphor for life in a city of diverse, sometimes conflicting cultures.

The Polder Table
Painting: Gijs Frieling
Concept: Zef Hemel

In The Polder Table, the municipality of Amsterdam shows an approach to urban planning based on nine principals of democratic decision-making. Anyone who uses these principles will find out that it’s possible to make successful decisions, without power play and without the risk of social conflicts. Polderen is a genuine Dutch word, synonymous with “talking forever,” until all points of conflict seem to have dissolved in consensus. It has, at least in the Netherlands, a negative connotation. But Amsterdam feels that polderen, according to these
nine principals, is society’s best option. “Soft planning”—an approach to planning that finds its strength in the power of argument, is based on telling stories, on offering inspiration. Not easy though, which is no surprise. Everything that is outstanding is as difficult as it is rare. The table presents the nine rules with which to make this miracle happen.

Hoboken 2009
Design and coordination:
Fernando Donis

No longer based on realizing a fixed result, urban development has increasingly become a complex process of participative planning, in which the city performs as an urban canvas. Hoboken 2009 shows what happens when the process of producing the city becomes open to the public. As a key epicenter of economic, medical, scientific, educational, and cultural growth, the city of Rotterdam has determined the neighborhood of Hoboken as the investigation and development area for the conscious application of this procedure; a method that implies strategic cooperation between citizens, stakeholders and authorities; a vision that by focusing on the people can ultimately unveil a new city. Concurrent with the 4th International Architectural Biennale Rotterdam, the municipality of Rotterdam presents Hoboken 2009: a dynamic public forum for the planning of the Open City.

Maakbaarheid (‘ma:kba:r ɦɛ:it’)
The Rediscovery of the Urban Project in Rotterdam: in Search of a New Credibility for Architecture and Urban Development Following the Credit Crisis of 2008

Sub-curators: Crimson Architectural Historians

Foyer

If there is one city in the world to which the key concept of this 4th Biennale, Open City: Designing Coexistence, is applicable, it must be Rotterdam itself. This city is a collage of cultures, political ambitions, trouble spots, and entrepreneurial zeal. It is also a city that has been continuously reinvented since its annihilation in World War II, and therefore bears the imprint of a succession of “spirits of the times”. In Maakbaarheid (‘ma:kba:r ɦɛ:it’) — meaning feasibility or “make-ability,” the architectural historians of Crimson undertake some badly needed maintenance on the city of Rotterdam.

According to Crimson, Rotterdam’s paradox is that the city councilors were always completely convinced that they knew what the city should be, but not what their city in fact was. Ever since the decentralization of the City Council and the “commoditization” of the Urban Planning department, there seems to be much less reflection upon the city. Which is a problem: if you don’t know who you are, it is difficult to decide what you want to be.

The architectural historians of Crimson have studied Rotterdam with that
thought in mind. They have now been doing this for 15 years, not just on paper, but also in practice by "tweaking" the city's architecture and infrastructure as in "WiMBY!, Welcome Into My Backyard!" in Rotterdam Hoogvliet 2001-2007. Maakbaarheid is a thought-provoking perspective on their city; criticism that is a result of the dissatisfaction at its lack of coherent vision. On the mood swings of changing political preferences, radical solutions have been put forward for years. The city was not seen as an entity. Rotterdam became estranged from itself.

The exhibition Maakbaarheid (‘ma:kba:rɦɛi:t) consists of three parts. The manifesto Make No Big Plans, nine on-site projects entitled Facts on the Ground, and the film Story of an Open City. The film illustrates how the city came to reflect the spirit of the times in three different phases of post-war reconstruction. After the destruction in World War II, the residents placed their full trust in the executive elite, completely confident as they were of the success of the city's reconstruction. That created a basis for a metropolitan approach along the lines of an American city.

The second major period of maakbaarheid was in the 1970s, when trust in politics had made way for suspicion. Everything had to be small-scale and at street level; the city councillors and architects came out of their ivory towers and went into the neighborhoods to listen to the residents. In the third period, the 1980s and 90s, the authorities took a step backwards and made way for market economy and real estate developers. This shift in the last 20 years of the 20th century also marked the end of any faith in a make-able city, and the hope of shaping a city at will has been abandoned. Maakbaarheid is a typically 20th-century Dutch buzzword that has acquired a negative connotation. It has become synonymous with the naiveté of politicians who believed that they could generate socially desirable behavior with the aid of architecture and urban planning. No modern-day politician wants to be heard using the expression maakbaarheid.

At the same time, major government projects and radical interventions by housing associations in post-war districts show that maakbaarheid is still "alive and kicking"—except that there is no longer any public debate. Crimson takes a pragmatic approach, employing thoughts, images, and projects to get the debate going again.

Nine sites have been selected for projects that together will be a repair kit for this disintegrated city. These interventions are called Facts on the Ground, a reference to the words of the Israeli general (and later prime minister) Sharon about the settlement strategy in the conflict with the Palestinians.

Facts on the Ground is the downside of the radical political decisions-spectrum. Now is not the time for Big Solutions. Rotterdam must first have a good look in the mirror. Make No Big Plans. It is the time for architectural interventions on a manageable scale. For relatively small-scale projects that nevertheless have effects that go beyond the neighborhood level.

Take the Hofplein-lijn project, a disused two-kilometer elevated railway line running across 189 arches. With Paris designer Nasrine Seraji, the railway line is being transformed into the "longest building in Rotterdam" and will form the spine of the northern part of the city.
It will connect neighborhoods instead of separating them. Another project focuses on the standard apartment buildings designed by the architect J. H. van den Broek (1898–1978). Thousands were built before and after the war. They are solid but outdated. By applying one simple refurbishment module—developed by DaF architects from Rotterdam and housing corporation com-wonen—to this type of housing, it is possible to achieve a major modernization of the housing stock at one go.

Facts on the Ground are ostensibly needles in a large, complex city. This approach, however, can be compared to acupuncture. If you place the needles in the right places, the overall effect on the body will be significant, resulting in a sense of well being. Therefore, besides being conceived and exhibited, the nine projects will also be realized. For the 4th IABR, Crimson plans to endow Rotterdam with nine presents to illustrate how the city can be both cohesive and diverse, without having to apologize for the idea of maakbaarheid.

The Exhibition:

*Story of an Open City*, film, 7”

*Make No Big Plans*, manifesto about the city of Rotterdam

Facts on the Ground, Exposition of Nine Location Projects in the City: Rotterdam Central District, Parkenknoop (Hoboken), Carnisse, Hofbogen, Hilleplein, Het Klooster, Kleinpolderplein, Waalhavenstrook, and Spoordijk – Spangen

**Refuge**

Architectural Propositions for Unbound Spaces

Sub-curators: Philipp Misselwitz and Can Altay

Lobby

Millions of people flee from war, poverty, and hunger—sometimes from each other. For an architect, refuge—a safe haven—is a social condition for which there are exceptional rules, where familiar processes and systems give him nothing to go on. Nevertheless, professionally, the architect can still propose spatial and strategic solutions to make daily life more bearable, to reconnect, mediate and facilitate small steps towards change.

Refuge is an ambiguous notion. It could mean a place where people come together in a flight from hunger, violence, and poverty. A safe haven could also connote escapism—a desire to withdraw from the hectic life of the city or to flee to an exclusive, gated neighborhood, to avoid the sights of poverty, or “the other.”

One finds both kinds of refuge in the Middle East and the southern Mediterranean, sometimes very close together. Precisely because they involve extreme conditions, it is important to consider them when thinking about the Open City. After all, what kind of task does an architect or urban designer face when political solutions have failed? What should an architect do in a place where even human rights are at stake, where all norms have fallen by the wayside and the standard processes and conditions under which architecture normally take place cannot be relied on.

The places where refugees are brought together are separated from their living environments, both in a social, juridical, and spatial sense. In this kind of humanitarian and political vacuum, an architect is left with a set of practical tools. Accustomed to maneuvering between widely diverse economic, social, and political interests, an architect must often find ways to formulate solutions in the face of differences, sometimes the solution is architectural, sometimes strategic. That is the case in the city of Diyarbakir, in the southeastern part of Turkey, with its strong patriarchal tradition, where household violence against women can be excessive. By making houses available where people can do their washing for free, a successful project was started to create a dialog with these abused women. In the laundry houses they can now speak freely about their problems. They receive help without having to flee their communities.

But the proposed solution can also be provocative. A second Refuge-related project is taking place in Dubai in a radically different context: The Palms. Three man-made islands in the shape of a tree serve as a port of refuge for the ultra rich. The undertaking is a megalomaniacal, money-and-energy guzzling plan, which is in danger of becoming an anachronism because of the economic crisis. As The Palms focus heavily on individualism and not at all on community, the SMAQ office is imagining proposals to convert these mini states into real urban locations—diverse, accessible, with smart ecological solutions and the dynamic of a real metropolis.
The Refuge exhibition is subdivided into four categories. The first is Providing Refuge. Here, the architects look for ways to create a perspective for vulnerable groups such as refugees. As in Lampedusa, for example, an infamous Italian island between Sicily and Tunisia, where refugees from Africa receive shelter under degrading conditions. The project A Lighthouse for Lampedusa is an architectural competition for the design of a lighthouse that provides navigational aid to the migrants. The Lighthouse must simultaneously serve as a museum about asylum seekers and as a landmark to draw attention to the plight of refugees.

Preventing Refuge consists of a series of proactive projects that aim to prevent entire groups of city dwellers from becoming refugees. Istanbul, presently with some 13 million inhabitants, is embarking on urban renewal policies whereby informally built neighborhoods are being bulldozed to the ground and historical building stock is being reclaimed through destruction. These gecekondu (built overnight) in the periphery and the inner-city historic areas are being replaced by private-sector housing, often gated and locked, and are mostly unaffordable for the original inhabitants. As a result, polarization in the city is increasing. Entire sections of the community are being set adrift. The aim is to prevent far-reaching segregation in the city by developing alternative transformation proposals for the areas affected by this process.

Dismantling Refuge: I-Rome is a program that brings together two wrongs in Italy. For decades, the Roma gypsies have faced severe discrimination. They have been banned to the fringes of the capital, Rome. Driven from the city center into the slums, many new poor Romans live there as well. As with the Roma, this group is ignored by the government. With a demonstrative walk across the ring road of Rome along the impoverished areas, I-Rome is attempting to put an end to negation politics and to re-integrate both Romans and Roma into the sphere of formal local planning.

Improving Refuge focuses on the estimated 1.4 million Palestinians living in camps spread across Jordan, Gaza, the West Bank, and Syria. These makeshift areas are among the most densely populated in the world. Living conditions are abominable. Still, it has always proved difficult to upgrade them because, for the Palestinians and host governments, the camps are living proof of the historical injustice they have suffered. The “Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Program” recently launched by the UN is an attempt to break this impasse by introducing strong community-driven urban planning. The victim mentality must be traded in for grass root responsibility, which is the first step towards re-imagining camps as more dignified places to live.

If the question is what an architect can do in the conditions of Refuge, the answer is to propose pragmatic, simple, small, and workable solutions. The architect’s professionalism is the best he can offer. In this way, without getting bogged down in political swamps, he can create a spark of dignity in the daily lives of people for whom fundamental solutions are remote.
The Exhibition

Providing Refuge
Women’s Guide to Diyarbakir
A Lighthouse for Lampedusa!
Old City Walk

Preventing Refuge
Urban Renewal Istanbul
Rampart Retreat Tourism
New Map of Tbilisi

Dismantling Refuge
Charter of Dubai
I-Rome
Laboratory of Return

Improving Refuge
Home until Return:
  Re-imagining Palestine
  Refugee Camps
United Communities of Göktürk
Participatory Mapping of Space

DIWAN
Lounge presenting a photographic survey of photo’s by Bas Princen, a series of newspapers as outcome of the research network in five cities in the region: Istanbul, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, and Dubai.

