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Press Release, 21 October 2010

## ***Making City*: the 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam in Rotterdam, São Paulo and Istanbul**

In just a few decades 80% of mankind will live in cities where more than 90% of our wealth is generated. And all that covers less than 3% of the earth's surface. Cities are effective, they drive innovation, offer the best answer to overpopulation, and are the greenest answer we have on a planet where crisis and climate change are forcing us to find rigorous solutions. But then cities must be better managed, better designed, better organized, and better planned than they currently are. Only then can cities save us from ourselves.

With *Making City*, the IABR will therefore actively engage with 'city making' in the form of concrete projects in three cities: Rotterdam, São Paulo and Istanbul. For this, an international team of curators is engaged in a two-year research programme in these three cities. Their main goal is to redefine the role of and the relation between planning, design and politics and thereby contribute to a more effective *toolbox* for making the city. Open and new alliances among urban planners, scientists, businesses, developers and local administrators are the driving forces in this endeavour. It will culminate in presentations, exhibitions, lectures and debates in the three cities, after which it is the stated intent of all partners to see the projects realized.

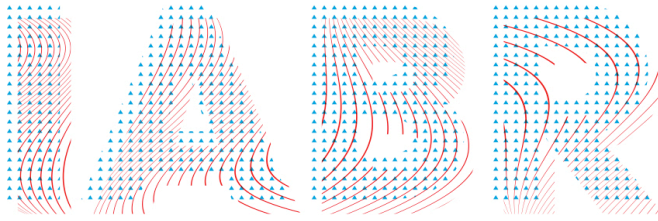
The 5th IABR, *Making City*, opens in April 2012.

### **Programme**

The IABR will take place at different locations in Rotterdam, São Paulo and Istanbul. The Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) is the venue for the main exhibition. In addition, the three cities will host separate exhibitions, lectures, debates and films. The successful collaboration between the IABR and the VPRO broadcasting corporation from 2009, *Urban Century*, will continue in 2012. The 5th IABR will also see the release of a series of publications. In the build-up to the biennale, urban meetings will be held during 2010 and 2011 in the three cities. The meetings will feature workshops, master classes, lectures and debates.

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For more information, please contact Rinske Brand of IABR Communications at [pers@iabr.nl](mailto:pers@iabr.nl), 010-218 85 03 or 06-21 27 46 61.



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## Appendix to the press release *Making City*: 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam

### International team of curators for the 5th IABR

The 5<sup>th</sup> IABR's International Curator Team consists of Henk Ovink (Director of Spatial Planning Netherlands, Ministry of VROM), Joachim Declerck (Architecture Workroom Brussels, Belgium), Elma van Boxel and Kristian Koreman (ZUS, Rotterdam, Netherlands), Fernando de Mello Franco, Marta Moreira and Milton Braga (MMBB, São Paulo, Brazil), Asu Aksoy and Ihsan Bilgin (Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey), and is chaired by George Brugmans (IABR Director).

The team of curators is working closely with design offices, universities, urban planning departments and city councils in the three cities. The three most important partners are the Berlage Institute, the IHS/Erasmus University Rotterdam and Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands; SEHAB, the Department of City Planning in São Paulo, and the University of São Paulo; and the city district of Arnavutköy and Bilgi University in Istanbul.

### The trilogy

The fifth edition of the IABR is the third and final instalment of a trilogy of biennales that examine the city of tomorrow.

*Power — Producing The Contemporary City* (2007) studied the forces behind the production of the contemporary city and asked which counterforces architects can develop.

*Open City — Designing Coexistence* (2009) focused on the social sustainability of the city and asked how architects can make concrete contributions.

*Making City* examines the relation between planning, design and politics and will test in practice the active strategies that architects and urban planners can contribute to specific urban conditions by actively engaging with *city making* in Rotterdam, Istanbul and São Paulo.

### About the IABR

The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) was founded on the conviction that architecture is a public concern and that its main challenge is the design of decent day-to-day living conditions for billions of people. Conceived as a research biennale, each edition of the IABR is based on an urgent social agenda, and seeks to engage the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism in research, design, public dialogue, and presentation.

With the fifth biennale the IABR is taking another step. By connecting research and presentation to concrete urban-design challenges, it confronts itself with reality and widens its social base. In close collaboration with local officials, universities and designers, it seeks to enhance the quality of local design assignments that are then implemented.

The IABR is structurally supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the City of Rotterdam and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

### Previous editions

2003 Mobility: Room with a View – curator: Francine Houben, Mecanoo architects

2005 The Flood – curator: Adriaan Geuze, West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture

2007 Power: Producing the Contemporary City – curator: Berlage Institute, Vedran Mimica

2009 Open City: Designing Coexistence – curator: Kees Christiaanse, ETH Zurich/KCAP Rotterdam

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