

# IABR–2016– THE NEXT ECONOMY–

Press Release, 21 April 2016

## **IABR–2016 is a two-month platform for debate on the future of the city in the next economy**

*International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam opens doors to seventh edition on 23 April*

During the weekend of 23 and 24 April 2016, the IABR will kick off IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY in former coffee warehouse Fenixloods II in Rotterdam Katendrecht. This seventh edition of the IABR visualizes the city of the future in the next economy and invites everyone to actively participate by joining the extensive WHAT'S NEXT? program, consisting of lectures, conferences, workshops, meetings, brainstorms and debates. The IABR will present the main conclusions of eleven weeks of knowledge exchange to the public with a closing debate and in a publication on Sunday 3 July.

The IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY exhibition shows a range of possible futures: from radical scenarios for the energy transition to examples of experimental, cooperative area development; from mega projects on the North Sea and in Africa to local initiatives in South America, China, and Rotterdam. Apart from an exhibition, IABR–2016 is also a workspace that encourages ongoing participation. An updated program is available [online](#). Tickets are now for sale in the online [ticketshop](#).

### **NEXT TALKS**

Every Friday afternoon from 29 April, international speakers extend the scope of the debate about the city in the Next Economy in the [Next Talks](#). The first talk features Mark Swilling (University of Stellenbosch and Sustainability Institute Cape Town), guest curator of Urban Africa; What's Next? Other guests include Francine Houben (architect, Mecanoo, Delft, curator of the 1<sup>st</sup> IABR), Keller Easterling (architect, Yale School of Architecture, Connecticut), Anab Jain (director Superflux), Jack Self (REAL Foundation, London; curator 2016 British Pavilion Venice Biennale), Edgar Pieterse (director African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town), and Oliver Wainwright (architecture critic, The Guardian, London).

### **NEXT SALONS**

In the [Next Salons](#) on four Sunday afternoons, IABR-2016 chief curator Maarten Hajer focuses on current events that have an impact on the debate about the Next Economy. Next Salon #1 takes place on Sunday 24 April and examines the added value of the informal economy. Guests include Fernando de Mello Franco (architect, City Councilor of Urban Development for São Paulo and member of the Curator Team of the 5<sup>th</sup> IABR: Making City), Kees Christiaanse (architect, professor at the ETH Zürich and Curator of the 4<sup>th</sup> IABR: Open City) and Arbi Mazniku (deputy mayor of Tirana, Albania). During Next Salon #2 on 22 May, main guest and Dutch Government Architect Floris Alkemade addresses the question of how we can integrate refugees in our urban economies today and in the future. Other guests include architects Merve Bedir who works with refugees, in the Netherlands and in Turkey, and Femke Bijlsma, co-founder of the Refugee Company.

### **ATELIER PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

During IABR–2016, the IABR and its partners will organize a string of [conferences](#) in the auditorium. The program includes the Sustainable Urban Deltas conference in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the official program of the Delta Coalition gathering in Rotterdam; the launch of the first Rotterdam Resilience Strategy; the 20<sup>th</sup> Metrex conference and a debate on Energy, Space and Region in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. The outcomes of the IABR–Ateliers are not only anchor points of the exhibition, but they will also be presented and discussed. Possible concrete follow up and implementation in Groningen, Utrecht, Rotterdam, Brussels and on the North Sea are being explored together with governments, businesses and stakeholders. The results and next steps will also be discussed during the Biennale.

### **NEXT OP ZUID**

Fenixloods II in Katendrecht, the venue of IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY, is an appealing home base for IABR–2016. In addition, many of the issues Rotterdam will be faced with during its transition to the Next Economy in the coming decades are already transpiring in and around the Katendrecht

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district. That is why the IABR developed the program [Next op Zuid](#) together with a wide alliance including the Afrikaanderwijk Cooperative, Freehouse, the Verhalenhuis, Heijmans, AIR, Maassilo, DittisZuid, De Rotterdam Tours, RAAF, and others. The program links the knowledge of local partners and stakeholders with the international knowledge network of the IABR. Next op Zuid includes lunch lectures, presentations, workshops, small exhibitions and guided tours.

## CRITICS-IN-RESIDENCE

[Failed Architecture](#)'s Mark Minkjan and René Boer are critics-in-residence at IABR-2016. Moving beyond easy and descriptive coverage of architecture events, they will try to reflect fairly on the projects on show, the fruitfulness of the debates, the potential legacy of this year's IABR, and the role of biennales as a cultural space in general.

## TICKETS AND IABR–NEXT COMMUNITY CARD

Tickets for IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY are available from 23 April at the Fenixloods II box office or in the online [ticketshop](#). An IABR–Next Community Card provides unlimited access to the exhibition and the WHAT'S NEXT? program until 10 July. Community Card holders receive a 15 percent discount on the catalog and are personally invited to the final debate on 3 July 2016.

## IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY

During the weekend of 23 and 24 April 2016, the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) will kick off its seventh edition: IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY. Under the supervision of executive director George Brugmans and chief curator Maarten Hajer, an international Curator Team once again focuses on the future of the city, investigating the relationship between urban design and tomorrow's economy. Until 10 July 2016, IABR–2016 is a platform for debate and exchange between creative coalitions of designers, administrators, businesses, citizens, and other agents of change with fresh ideas and imaginations of the twenty-first century city, culminating in a closing debate on Sunday 3 July.

[www.iabr.nl](http://www.iabr.nl) | [@IABR](#)

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## NOTE TO THE EDITOR

*For more information about the program, requests for images and interviews, please contact press officer Nancy van Oorschot at [nancy@iabr.nl](mailto:nancy@iabr.nl) or +31-6-41684324. Visit the [press page](#) of the website for downloads.*