Cinema
Films by Solmaz Shahbazi, Ursula Biemann, and Chris Evans that show artists’ works in relation to Refuge.
Reciprocity
Transactions for a City in Flux

Sub-curators: Daliana Suryawinata and Stephen Cairns

Gallery 2

In developing countries, the reciprocal act, bartering, is often more important than the official economy. Give and take are the key words. What is the effect of these bartering strategies, or Reciprocity, on the city and on its architecture? For Indonesians, reciprocity is a trusted notion in daily life. They have their own word for it: Gotong Royong. Therefore, the exhibition Reciprocity concentrates on the capital of Indonesia, Jakarta.

It is estimated that between half and three-fourths of the economies in developing countries are based on reciprocity. Around 40 percent of the Gross National Product is generated in shadow economies that rest on this principle of give and take. The importance of this informal structure will increase dramatically in the coming years because cities in developing countries are growing explosively. According to the United Nations, after 2030, some 60 percent of the world’s population will live in cities, some 4.9 billion people: that is 1.7 billion more than in 2005.

The principal of reciprocity has a strong social component. It is not a formal transaction, one in which money or products exchange hands. It is a favor given in expectation of receiving something in return later. Reciprocity may entail hospitality, sharing a meal or helping a neighbor to repair a leaking roof—because you might need him sooner or later. While economic transactions are always impersonal, rational, and uniform throughout the world, reciprocity is emotional, personal, often with different rules in different regions.

At the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, the system of bartering and reciprocal services is examined to see how it affects the infrastructure and vitality of Jakarta, a prosperous and complex example of urban bartering. The city is expanding by leaps and bounds, almost entirely without direction. Its infrastructure within the city limits varies from rice paddies to high-rise flats. The population growth is unstoppable. In 1945, the population was only 600,000; today in the extended metropolitan region of Jakarta there are over 22 million inhabitants. A large part of the population receives payment in kind; or creates an alternative type of supply and demand.

Gotong Royong, a form of reciprocity, is a trusted notion in daily life. Gotong derives from the verb that means jointly lifting or carrying. Royong is a term used on farms to indicate work done collectively, such as harvesting, plowing, and making hay. A list of reciprocal acts was created for the exhibition to demonstrate the deep inroads that Gotong Royong is making in the city. There are six types of relations that involve Reciprocity: charity, barter, bargain, collaborate, debt, and do-it-yourself.

The 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam has embraced a number of Reciprocity projects in Jakarta. In this hectic megapolis, most middle-class families can no longer live their lives without a housekeeper. Yet the...
Cultures of Legibility. Representing a city in flux. This map explores the overlapping of various cultures of legibility. It draws upon the detailed interviews conducted in the field. Each of the coloured zones represents a roughly coherent and common understanding of the particular part of the city. Stephen Cairns, University of Edinburgh, 2009

City security meeting in the open air. 1996 (etching). Taken from Kota Tanpa Warga, Jo Santoso, Jakarta, KPG 2006.

Organizing Informal Garbage Pickers in CBD Jakarta. NUNC Architecture, 2009

Sponge City. Comparison of watershed by administrative area. This diagram shows the water volume to be captured in each area of the city. By working together, 1,085,341,914 m³ can be collected. It is possible to solve the 1,028,000,000 m³ water deficit. Adi Purnomo, David Hutama, 2009

A Servant Ironing. Erik Prasetya, 2009


Traffic Congestion. Erik Prasetya, 2009

Social Mall. Reinventing public space. Axonometry of Poins Square Mall with added public functions. Indonesian wedding, sports and other programs. SHAU, andramatin, 2009

Poliution. Erik Prasetya, 2009

Babysitter in a Shopping Mall. Erik Prasetya, 2009

Pollen in a Shopping Mall. Erik Prasetya, 2009
housekeeper often lives in miserable conditions, and in a space that is closer to a broom closet than a room, while receiving minimal or no salary. This kind of reciprocity forms a significant foundation in daily life in Jakarta. The Indonesian architects, Djuhara+Djuhara, are trying to convince homeowners of the importance of providing respectable living space for their servants or housekeepers. They have developed a flexible model for the standard family home, with a bright room for the households help on the front side of the house. The initial results are encouraging.

The Pemulung is another outstanding example of reciprocity. These are men and women who search through refuse dumps for valuable items. Jakarta produces an incredible amount of junk, some 28,000 cubic meters of refuse per day—most of which keeps piling up in the city. The Pemulung sort all plastic, paper, and metal from the heap, anything that will sell for a few rupees. They bring their finds to a local middleman, who in turn sends them to an official recycling operation. This informal collection system works, but it would show better results if the logistics were more efficiently arranged. The 4th IABR has adopted this project in the context of Reciprocity. Improving transport from the middleman to the recycler can process more waste.

The Exhibition
Kader At Home Far Away: Interviews with Indonesians in Rotterdam
Prologue Reciprocity: Transactions for a City in Flux

Community
The American Way of Living

Sub-curators: Interboro Partners

Gallery 2

America may be the most segregated society in the world—at least, that is the urban legend. It has separate villages for retired homosexuals, others for rich Catholics; neighborhoods apportioned according to race, income, political persuasion or golf enthusiasts. In America, the ideal of the open and diverse community that can form a city is seemingly very remote. But for those who look closely, the Open City turns up in places where no one expects it.

Situated in southern Arizona, surrounded by desert, Sky Village is several hours’ drive from the nearest city. It is a desolate spot, pitch black at night, which the inhabitants, fanatical stargazers without exception, fully appreciate. Nearly every house has its own observatory. The locals enjoy getting together, sharing the same interests. In Sky Village they can look at the Milky Way as often as they want, thanks to the absence of artificial light.

People form clusters for social, economic, political, and countless other reasons. In the case of Sky Village, the segregation is non-malicious: but often it is. “Our country has become so polarized, so ideologically tainted, that some people have never met and are unable to understand others who live just a few miles away,” wrote the American journalist Bill Bishop in his talked-about book, The Big Sort. Why The Clustering Of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us.

Apart. With other writers, he is somber about the effect of segregation. If the city is the motor of integration, the economy, and innovation, clustering is the end of the road.

When Interboro Partners from New York, the makers of Community, decided to take a close look at what happens in those segregated worlds, they witnessed some surprising processes. First, often the motives of separation were benign, like in Sky Village, where it is about a shared passion. Sometimes it entails allergy patients who seek each other out, environmental idealists, IT-workers in Silicon Valley or followers of an Indian guru.

Second, Bishop’s observation was restricted to the suburbs, the often privileged places of refuge from city life. Sixty-three percent of Americans live there. But is the suburb really so different from what we call the city? Or have suburbs become such dominant life forms that urban processes are shifting to them? And isn’t there a lot more integration going on than meets the eye?

Ave Maria is a Catholic enclave near Naples, Florida. The village was built with the money of Tom Monaghan, the notorious Roman Catholic founder of Domino’s Pizza. The village does not yet have a consecrated church. Heartfelt Catholics therefore have to leave the enclave to attend a poor church outside the village that is heavily populated by fellow Creole and Latin American countrymen. It has become an unintended meeting place, an unanticipated subcommunity.

One can find many places and processes where values traditionally ascribed to the Open City are in surprisingly good condition: shopping centers, par-
Little NoHo: An Urban Planning Art Project
In October 2008, the North Hollywood Arts Street Festival, sponsored by the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles, commissioned James Rojas to create this interactive model of North Hollywood centered on the North Hollywood metro subway station. After creating pedestrian streets, bike paths, parks, and water features out of everyday objects, participants were allowed to place and move 3-dimensional buildings around the urban plot. Over 200 people participated in James’ project to create a community vision.

© James Rojas

Black Rock City
Unsuspecting visitors will want to time their visit to Black Rock City with “Burning Man,” an eight day alternative festival supporting community, radical self-reliance, and self-expression, otherwise they will find nothing but empty desert in the Northern Nevada. Black Rock City organizes itself every year in a series of concentric circles, the center of which being a large human effigy that is ceremoniously burned on the festival’s last day. Each year’s circular formation, with a radius of one and a half miles, takes on a particular theme, such as last year’s “The Vault of Heaven” or “The Wheel of Time.” Festival-goers bring all their gear in RVs, campers, and trucks, and form “villages” along the main streets. A self-organized police force helps maintain civil order and a large army of volunteers supports the challenging job of erecting an instant city of 50,000 people.

© Gabe Kirchheimer

Ave Maria / Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Ave Maria is a new masterplanned, gated community near Naples, Florida. Marketed to Catholics, the town includes 800 residential units, a large church, and a university. However, despite officially opening in the summer of 2007, the Catholic-themed community still lacks a proper place of worship: because of the local diocese’s differences with the town’s founder, the $24 million, 100-foot tall megastructure meant to anchor the community has not been consecrated. The result? The community’s religious ceremonies are performed in a neighboring parish in Immokalee that serves the decidedly lower-income Creole and Hispanic Catholic population.

© Ave Maria, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Naples Daily News, Reverend Ettore Rubin

Planned Community Brochures
For the 4th IABR, Interboro is collecting a sales brochure from every private, masterplanned community in America.

© Interboro Partners
One of the conclusions is that the older recipes for an Open City are not working in the suburbs. What if you look at something lighter, simpler, more everyday? What if architects and planners strive to single out the open, inclusive experiences that people have in the course of their everyday lives, and then thought up ways to multiply and enrich those experiences? Could the Open City be subtly slipped into a suburban commute? Into a trip to the supermarket? A tailgating party?

One of the contributions to a suburban, everyday Open City could be found in the idea of a Suburban General Store. This is a project that proposes to convert the suburban pool house—an underused community building found in most American subdivisions—into a General Store. That would put the everyday needs of the average suburbanite within walking distance. It is observed that half of the car trips in the suburb are for everyday needs. The General Store would reduce this auto-dependency. And it would also be a gathering place for the community.

On the 4th IABR this project together with others is presented. In addition, the exhibition consists of a “library” of 101 “weapons” that architects, project developers, urban planners, politicians, and action groups can employ in favor of or against the Open City. The weapons can be anything—a GPS system, a housing act or a regulation pertaining to home-contents insurance. They all exercise influence on how segregation originates and further develops. Or is reduced. The 101 weapons are brought together in the The Arsenal of Exclusion/Inclusion collection. Visitors can examine them in alphabetical order or choose from five thematic tours.

The Exhibition

The Arsenal of Exclusion/Inclusion
So you want to understand why America is so racially segregated...
So you want to understand why segregation persists 40 years after the Far Housing Act...
So you want to understand the weak tactics of the strong...
So you want to see who is working undercover for the Open City...
So you want to fight fire with fire...

The Open City Pops Up Where and When you Least Expect it
Fictitious route along existing communities

Towards an Everyday Open City
Projects that open the city

New American Privatopias

Squat
The Informal City Under Construction

Sub-curators: Jörg Stollmann and Rainer Hehl

Gallery 3

Worldwide more than one billion people live in slums, in rickety huts, squats, tents, under cardboard, but also in deserted multi-story buildings. And their number is increasing. These informal cities are incredibly diverse and face very specific challenges. They are an undisputed parts of our future cities. How can we learn more about these cities? How can architects and planners contribute to socially and ecologically sustainable development of these informal cities?

