

INDEPEN X
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SCHOOL X
FOR X THE
X CITY X

A PLAYGROUND FOR URBAN THINKERS, DO-ERS AND DESIGNERS

ANNUAL
OVERVIEW
2023

Rotterdam

_INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR THE CITY

This annual report looks back at the activities of the Independent School for the City in the year 2023 – the fifth year in the existence of the School.

The Independent School for the City is an international free space for reflection and action around major urban issues, based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. It was founded in October 2018 with the aim of providing a space for talent development, focused on urban professionals in the broadest sense to deepen and broaden their expertise. The School organises lectures, workshops, master classes, seminars, studios, and other activities in a raw space in the centre of Rotterdam. It draws on the knowledge, networks, and decades of experience of founders Crimson Historians & Urbanists and ZUS architects, both in urban practice and in academia.

Meanwhile, the School has grown into a broad 'learning community' of urbanists, which in the School's definition embodies everyone who is professionally concerned with the city: both established professionals and young talents, with backgrounds in spatial and urban studies such as architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, and architectural history, but also sociology, anthropology, political and cultural studies, art, and media. The School was founded with the goal of both gaining

a sharper picture of current urban realities as well as developing new and alternative ways of dealing with them. This is all based on the belief that problems have become so large and complex that traditional, monodisciplinary approaches are no longer sufficient. The starting point of the School is therefore to create a creative space with deep roots in practice, not an "education centre" but a "School of Thought," offering a critical, both reflective and activist approach to all members of its "learning community," which consists of active participants in master classes and studios as well as tutors and listening audiences.

PROFESSIONALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Over the past five years, the School has developed its own methods and program and professionals from all over the world and from the most diverse backgrounds have joined the School's activities and regularly come back and stay connected. At the same time, the School has firmly established itself as a unique and indispensable institute within a network of (inter)national and regional partners.

Building upon this position and the achievements of the previous years, the School has used 2023 to evaluate its programme and communication strategy in order to further professionalise, develop,



and sustain the organisation, as well as to grow its outreach. Thanks to the 'Impulsregeling' of the municipality of Rotterdam, which provided funding for 2023 and 2024, including a specific budget for the professionalisation and development of the organisation, the School has been able to use this year and the next one, to focus on three key development goals:

1. The strategic development of the organisation
2. Expanding the audience
3. Sustaining the school's position

1. The strategic development of the organization

The strategic development of the School focuses on strengthening its positioning with a clear identity, and reflecting this in both its communication and the structure and content of its programs. Building on earlier research by Jeff Pfaff of Pfaff Creatieve Strategie & Communicatie, the School continued its collaboration with Pfaff in 2023 to critically evaluate the course formats, aiming to make them more accessible for professionals.

The research highlighted that young professionals in the design and cultural sectors, who are eager to grow, share knowledge, and engage with urban issues in a free environment, often find it challenging to participate in full-time week-long courses due to work commitments. To address this, the School began experimenting in 2023 with shorter formats, such as courses held over two consecutive Fridays and Saturdays, as well as a seminar series spanning three Friday afternoons. Initial results from these new formats have been promising, and the School has decided to include them in the 2024 program and the years that follow.

Additionally, the School had been exploring ways to more systematically retain and build upon the knowledge developed and shared within its programs. To achieve this, a set of long-term research projects (programmaliijnen), has been introduced as part of the 2025–2028 multi-year plan. These lines will structure upcoming workshops, lectures, and courses to ensure continuity and foster deeper engagement.

2. Expanding the audience

The efforts on expanding the audience of the School are mainly focused on improving the communication and promotion of the School's activities. Also building upon the research by Pfaff, adjustments were made to the website to more clearly convey the School's mission, activities, and what participants can expect. The School also worked in 2023 with social media expert Stefan Scheffer to improve the social media outreach, making technical and graphical changes to the advertisements in order to improve their effectivity. In addition to this we started distributing posters and flyers with the half-year programme of the School in the four biggest cities through the network of the Flyerman and by sending them to education institutes and architecture offices.

The efforts have resulted in notable growth in social media engagement with substantial increases in followers and interactions, and higher attendance at lectures and public events. However, participation in the longer courses and workshops requires a longer period to see significant changes, as people tend to register for these activities well in advance. For this reason, we unfortunately had to cancel the intensive This is Tomorrow program, that was planned to run in the beginning of 2023 and instead offered several elements of the program as standalone courses. It is expected that the implemented changes will have a significant impact on the attendance for the program in 2024.

3. Sustaining the school's position

Now that the School has been established for several years and has developed into a valued meeting place for urban issues in Rotterdam, it is important to consider a long-term strategy for the coming years. This strategy involves both securing the School's financial sustainability and strengthening and broadening its content.

The previously mentioned Impulsregeling Culture Program of the Municipality of Rotterdam enabled collaboration with cultural advisor Christine de Baan to develop a long-term vision for the School and prepare applications for multi-year local and national funding. This effort led to two successful subsidy applications in 2024, ensuring the School's existence until 2028. With this stability, the School's team can put more energy on other activities to enhance its position, such as expanding and updating its Maaskant Member Network – a network of national architecture firms that provide financial, relational, and content-related support to the School.

