

You Are Here

U Bent Hier Vous Êtes Ici أنت هنا Buradasınız

22/05/2018

Subject:

You Are Here

an exhibition, programme of urban debates and shared workspace in Brussels, as part of IABR-2018+2020-THE MISSING LINK opens its doors to the general public on June 1, 2018

You invest in solar panels, your next car will be electric, you buy your fruit and vegetables locally, and you take your own shopping bag with you. You sort your waste into an ever-increasing number of different coloured bags. But whether you are truly convinced or just want to appease your conscience, you also read the newspaper: these minor efforts are not enough.

You have inherited a lifestyle that is not realistic. The raw materials have almost been exhausted. Just like the space.

This planet is finite and its treasures have been distributed unequally.

Things will have to change.

Your future will also be radically different. This is something we established in solemn promises and agreements, in the smallest city and with the whole world. We are combating climate change and poverty, making the transition to renewable energy, and reducing CO2 emissions, on the road to a circular economy. The milestones and promises have been set for 2020, 2025, 2030 and even 2050. They are approaching at lightning speed.

There is a huge gap between the modest experiments and ambitious goals.

We know exactly what we have to do, but we do not know how.

That is the missing link.

The Missing Link

How do we progress from an agenda, knowledge and plans to effective spatial transformation? Enter IABR-2018+2020-THE MISSING LINK.

The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam is devoting the next two editions in 2018 and 2020 entirely to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the Paris Climate Agreement. In the spring of 2017, president George Brugmans appointed three curators: Dutch Chief Government Architect Floris Alkemade, Flemish Government Architect Leo Van Broeck and Joachim Declerck from the think-and-do tank Architecture Workroom Brussels. From now until 2020 they will make room and time for a continuous programme of design, debate and exhibitions.

IABR-2018+2020-THE MISSING LINK is a social experiment and a **diptych**, a double biennale in 2018 and 2020. The **work biennale** in 2018 brings together the practices, insights and forces of the different actors and experts

that are working on The Missing Link in lots of places. The curators, their teams and IABR will formulate the ambitions and actions for the work process up to 2020. The **biennale in 2020** will demonstrate the specific results that have been achieved on the ground.

Delta of the Low Countries

IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK is also a geographical diptych, involving two countries, the Netherlands and Belgium. Along with its curators, and in partnership with Architecture Workroom Brussels, with this double edition the IABR is expanding its work field to the Delta of the Low Countries. The Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt Delta is a unique, densely urbanised region that plays a major role in the global economy.

The joint research in that Delta is currently already working on energy transitions as city project in the IABR Atelier Rotterdam, and on demographic growth in the IABR Atelier East Flemish Heartland.

Additionally, in the Delta Atelier, over forty Dutch and Belgian practices, local authorities, citizens' initiatives and experts will be working on the future of the shared delta for three years. Global brainstorming, initiative and design power will be used to take the step towards actual changes and spatial transformations. This is how achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate agreements will jointly be made possible.

It goes without saying that prominent cities in this delta, Rotterdam and Brussels, provide the décor for the expanded biennale programme. In Brussels the IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK programme bears the title **You Are Here**, one that causes you to stop for a moment, then go on to act through participation, reflection and research.

You Are Here

It is no coincidence that Architecture Workroom Brussels, along with the curators, chose the World Trade Center as their base of operations. It was once a prestigious product of 20th century urban planning, bursting with ambition and hope for prosperity. Today, it is a remnant of a utopia that was brutally shattered. Commuters, lease cars filling busy lanes, homeless asylum seekers and a 15% vacancy rate, visibly on the rise. The Noordwijk, which developed around the WTC, is a reflection of the changes taking place in the world and the challenges they bring. Challenges that are emerging in other places in the delta and around the globe.

You Are Here responds to the power of attraction this place exudes, and to its history and future. How do we make room in our cities for a different type of mobility, renewable energy or increased solidarity? And how do we progress from good intentions to actual transformations?

Both the vacant shopping centre and the WTC I Tower will be opened for exhibitions, public debates and working sessions with designers, local and regional administrations, experts and concerned citizens. Architecture Workroom Brussels is teaming up with Team Vlaams Bouwmeester and Up4North to transform the WTC into an open workspace. In this workspace diverse ideas, places, actors and practices are brought together, new links are forged and new coalitions facilitated. A test site for the transformation of Brussels, Flanders and the Delta as a whole. And for transformations that must also be achieved in other places around the world. It is changing, if you like, into a **World Transformation Center**.