“We are no slum dogs. We are the future of India.” This was the slogan with which thousands of residents of Dharavi in Mumbai, one of the world’s biggest slums, protested against the film Slumdog Millionaire. They were incensed about the title of the film, which tells of a poverty-stricken young slum-dweller who wins a prestigious television quiz. And they have a point. Despite the cliché of slums being synonymous with trouble, the perspective is changing.

According to UN-Habitat, the number of people living outside the formal city will have increased by another 400 million in 2033. All these new city dwellers want access to work, education, health care, water, electricity, market, and social networks. Squat is their only access to the city. Whether we like it or not, the informal city is part of the key to the future of the Open City, for its mere numbers as well for its new urban strategies of self-organization.

What is changing is that municipalities no longer just bulldoze away or ignore their unplanned urban areas. Informal cities are strong survivors. They have one very practical rule, born out of necessity: act first and negotiate later. It is a strategy from which the formal city can learn a few lessons.

Squat is a wake-up call for thinking about new strategies to legitimize the informal city. When looking closely at the favelas, de gecekondus, barrios, and bidonvilles, we will see that the informal city is under construction, and that there are new actors on stage. There is an increasing integration between the old top-down methods and new bottom-up ways of doing this. In São Paolo and Addis Ababa, the 4th IABR is now linking local stakeholders to expertise from around the world.

The Squat exhibition is divided into two sections: Construction of Knowledge and Construction of the City.

The knowledge section focuses on urbaninform.net, a website that is a place for knowledge sharing and discussion of local and global topics. It calls for building up the rich content of best-practice projects—ingenious and most times simple solutions for living in undersupplied urban areas, with no building materials, water or electricity. Two examples are the Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin, based on the purification process in a cactus, and the Super Adobe, a house built of plastic bags filled with earth.
The areal photograph shows the favela Paraisópolis as a construction site in a moment of transition into a regular neighborhood. Housing in precarious sites have to be removed and relocated in order to guarantee a sustainable development for the whole area. The challenge of this transformation is in how far the social cohesion of the communities is kept intact.

© Fabio Knoll
In a series of workshops, inhabitants of Kotebe Hana Mariam were asked how they envision their community to develop and what they are willing to contribute in order to achieve a more coordinated and sustainable urban growth. This picture shows a group of 8 young mothers designing their common piece of land.

© Martin Herrmann
Urbaninform.net offers a new tool for uploading straightforward mini documentaries. By means of a slide show, subtitles, and voice-overs, architects, urban planners, local stakeholders and municipalities from all over the world can exhibit their ideas to the rest of the world. A selection of these ideas is showed at Squat.

The second section of Squat, Construction of the City, focuses on two conurbations faced with a huge accumulation of illegal dwellings. Kotebe Hanna Mariam is located on a beautiful hilly area east of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. It numbers thousands of huts within a space of just over 60 hectares. After the residents were driven out, they returned shortly afterwards. The local government is now working with the IABR, the TU Berlin, the University of Addis Ababa and local architects to develop an urban development scheme that engages and negotiates with the settlers. Kotebe Hanna Mariam can be seen as an embryonic city, a test case for legitimizing informal housing.

In Paraisópolis, with its 60,000 inhabitants one of the largest informal settlements in the City of São Paulo, the segregation between the gated condominium towers and the dense urban fabric of the inner-city favela is very explicit. A close look at the ground with commercial activities in the streets and an urban morphology that favors community organization and social cohesion shows surprising urban strength. Without romanticizing the favela, the sub-curators of Squat are looking for new ways for architects, planners, and local communities to interact and generate a new kind of urbanity. This city under construction would grow from within the slum—and the provocative question for the future might be: Can the informal city leapfrog the formal city?

The Exhibition

Construction of Knowledge, a selection of best practices (plans and documentaries) on urbaninform.net as well as at the exhibition

Construction of the City: Paraisópolis (São Paulo, Brazil) and Kotebe Hanna Mariam (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)—new projects on test sites with the participation of the inhabitants

Collective
Architecture and Mass Production

Sub-curators: Bart Goldhoorn, Alexander Sverdlov, and Anna Bronovitskaya

Gallery 3

In the Soviet Union from 1956 to 1989, 50 million standard flats were erected in districts known as Microrayons (1). After the collapse of the socialist regime these uniform districts are facing a crisis in public space. Nevertheless, according to the Collective exhibition, there is no need to fear mass production in architecture.

Public space is the key to creating good cities. The conditions for the Open City are found on pavements, squares, parking places, underground stations, playgrounds, parks, tram stops, street corners, and patios. That is where the social intercourse of a city takes place. That is the city’s soul. In Russian cities it is made clear what happens when design dismisses public space.

The former socialist state built an awesome number of dwellings by using standardized construction processes: prefab concrete slabs, identical floor plans, and landings. The number of floors may have differed per flat, but the doctor and the metal worker lived behind the same front door, from the same front-door factory. The ideal of equality in a socialist society combined well with pragmatic mass production in architecture.

Because there was no ownership of land in the Soviet Union, there are no borders separating buildings from public space. It was owned by everyone; and therefore, by no one. Nowhere in the world are there cities with so much public space between buildings as in Russia. After 1989 and the fall of the Wall, this surplus of openness proved fatal. Not only do democracy and capitalism result in the introduction of private property, it also produces huge differences in income, crime, and a dramatic increase in the number of cars on the roads. This process has left its catastrophic mark on public space in the Microrayons. In particular, looming crime has turned flat complexes into forts (2).

Despite these problems, mass production in architecture is a historical necessity. Standard designs in housing construction are still used in fast-growing economies. Standardization enables large volumes of houses to be built quickly. Only in Western Europe things are different. There, mass production was abandoned because the accompanying uniformity created urban problems. Rich countries have developed a system in which the design covers not just the building, but also the entire building plot. This means that consideration is given to the design of open space. At the same time, since each building plot is unique, it is no longer possible to make standard designs.

This has resulted in relatively high urban quality, but also in a painfully long planning process. In the Netherlands at present, the time between an idea for a project and its realization takes 90 months. Unique designs require repeated procedures concerning local building permits, fire-brigade regulations, aesthetic-building committees and what
1 A prototypical microrayon: a school and kindergar dens surrounded by standard housing blocks.

2 Rising crime rates lead to the emplacement of metal gratings on first floor apartment windows.
Collective presents a solution: combining the best aspects of mass production with site-specific design. Traditional models of mass production may have led to a repetition of standard building modules, but the application of contemporary principles of mass production offers totally different opportunities. The essence of this proposed solution is that designs are made for sites as a whole, but that the sizes of the sites are standardized—just as there are standards for shoe sizes. This means that architects can design projects that can be utilized at various locations (3). Standardization will then result in an increase in variation, not in uniformity. Referring to the shoe industry again: because anyone can produce for the same market, there is only a given amount of sizes, but thousands of models to choose from. This approach can lead to a huge variety of ready-made designs that can be built quickly and at various locations (4). Successful projects will be repeated; others improved or discarded. The user can choose freely; architects will compete on the basis of their products. And public space, the poor cousin of the standard housing project, will get the attention it deserves: the projects will always fit.

The Exhibition

Laboratory: The Soviet City

Capitalist Transformations

Mass Housing Worldwide

Block City: A Manifesto

Open City Event Program

Curators: Jennifer Sigler and Saskia van Stein

The Forum and Auditorium

For 12 consecutive weeks the Forum serves as the arena for an interdisciplinary program of events. Each week, from Wednesday through Sunday, a cluster of activities revolves around a certain theme: lectures, films, workshops, presentations, dance, debates, tours, excursions, music, and literature. The themes include both Open City sub-themes—Maakbaarheid (‘ma:kba:rɦɛit), Refuge, Reciprocity, Community, Squat, and Collective—and other topics related to the Open City such as Connectivity, Fear, Migration, Access, and the work of Jane Jacobs.

Co-organized by the IABR and the NAI, the Open City Event Program contains the following event-types:

Keynote Lectures

The international lectures given by an esteemed group of specialists, theorists, and other thinkers from various disciplines form the core of the weekly program. The NAI’s ongoing lecture series, held on Thursday evenings at 8 pm, is temporarily integrated with the 4th IABR. Among the speakers are Kees Christiaanse, Lars Lerup, Eyal Weizman, Abdou Maliq Simone, Shuddhabrata Sengupta, Roberta Brandes Gratz, and Saskia Sassen.

Film Program

The IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam) is the world’s largest documentary film festival. At the IABR’s request, IDFA has organized a...
In an age when migration is changing the face of many cities, when mass mobility and communication are altering our perception of distance and difference, when individualism has become a driving force of social life, the Open City is a tenuous notion. As our cities grow and diversify, the question is no longer if we want to live together, but how to live together—how to share the resources and opportunities cities offer.

The 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam launched the theme Open City: Designing Coexistence to generate concrete answers to this question. This book presents research and proposals by international experts who were asked to develop methods to facilitate access and promote coexistence in the contemporary city.

Part One: Dimensions
In Part One, writers from different disciplines—architecture, urban design, sociology, ethnography, geography, law, history, economy, and urban design—map various theoretical dimensions of the Open City and consider the global forces that challenge it.

Contributors include Ash Amin, Marc Angell, Regina Bittner, Stephen Cairns, Kees Christiaanse, Angelus Eisinger, Gerald Frug, Stephen Graham, Dieter Läpple, Mark Michaeli, Robert Neuwirth, Arnold Reijndorp, Tim Rieniets, Christian Salewski, Saskia Sassen, Peter Sloterdijk, Michael Zinganel.
Parallel Cases // IABR@RDM

Curator: Ralf Pasel

26 September – 13 December

RDM Campus

In the Parallel Cases exhibition, student teams respond to the worldwide call by the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam to propose projects that shape the theme and the future of the Open City.

The 45 selected projects from 28 universities from 20 countries show how students and their teachers—using drawings, models, films or other audiovisual means—think that architectural and urban development projects can help shape social cohesion. The exhibition shows how city life is explored and examined, along with the role that the layout of the city plays in the development of contemporary conurbations. In addition, Parallel Cases takes an inquisitive look at our future cities, and at how urban life will develop.

Some exhibition projects are directly related to Open City: Designing Coexistence; others focus on subjects linked to five of the sub-themes; Refuge, Diaspora (*), Community, Squat, and Collective.

A special award, the Parallel Cases Biennale Award, initiated by the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design, is associated with the Parallel Cases exhibition. During the opening, an international panel of judges chaired by the Chief Government Architect Liesbeth van der Pol announces the winner of the award, based on the entry that offers the best, most inventive and creative approach to the challenge of shaping the Open City. In addition to Van der Pol, the jury consist of Floris Alkemade (architect), Emiliano Gandolfi (curator and critic), Dieter Läpple (professor regional and urban economics, HafenCity University Hamburg), and Lars Lerup (professor of architecture and Dean of Rice University, Houston).

Parallel Cases takes place at the monumental “Innovation Dock” on the site of the Rotterdam Droogdok Maatschappij (RDM), a former shipyard in the center of the port area. In selecting this venue, RDM Campus, the choice was made to show the opportunities of the Open City in a specific Rotterdam context. Until just before the start of the exhibition, the area had undergone a radical transformation. The site was converted into a new Rotterdam center of expertise—the RDM campus—where, besides the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design, various other Rot-
situated. Innovative companies are stimulated to move to Innovation Dock and to enter into expertise relationships with these schools and training centers.