_PUBLIC EVENTS

WALL TO WALL FIELD CLUB



DATE: Sunday 22/01/2023
SPEAKERS: Arnoud Holleman, Piet Vollaard and Peter Wouda
PARTNER: MacGuffin Magazine
PARTICIPANTS: 25

On Sunday 22 January 2023, we went on a day-long field club excursion to Louis le Roy's forever growing Ekokathedraal in Mildam and Heerenveen, and Krijn Giezen's botanical sound barrier in Rhooen. This intensive excursion, organised with MacGuffin Magazine, was filled with animated explanations and inspiring conversations about art, waste and landscapes. Piet Vollaard, Arnoud Holleman and Peter Wouda gave context of these never-ending designs.

SCHOOL'S OUT! #30 ROBERT BEVAN



DATE: Friday 27/01/2023
SPEAKERS: Robert Bevan, Michelle Provoost, Wouter Vanstiphout and Jord den Hollander
PARTICIPANTS: 55
ONLINE VIEWS: 110

For the first School's Out! of 2023, we invited journalist, author and heritage consultant Robert Bevan, to talk about his latest book "Monumental Lies – Culture Wars and the Truth about the Past" on how statues, heritage and cities have become the battleground for the culture wars. In his talk, he emphasized the significance of statues, monuments, and architecture as tangible links to history, reflecting past ideologies. However, these structures can perpetuate falsehoods, especially when honoring undeserving figures or facing destruction, erasing the struggle for justice.

SCHOOL'S OUT! #31 LISA DOELAND

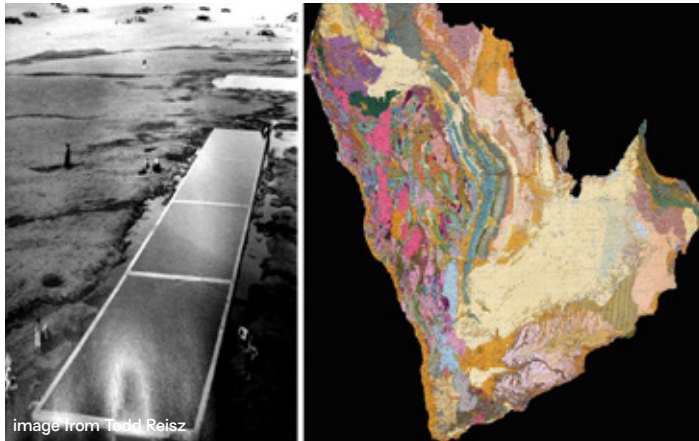


DATE: Friday 24/02/2023
SPEAKERS: Lisa Doeland, Mike Emmerik
PARTICIPANTS: 85
ONLINE VIEWS: 183

For 31st edition of School's Out! we welcomed Lisa Doeland to the School. Lisa is a philosopher exploring contemporary issues, such as dark ecology, green ideology, the Anthropocene, waste and hauntology. During her lecture she confronted us with the fact that we don't have to be afraid for the apocalypse, because we are already in it. But instead of finding solutions and alternatives, we must let go of that feeling of melancholy, let go of the idea of the world as we know it. As she says: "we need to pick up the pieces and make the most of it: another end of the world is possible".

_PUBLIC EVENTS

SCHOOL'S OUT! #32 TODD REISZ



DATE: Friday 31/03/2023
SPEAKERS: Todd Reisz, Michelle Provoost
and Wouter Vanstiphout
PARTICIPANTS: 40

In March, the guest speaker for School's Out! was Todd Reisz, an architect and writer who lives in Amsterdam. He talked about his recent book 'Showpiece City: How Architecture Made Dubai' (Stanford University Press, 2020) which explores architecture's packaging to sell Dubai on a global stage. And about Building Sharjah (Birkhäuser, 2021), an archival investigation of the city's vanishing twentieth-century landscape. Todd urged us to write urban histories about cities that don't yet exist, because now might be already too late.

6 DEGREES LECTURE BY MARK LYNAS



ARCHITECT, VERB. WITH REINIER DE GRAAF



DATE: Wednesday 12/04/2023
SPEAKERS: Reinier de Graaf, Michelle Provoost and
Wouter Vanstiphout
PARTICIPANTS: 100
ONLINE VIEWS: +1000

Michelle Provoost and Wouter Vanstiphout, members of the Independent School for the City's Dean Team, engaged in a conversation with architect and writer Reinier de Graaf (OMA). Following De Graaf's latest book 'architect, verb,' they explored the significance of terms like "world-class," "award-winning," "creative," "innovative," "sustainable," "livable," "beautiful," "placemaking," and "wellbeing" in today's architectural discourse, and how such terms reflects a trend where the language for discussing architecture is increasingly influenced by external expectations rather than architects' own perspectives.

DATE: Friday 21/04/2023
SPEAKERS: Mark Lynas & Michelle Provoost
PARTICIPANTS: 15
ONLINE VIEWS: +7500

A public online lecture by Mark Lynas as part of the +2.5 Degree City Studio. Mark Lynas is author of five major environmental bestseller books: High Tide (2004), Six Degrees (2008), The God Species (2011), Seeds of Science (2018) and Our Final Warning (2020). He talked to us about 'our future on a hotter planet', especially focusing on the impact of 2,5 degree global temperature rise, what it means for life on earth and how we could deal with issues such as water, food, storms and migration.

