

IABR–2014–

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IABR–2014–URBAN BY NATURE– on Urban Landscapes and their Metabolism

will run from 29 May to 24 August 2014 in the Kunsthal Rotterdam

‘To resolve the world’s ecological problems, we first have to work on the problems facing our cities.’ This observation by landscape architect Dirk Sijmons is the premise of the sixth edition of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam: IABR–2014–URBAN BY NATURE– and it earned him the curatorship of this edition. A major exhibition, URBAN BY NATURE– will guide visitors through the contemporary urban landscape to experience the metabolism of the city. For the first time in its history, the now sustainable Kunsthal will be used in its entirety for a single exhibition. IABR–2014– opens on 28 May 2014 and is open to the public from 29 May 2014.

The City as our Natural Environment

Sijmons argues that we must learn to see the city as our natural environment and need to overcome the idea that city and nature are opposites. We will only be able to make our living environments truly sustainable and resilient if we perceive nature and city as being interconnected. Research results from the IABR Project Ateliers Texel, Rotterdam and BrabantStad, and from example projects from around the world, will substantiate this assertion in a comprehensive exhibition. Plans, movies, infographics, videos, pictures and models will take visitors through the present and the future of the urban landscape on the basis of three subthemes: *City and Nature*, *The Metabolism of the City*, and *Strategies for the Urban Landscape*.

IABR–2014 Examines the ‘Metabolism of the City’

IABR–2014–URBAN BY NATURE– will show how we live in ever growing urban landscapes that have their own natural metabolism. IABR–2014– perceives the city as an organism, with water, food, waste, energy, data, cargo, flora, fauna, and people flowing through it. Analyzing these flows will help create a healthier metabolism and improve urban design and planning: from huge, densely populated deltas to postindustrial parks and urban agriculture; from the new urban approach of the World Wildlife Fund to new governance philosophies for Texel, from the metabolism of Rotterdam to what happens beneath its surface.

Research on Texel, Rotterdam and BrabantStad

The IABR is a biennial event, but also an ongoing research & development machine that conducts research and develops concrete plans and projects. As part of the IABR–2014–URBAN BY NATURE– and in close cooperation with the local authorities of

Texel, Rotterdam and BrabantStad, the government commissioned three IABR–Project Ateliers. International design teams are working with local teams on concrete and topical assignments. The research results will play an important role in the exhibition and will subsequently be implemented in practice. This way, the IABR is making a concrete contribution to the development of our cities. IABR–Project Ateliers have also been established abroad, notably in Istanbul and São Paulo. IABR–Atelier Istanbul II is a collaboration with the sub-municipality of Beykoz: the results will be exhibited during the IABR–2016. In Atelier São Paulo III, work for the IABR–2016 is already underway.

About the IABR

The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) considers architecture to be a major social issue. The IABR therefore focuses on the future of the city, where 80 per cent of mankind will soon be producing 90 per cent of its wealth. Our cities need to be strong, sustainable, and livable for everyone, and redress the balance between people, planet, and prosperity.

The IABR puts issues on the agenda and produces exhibitions, conferences, films, books, lectures, and debates. In addition, the IABR organizes long-term research by design, always in collaboration with local and regional authorities and with the objective to contribute concretely and actively to the making of city.

For more information, please visit www.iabr.nl/en

Note to editors:

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