Besides being surrounded by the port’s fully automated container industry, RDM Campus also borders directly on Heijplaat, a traditional garden village that was gradually absorbed by the growth of the port area during the last century. Together, the shipyard and the village form a unique company town.

* When the 4th IABR sent out its call for proposals to institutes of higher education worldwide, one of the six sub-themes of the main exhibition Open City: Designing Coexistence, Reciprocity, was still being approached from another perspective and was at that time titled Diaspora.

The Exhibition

**Squat**

Use the Potentials of Your City! Recycling
Neukölln, Berlin
Technical University Berlin (DE)

Who has a say in the city? How do we negotiate design and use of our neighborhood? Do we ask for permission, or isn’t it public property anyway? Especially neighborhoods at the fringes of the city are spaces wherein questions of self-determination and participation should be challenged to foster lived-in democracy. **Use the Potentials of your City!** is organizing workshops with the Neukölln neighborhood administration in order to put leftover materials and urban spaces to productive use for the local community.

Sportpark de Wierden in the Netherlands is presently planned as a new expansion for Almere Haven, a 30-year-old new town. The biggest ambition of the municipality is to develop the area in an organic fashion. **Responsive City Game** was designed as an alternative to traditional participation models. Game agents organized a city without preset rules, based on their individual visions. Negotiations took place during the game ensuring a collective order for the new city.

Turkey is at the doorstep of the EU, and Istanbul is waiting to be crowned the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010. New adaptation laws are passing through the parliament, and the future capital of culture wants to clean up its informal parts, which are considered embarrassing. Gulesu, a 30-year gecekondu (informal city) with 50,000 inhabitants, is confronted with top-down modernistic transformation plans of the city. While residents resist the city government’s plans, they form collaborations with academics and NGOs to prepare their city for changing socio-economic conditions.

(1) Kassioum: Spontaneous Settlement in Damascus
Technische Universität Dresden (DE)

Intensive work on the topic of spontaneous settlements will influence our fundamental view of architecture and urban design. This project is a comprehensive empirical collection of facts and maps of a settlement at Mount Kassioum, in Damascus, Syria. It is the result of interviews, conversations, drawings, and surveys. All together, 35 houses and the connected public spaces in a given part of the settlement were ana
Indian Star is the search for a flexible solution that can be used in several developing countries. Its result is a simple prefabricated building system that offers a spatial structure that is based upon each individual spot. It offers the possibility to claim this little spot and express its identity, motivated by the notion that every person is unique and longing for his own small part in the bigger picture.

Displacement Settlements: Becoming Informal
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (GR)

Indian Star: Little Spots for the Small Ones
Rotterdamse Academie van Bouwkunst (NL)

Displacement Settlements is a PhD research on the morpho-genetics of informality: neighborhoods of spontaneous emergence that subdivide and populate city outskirts through processes in which incipient ephemeral ranches, by evolution in time, become complex and permanent urban pieces. Becoming Informal traces the displacement path of a sample of living cases in Bogota, presenting mor
philosophical components according to their chronological emergence and expressing possible links to the political, economic, and socio-cultural forces that generate them.

Urban Tactics: When I think of Rio de Janeiro...
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (NL)

This project triggers the discussion of self-managed urbanism as a form of urban development. The urban designer adopts another attitude and becomes a scenario writer. Urban Tactics are ways in which people appropriate public space to serve their specific needs, they form the basis for this new kind of urban development. The project is located in a degraded area in Rio de Janeiro and shows an approach that upgrades the “invisible city” physically without destroying it socially.

"Cantinho do Céu" (A Place in Heaven) is an informal city in the south of São Paulo. With 30,000 inhabitants, this area is situated at the city’s largest water reservoir and causes serious pollution in large parts of São Paulo. Unemployment, crime, and poverty are rampant. As traditional planning has failed, the Harvard Studio deployed a set of discrete tactical operations to initiate an alternative future. A special focus was placed on the development of public space through living infrastructure leading to new opportunities of income generation.

WOC - Working on Cities: Ghana ATL
Rotterdamse Academie van Bouwkunst (NL), Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies – IHS (NL)
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology – KNUST (GH)

WOC – Working on Cities is an interdisciplinary design and research studio with this year’s focus on informal settlements in Kumasi, Ghana. The objective of the collaboration between the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design, the IHS of Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the KNUST in Ghana is to combine design, planning, and research in order to come up with broad and integral solutions for today’s urban challenges. Four projects of interdisciplinary teams show different solutions for dealing with the specific situation of the settlement Ayigya in Kumasi, Ghana.

Global Studio
University of Sydney (AU), University of Rome La Sapienza (IT), Columbia University (US) in samenwerking met Istanbul Technical University (TR) en Middle Eastern Technical University (TR) (2005); University of British Columbia (US) (2006); University of Witwatersrand (ZA) (2007/08)

A Place In Heaven, A Place in Hell: Tactical Operations in São Paulo's Informal Sector
Graduate School of Design Harvard University (US)
Global Studio is an annual place-based action research program where national and international students, academics, and professionals in city building come together with local governments, NGOs, and Central Budget Organizations to set up collaborations with disadvantaged communities. Informed by the UN Millennium Development Goals, the program promotes forms of professional education and practice that can benefit under-served communities and facilitate bottom-up, collaborative partnerships.

(3) Kibera: Nairobi on the Ground

ETH Studio Basel (ETH Zürich) (CH) met University of Nairobi, School of Architecture (KE), en Graduate School of Design Harvard University (US)

Can we think of Nairobi as an ordinary city? Can we challenge the predominant way of approaching “the African City” that focuses mostly on issues of development or binary opposites failing to register the complexities on the ground? This project attempts to study Nairobi in terms of its basic human activities, by looking at how people live, work in or move through the city, and in a wider context thereby to reformulate the discourse on “urban Africa.” The Kibera study, that is part of the Nairobi project, aims to overcome the prejudiced view of slums as places of pure despair and represents Kibera in all its rich complexity.

(4) Shoafat RC

Bezalel Academy of Art and Design Jerusalem (IL)

Shoafat RC was established in 1965 to provide shelter for 1,500 Palestinian refugees. Today, as the only UNRWA camp within the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, 18,000 Palestinians reside within its borders and its growing periphery. Compared to the rest of Jerusalem, Shoafat RC could be considered the most urban space in the city. The project will uncover the possibility of a sustainable approach to development in Shoafat RC, achieved through reinforcing its embedded potentials and realized through architecture.

Refuge

Small Urban Refuge Community: Nairobi on the Ground

ETH Studio Basel (ETH Zürich) (CH) met University of Nairobi, School of Architecture (KE), en Graduate School of Design Harvard University (US)

Can we think of Nairobi as an ordinary city? Can we challenge the predominant way of approaching “the African City” that focuses mostly on issues of development or binary opposites failing to register the complexities on the ground? This project attempts to study Nairobi in terms of its basic human activities, by looking at how people live, work or move through the city, and in a wider context thereby to reformulate the discourse on “urban Africa.” This project shows how, despite their illegal and informal status in Nairobi as refugees, Somalis have managed to develop a highly complex urban situation with extremely sophisticated qualities.
mobility and the possibilities of placement through power structures, and how the city in contrast offers high urban mobility and densities—particularly in migrant districts—where refugees find possibilities to move beyond coding of status and restrictions, and breach the isolation prescribed by the politics of refugee camps.

Swimming Pools Shelters
Technical University Berlin (DE)

Swimming Pool Shelters is a Berlin-based project to provide winter shelters for the homeless by activating the use of buildings that are normally only used in the Summer. The clubhouses of open-air swimming pools offer the infrastructure required by homeless shelters, ranging from showers to kitchens, yet they are closed from October to May. The interventions that would create much needed sleeping spaces, are small and inexpensive and therefore offer a realistic solution to a serious problem.

Crisis Squatting Strategy
Veritas University (CR)

Crisis Squatting Strategy proposes to develop and implements temporary crisis infrastructure as a means of regaining possession of public space in San Jose, Costa Rica. It imagines the fracture from an earthquake crisis as an opportunity to develop an Open City showroom. After a serious earthquake in the metropolitan area, three additional steps are the tools for a public space takeover: the forgotten lands, the disconnected infrastructural network and the camps’ temporality.

SEED_Emergent Housing Initiative
Clemson University (US)
Tri-County Technical College (US)

SEED addresses the relationship between industrial waste, global trade and emergency housing. This project recycles surplus shipping containers into safe, secure, and dignified housing that once “planted” will evolve uniquely in the myriad socio-economic conditions of the Caribbean. The project mixes extremely low cost prefabricated elements (Water Pod, Technology Pod and Emergent Garden) with simple modifications to the shipping container to catalyze warehoused shipping containers throughout the Caribbean into emergency dwellings.

SEED
addresses future transformation and revitalization of Seattle’s Transnational District. Rejecting a static master plan, King Street is viewed as a dynamic and changing landscape. King Street Dynamism envisions temporary and incremental tactics to activate sites and relationships. It formulates strategies that strengthen the vitality and continuity of ethnic identity and activities. It addresses both the spatial and temporal dimensions of change, and engages the interconnections, layers, and networks within an Open City.

Spatial Limbo
Tamkang University, Taipei (TW)

Adrift between decline and renewal and caught in the ambiguous phase of planning’s “twilight zone, Spatial Limbo implies places that are lagged out of public investment and private development. As the condition of indeterminacy drags on, the border between private and public becomes fuzzy and sprawling. It becomes a place made of uncompromising differences in a collective instead of a common mode, and people who are living or squatting “in between” altogether make up a social network of interdependency.

Diaspora
Startankstelle
Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig (DE)

The subject of the video work Startankstelle is a petrol station on the edge of the city shown in two-channel video projection: a view from outside and a view from inside. There is no direct intervention at the film location. Both videos were shot at night, the external view of the petrol station from a long shot and the hermetic in-cabin room from the perspective of the back seat of the car.

King Street Dynamism: Tactics for Revitalizing a Multicultural Neighborhood
University of Washington (US)

King Street Dynamism addresses future transformation and revitalization of Seattle’s Transnational District. Rejecting a static master plan, King Street is viewed as a dynamic and changing landscape. King Street Dynamism envisions temporary and incremental tactics to activate sites and relationships. It formulates strategies that strengthen the vitality and continuity of ethnic identity and activities. It addresses both the spatial and temporal dimensions of change, and engages the interconnections, layers, and networks within an Open City.

Redesigning of Zhongxin
Tamkang University (TW)

The military dependent village Zhongxin is one of the most significant clusters in contemporary Taiwanese society. Its unique cultural background and its high density living situation has triggered a debate with preservation and demolition at its extremes. The renovation of these villages has not only become a physical planning issue but also a struggle between different interest groups. This project deals with the concept of decentralization. By research and design, the anxiety and possible future of this village is being revealed.
Ethnic Streets in the World
Tokyo Polytechnic University (JP)

Ethnic Streets in the World is looking for ways to alleviate the tension between immigrants and the original Japanese community, and to stimulate integration and understanding through urban planning. The aim is to identify areas where social and urban infrastructures could be improved for the benefit of the ethnic communities by research and analysis, to consequently build a fundamental database of the results, and to enlighten people by introducing former examples.