_PUBLIC EVENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH... RICK TEN DOESCHATE



DATES: #1 Tuesday 4/04/2023
#2 Tuesday 16/05/2023
#3 Tuesday 20/06/2023

SPEAKERS: Rick ten Doeschate, Lara Schrijver
Charles Holland, Ninke Happel,
Job Floris, Jaakko van 't Spijker,
Alexandre Furtado Melville, Mike
Emmerik, Michelle Provoost

PARTICIPANTS: 20 - 30 per evening

ONLINE VIEWS: ca. 90

This edition of Back to School with... was curated by Rick ten Doeschate of Civic-Public Architecture, who organised a lecture series around the formal expression of public buildings. On three evenings we looked at the subject from three perspectives: the historical, the architectural, and the political.

Session #1: the historical perspective

The first evening in the series started with an introductory lecture by Rick ten Doeschate in which he introduced the topic and how it is connected to his work at CIVIC Architects. Afterwards we explored the historical dimension of the topic with Lara Schrijver - Professor Architecture Theory at the University of Antwerp.

Lara delved into the historical evolution of 'representation' in architecture, exploring its diverse meanings from formal to spatial expressions of political structures. She highlighted Madelon Vriesendorp's 'Interpretations' as a case in point, emphasizing that form evolves with societal changes, underscoring the transient nature of the messages embedded in architectural forms.

Session #2: the architectural perspective

For the second session, which was focused on the Architectural perspective, Rick welcomed British architect Charles Holland to talk about representation and design. Charles shared insights from his work with CHA and FAT, emphasizing their interpretative approach that blends historic and modern architectural features. The outcome is visually unique and quirky buildings, exemplified by projects like 'A House for Essex,' featuring a telescopic exterior, a motorcycle as a ceiling lamp, and a life-size ceramic effigy.

Session #3: the political perspective

for the third and final session, Rick ten Doeschate invited architects Ninke Happel (Happel Cornelisse Verhoeven), Job Floris (MONADNOCK), Alexandre Furtado Melville, and Jaakko van 't Spijker (JVST). They explored the question, "Should architecture represent the diversity in society, or rather strive for an 'architecture parlante' that binds us?" The speakers shared their work, ideas, and perspectives, leading to a conversation with Rick ten Doeschate and Michelle Provoost. The discussion covered various topics, including public participation in modern architecture and urban design, as well as strategies and methods for creating valuable social housing projects.



_PUBLIC EVENTS

PANORAMA UKRAINE FLORIS ALKEMADE & LESIA TOPOLNIK



DATE: Wednesday 3/05/2023
SPEAKERS: Floris Alkemade, Lesia Topolnik
PARTNERS: Ukraine–Netherlands Urban Network
PARTICIPANTS: 90
ONLINE VIEWS: 190

Lesia Topolnyk and Floris Alkemade presented a two-part lecture in collaboration with the Ukraine–the Netherlands Urban Network (UNUN). The speakers explored diverse perspectives on the reconstruction of Ukraine, emphasizing the roles of architects, designers, and urbanists.

Lesia delved into the intricate implications of the complex social, political, and historical context, both globally and locally. She illustrated how architecture and landscape were utilized for political ends in Soviet-era Ukraine, serving to Russify Ukrainian spaces. Subsequently, Floris provided a perspective that focused on identifying opportunities emerging from the reconstruction needs in the current situation. He encouraged the idea of 'rethinking a country' where possible and appropriate in the reconstruction process.

LECTURE BY CAVE_BUREAU (NAIROBI)



DATE: Tuesday 23/05/2023
SPEAKERS: Kabage Karanja, Stella Mutegi
PARTNERS: Nieuwe Instituut
PARTICIPANTS: 40

Kabage Karanja (RIBA) and Stella Mutegi of the Nairobi-based architecture office Cave_bureau delivered a captivating lecture on their research and architectural projects. Their exploration was rooted in the concept of East Africa as the cradle of mankind, with a particular focus on the geological features of the region forming a crucial 'corridor' for early human navigation. The bureau's keen interest in geology extended to their fascination with caves as architectural structures shaped by nature. They drew intriguing parallels, noting the Roman Pantheon's proportions remarkably resemble the Baboon Parliament cave at Mount Suswa in Kenya. The discussion also highlighted the 'Obsidian Rain' project, where the bureau meticulously recreated the exact shape of the Mbai Cave in the Galileo Chini Dome at the Venice Biennale using the mineral obsidian.

_PUBLIC EVENTS

SCHOOL'S OUT! #34 SAM JACOB



DATE: Friday 26/05/2023
SPEAKERS: Sam Jacob, Wouter Vanstiphout,
Jord den Hollander
PARTICIPANTS: 55
ONLINE VIEWS: 170

During the #32 School's Out! Sam Jacob, a co-founder of FAT Architecture and the mind behind Sam Jacob Studio, shared insights into his recent endeavors encompassing both architectural and artistic ventures. Among his projects, he presented a series of modifications to picturesque landscape paintings, including some by Prince Charles, challenging idealized representations of nature. Sam creatively inserted black 2D planes into these landscapes, exploring notions of depth. He also delved into his design for the 'Hoxton Mule' in London, a multifunctional space housing a community center and an apartment, brimming with intriguing and playful concepts.

