

# X AGENDAS FOR ARCHITECTURE

Why do we need a new / other / special / .... agenda in architecture?

## PART 1 BORDER CONDITIONS EXTENDED 10:00 - 13:00

### Moderator

Marc Schoonderbeek

### Speakers

Petra Pferdmenges

Finbarr McComb

Hieke Bakker (tbc)

Ninke Happel

Max Rink

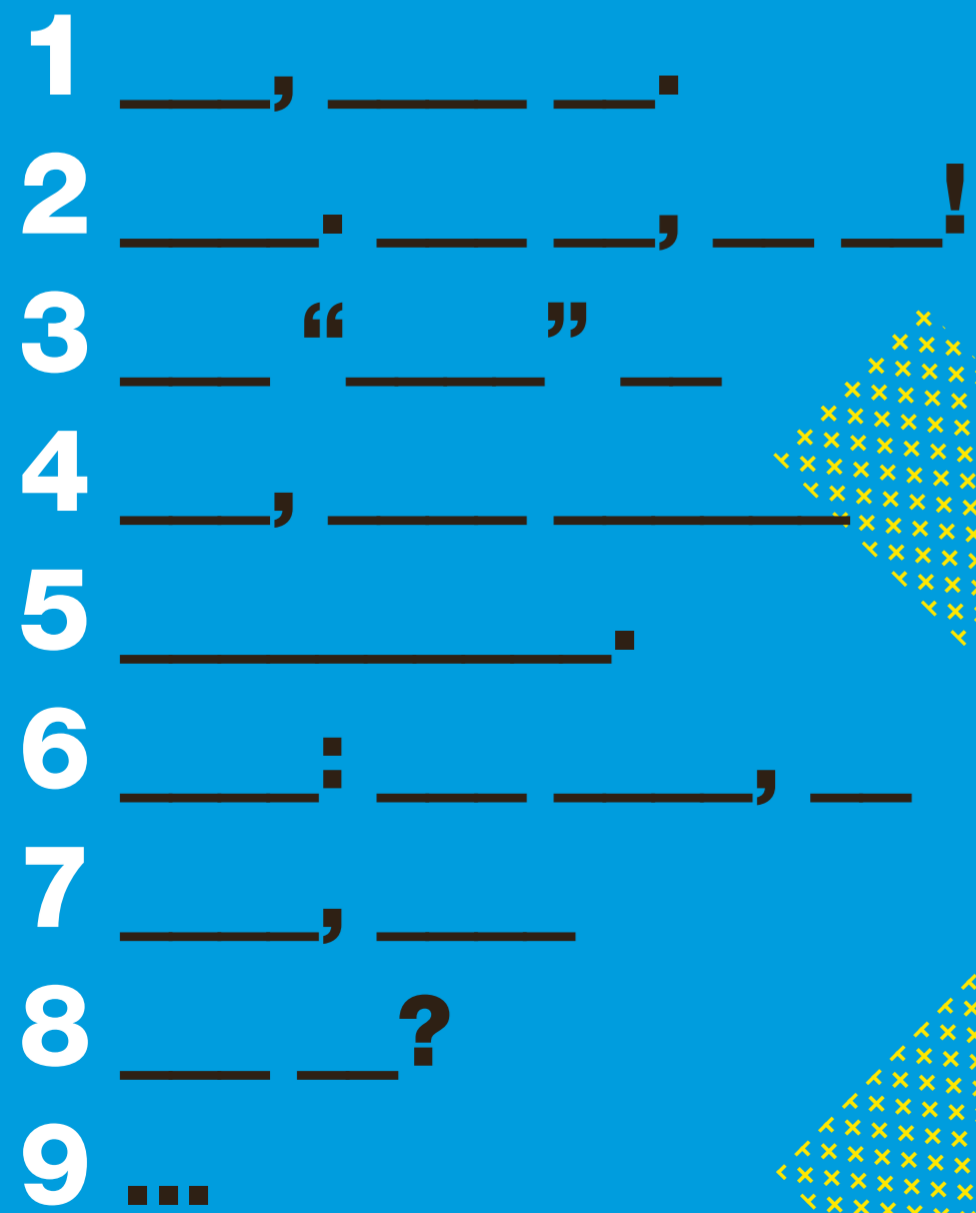
Sander van Schaik

### Respondents

Marc Koehler

Gijs Wallis de Vries

## SYMPOSIUM BORDER CONDITIONS



## PART 2 X AGENDAS FOR ARCHITECTURE 14:00 - 18:30

### Moderator

Oscar Rommens

### Speakers

14:00: Introduction

14:15: Patrik Schumacher

14:45: François Roche

15:15: Break

15:30: Martine de

Maeseener

16:00: Liz Diller (tbc)