Programme

The ambition to make room for the future is also translated into the organisation of the exhibitions and the related programme.

On the **first floor** visitors enter 'The Future is Not Realistic', where, in the double-height lobby of a former bank, they are immersed in a sound installation that makes The Missing Link palpable and tangible.

A **second exhibition**, 'The Future is a Practice' presents twenty specific projects by designers, thinkers and doers from the Netherlands and Belgium. Together they demonstrate that today we already possess insights and methods to take a step closer to the ambitious future goals, through actual transformations of cities and landscapes. By bringing them together in one space this exhibition illustrates the joint insights and force of these spatial practices. They make the future conceivable: something that is no longer unknown, but something we can yearn for.

This force and longing are necessary preconditions for devising effective solutions. They drive the programme on the **23rd floor** forwards. 'The Future is Here' is the workspace where, against a breathtaking view of Brussels, space is literally and figuratively made for 15 specific social change projects from Brussels, Flanders and the Delta of the Low Countries. Between 2 June and 11 November, this is where the step towards actual transformations will be developed and visualised with over 400 actors, for the latter to subsequently continue on the path to achieve this goal, each at their own location. This is where the future becomes realistic.

You Are Here, as part of IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK | brief content

You Are Here is the Brussels programme of exhibitions, urban debates and work sessions as part of IABR–2018+2020–The Missing Link. From 2 June to 11 November 2018, the Brussels World Trade Center and its vacant shopping centre will be transformed into a platform and workspace. It will provide administrations, citizens and their initiatives, companies and others, space and time. However, it also offers them inspiration and support from designers and experts, to work on the greatest challenge of our time: how do we change the way we live, work and move around so that we can genuinely achieve the climate targets? Via exhibitions, public debates and working sessions we will embark on a quest for effective breakthroughs and specific spatial transformations. The WTC will become the test site and open workspace for the future of the Noordwijk, the city, the Delta of the Low Countries and by extension the world. A World Transformation Center that helps translate the ambitious goals into actual changes on the ground. This is where the future becomes realistic.

You Are Here, as part of IABR–2018+2020–THE MISSING LINK | practical info

WTC I

Boulevard King Albert II 28-30

1000 Brussels

www.youarehere.brussels

[@youareherbrussels](https://www.facebook.com/youareherbrussels) (facebook / instagram / twitter)

Phase #1

02/06/18 – 06/07/18

Exhibition opening hours

Wednesday to Sunday from 1 pm to 6 pm and Thursday from 1 pm to 9 pm

Phase #2

14/09/18 – 11/11/18

**You Are Here, as part of IABR-2018+2020-THE MISSING LINK |
press info**

11 am – opening & speech by the curators

11.30 am – guided tour

12.30 pm – lunch

1 pm to 2 pm - possibility of interviewing the curators Floris, Joachim & Leo

4 pm – official opening by Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz

For more info, visuals, interviews, and press passes, please contact:

Ellen Vergult – Architecture Workroom Brussels – T +32 2 204 07 10 –
evergult@architectureworkroom.eu

For interviews with the curator Leo Van Broeck, please contact: Cateau Rob-
berechts – Team Vlaams Bouwmeester – T +32 0499 59 36 06 - catherine.robberchts@vlaanderen.be

For interviews with George Brugmans about the International Architecture
Biennale Rotterdam, and questions about the expo and the programme,
please contact: Nancy Van Oorschot – International Architecture Biennale Rot-
terdam – T +31 641684324 – nvanoorschot@iabrn.nl

**You Are Here, as part of IABR-2018+2020-THE MISSING LINK |
colophon**

Architecture Workroom Brussels

Internationale Architectuur Biennale Rotterdam

Team Vlaams Bouwmeester

Up4North

With the support of:

Flemish Government

Brussels Capital Region

**You Are Here is an exhibition, urban debate
programme and shared workspace in Brussels,
part of the IABR-2018+2020-THE MISSING LINK**

02.06 – 08.07 / 15.09 – 11.11.2018

WTC 1, Boulevard King Albert II 28-30, 1000 Brussels

Wed – Sun 13.00 – 18.00, Thu 13.00 – 21.00

Free Entry www.youarehere.brussels