

08.10

THE CITY AS A SPONGE

**Florian Boer (Urbanisten /
Rotterdam), Thierry Kandjee
(Taktyk / Brussels)**

**19.00–21.00,
WTC-I, 23rd Floor**

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World Transformation Sessions

You Are Here puts twelve urgent questions on the agenda, both in exhibition and in programme: with the slogan “no transition without spatial transformation”, we ask the question what role spatial design can play in imagining and testing optimistic answers. The World Transformation Sessions is a series of twelve public debates where innovative practitioners speak up. Their presentations are followed by a conversation with other persons of interest. As such, transition thinkers, experts, spatial planners and architects are invited to the 23d floor of the WTC-I building.

What is it all about?

Water is one of the most complex challenges for our future. There is either too much, too little, or it is too dirty. For centuries, the delta and coastal areas have been ideal for agriculture and trade, and thus an attraction for urbanization. Although we often forget it, water is a very urban issue. As a result of excessive asphalt and concrete, the water in our cities can no longer be absorbed, with all the consequences that entails. Can we develop the city as a sponge, and make room for water again? How do you design a city that can retain water - instead of removing everything as quickly as possible - and then return it again? The construction of parks, open streams or permeable banks are just a few examples. These not only form a buffer against drought or flooding, but also against heat stress.

You Are Here

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