SCHOOL PARTY: HOT IN THE CITY



TOEKOMST VAN DE ZUIDELIJKE TUINSTEDEN



DATE: Friday 28/06/2023
SPEAKERS: Mike Emmerik, Paul Groenendijk, Sanne van
Manen, Flora Nycolaas, Kjai Tjokrooesoemo,
Michelle Provoost, Stijnie Lohof & Marnix van Delft
PARTNER: AIR
PARTICIPANTS: 50

Samen met AIR en de Independent School for the City organiseren we een publiek gesprek over de toekomst van de Rotterdamse Zuidelijke Tuinsteden. Na een introductie over de intentie van de wijkopzet en de actuele situatie worden twee panels met professionals uit het veld bevraagd. Hoe kan de leefbaarheid en duurzaamheid van deze wijken vergroot worden? Kan het verdichten van dit soort wijken bijdragen aan het terugdringen van het woningtekort? Wat doet dit met de originele opzet van de wijk?

Date: Friday 23/06/2023
SPEAKERS : Mike Emmerik, Michelle Provoost, Wouter
Vanstiphout, Maria Roszkowska and
Jonasz Dekkers
PARTICIPANTS: 150

Just before the summer break, we organised our annual School Party! Firstly we had a lecture from Maria Roszkowska of Disnovation and later had the opportunity to play their post-growth game. During the party itself NDNDMK Solutions provided the guests with their sound performance, Daniel van den Broeke (Shapes in Space) shook the audience with his amazing act. DJs Steve Balearics, Kanjebest and Cheyanne Hudson took care of the good music all night long!

_PUBLIC EVENTS

SCHOOL'S OUT! #35 BETSY GREER



DATE: Friday 29/09/2023
SPEAKERS: Betsy Greer
PARTICIPANTS: 12

For the 35th edition of School's Out! we had invited the godmother of Graftivism Betsy Greer. In a world dominated by globalisation, automation and consumption, there is real need for authenticity. Making something yourself, alone or as part of a community of makers even feels like an act of resistance. Knitting, crocheting, pottery or needlepoint becomes a willful retreat from the destructive and alienating forces of capitalist economy. Activism becomes craftivism. Betsy Greer is a maker, a speaker, a teacher and an activist who is the most eloquent representative of this movement and she will take us on her journey from the world to knitting needle and back again.

Prior to the School's Out! lecture we organised a workshop with Betsy Greer. In this workshop, the participants were challenged to discover their mantra for making, to use as a touchstone and reminder for the message your creative work has for both you and the world. We also learned to embroider as well, as we stitched our mantras onto vintage pieces of fabric.

SCHOOL'S OUT! #36 FRANCOIS DECOSTER



DATE: Friday 27/10/2023
SPEAKERS: Francois Decoster, Michelle Provoost
PARTICIPANTS: 35

On Friday 27 October we welcomed architect François Decoster to talk about his Paris-based practice L'AUC as part of our School's Out! series. L'AUC is a Paris-based international architecture and urbanism firm founded in 1996. The design office operates at all scales of urban design, including strategic, territorial, and local planning, urban studies, development projects and urban regeneration. In their approach architecture is seen as a way to understand the city and create new attractive points and clusters within the existing urban fabric.

By focusing on a diverse range of projects to explain their approach and way of working, François finally gave a broad insight on their long term project Lyon Part-Dieu.



_PUBLIC EVENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH... ARNA MACKIC



DATES: #1 Tuesday 31/10/2023
#2 Tuesday 21/11/2023
#3 Tuesday 09/01/2024

SPEAKERS: Arna Mačkić, Aida Šehović, Inez Tan, Uri Gilad,
We Sell Reality (Clinton and Hamo)

PARTICIPANTS: 20 – 40 per evening

For this edition of Back to School with.. we invited architect and writer Arna Mackic to curate a series about the Architecture of Memory.

Session #1: temporary & participatory monuments

For the first evening Arna invited Aida Šehovic to delve into the role of architecture as a medium for remembrance, collective coping, and fostering hope for the future. On the example of their works: Srebrenica is Dutch History – campaign developed by the Bosnian Girl collective, and STO TE NEMA – a series of participatory public monuments held all around the world, the discussion focused on the immense importance of recognizing the tragedy of Srebrenica Genocide in the Netherlands and abroad. Despite differences in medium and approach, both projects share a common goal: bringing the topic of the Srebrenica Genocide into the public discourse and raising awareness of these events. Through the use of public space, both the campaign and nomadic public monument engage passersby in a non-intrusive manner, sparking their curiosity and encouraging much-needed conversations.

Session #2: Permanent Monuments

The second event in our current edition of Back to School with..., curated by Arna Mačkić took place on Tuesday 21 November. For this evening, again relating to the Architecture of Memory, Arna

invited Uri Gilad & Inez Tan of Office Winhov to discuss their design for the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam. In their design, they explicitly tried to tell the story of the street that the museum is in, translating it to spatial features as well as colour and material. Their lecture covered the challenges they faced in this translation, the priorities they had to decide on, and the experience they wanted to offer, and highlighted several interesting details in their design. After the lecture the crowd posed several interesting questions on, among other topics, the positionality of architects in historically charged projects, and dilemmas regarding what to preserve and what to remove.

