

IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK

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IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK opens on 1 June 2018



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The eighth edition of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) opens on 1 June 2018: the double feature IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK, which will take place in both Rotterdam and Brussels. The opening weekend in Rotterdam marks the launch of the main exhibition and of a continuous program of activities in and around the HAKA Building in the Merwe-Vierhavens District (M4H).

The exhibition centers on our future in the Delta of the Low Lands, in the Netherlands and Belgium. Six successive spaces take visitors on a quest for The Missing Link: We know what we have to do to successfully transition to a resilient future, so what is stopping us?

The IABR will not be stopped. In the IABR–Atelier Rotterdam, for example, the City of Rotterdam and the IABR jointly work on one of the Netherlands' first energy neighborhoods in Bospolder-Tussendijken, in collaboration with the Delfshaven Coöperatie and housing association Havensteder. Together with the City and the Port of Rotterdam, the IABR is also exploring how former city harbor M4H and the surrounding neighborhoods can be turned into a testing ground and showcase for a technologically and socially successful energy transition in Rotterdam in the coming years.

IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK

Exhibition Rotterdam

The first part of the biennale diptych IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK is a work biennale focused on research and exchange, on development, presentation and debate, aimed at setting out research lines. That is why the entire ground floor of the HAKA Building accommodates work spaces, with the exhibition on the floor above.

This is where the theme of The Missing Link will be addressed. Central questions are: How can designers respond effectively to human-made climate change? What is keeping us from taking action, what is the missing link? Can we raise sufficient social support to ensure that change will actually and swiftly start to happen by designing the necessary transition appealingly and convincingly? How can we design the future in terms of social benefits, rather than imminent loss? And what distinctive role can designers play?

The Ateliers in which, and the practices with which, the IABR will be working in the coming years have prominent positions in the exhibition: the two IABR–Ateliers, East Flemish Core Region and Rotterdam, and the Delta–Atelier. The latter is a collective of more than 40 coalitions from Belgium and the Netherlands that will together focus on The Missing Link in the coming three years to develop new practices along the research lines set out by the IABR: Renewable Energy Landscape, (Re)productive City, Caring Living Environments, Healthy Agriculture, A New Mobility System, and Space for Biodiversity and Water. These six themes also recur in the program and in work sessions, lectures and debates.

Program Rotterdam

From 1 June until 8 July, the IABR and its partners will present an extensive, near-100-part program in the HAKA Building and the surrounding M4H District that includes debates, work sessions, lectures, workshops, conferences, presentations, bicycle tours, and guided tours. Main themes are the energy transition, the relationship between spatial design and social problems, and the challenges faced by the Rotterdam M4H District and those of the Delta of the Low Lands.

A Selection from the Program

High Noon

Every Tuesday to Friday at 12:30 p.m., *High Noon* will discuss question such as: What has to change? and: What can we change? with the audience. Guest speakers include special Envoy for International Water Affairs Henk Ovink, Dutch Government Advisor for the Physical Living Environment Daan Zandbelt and Dutch Government Advisor for the Landscape Berno Strootman, and former IABR curator and expert par excellence in the field of energy and space Dirk Sijmons.

Atelier Government Architect

During the biennale, the Atelier Government Architect will host four evening sessions in which Dutch Government Architect and IABR curator Floris Alkemade will explicitly

IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK

interact with the audience. Together with invited speakers, he will introduce themes such as care, food production, refugee relief, and the design challenges that arose after the economic crisis.

Resilient Rotterdam and the Energy Transition

Together with Resilient Rotterdam (Department of Urban Development), the IABR will organize a two-day international conference with the working title *Energy as a Lever of Resilient Cities*. The City of Rotterdam will report back the progress it has made with its first resilience strategy, which was launched during the previous biennale in 2016. And the IABR will give a presentation on the progress of the IABR–Atelier Rotterdam. The City and the IABR will subsequently explore the roadmap towards a resilient Rotterdam.

Bospolder-Tussendijken: Rotterdam's First Energy Neighborhood

In the IABR–Atelier Rotterdam the IABR, the City of Rotterdam, the Delfshaven Coöperatie, and housing association Havensteder work on the transition to sustainable energy at the neighborhood level in Bospolder-Tussendijken. Together with residents and organizations, they will explore ways to motivate as many people as possible to be active participants in the inevitable energy transition, as well as ways the residents can benefit from it, for example because it creates new employment, or because they, themselves produce energy either individually or together.

Test Site M4H+: the Merwe-Vierhavens District as a Testing Ground and Showcase

Under the auspices of the IABR–Atelier Rotterdam, the City and Port of Rotterdam and the IABR have established Test Site M4H+, in which the city harbor M4H and the surrounding neighborhoods serve as a testing ground to explore ways to use the energy transition to help launch a much broader transformation that also involves generating social benefits.

The IABR asked a number of parties that have been active in the district for quite some time to put together a program on the occasion of the biennale.

Studio Makkink & Bey presents the Water School, welcoming visitors at its Marconistraat studio on six Fridays. The Water School, the prototype of a new kind of school currently under development, takes the form of a work exhibition and a temporary knowledge center. The Studio uses the biennale as a platform to propel plans for the school to the next level.

Every Thursday in June, the five design offices united in the Keile Collective will seize the opportunity provided by the IABR agenda to organize field trips, workshops, and lectures about and by businesses and entrepreneurs in the area, which link issues such as waste, energy, water, food, and circular area development to the themes of the IABR.

Throughout the biennale, Studio Roosegaarde, based in the M4H District, presents the Smog Free Project, a series of innovations by Daan Roosegaarde that

IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK

reduce pollution and offer an experience that provides inspiration for a clean future at the same time.

About IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK

The IABR has made the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the Paris Climate Agreement the Alpha and Omega of the 2018 and 2020 editions' program. That is why the first part of the diptych IABR–2018+2020 is a 'work biennale' that centers on the following questions: On the basis of spatial design, how can we respond effectively to human-made climate change? What is keeping us from the upscaling and acceleration that are necessary to actually achieve the climate targets? What is THE MISSING LINK?

IABR President George Brugmans urges the three curators, Dutch Government Architect Floris Alkemade, Flemish Government Architect Leo Van Broeck, and Belgian architect Joachim Declerck to find answers to these questions – as designers, with designers, and together with the IABR.

To be able to investigate this large, comprehensive challenge in a meaningful way, the IABR and the curators decided to initially limit the work arena to the Rhine-Maas-Scheldt Delta, the Delta of the Low Lands. Together with its many partners, the IABR will focus on our future in the Delta in 2018 and subsequently, towards 2020, increasingly link this Delta of the future to the world. Our future in the Delta; the delta of the future.

The main exhibition in Rotterdam, which takes place in the HAKA Building in the Merwe-Vierhavens District (M4H), will be open until 8 July 2018. In the same period as well as in the autumn, the World Trade Center in Noordwijk in Brussels is the location of a second exhibition. For more information, please visit www.iabr.nl.

Practical Information

Date: 1 June to 8 July 2018
Location: HAKA Building, Vierhavensstraat 38, 3029 BE Rotterdam
Opening Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., closed on Mondays
Admission: regular € 7.50 | passe-partout (unlimited admission) € 25 |
Rotterdampas € 3.75 | admission is free for under-16s

NOTE TO THE PRESS

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