16:30: Response by

Deborah Hauptmann

16:45: Panel discussion

18:30: End

Thursday 20/10/2011  
Location: OOST-SERRE  
Faculty of Architecture  
Delft University of Technology  
Julianalaan 134 Delft

### Speakers:

**Petra Pferdmenges (Alive Architecture)**  
Petra Pferdmenges is the founder of Alive Architecture. She teaches at Sint-Lucas School of Architecture in Brussels and at the ULG in Liège. Since 2010 she has been working on a PhD thesis dealing with the interaction between space and society (RMIT Design Research Institute in Melbourne, Australia and Sint-Lucas School of Architecture Brussels-Gent). After completing the international Master's program at the TU Delft, Petra worked for five years in well-known architecture firms throughout Europe (Edouard François in Paris, Josep Llinàs in Barcelona, Architecten Cie in Amsterdam and ARJM in Brussels). Publications contain the European 7 CD Rom (Finalist), NouveauxAlbums (Taktyk: Topotypes, Paris), de Architect (Marc Schoonderbeek: Autonomie& Architectuur, Rotterdam, 2007), Border Conditions (Marc Schoonderbeek: Border Conditions, Sun, Rotterdam, 2010).

### Finbarr McComb (Stereo Architects)

After graduating from the Border Conditions studio and winning in the European 8 competition, Finbarr McComb co-founded Stereo Architects together with Pieter Sprangers. The practice combines architectural design, urban planning and spatial research - often seeking to blur the distinction between the disciplines. Over years, Finbarr McComb has worked on several award winning designs, exhibitions and research projects. Currently, the focus is on the realization of a number of architectural and urban design projects.

### Hieke Bakker (Ymere Development, to be confirmed)

Hieke Bakker is developer at Ymere Development. Currently also teaching at the Amsterdam Academy for Architecture and board member of JOA (Young Real Estate

Amsterdam). After completing her Master course at the TU Delft in 2006, Hieke started at the TSM Business School in Enschede for her Master of Business Administration which she finished in 2009. After she worked as project coordinator and concept developer, respectively in the municipality of Almere, AM Women and PtP Bouw.

### Ninke Happel (Happel Cornelisse Architecten)

Ninke Happel (1978) studied Architecture at the Technical University of Delft and Art Criticism at the Royal University of Leuven (BE). After winning European 8 she founded Happel Cornelisse Architects together with Floris Cornelisse in 2007. Recent key projects of the practice encompass the design for the Noord-Hollands Archive in Haarlem and a Visitor Centre in Heuveland (BE). Ninke teaches at the NHTV Urban Design in Breda and is a member of the Architects Platform, an advisory committee for the architectural agenda of B&W in the city of Rotterdam.

### Max Rink (Sprikk)

Max Rink studied architecture at the TU Delft and the ETH in Zurich. He practiced architecture in several offices (O.M.A. / NL, Koen van Velsen / NL and WDA group / HK). In 2007 he won the Dutch Archiprix award for best graduation work. For which he in 2009 received the International Archiprix Award. His design of the Swiss Pavilion was nominated for the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai and was awarded with the LUX Futura Award 2008. In 2008 he founded 'SPRIKK' office in Rotterdam together with Johan van Sprundel and Klaas Kresse.

### Sander van Schaik (SUMoffice)

Sander van Schaik (1978) received a master degree in architecture from the TU Delft in 2006. In 2008 he was awarded the first prize in European 9 for the location Almere, together

with Robert-Jan de Kort and XML. In 2008 he lived in London, UK, where he worked for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. In 2010 Sander van Schaik was awarded a startersstipend by the Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture (Fonds BKVB), and established SUMoffice together with Robert-Jan de Kort.