Crossing Munich:
Migration - Places, Images and Debates
Ludwig Maximilian University Munich (DE)

Crossing Munich is an interdisciplinary research and exhibition project on the history and presence of migration in Munich including perspectives of cultural anthropology, history and art. 25 Students designed their own research projects and cooperated with artists to develop artistically driven representations. The resulting 15 individual projects represent Munich as a city universally affected by the history of migration. Thus Crossing Munich tries to develop a new narration of the presence of migration in Munich by taking up the perspective of migration itself.

Community
Urban Green
Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)
van de Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (NL)

The research film Urban Green is part of an academic research project on community engagement and place-making processes in public urban spaces. The film portrays the meanings of community garden projects to the involved participants and organizers. It shows why they engage in the creation of green community spaces through appropriating urban spaces and grassroots activity. The film also is an innovative approach to how interview material and empirical research results can be transformed into a film document.

The Arsenal of Exclusion
Maryland Institute College of Art (US)

The Arsenal of Exclusion is a "dictionary" of tools that architects, developers, urbanists, politicians, and activists can use against or in favor of the Open City. In Spring 2009, the research seminar "Architecture, Art, and the Open City" produced an Arsenal of Exclusion that focused on the city of Baltimore, Maryland, United States. The team researched thirty weapons, and made thirty brochures—one for each tool—that were exhibited in public spaces around Baltimore for one week in May, 2009.
In Fall 2008, during a design studio, the concept of the Open City in relation to specific New Jersey communities was explored. Each of the studio participants developed a case study of a certain community and a proposal to provide a physical and social infrastructure for the Open City. The studio participants collaboratively produced a two-volume Field Guide to New Jersey Communities in which the case studies and proposals were included.

The American suburb has been seriously challenged by the current economic recession. The ongoing erosion of the suburban model may itself be leveraged as a method of intervening and ultimately transforming these places. Conformity will give way to new actors and new spatial uses. Crumbling edges will be opportunities for integration into larger ecosystems. The catalysts and processes needed to transform the suburb into a vital and complex network of urban spaces is being explored.

Learning from Europe; the idea of Europe is an attempt towards a super national form of coexistence: unity in diversity. This unique situation creates a platform for research on strategies and processes towards an Open City. These strategies or principles are projected/tested by explorative design on two different European locations. Prague in its strategic position in the development of Eastern Europe, and Brussels as one of the official capitals and the institutional center of Europe.
factory, it is now clearly unable to adapt to the new needs of its residents. Krasnova is an urban island where infrastructure, public transport, services, and retail trade are almost non-existent. The aim of Translating Krasnova is to translate this pure product of modernity into a sustainable neighborhood, using the potential of the semi-public space as catalyst.

Rapid urbanization in the Pearl River Delta has changed over the past ten years since Rem Koolhaas proclaimed his urban theories on the “Generic City.” Extreme market mechanisms with “Chinese characteristics,” and dense urban landscapes have created conditions of typological expiration in the contemporary Post-Generic City. Expiration as a form of natural selection or evolution of urban fabric and architectural types creates opportunities for new and hybridized projects to emerge. What are the “new futures”? Will the “Generic City” continue to stay generic, will it become more globalized, or will it return to its unique local identity?

Open City

Happy Go Lucky: Structure and Incident
Brandenburg University of Technology (DE)

Happy Go Lucky is about a design that operates in an area of former GDR-planning, east of the Alexanderplatz in Berlin. While there is an increasing strain on the neighborhood due to a vast change in its social patterns, the initial program fails to adapt to future needs. By amplifying the existing structure, the project offers differentiated private and public space for new residents as well as for current users.

Urban Transformation of Pyongyang, North Korea
Harvard University (US)

Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, is at the starting point of economic transition. The new market-oriented system will influence the physical morphology of Pyongyang. Urban spaces that are characterized as socialist urban morphology are the weakest parts in the city during the transition. An incremental growth model that focuses on those areas is proposed for the future of Pyongyang.

Border Conditions: Transformations in the (Post-)Socialist Cities
Kiev and Havana
Technische Universität Delft (NL)

Border Conditions investigates borders in urban border zones in order to gain insight into spatial practices in urban areas. Borders are spaces of encounter as well as places where conflicts and contradictions manifest themselves spatially, forming a sequence of complex, layered territories and entities, divided by sometimes blurry and sometimes straight-forward lines, each with their own logic and their own spatial specificities. Border Conditions shows two case studies related to the (Post-) Socialist city; the mappings done within Havana (Cuba), and Kiev (Ukraine).
how do juveniles use and perceive their city? What spaces are part of their daily networks and how do they connect them? Results are five types of youth city users and strategies for developing the city and public open spaces.

(7) **Leaping the Fence: Olympic Legacy Now**  
Royal College of Art, London (UK)  
An endless blue fence has divided East London—the perimeter construction hoarding of the 2012 Olympic Park, a political symbol of the area’s imminent gentrification. Leaping the Fence re-imagines the potentials of the fence, exploring ways in which a material designed to keep people out, to exclude, and divide communities, can be appropriated and reused to catalyze occupation of the site. Using only the fence, this provisional collection of urban furniture has been designed for local communities’ needs, to promote ownership of the site and provide a transferable model of participatory development.

**Open Constellation**  
University of Hamburg (DE)  
The Open City has to regenerate in every single day’s actions and interactions. Three neighborhoods in Hamburg have been examined with regard to their “open-ness” in everyday life. In addition to traditional analytical methodology, research methods on functioning have been used. The neighborhoods are distinctively different in character and probably display different types of “open” constellations. In a final step the constellations found, will be linked together in order to achieve “open-ness” as required for a metropolis like Hamburg.

(8) **Open City Rotterdam?**  
Rotterdam: Open City  
Rotterdamse Academie van Bouwkunst (NL)  
In 2009, the International Summer School of the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design was devoted to the theme Open City. Five out of six sub-themes of the 4th IABR have been linked to five sites in the center of Rotterdam. The design assignment was formulated by crossbreeding these five sub-themes with the issues that are urgent at those sites.

**Interdependence**  
UK_Open City  
University of Sheffield (UK)  
Interdependence UK_Open City investigates the United Kingdom as an Open City condition—that of cities existing within a wider ecosystem. The British public service broadcast starkly reveals
the hidden infrastructures that nourish this island architecture. The broadcast brings conversations about global environmental change, the UK and its support systems into the public domain, questioning the things we take for granted. An inverted diaspora will be revealed—a complex web of dependencies that make up Interdependence UK. Open City.

When I Was Six: Dubai Metrozone
Technical University Berlin (DE)

The construction of the Metro Dubai is (mis)understood as an instrument of urban planning in a city without urbanism. A comprehensive photo documentation of the emerging tracks by the local architect and photographer Rebal Knayzeh captures the longest construction site at the Gulf as a starting point for exemplary urban designs and social strategies for a city that is lacking “cityness” and public space.

OpenBerlin: An Alternative Model for the Just Use of Space
Technical University Berlin (DE)

As an alternative to the presently rapid sale of public urban land by the Berlin government, OpenBerlin initiates and guides processes of negotiation and distribution of space in which all interested urbanites can take part. The OpenBerlin web-tool steers processes of community building and the generation of development concepts with the support of specialists and experts. The OpenBerlinMobile calls attention to available properties, affords the opportunity to explore them and provides a common space for face-to-face workshops, discussions, and other events.

The Free State of Amsterdam (Vrijstaat Amsterdam)
Curator: Zef Hemel
27 September – 8 November
Former Shell Canteen in the Tolhuistuin, Amsterdam

As its contribution to the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR), the Municipality of Amsterdam presents the city of Amsterdam as a “Free State”—a place where designers display their ideas about a free and open future—in the exhibition The Free State of Amsterdam (Amsterdam Vrijstaat). Amsterdam wants to give new meaning to the saying “The city’s air is liberating”.

Specifically, Amsterdam has asked itself whether there is a form of planning that increases rather than restricts the degrees of freedom. Can chance, flashes of inspiration and spontaneity be a part of the planning process? Is there room to experiment? How quickly can the city adapt to changing circumstances? Can planning be multi-layered, open-ended, full of paradoxes and, in some respects, chaotic and open? These questions are relevant now that Amsterdam is preparing a new master development plan, but could also be significant for cities elsewhere in the world that strive for openness and that cherish values such as tolerance and liberty: cities that see diversity as the very essence of their existence.

Nine firms of young urban planners from Amsterdam and Rotterdam have therefore fleshed out their vision of freedom and planning in nine large-scale models for various areas of their proposed metropolis. None of these designs lay any claim to practicability, but neither are they mere utopias. Because this is an exercise in increasing the degrees of freedom—with room for improvisation, new insights, and interaction with local residents—the designs could perhaps be better described as “splendid accidents.” The designers only wish to present strategies and ideas, not actual plans. To avoid even a hint of official blueprinting, they continue to work on their models during the Biennale, integrating ongoing input and thus making the exhibition a true workplace that reveals its full potential only towards the end.

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The Exhibition

(1) Western Harbor District: Temporarily Open as Strategy
Rietveld Landscape I
Atelier de Lyon
Amsterdam has a tradition of free states along the River IJ, and many sub-cultures found a cheap place to experiment there. It became a breeding ground for the art scene and generated a night life of international dimensions. But compared with a creative city such as Berlin, Amsterdam presently has little cheap space to experiment.

Health, environmental, and safety regulations pose an obstacle to ordinary planning and residential projects in the harbor, but the designers believe that, on the contrary, such rules and regulations can create unique conditions for a creative Free State. It is for example possible to generate an excessive number of decibels 24 hours a day and to exceed height restrictions in this seaport north of Central Station. In other words, the designers are bending the many (restricting) rules to their advantage.

The dock industry has taken Amsterdam’s ambitions to become one of the best creative cities in Europe seriously. But that demands an experimental breeding ground. That is why the port offers cheap temporary space to experiment. This breeding ground is constantly on the move because empty buildings are systematically being occupied and vacated. A physical intervention, a movable generator for the free port that hovers above the harbor like a mysterious fleet of flying saucers, is necessary to reconnect the harbor with the city. Young creative talents, professionals, scientists (for example focusing on the transformation into an ecologically sustainable port), and sub-
cultures will have an exciting temporary playground here. This will result in a creative free port that never sleeps and that inspires great schemes.

(2) The River IJ North Bank: Experiments on Noorderveld
Urhahn Urban Design
Urhahn Urban Design has focused on northern Amsterdam: what could this rough low-lying former polder mean to its local residents? What is the soul of this northern part of the city? While the residents from south of the river have occupied the southern banks of the River IJ, Urhahn Urban Design has launched a bid for the independence of the north part of Amsterdam—declaring a free state within the Free State: a place where Northerners can do their own thing and at the same time form a new collectivity.

The forest of Vliegenbos is the place where the people of North Amsterdam can shape their own freedom. A part of this area will become public space, belonging to no one, and therefore to everyone, and where circuses and fairs can be held. The rest of the forest will be parceled out so that everyone can do as he or she likes: set up a campsite, dig vegetable allotments, build a beer garden: a true people’s park. The remaining factories will be cherished and the old factory of Albemarle will even have its own island.