Session #3: the politics of care

For the third edition Arna invited the socially defiant collective We Sell Reality, who make products and installations and creates performative interventions in public spaces. Most people in the collective of mainly social designers came here as refugees and are in limbo. We Sell Reality reflects on the paradox of borders that are closed for some, while open for others. The position of dependence that some end up in as a result is made visible by We Sell Reality. The We Sell Reality team develops products and presentations aimed at offering an insight into the lives of refugees. Clinton and Hamo, part of the collective, talked about the series of memorials that the collective recently organised. The first dedicated to Sudan, the second to Ethiopia and Eritrea and the third to the journey that refugees undertake. Through this series, We Sell Reality aimed to bring people together to process and grieve the impact of war, conflict and violence. Besides they want to inform people about the forgotten wars and struggles and get them engaged, as this is the world we share.

_PUBLIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: THE FUTURE OF GREEN HERITAGE



DATE: 22 November 2023
SPEAKERS: Imke van Hellemond, Michelle Provoost, Joost Emmerik, Simone Rots, Alex Axinte, Shane Downer, Natascha Lensvelt, Ronald Buiting
PARTNER: International new town institute
PARTICIPANTS: 80

On the 22nd of November the International New Town Day 2023 "The Future of Green Heritage" took place in Rotterdam, organized in collaboration with INTI. The day focused on exchanging knowledge about the original concepts and design ideas of Post-65 green spaces in Dutch New Towns, the green urban visions of international New Towns, and potential green future perspectives for our cities.

Activities included an exploration of the original green plans for cities in the 1970s, a cultural-historical research presentation from the University of Twente, and international insights from Drumul Taberei and Milton Keynes. The final segment addressed future possibilities for urban greenery by zooming in on the transformation of Nieuw Waldeck in The Hague and presenting the 11 themes of Nieuwe Waarde for the green biodiverse future of our cities.

Presentations and discussions with a diverse group of participants, ranging from municipal representatives, urban planners, and landscape architects to architectural historians and ecologists, illustrated the relevance and necessity of collectively reflecting on the past, present, and future of nature in our cities.

SCHOOL'S OUT! #37 EVA PFANNES



DATE: Friday 24/11/2023
SPEAKERS: Eva Pfannes
PARTICIPANTS: 35

The lecture by Eva Pfannes – co-founder of the international design practice OOZE, provided crucial insights into the symbiotic relationship between natural processes and socio-cultural behaviours, as well as the integration of new technologies in urban settings. Examples of her works not only in the European context, but also in India's and Brazil's cities illustrated the art of deciphering the unique DNA of diverse, rapidly evolving environments and translating it into climate-aware, strategic solutions. During the talk Eva presented one of the most recent projects, CITY OF 1000 TANKS, which by developing a holistic Water Balance Model brings forward and encounters the problems of floods, water scarcity and pollution in the city of Chennai.

The discussion emphasized the need to approach urban challenges holistically, recognizing the city as an interconnected whole rather than disparate layers. The key takeaway of the lecture was the significance and adaptability of OOZE's practice, which proves valuable across diverse geographical latitudes.

_EDUCATION

SUPERDIVERSITY: LIVING ON THE SOUTHSIDE

DATE: 24 February – 4 March 2023
TUTORS: Tim Peeters, Violette Schonberger,
Wouter Vanstiphout, Michelle Provoost and
Mike Emmerik
PARTICIPANTS: 12

Because of the port and its connection with the rest of the globe, Rotterdam has attracted people from all over the world. It has become part of a worldwide family of Majority-Minority cities – cities in which more than half of the population has a migration background. Not just the number of nationalities has increased: as generations pass, also the diversity within the different migrant groups has become increasingly complex. Anthropologist Steven Vertovec calls this ‘Superdiversity’ as a way of looking at the mix of identities of our cities in a less reductive, less statistical way.

Superdiverse cities like Rotterdam bring with them a next stage in the integration process, where ethnicity is no longer the most important factor with which people define themselves. Instead of the old dividing lines of ethnicity or language, superdiversity seems to create new connections. Communities are based on other factors like education, religion, profession, sexual orientation, or neighbourhood. In other words: the simple pie chart of ethnicity becomes mixed up into a fluid composition of overlapping and mixing colours.

Now that Rotterdam has had to cancel its mega-sized urban development, Feyenoord City, suddenly an enormous opportunity presents itself for Rotterdam South. This part of the city has from its very beginnings in the nineteenth century, always been a migrant area. The result is a dynamic and Superdiverse population which consists of a kaleidoscope of ethnicities, religions and subcultures in a constant process of change. Now that the masterplan is done for, the enormous site of Feyenoord City is empty of urban planning, empty of policies, empty of claims.

In this studio filled with lectures, excursions, and conversations, we imagined an entirely different development for this area. One that is not based on the investments of financial giants, or the megalomaniacal ideas to realize a Manhattan on the Maas. Instead, we will try to imagine a city that is based on the kaleidoscopic area



that lies around it. We will try to imagine a brand-new city center for the South of Rotterdam which is based on the superdiverse conditions of its population. A development that is not based on the middle class image the city council wants to project but on the real identity of the city.

