

IABR-2016-

Press Release, 2 September 2014

Maarten Hajer appointed chief curator of IABR-2016-

The International Architecture Biennale of Rotterdam (IABR) has announced the appointment of **Maarten Hajer** as **Chief Curator of IABR-2016-**. The theme of the seventh edition of the Architecture Biennale will be “The Next Economy” and it will open in May 2016.

Maarten Hajer is internationally renowned for his exploration of the relationships between public policies, urban development and environmental issues. He is professor of Public Policy at the University of Amsterdam and currently serving a 7-year term as Director-General of the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. As director of the PBL, Hajer is one of the prime advisers to the Dutch Cabinet on issues ranging from land use, planning, environment and nature, to water and transport.

Ed Nijpels, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Biennale said the Board was delighted to confirm Maarten Hajer's appointment as Chief Curator of IABR-2016-. "We are very pleased that in Maarten, the Biennale has again attracted an independent curator of outstanding ability. We look forward to welcoming him working with our team to realize an inspirational program of events in 2016."

George Brugmans, Chief Executive Officer of the IABR said, "Maarten has collaborated on IABR-2014-, and his concept for IABR-2016- will no doubt reflect this work as well as his conviction that, in order to realize necessary sustainable transitions, we need smart urbanism in aggregation with great design. I look very much forward to seeing Maarten further strengthen the IABR's international role as an incubator for innovation and a global platform for exchange on how to make better cities."

On his appointment to the 7th Biennale of Rotterdam, **Maarten Hajer** said, "We need new ideas, new visions. We do need smart urbanism. As curator of IABR-2016- I look forward to bring together the best of science, design, arts, politics, citizens, and business to jointly reflect on where we stand and where we're heading, what possible alternative urban futures we may imagine. Cities and citizens have to think strategically, as there really is something to choose. A platform such as the biennale is vital in that it provides a safe space, a stage where everybody is free to think, to debate, and to agree and disagree on the urban future we want."

Maarten Hajer will formally commence his appointment as Chief Curator of IABR-2016- in September 2014.

Note to editors:

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About Maarten Hajer

Maarten A. Hajer (1962, Groningen) is an internationally renowned Dutch political scientist and urban and regional planner. He was educated at the universities of Amsterdam and Oxford and published widely on issues of city politics, public space, political discourse, environment and democracy. Since 1998, he has been a professor of Public Policy at the University of Amsterdam.

In 2008, the Dutch Cabinet appointed him Director–General of the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. While primarily focused on political decision–making in Holland PBL is also active for international bodies, such as the European Commission, OECD and UNEP.

After obtaining his DPhil from the University of Oxford, working with geographer David Harvey, he worked at the University of Leiden, at the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, collaborating with sociologist Ulrich Beck, and as senior researcher at the Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR), where he was project coordinator of a highly influential report on spatial development politics.

Hajer has held a number of public appointments. As a member of the VROM-council of the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment he was responsible for the report on climate change as a structural spatial issue (“*De Hype voorbij – klimaatverandering als structureel ruimtelijk vraagstuk*” - 2007). In addition, he was a member of a party principles manifesto committee of the Dutch Labor Party (2000); a columnist for the Dutch newspapers Het Parool and Staatscourant; and a member of the jury for the Spinoza Prize, the Dutch EO Weijers competition for landscape architecture, and for EUROPAN 9, the European award for young architects; and board member of the Amsterdam Art Council and the Van Eesteren, Fluck van Lohuizen Stichting (EFL). Currently he is a board member of the Rotterdam Maaskant Prize for Architecture and a member of the UNEP Resource Panel (IRP) concerned with strategic issues of resource scarcity, decoupling and resource-efficiency.

Hajer is the author of many articles and books, among them *Smart about Cities: Visualizing the Challenge for 21st Century Urbanism*, with Ton Dassen (NAI010 Publishers / PBL, 2014); *Strong Stories: How the Dutch Are Reinventing Spatial Planning*, with Jantine Grijzen and Susan van 't Klooster, (010 Publishers, 2010); *Authoritative Governance: Policy Making in the Age of Mediatization* (Oxford UP, 2009); *In Search of the New Public Domain*, with Arnold Reijndorp (NAi Publishers, 2002); and the acclaimed study *The Politics of Environmental Discourse* (Oxford UP, 1995). He was the editor of *Deliberative Policy Analysis – Understanding Governance in the Network Society*, with Henk Wagenaar (Cambridge UP, 2003), and of *Living with Nature*, with Frank Fischer (Oxford UP, 1999).

For more information on Maarten Hajer, please refer to www.maartenhajer.nl/wordpress/
For more information on the role, tasks and responsibilities of the PBL, please refer to www.pbl.nl/english

About the IABR

The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) believes that architecture is a public concern, and focuses on (the future of) cities.

Soon, 80 per cent of mankind will live in cities where over 90 per cent of our wealth will be produced – an urbanization shift that could wreck the environment. To make our future cities resilient and livable for everyone, the transition has to be planned, and the IABR is convinced that design can and should contribute.

Given the urgency, cities need to learn from each other as fast as possible and explore the road to a resilient future together. Indeed, it is in cities that solutions need to and can be found. The IABR therefore connects the Netherlands to the world, and brings the world to Rotterdam. It brings designers, academics, and thinkers together with decision-makers, politicians, the private sector, and of course the public, or rather, the city's ultimate stakeholders, its citizens.

The IABR produces exhibitions, conferences, films, books, lectures, and debates, but it is also, and more and more, an incubator for innovation. IABR's long-term research by design-programs promote knowledge exchange between cities and tangibly contribute to the making of the city. The IABR-project ateliers are set up together with local and/or regional governments and other stakeholders in Holland and abroad. They connect the research by design-methodology to real world problems. They are solution-oriented and produce results –visions and strategies, toolboxes for governance, development models and project proposals; results that are actionable and designed to change the status quo.

The first two editions, **Mobility** (2003) and **The Flood** (2005) have put the IABR on the map internationally, profiling it as a manifestation focusing on the future of our cities.

From 2006 until 2012 the editions **Power**, **Open City** and **Making City** have explored ongoing rapid urbanization and its consequences, while staking out a position for architecture and making a case for what design may effectuate.

The next two editions take this agenda one step further. The need to design our future habitat in terms of a sustainable balance between demographic, ecological and economic concerns, between people, planet and profit, give direction to the program of the 6th and 7th editions.

IABR-2014-URBAN BY NATURE-, that closed its doors on August 24, 2014, explored the relationship between spatial design and the ecological agenda. Examining the relationship between city and nature, exploring city as nature, as a metabolism, the analysis produced instruments that can be applied to guide the design, planning and governance of our future cities. Necessary because, in the words of the Curator of the **IABR-2014-**, Dirk Sijmons: *"We can only solve our ecological problems when we solve our urban problems first."*

IABR-2016-, having as its theme **THE NEXT ECONOMY-**, will investigate the relationship between spatial design and the (future development of the) economy. **How can urban regions, which account for the lion's share of economic activity, help design the next economy? How to rebalance society and individuals; production and consumption; means and raw materials; and lack of space and territory? How can design anticipate the transitions that are radically changing the world today?**

For more information on the IABR, please refer to www.iabr.nl/en