(3) Eastern Islands: Freedom under Threat
Karres en Brands
The Eastern Islands, situated in the historical city of Amsterdam, have always been fairly isolated, cut off from the city by busy roads and water. The bustle of tourism and major events bypass this part of the inner city. There are however smaller enclaves within these islands,
such as the science museum, NEMO, and the former navy base. Karres en Brands’ design reinforces this isolation by restoring waterways and removing motorways, creating a car-free state where the space that becomes available can be built on more densely and where the residents can colonize the remaining space informally. A new freedom will become possible if cars are banned. In the same way that convents and other walled complexes are ambiguous—closed to outsiders, but simultaneously offering protection against an angry outside world—this labyrinthine area can accommodate walled gardens and self-proclaimed autonomies that can offer sanctuary to pressured artists, writers, politicians and intellectuals. In other words: isolation can have its own particular virtue. This theme is expressed in a scale-model in which temporary autonomous states, in splendid isolation from the metropolis, are the core of a self-contained area, and contributing to the future of the metropolis at the same time.

Het Nieuwe Diep: The “Free Street” of Amsterdam

ZUS [Zones Urbaines Sensibles]
Amsterdam’s roots as Free State lie in the seventeenth century when the city was a liberal society where goods, services and knowledge were freely exchanged. This was also enabled by Amsterdam’s clear urban network, formed by the plan for the ring of canals from 1614. Within this framework, the public domain was the ultimate venue for diversity, tolerance and the exchange of ideas, and philosophers such as Descartes and Spinoza praised Amsterdam for it.

The housing area around the Nieuwe Diep consists of totally self-contained worlds separated by water and infrastructure. Most of the public area has been privatized and new arteries are necessary to create a Free State here. ZUS is proposing a “small-scale mega structure” for these neighborhoods to bring together people, plants and animals: the Spinoza Esplanade and the Free Street, or Rue Descartes, the former organic and green, the latter geometric and urban; two public thoroughfares, each with its own course, where people can live and work. ZUS believes that public areas are the cornerstones of freedom: the street is a source of social contacts and a generator of urban capital.

Head of the Amstelscheg: Landscape of Liberty

MUST stedebouw
The designers of MUST are surprised that the ambivalent term “metropolis,” has recently acquired a positive connotation in Amsterdam. A metropolis offers many civil liberties, but at the same time it gobbles up the surrounding landscape at a frantic pace. MUST wants to halt this development. More than that, it believes that the landscape should fight back with every weapon at its disposal. The Amstelscheg, south of the city, must reclaim land from Amsterdam, but should, at the same time contribute to it in the shape of a new metropolitan landscape park. The design removes the villas, sports facilities, police stables and allotments that have literally eaten away parts of this unique landscape, and gives them back to the city. Real cows, providing the city with milk, cheese and meat, will graze here instead. A radical restoration of the authentic seventeenth century polder landscape will create a productive park penetrating deep into the city.

The reclaimed land to the east and west will be leveled every year and released to the city residents. In the winter, this low-lying land will be under water, but in spring, spacious parcels
will be auctioned to city dwellers to cultivate seasonal crops. During the season, farmers and city residents can sell their products in a vast market hall along the River Amstel. This will be the place in Amsterdam where the “locivores” will come completely into their own.

(6) Duivendrechtse Veld: From Urban District to Free City
Arjan Klok’s proposal for the future of Duivendrechtse Veld demonstrates that this now disorganized area offers many opportunities for living, working and recreating in complete freedom. The metropolis offers precisely the right framework: it is the place that brings together a great diversity of individuals, ideas and initiatives. A metropolis demands densely built areas, and the “Greater Amsterdam” metropolis will encourage freethinking and free enterprise.

Klok demonstrates that the industrial estates along the Amstel can offer at least 25,000 new individual initiatives for people to live, work, and relax. This will result in a fascinating, totally urban landscape accessible to everyone by car. The Free City of “BijlmAir” brings together the best of Amsterdam. The ingredients for the new Free City are: maximum scope for private initiatives and planning freedom, thousands of interesting places to live and work, an eye-catching canal area, a welcoming and well-presented urban motorway area, a wide range of sports facilities, trend-setting modern monuments along the River Amstel, a high-urban sports and leisure complex, and a trade center for the automotive industry at the junction of the A2 and A9 motorways. And people, many people, will be the heart and soul of the BijlmAir Free City.

(7) Gaasperplas: An Aquatic Free State
Alle Hosper
If it were up to Alle Hosper, the suburb of Gaasperdam would become an aquatic free state. Separated from the city by a distance of only ten kilometers, the residents of this lobe of Amsterdam are almost completely cut off from the metropolis itself. The existing lake and the beautiful Floriade Park can be seen as an invitation to venture out of the metropolis, but they play this seductive role with too much modesty. That is why Alle Hosper is expanding the lake almost to the River Gein, creating a water landscape designed to invite private investment in this landscape from the sixties. Hosper has abandoned the idea of zoning and urban expansion almost entirely. Because of the aquatic redefinition, the unassuming center of the Gein area will receive a tremendous boost, and can be made accessible if the existing metro line is extended past the lake to link up with the current other arm of the metro. The nearby University Medical Center will be responsible for the health care of the residents and for offering intramural care services to local residents. This will create an attractive area that can adjust to different age groups, and that will gradually be developed into an inner urban area.

(8) Nieuwe Meer: Awareness
Mathis Güller believes that the Nieuwe Meer, the “natural void” between the international airport and the metropolis, should become a global awareness zone: a continuously rewritable “blank” page for the global city. This is where the local should meet the global in a modern-day agora. Amsterdam will become a truly Free State when its resi
dents symbolize free thought and are aware of what is happening elsewhere in the world. Around the lake, the citizens of Amsterdam will be confronted with the rest of the world: the children on the island of the Schiphol golf links: “World Children;” the older residents on the sports strip where they can rest and recuperate: “World Health;” and the professionals on the waterfront: “World Guests.” The waterfront will also be used for special events, and thus be handed back to the citizens of Amsterdam. Three buildings on the same scale as the airport’s Schiphol Plaza or Amsterdam’s Central Station will be constructed as a “Children’s Museum, a “Reconvalescence Center,” and a “World Forum.” The metro line will be extended to the airport, past the lake and linking all these spots.

Sloterplas: The Land of Milk and Honey

B+B

Designers B+B want to link Free State with the Sloterplas, land of milk and honey. They believe that the area around this lake should be a place where people can celebrate their idleness, where laziness and love are the prime values, where the food is excellent, and where fairy tales and dreams are the ultimate expression of freedom.

Magical lights will lead visitors to the lake via open spaces in the woods. The murky water must be cleansed, and its use as solar reservoir will turn the lake into a source of new life. The lights in the trees refer to mystical spirits. Lighting will give the Sloterplas a completely new identity. Lighting generates life and will encourage residents, entrepreneurs and public bodies to take new initiatives. The lake will become a place where people can eat, drink, love and enjoy themselves late into the night, spontaneously and without restriction. By using a special technique of scale modeling, the trees will literally grow during the Biennale and visitors will be presented with a special impression of everything the city has to offer a true gourmand.

Side Program Vrijstaat Amsterdam

The side program of The Free State of Amsterdam is open, so that as many participants as possible—entrepreneurs, philosophers, homeless, politicians, ex-pats, poets, journalists, scientists, and commuters—can contribute. All ensuing ideas about the future of Amsterdam will thus be based on the real, every-day experience of the people who live and work in the city.

Film Program

Film and video programs at the former Shell Canteen in the Tolhuistuin support the historical and contemporary relationship between the idea of freedom and the city of Amsterdam. The program is compiled in cooperation with the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA).

Young Free State

Also at the Tolhuistuin and in collaboration with various youth organizations a special exhibition presents the perspective on Amsterdam by youngsters and children living in the city.

The Making of The Free State of Amsterdam

From 13 October through 29 November, the research material of the nine urban design offices is on display at the Zuiderkerk Information center in Amsterdam. Interviews, subject models and sketches illustrate the creative
We are living in the Urban Century. Presently, more than 50 percent of the world population is living in cities—many of them in slums—and cities are continuing to grow. The city is no longer a spot on the map, but rather a way of being. The Dutch broadcasting corporation VPRO considers this a reason to look back and to look ahead, to connect thinking about the future of the city with experiences from the past. What factors define the quality of life in cities? How does urban life take shape and how can we improve it? The VPRO explores various new ideas and perspectives on the city.

Starting on 13 September, VPRO produces and broadcasts five television documentaries (in co-production with the IABR), five radio documentaries and five internet productions, including the audio-visual archive Open City (with radio broadcasts since 1926, film recordings since 1913, and television since 1952) and the dedicated website eeuwvandestad.nl. This site contains a.o. citizens’ ideas to improve life in the city, a web log and special city walks by artists. In September widely viewed VPRO TV and radio programs such as Buitenhof, Andere Tijden, Draadstaal, Tegelicht, Villa VPRO, Metropolis, and Holland Doc all focus on the issues of urbanization.

The most open city is a virtual city. A seemingly infinite digital space without barriers, filled with chance encounters, unexpected opportunities and creative temptations. Urban Century (Eeuw van de Stad) presents audio and video content about cities in several new ways. The complete programming, as well as the complete archive, are made available on demand in high resolution on eeuwvandestad.nl and can be searched by keywords. The radio and television programs on cities are also available as free downloads and podcasts at the VPRO pavilion in the Forum of the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam. In Amsterdam, a special 3-D installation, the T_Visionarium Open City, in which a selection of the archive is made accessible in an interactive way, will be launched.

Morgen/Tomorrow International Urban Planning Congress
The Morgen/Tomorrow international Urban Planning Congress is inspired by the work of City Councilor Floor Wibaut (1859-1936), the founding father of Amsterdam’s modern urban planning practice. The title is taken from a speech given by Wibaut in 1925 about the future of the city, and on the occasion of the 650th anniversary of the first documented mention of Amsterdam. Mirroring the Congress of the International Town Planning and Garden Cities Association staged in Amsterdam in 1924, Morgen/Tomorrow brings together politicians, administrators and experts to discuss and confront the topical challenges of worldwide urbanization. The themes of food, energy, drinking water, infrastructure, waste and ICT are pivotal, as these six factors will be decisive to the successful functioning of human-kind in the city of the future. Case studies from Pittsburgh, Chicago, London, Paris, Hamburg, Mumbai, Rotterdam and Amsterdam are presented.

The congress opens on Wednesday, 30 September with a lecture by Daniel Cohn-Bendit in the Zuiderkerk. On Thursday, 1 October and Friday, 2 October there are presentations and workshops at the Westergasfabriek. Among the speakers are Ken Livingstone, Kees Christiaanse, Maarten Hajer, Tim Lang, Hermann Scheer, Dieter Läpple, LaDonna Redmond, Henk Ovink, and P.K. Das.
Growth is indispensable for survival in the future—even in times of crisis. To offset the emptying and shrinking of the countryside there is simultaneous growth of the population in metropolitan and mega regions. For these urban areas, traditionally the engines of the economy, the question is therefore not if but how they should grow: in a sustainable, ecologically responsible manner, and without sacrificing the quality of life and social standards.

In the Netherlands only the capital, Amsterdam, has pronounced its metropolitan aspirations. Compared to young cities such as Singapore and Abu Dhabi, Amsterdam is an old lady—but one determined to have a total make-over. However, what would that mean for her body, her lungs, her brain, and her very soul? And what would this mean for the other cities in the conurbation of Western Holland—the Randstad?

Tegenlicht explores the visions and opinions at home and abroad, among others, with economic geographer Richard Florida (Toronto); urban sociologist Saskia Sassen (New York); the Amsterdam urban designer Zef Hemel; and professor of landscape architecture Adriaan Geuze, critical thinker about planning in the Netherlands, and curator of the 2nd IABR, The Flood.