_EDUCATION

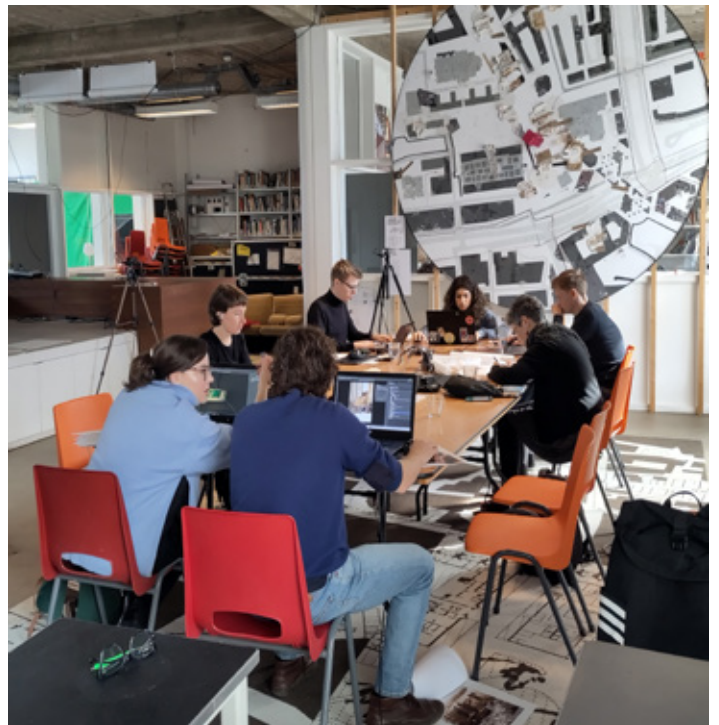
THE +2.5°C CITY: LIFE IN AN EXTREME CLIMATE

DATE: 14–22 April 2023
TUTORS: Dirk Sijmons, Hermann Kossmann
Kristian Koreman, Michelle Provoost,
Wouter Vanstiphout and Mike Emmerik
PARTICIPANTS: 15

Cities globally aspire to be green, sustainable, and resilient, undertaking projects to transform urban areas into eco-friendly spaces. Efforts include reducing car dominance, adopting alternative energy sources, and addressing sea-level rise. However, climate scientists warn that current measures may still result in a 2° to 3° temperature increase by the century's end, leading to severe consequences like extreme weather, rising sea levels, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, migration, social unrest, and political responses. The uncertainty raises concerns about the living conditions, functionality, and experiences of future generations in these unprecedented circumstances.

In this studio we mapped out the predicted effects of temperature rise on the Netherlands, on Rotterdam and on a number of very specific places in the city. After exploring these effects, we used our collective knowledge and that of our guest speakers and scientific literature, to imagine how we can mitigate the negative effects of global climate change and what is needed to make life livable in a city that suffers its consequences. Will we need big infrastructural works to defend our nearly submerged cities? Will we have to find new sources of food? How will we keep the city from turning into a large oven in summer? Will we need new forms of politics to be able to absorb the waves of migration caused by climate change? Will we create new forms of solidarity and cooperation under pressure of the circumstances?

In this studio we aimed to strike a balance between panic and optimism, allowing ourselves to dream about brilliant inventions at the end of this century, but also to be brutally realist about the new conditions. The result is a manual for our children and grandchildren to apply to their city and make it a good and safe place to live, so that they at least will not say that we did nothing.



CENTRAL MULTIFUNCTIONAL PARK



This concept offers green engineering solutions to the diverse challenges that the flood city faces. The park anchors the elite of world biodiversity into a highly functional ecosystem services.



The park should be developed on the center of a district, gathering the different networks of grey/ city cooling, air purification & air brown water, storm water and water redistributions. Recreational route, air circulation and storm wind mitigation corridors are also integrated. system is key in the context of space s



Biodiversity Manual by Camilla Poureau



_EDUCATION

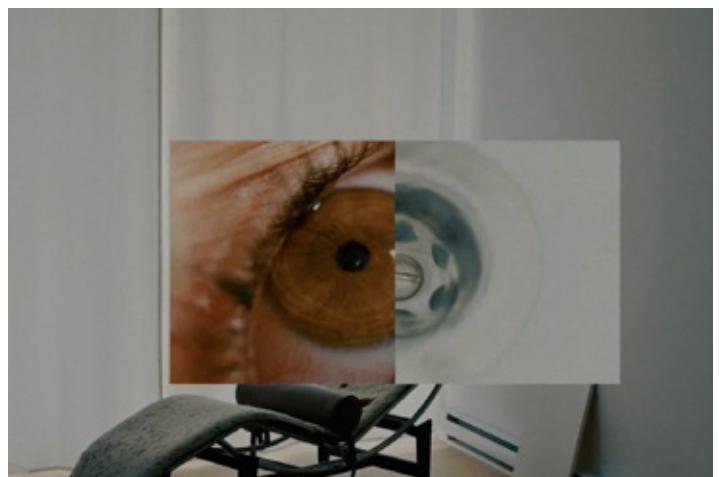
FILM & ARCHITECTURE STUDIO 2023: HOT IN THE CITY

DATE: 02-10 + 26 & 28 June 2023
TUTOR: Jord den Hollander. With contributions by
Thomas Kist, Josine van den Bogaard, Esther
Wienese and André De Baerdemaker
PARTICIPANTS: 12

In 2023, the Independent School for the City and the Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam (AFFR) joined forces again to organise another edition of the Film and Architecture Studio, supervised by architect, curator, and filmmaker Jord den Hollander.