Length: 50 minutes
Director: William de Bruijn

Tegenlicht - Grand Paris: The President and the Architect

For a year, Tegenlicht filmed the developments surrounding the prestigious project “Grand Paris,” following the Dutch architect and participant in the project, Winy Maas (MVRDV). The French president Sarkozy not just wants to see—as did his predecessors—a prestigious building carrying his name, but he wants to shape the future of Paris in its entirety. That is why he invited ten leading architects in the summer of 2008 to draw up a plan for the sustainable growth of Paris. What will Paris look like in 20, 30 and even 40 years?

The Rotterdam office

Tegenlicht was selected along with nine other teams, including the celebrity architects Richard Rogers, Jean Nouvel, and Christian de Portzamparc, to contribute ideas to the conversion of Paris and its suburbs into “a 21st century metropolis.” For Dutch architect and urban designer Winy Maas there is much at stake. The assignment is also an introduction to the politics of power and the power of politics. So how do you do this? How do you keep your footing in the vortex of power, media and architecture?

Length: 50 minutes
Director: Bregtje van der Haak

Tegenlicht – I am Gurgaon: A New Type of City in India

The shining facades of Gurgaon, a satellite city of New Delhi, are symbols of India’s unparalleled economic growth. Gurgaon was built at the turn of this century by the largest project developers in the world. A small village 15 years ago, it has now developed into a city of 1.4 million inhabitants, but with little or no infrastructure. How viable is this new type of city?

Residents of the gated

Length: 50 minutes
Director: William de Bruijn
And what will the consequences be for all those thousands of immigrants? Rob Schröder has visited Johannesburg several times since January 2008 to paint a picture of the changes. Is it possible to control this city full of hope and fear, and to make the city centre safe and livable? How can anyone survive in Johannesburg at all?

Length: 58 minutes
Director: Rob Schröder

Trendspotting Istanbul
Trendspotting Istanbul reports on the 11th International Istanbul Biennial in 2009, an international exhibition of modern art, in which the rich cultural history of Istanbul plays a leading role. The program also focuses on the city itself, a unique metropolis, the only city in the world to occupy two continents — Europe and Asia.
Length: 52 minutes
Directors: Alexander Oey, Rob Schröder, and Gabrielle Provaas.

How does one make a start in a totally unfamiliar city? Four local correspondents for the television program Metropolis demonstrate what "migrating to the city" means at an individual level. In four of the world’s major cities four newcomers are followed from the moment they set foot in the city. They are selected at the bus or train station and filmed for six months while they seek to build new lives. In Lusaka (Zambia), Shanghai (China), New York (USA) and Bogotá (Colombia), these newcomers have one thing in common: they are leaving their old lives behind and throwing their fortunes to the wind. They face the essential questions of urban survival: how will they navigate the city, where will they sleep, how will they find work? And will they succeed in setting up a new and better life in the city?

Length: 50 minutes
Directors: Alejandro Chaparro and Leo Rua Puerta (Bogota); Cleopatra Hamaambo (Lusaka); Bas Roeterink (Shanghai); Kei O’Neil, and Eline Jongsma (New York)

Metropolis – New in the City

How does one make a start in a totally unfamiliar city? Four local correspondents for the television program Metropolis demonstrate what "migrating to the city" means at an individual level. In four of the world's major cities four newcomers are followed from the moment they set foot in the city. They are selected at the bus or train station and filmed for six months while they seek to build new lives. In Lusaka (Zambia), Shanghai (China), New York (USA) and Bogotá (Colombia), these newcomers have one thing in common: they are leaving their old lives behind and throwing their fortunes to the wind. They face the essential questions of urban survival: how will they navigate the city, where will they sleep, how will they find work? And will they succeed in setting up a new and better life in the city?

Length: 50 minutes
Director: Marije Meerman

Holländ Doc - Stayin' Alive In Jo'burg
Johannesburg is the largest economic metropolis in Africa. Downtown Johannesburg, however, is one of the world’s most violent places. Most office buildings have been vacated or squatted and are occupied by several groups of illegal Africans from neighbouring countries. Thousands of fortune seekers are trying to build a new life in this anarchist urban jungle. Meanwhile, the city is preparing for the World Cup 2010, the opportunity for Johannesburg to present itself to the world from its best side. The city centre needs to be cleared, and everything is being done to make sure that this major event will run smoothly. But will it succeed?
Radio

Villa VPRO – Overseas Office: Addis Ababa

In the context of a giant housing project, 150,000 apartments have to be built in the Ethiopian city of Addis Ababa, all within a period of ten years. The aim is to provide homes for the massive influx of migrants who arrive in the city daily. However, there is no experience with multi-story construction, and no industry necessary to fabricate the building materials. Neither have architects and planners any idea how to carry out such a complex project. Meanwhile, with the first 50,000 apartments ready for occupancy, we can listen to the experiences of the new occupants, often people who have never before even walked up a flight of stairs.

Length: 2 x 18 minutes
Director: Erik Willems

Villa VPRO – Overseas Office: Istanbul

The impact of conservative country dwellers has changed the cosmopolitan face of Istanbul enormously. Religious influence has increased, accessible again. He has an ambitious plan for buses and trains, but will he succeed? Portrait of an idealistic planner.

Length: 2 x 18 minutes
Director: Olaf Oudheusden

De Avonden

Cities, particularly large cities, provide the daily living environments for most of the world’s populations. Nowadays the urban economy is the driving force of the global economy. The city is like a machine that attracts highly diverse population groups, cultures and lifestyles, allowing them to live side by side. Every city has its own strategies, its own mechanisms, its own political interests. Sometimes, these remain in the background; sometimes they intervene, in an effort to shape society, set its course and improve it. In the Saturday edition of VPRO’s De Avonden, Wim Brands presents a radio-phonnic version of the special edition of the literary magazine De Gids, devoted to the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam.

Length: 2 hours
Director: Wim Brands and Lotje Uzermans

Internet

Urban Century (Eeuw van de Stad)

Besides being a portal for all internet projects, the website www.eeuwvandestad.nl also offers a weblog and the complete program information.

Open City (audiovisual archive)

The eeuwvandestad.nl Open City is a new audiovisual archive dedicated to The City and consisting of ap
proximately 200 hours of film recordings (since 1913) and 100 hours of radio (since 1926), all of it accessible on the internet, in high resolution, and with a newly developed user-friendly player. This is the first time that a thematic collection of documentaries, reports, clips, and interviews from the rich history of the VPRO is presented. The archive has an innovative search engine that uses keywords to find audio and video selections.

The City is a web project presented a series of 50 short films made by artists. The walks were designed for different parts of the city, each with its own unique perspective, always connected to the area. With an audio player, earphones and a map of the city, the visitor will walk along the designated route, listening along the way to a sound mix of city stories, music, the voice of a guide, archive material and an especially composed “soundscape.”

City One Minutes (24 hours x 100 cities x 1-minute each)
cityoneminutes.org

An extraordinary web project in which hundreds of artists around the world cooperate. In a series of one-minute videos, film makers sketch a personal impression of one hour in the life of a major world city that they know well. A dynamic, user-friendly website invites viewers to navigate these cities and to watch the various short films in alternating sequences – from Amsterdam to Willemstad and from Tel Aviv to Glasgow, at 7 am or at 3 am. City One Minutes gives new meaning to the notion of “city trip.”

Concept: Hansje van Etten and Jos Houweling
Soundtrackcity
(sound tours)
soundtrackcity.nl

Soundtrackcity Amsterdam
is an invitation to take to the streets and rediscover the city via eight unique audio walks made by artists. The walks were designed for different parts of the city, each with its own unique perspective, always connected to the area. With an audio player, earphones and a map of the city, the visitor will walk along the designated route, listening along the way to a sound mix of city stories, music, the voice of a guide, archive material and an especially composed “soundscape.”

Length: approx. 50 x approx. 3 minutes
Editor: Wim Schepens

Promised Land
beloofdeland.org
Surrounded by nature, and squeezed in between sports fields and the fringes of the city, a new type of urban environment is arising. A spot originally intended for leisure and relaxation, is expanding into a flexible residential area, providing housing to a colorful group of people – from perhaps an African athlete or a Polish worker, to a divorced man living on his own, all of them in need of temporary homes. Once set up as a weekend park, a place where the city dweller could recharge his batteries for the coming work week, this “tourist” has now made way for a new type of occupant, one who is not there to relax but to lead his life.

Portrait of five future “cities” and their inhabitants.
Directors: Sara Kolster and Eefje Blankevoort

Digital Programs
Holland Doc 24 — Choice of experts

What are the documentaries on cities and urbanization that are appreciated by the professionals? Holland Doc 24 asked five experts in the field of urban design and urban policies to select a documentary and to provide commentary on camera.

The Choice of Ole Bouman, director of the Netherlands Architecture Institute
Story of Stuff — Annie Leonard & Louis Fox
Activist animation film that provides a terse, persuasive argument on the disaster of Western consumerism.

To be seen as streams on hollanddoc.nl

The Choice of Marc Schuilenburg, criminologist at the Free University of Amsterdam
dies of the University of Amsterdam
Rayon 69 (episodes 1 and 2) — Vincent Monnikendam
Long before the current integration debate, director Vincent Monnikendam recorded how immigrant and native populations live together in a deprived neighborhood in The Hague.

The Choice of Marc Schuilenburg, criminologist at the Free University of Amsterdam

The Choice of Marc Schuilenburg, criminologist at the Free University of Amsterdam

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The Choice of Marc Schuilenburg, criminologist at the Free University of Amsterdam
of VPRO’s Tegenlicht and the 3rd IABR architects Brillembourg and Klumpner look for pragmatic solutions for the landscaping of Caracas, where 60 percent of the inhabitants live in self-built dwellings in the slums.

Exhibition

New Urban Myths
26 September – 4 October
Former office of daily newspaper Trouw:
De Verdieping - Wibautstraat 127, Amsterdam
New Urban Myths consists of an exhibition, lectures, presentations and graduation projects. The project shows urban development in the light of transformative holiday parks, the rise and fall of city areas, military principles and geographic codes, dreams of paradise, rebellion, transportation, and bestsellers. Conceived and produced by the Sandberg Institute Design Department.

Installation

(2) T_Visionarium
Open City
4–22 November
Zuiderkerk, Amsterdam
T_Visionarium Open City is a digital audiovisual archive comprising approximately thirty hours of digitalized video material on the city-documentaries, reports, clips and interviews - from the rich past of the VPRO and other Dutch broadcasting corporations.

The T_Visionarium bundles this material thematically, along with editorial meta-data. The result is an innovative interface, a 3-D system that offers visitors a spectacular and interactive cinema experience, giving them the opportunity to browse through the material and to remix it as they want.

T_Visionarium was developed by the i-Cinema Research Center in Sydney (Jeffrey Shaw) and the Zentrum für Kunst und Medien in Karlsruhe, Germany (Peter Weibel), and has so far only been shown in its experimental phase, in Spain and France. This first presentation in the Netherlands is presented by the VPRO and the IABR in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), and Image for the Future. Made possible by the Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst and the Mondriaan Foundation.
Foaming at the Edge – Open City Master Class

Leaders: New Dialogues AG, Zurich: Lars Lerup and Christian Bandi with Gunnar Hartmann

24 September – 9 October (review)

Berlage Institute—CARD
Review: 9 October, NAI

The 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, in conjunction with the Berlage Institute—CARD in Rotterdam, presents a two-week master class entitled Foaming at the Edge. Sixteen international teams of young architects, guided by their tutors and the New Dialogues AG team, research the edge between the city of Rotterdam and its harbor in order to reflect on the city’s urban and architectural future. The focus is to imagine how Rotterdam’s harbor area may be transformed into new housing developments. The participants specifically engage with the development goals outlined in Rotterdam’s 2030 Urban Development Strategy for the harbor area.