The Film and Architecture Studio has proved itself in the past years as one of the most acclaimed courses on film and architecture in the world. The course offered an in-depth introduction to understanding the language of film as a way to explore the relationship between film, cities and architecture. It focused on learning and understanding the narrative of film making as a research tool to better understand your urban surroundings. Participants in this course were introduced to the essential elements of film making and learned how to relate these to architecture and the city. The focus of the studio was not so much on the technical aspects of film making and post-production, but rather on making a script and using film as a tool to structure your thoughts and to develop a narrative. The central topic of this year's edition was urban heat stress and how this influences both life in the city as well as spatial developments.

The Film and Architecture Studio started with a more condensed week in which participants analysed how urban heat influences life in the city, what it means for people and the environment, and what is being done against it. In the period that followed, participants developed a concept for a short film of around two minutes; they worked out a script, shoot footage and make a first draft. Filmmaker, curator Jord den Hollander and the team of the Independent School provided them with input and inspiration, and together with the other participants we'll discuss everyone's progress. Participants got the opportunity to present their short films at the Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam in October 2023.



_EDUCATION

FABLES OF THE RECONSTRUCTION

DATE: 13,20 October & 02 November 2023
TUTORS: Wouter Vanstiphout, Michelle Provoost,
Bengin Dawod, Alexander Schevchenko,
Jan-Willem Petersen, Jacopo Galli
PARTICIPANTS: 15

Rebuilding a destroyed city is not just about replacing or rebuilding its infrastructure and architecture. It is about making the choice which and whose city should be rebuilt. It is a choice as much about the Idea of the city as about its form. A reconstructed city is not just a brick and mortar replacement of everything that was damaged, but also a story of the history and the future of the city. A heavily idealized and edited story, that tells of power structures and ideology. In the reconstruction of cities ruined by war or disaster, questions of identity, ethnicity, history and culture are paramount. From the reconstructed heart of the city of Rotterdam, this seminar will look at a variety of destroyed cities and how they have reinvented themselves or are in the process of doing so.

From Rotterdam and Dresden, to Mariupol and Gaziantep, we will look at the historical form of these cities, and at the ideological questions their repair has posed or will pose. We will also try and understand the place of the politicians, engineers, planners and architects and how they formulated their own visions and plans. Through lectures, excursions and conversations the seminar will cover a lot of ground in a short time and provoke an exchange of ideas across borders. Rotterdam will be the fitting background against which this seminar will play out.



_EDUCATION

CITY GRIDS: RESEARCH BY DESIGN

Date: 3–4 November 2023
Tutors: Loes van Esch and Simone Trum (TT)
Participants: 10

For this research by design studio we joined forces with Loes van Esch and Simone Trum Team Thursday – a graphic design studio from Rotterdam that also developed the visual identity of the Independent School for the City. In these two-day workshop participants created typography out of found forms and shapes in the city. We will focus on Rotterdam Central District – the area in which the School is located

and which is about to change radically of the coming decade. The workshop resulted in the presentation of a font in a typographical poster containing a slogan or statement based on the participants' observations on site. Typography can be found in everything. The city is filled with grids that can form the base for letterforms. A whole alphabet can be made of restforms in between buildings, window grids on skyscrapers, pavements, tram lines. A grid can be a line system, but a structure like a tree can also function as an underlying grid. We went out on a discovery tour in the city. Found grids, shapes, systems that fascinate us and translate these into lettershapes. This could either be an alphabet made out of found shapes, or found materials turned into a tool to make letters. The font consisted of a slogan or statement based on the participants' observations on site. It was important that the letters form a series together and that there is a clear connection between the letterforms they've selected.



_EDUCATION

URBAN WOOL

DATE: 8-10 December 2023
TUTORS: Beatrice Waanders
PARTICIPANTS: 12

For this Craftivism workshop we invited textiles artist Beatrice Waanders. Beatrice travels all around the country to find her wool amongst which from the Sheepflock in Rotterdam. The Rotterdam Sheepflock cultivates the green spots of the city like parcs and soundwalls along the highway in an ecological way to restore natural biodiversity. They produce about 4000 kilos wool per year but there's no market. Together with Beatrice we used this wool and turned it into a precious artwork.

Beatrice Waanders received her education at the Willem de Kooning Academy of Art. She graduated in 1997 in Interior-architecture and Material Design. Beatrice worked for years as an Interior-architect at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There she designed and decorated the residences and embassies of the ambassadors from all over the world. In 2008 Beatrice made a career change as a textile artist specialized in wool and natural fibers. She followed classes at textile institutes including the Dutch Textile Museum. Her art was presented several times at Dutch Designweek, yearly at Maison & Objet Paris (Scènes d'intérieur), Design Week Tokyo, Salone di Mobile Milano, Rotterdam Art Week (OBJECT), Big Art Amsterdam, PAN Amsterdam, Art Basel Miami and in galleries and shops worldwide. She worked for several prestigious brands like LVMH, Givenchy and with designers like John Galliano for Maison Margiela Artisanale collection, with John Galliano for singer Rihanna for W-Magazine and with Dutch artist Joep van Lieshout.



_ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2023

VISITS AND MEETINGS

JANUARY 2023

- 22 Wall to Wall field club with Macguffin Magazine
- 27 School's Out! #30 with Robert Bevan

FEBRUARY 2023

- 19 Visit of Ukrainian mayors
- 24-25 Superdiversity studio: Living on the South Side
- 24 School's Out! #31 with Lisa Doeland

MARCH 2023

- 01-04 Superdiversity studio: Living on the South Side
- 14 Visit by students of the Morgan University Baltimore
- 14 Lecture by Kojo Karam (organised by De Dependance)
- 31 School's Out! #32 with Todd Reisz

APRIL 2023

- 04 Back to School with... Rick ten Doeschate #1:
Lara Schrijver
- 12 ARCHITECT, VERB. with Reinier de Graaf
- 14 - 22 Anthropocene studio: The +2,5° City
- 21 Online lecture by Mark Lynas

MAY 2023

- 03 Panorama Ukraine with Floris Alkemade
& Lesia Topolnyk
- 16 Back to School with... Rick ten Doeschate #2:
Charles Holland
- 23 Lecture by Cave_Bureau (Nairobi)
- 25-27 Crude Hints studio with Sam Jacob
- 27 School's Out! #34 with Sam Jacob

JUNE 2023

- 2-28 Film & Architecture Studio: Hot in the City
- 20 Back to School with... Rick ten Doeschate #3
Ninke Happel, Job Floris, Jaakko van 't Spijker and
Alexandre Furtado.
- 23 School Party 2023 – Hot in the City
- 28 Event: Toekomst van de Zuidelijke Tuinsteden

JULY / AUGUST 2023

Summer Break

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 29 School's Out! #35 with Betsy Greer + Workshop

OCTOBER 2023

- 5 Presentation Film&Architecture Studio at AFFR
- 12 Expert Meeting with Anupama Kundoo
- 12 Visit of Building Beyond Participants
- 13 Fables of the Reconstruction day 1
- 20 Fables of the Reconstruction day 2
- 27 School's Out! #36 with Francois Decoster
- 31 Back to School with...Arna Mačkić #1 with Aida Šehović

NOVEMBER 2023

- 02 Fables of the Reconstruction day 3
- 03-04 City Grids workshop with Team Thursday
- 21 Back to School with...Arna Mačkić #2: Office Winhov
- 22 International Symposium: The Future of Green Heritage
- 25 School's Out! #29 with Adam Nathaniel Furman &
Joshua Mardell

DECEMBER 2023

- 06 UNUN event: School's of Tomorrow
- 08-10 Urban Wool workshop with Beatrice Waanders
- 12 Back to School with...Arna Mačkić #3: We Sell Reality



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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR THE CITY CALENDAR 2023

A PLAYGROUND FOR ALL URBAN THINKERS, DO-ERS AND DESIGNERS

<p>SEPTEMBER 29</p> <p>School's Out! #35 with the godmother of craftivism Betsy Greer (UK) A lecture, drinks, bites and a short movie</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 3-4</p> <p>City Grids A two day workshop with Team Thursday, developing a font out of found forms and shapes in the city</p>	<p>DECEMBER 8-10</p> <p>Urban Wool A craftivism workshop with wool with artist Beatrice Waanders</p>
<p>OCTOBER 10</p> <p>An evening with Anupama Kundoo (at Nieuwe Instituut)</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 21</p> <p>Back to School With... Arna Mačkic #2 A lecture series around the topic of architecture of memory With Arna Mačkic, Uri Glad and Inez Tan</p>	<p>DECEMBER 12</p> <p>Back to School With... Arna Mačkic #3 A lecture series around the topic of architecture of memory</p>
<p>13, 20 & 2 NOV</p> <p>Fables of the Reconstruction A seminar on the rebuilding of destroyed cities</p>	<p>22</p> <p>International Symposium: The Future of Green Heritage in New Towns, in cooperation with the International New Town Institute</p>	<p>2024 THIS IS TOMORROW</p> <p>A 12-week full-time education programme on contemporary urbanism, dealing with Right to the City, Climate Change and Superdiversity in relation to our urban surroundings, taking place from 1 April - 28 June 2024 Application deadline: 11 February 2024</p>
<p>27</p> <p>School's Out! #36 with architect Dymal Klouche (FR) A lecture, drinks, bites and a short movie</p>	<p>24</p> <p>School's Out! #37 with urban planner Eva Pfannes (NL) A lecture, drinks, bites and a short movie</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Back to School With... Arna Mačkic #1 A lecture series around the topic of architecture of memory With Arna Mačkic and Aida Sehic</p>

Delftstraat 33 II
3013 AE Rotterdam (NL)
info@schoolforthe-city.nl
www.schoolforthe-city.nl

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Independent School for the City

Delftsestraat 33 III

3013 AE Rotterdam

The Netherlands

+31 010 2827724

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