Participants design the edge between the city and the harbor—between the liquid and the solid—in order to explore what the German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk has defined as “architectures of foam.” At the center of this conception is the modern residence par excellence: the apartment. The apartment unit is used as the center...
from which different “wet and dry” urban activities, including residential needs, water-oriented sports, public promenades, water batteries, and fish farming, intermix and expand.

The master class participants explore how the apartment unit can form a new entity where humans coexist with nature and building together. The philosophical challenge hinted at by Sloterdijk suggests that a truly productive architectural foam must help human beings to emerge. In other words, the challenge of the participants is to design a complex amalgam of nature and building that projects a new quality of living. Taking into account the challenges of present-day Dutch housing needs, participants bring together new construction materials and ways of living to design 21st century housing.

In addition to daily sessions with tutors and master class leaders, participants directly engage with local experts from the Port of Rotterdam, the Rotterdam city planning department, and representatives from the construction and harbor industries through a series of lectures, guided tours, and seminar sessions. The aim of this engagement is to critically debate the long-term development strategies already in place as well as to envision other alternatives for the harbor area.

On 9 October, participants present their new master plan proposals for revitalizing the Rotterdam harbor at a public event as part of the Open City Event Program in the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

List of participating schools: Architectural Association, London; Berlage Institute, Rotterdam; Columbia University, New York; Oslo School of Architecture and Design; Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design; Delft University of Technology; Tsinghua University, Beijing; Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City; and the University of Split.

Partner Program

De Dépendance, Center for Urban Culture
25 September – 10 January
Schiekade 189, Rotterdam

De Dépendance provides space to cultural institutes that have disappeared or are disappearing from the Rotterdam city center. It strives to be a place where cultural forces can combine and interact—a place for debate, exposition, performance, confrontation, exchange, and production. During the 4th IABR, De Dépendance functions as a complementary venue, accommodating related long- and short-term exhibitions, installations, and spontaneous events.

De Dépendance is located in the Schiekade building in the Rotterdam Central District, east of Central Station and it is an unsolicited project by ZUS [Zones Urbaines Sensibles].

Special issue De Gids: Open City September

The prestigious cultural and literary Dutch periodical De Gids, founded in 1837, has invited well over twenty poets, authors and essayists to write about a city that is very dear to them, to analyze its functioning and malfunctioning, to reveal its mechanisms and strategies of coexistence, to show what is going on when it comes to political interventions, and to give evidence of very personal fascinations.

The cooperating authors include Anneke Brassinga, Jan Brokken, Ger Groot, Micha Hamel, Fouad Laroui, Edzard Mlik, Ramsey Nasr and Ester Naomi Perquin. Cooperating photographer is Bas Princen.

Your City
25 September – Mid December
Various sites in Rotterdam South

Focusing on the belief in the power and potential of young people, the Youth Biennale Your City is held in Rotterdam South. Here, the large presence of youngsters is considered to be a vital force. Your City is focusing on young people who use the city and wish to visualize their own needs. It shows how young people can initiate and take part in planning the environment they live in. By creating meaningful sites and with the demands of young people as a starting point, the generation gap will be bridged.

International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)
29 September - 20 December
NAI and various locations in Amsterdam

The IABR commissioned the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), the world’s largest documentary film festival, to compile a documentary program focusing on “the city and its inhabitants.” Every Wednesday afternoon, a documentary is shown in the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) in Rotterdam, to be repeated on the following Sunday. The program contains documentaries from the rich IDFA archives as well as new films. The IDFA is also compiling a documentary program to be shown as part of the 4th IABR in Amsterdam, with The Free State of Amsterdam as a source of inspiration.

At the 22nd edition of IDFA that runs from 19 through 29 November, a special section is devoted to documentaries about the city.
Never Built Rotterdam
Starting 8 December
Historical Museum Rotterdam -
Schielandshuis
The dynamic nature of Rotterdam and
the destruction of its old center in WWII
led to the city we see today. At the same
time, and additional to the city of today
and the pre-war Rotterdam, there is
an invisible city of building plans that
were never carried out. This Rotterdam
that was never built is the focus of this
exhibition in the Schielandshuis. Huge,
dynamic panoramas, models and plans
bring the Rotterdam that never was to
life, while an interactive model of the
city challenges visitors to decide the
direction the city should take.

Endless City
Until 10 January
Showroom MAMA
Within the framework of the 4th IABR,
Showroom MAMA presents the mul-
timedia project Endless City; a project
in which MAMA investigates the rela-
tionships between skateboarding culture,
public space and (visual) arts. The ana-
logies between art and skateboard cul-
ture—the exploration of boundaries and
bringing prevalent rules and notions
up for discussion—provide interesting
opportunities to explore new possibili-
ties for the use of urban public space.
The project combines various aspects
of contemporary exhibition practice, in
media and audience as well as in pre-
sentation. Key work is the documentary
"12" by Gyz La Rivière.

For Security Reasons
28 August – 18 October
Showroom MAMA
Curators Aline Yntema, Marieke
de Rooij and Tim Braakman think that
the balance between playfulness and
safety in contemporary society has
been disrupted, increasingly inclining
towards a society in which surveillance
gets the upper hand while, in the name
of safety, playfulness is regarded as
irresponsible, unnecessary and dan-
gerous. During For Security Reasons,
various performers explore the bounda-
ries and redefine the balance between
playfulness and safety, the community
and the individual, surveillance and
freedom.

Participating artists: Harmen de
Hoop (NL), Jeroen Jongeleen (NL), Sty-
lianos Schicho (OS), SpY (ES),
Desiree Palmen (NL), Magic Colorz
(DE), Sander Veenhof (NL), and Ant-
oine Schmitt (FR).

The 4th IABR’s Choice
1-30 September
Rotterdam Central Library
Browse through a bookcase and get to
know its owner. In September, the cu-
rators of the 4th IABR show the books
they found inspiring. Architect and ur-
banist Kees Christiaanse heads up the
curator team that has selected several
books that were inspiring and helpful
in curating the exhibition Open City:
Designing Coexistence. In September,
these books are shown at the Central
Library. Besides books in the field of ar-
chitecture and urban design, the books
also include professional literature on
subjects relating to the professions of
sociology, history or politics. One book,
The Death and Life of Great American
Cities, written by political commentator
and urban activist, Jane Jacobs — is
Kees Christiaanse’s favorite. Her ap-
peal for lively city neighborhoods is still
one of the most influential books about
urban development and city planning.
Jacobs’ ideas were very usable and in-
spirational in elaborating the exhibition
Open City: Designing Coexistence. In
consultation with the IABR, the Dutch
translation is published by SUN
Publishers in the fall of 2009.

Rotterdam Global Urban
Summit 2009
2-4 December
De Doelen
With the motto “Co-Creating New
(Green) Deals between Cities and Busi-
nesses,” the Rotterdam Global Urban
Summit 2009 focuses on three themes:
sustainable urban area development; in-
ternational connections and urban area
development; and knowledge, business
and urban area development.

Speakers include Saskia Sassen,
Riek Bakker, Kees Christiaanse, Winy
Maas, Coen van Oostrom, Pieter
Tordoir, Leo van den Berg, and Sharon
Nunes.

Rotterdam Classics
4 October, 8 November, and
6 December
Lantaren/Venster
This Fall’s film program Rotterdam
Classics, co-produced by the Rotter-
dam Municipal Archives and Lantaren/
Venster, is inspired by the Biennale
theme Open City, namely by IABR’s
subtheme Maakbaarheid, and presents
tree different programs with remarka-
ble short films that together visualize
Rotterdam’s historical transformation.
At the same time, they show analogies
as regards the changes in the urban
space and the developments in the field
of filming. The films shown are reflec-
tions on the environment that as such
are part of Rotterdam’s history as an
Open City. Floris Paalman, researcher
at Amsterdam University, introduces
the programs.
Guided Tours Open City: Designing Coexistence
25 September - 10 January
NAI
On request, the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) and the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) organizes guided tours for groups. The tours are adapted to each group’s level of knowledge and suitable for everyone, from secondary education students to urban planners.

Group size: not more than 15 visitors per tour, duration: 1 hour.

City Game
25 September - 10 January
NAI
City Game is designed for pupils who are in the last three years of primary school. After examining some items of the exposition Open City: Designing Coexistence, they will build up a city together. They will all have their own and different interests and they will find that there is more to building a city than just constructing.

Group size: not more than 30 pupils, duration: 2 hours.

Biennale Bicycle Tours
October – November
Departure from Rotterdam Central Station
In collaboration with the 4th IABR, Rotterdam ArchiGuides organizes bicycle tours and visits to the Biennale exhibition. The tours take place Sundays in October and November from 12 noon to 4 pm. There are two alternating tours, led by an enthusiastic and expert guide from Rotterdam ArchiGuides.

One week the tour’s theme is Parallel Cases. During this trip, participants will cycle to the Parallel Cases exhibition on RDM Campus at Rotterdam Heijplaat. En route, the tour will visit themes of the 4th IABR: Open City, Refuge, Reciprocity, Community, Squat, and Collective. The other week the theme of the bicycle tour will be Maakbaarheid. The tour will visit the exhibition in the Netherlands Architecture Institute and stop to view several Maakbaarheid projects in the city. These projects show the relevance of architecture and urban design to the social, economic and cultural development of Rotterdam.

Practical information
Ticket Sales
Admission tickets can be purchased at the exhibition locations. Passe-partouts can be purchased at the NAI and on www.iabr.nl
Main Venues
Nederlands Architectuurnstituut (NAi)

Open City: Designing Coexistence
25 September – 10 January
Museumpark 25
3015 CB Rotterdam
Opening Hours
Tuesdays - Saturdays: 10 am – 5 pm
Sundays and holidays: 11 am – 5 pm
Closed on Mondays, 25 December and 1 January

The opening hours of the Open City Event Program may differ from normal opening hours.

For up-to-date programming information, go to www.iabr.nl

RDM Campus
Parallel Cases /
IABR@RDM
26 September – 13 December
Heijplaatstraat 21, quay side
3089 JB Rotterdam
Opening Hours
Tuesdays - Fridays: 10 am – 5 pm
Saturdays and Sundays: 1 pm – 5 pm
Closed on Mondays and on 29 October

Former Shell Canteen in the Tolhuistuin
Vrijstaat Amsterdam
(The Free State of Amsterdam)
27 September – 8 November
Buiksloterweg 5c
1031 CC Amsterdam
Opening Hours
Mondays - Fridays: 10 am – 6 pm
Saturdays and Sundays: 12 noon to 6 pm
Evening program: 8 pm – 10 pm

For more practical information on hotel reservations, ticket sales, public transport, and addresses, please go to www.iabr.nl or call +31 (0)10 4401342 (until 10 January 2010).
Subsidizers and Partners

THE 4TH IABR IS SUBSIDIZED BY

Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment
Municipality of Rotterdam, department of Art and Culture

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City of Amsterdam; Department of Physical Planning
Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design

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