### Patrik Schumacher (Zaha Hadid Architects)

Patrik Schumacher is partner at Zaha Hadid Architects and founding director at the AA Design Research Lab. Schumacher studied philosophy and architecture in Bonn, London and Stuttgart, where he received his Diploma in architecture in 1990. In 1999 he completed his PHD at the Institute for Cultural Science, Klagenfurt University. He joined Zaha Hadid in 1988. In 1996 he founded the "Design Research Laboratory" with Brett Steele, at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, and continues to serve as one of its co-directors. Schumacher has co-taught a series of post-graduate option studios with Zaha Hadid at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Columbia University and at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. Since 2004 Patrik Schumacher has been tenured Professor at the Institute for Experimental Architecture, Innsbruck University. Currently he is a guest professor at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Schumacher's contribution to the discourse of contemporary architecture is also evident in his published works and interviews which can be viewed at [www.patrikschumacher.com](http://www.patrikschumacher.com).

### François Roche (R&Sie(n))

François Roche (1961) graduated in 1987 from the architectural school (U.P.A. no.3 at Versailles). Together with Stéphanie Lavaux (1966) he runs the firm 'R&Sie(n)'.

has become one of the leading experts on the work of the 18th century Italian architect and artist. Currently, he lectures Architectural History and Theory courses and teaches related design studios at the Eindhoven Faculty of Architecture and publishes regularly on issues of time, escape and boundaries in landscape architecture and urbanism.

### Deborah Hauptmann (DSD-TUD)

For the past decade Hauptman has been engaged in both theory and design teaching the Faculty of Architecture, TU Delft. Hauptmann lectures internationally and contributes actively to conferences as a speaker and moderator both at the TU and abroad. Her research interests include philosophical notions of time & space in relation to architecture and urban theory. She has recently published the volume: Cognitive Architecture: From Biopolitics to Noopolitics (co-edited with W.Neidich). Before coming to the TU in 1998, Hauptmann practiced Architecture in Switzerland, Spain and America where she was founding partner in SOPHOS, an Architecture design and development consulting.

### Moderators:

#### Marc Schoonderbeek (PB-TUD)

Marc Schoonderbeek is staff member of the TU Delft and coordinator of the research group 'Border Conditions'. He is currently working on a doctoral thesis within this group, on the relationship between architectural theory, representation and design. After graduating from the TU Eindhoven, he has practiced architecture in the Netherlands, Germany (Studio Libeskind (pre-911)) and Israel. In 1998, he founded with Pnina Avidar '12PM-Architecture' in Amsterdam. In their work, the rationality of a theoretical position is mixed with the intuition of a vivid architectural

This group works simultaneously through the architectural practice R&Sie(n) and the research organization "new-territories". François Roche leads architectural research labs (n)certainties such as the Advanced Studio at Columbia University-Gsapp, New York.

Their works are organized on three protocols: / Practice as LifeSpan / Fiction as Practice / Research as Speculation /  
- A fragile architecture which negotiates with the arrow of time, with the transitory one or what seems the being  
- An operative and fictional architecture which tries to re-scenarize the relation with a situation, with an environment (like principle of reality)  
- A speculative architecture which works out devices between robotics, mathematics, neurobiology and biochemistry (last research "I've heard about" & "an architecture of moods")

Their architectural designs have been show at, among other places, Columbia University (New York, 1999-2000), UCLA (Los Angeles, 1999-2000), ICA (London, 2001), Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, 2004), Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2003), MAM / Musée d'Art Moderne (Paris, 2005, 2006), the Tate Modern (London 2006) and Orléans/ArchiLab (1999, 2001, 2003). Work by R&Sie(n) was selected for exhibition at the French pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennales of 1990, 1996, 2000 and 2002 (they rejected the invitation that year), and for the international section in en 2000, 2004 and 2008, and they have been selected in the last one, International Pavilion, in September 2010.

#### Martine de Maeseener (Mdm Architects)

Martine De Maeseener Architects [[www.MDMA.be](http://www.MDMA.be)] has been around for two decades of practicing, theorizing and teaching within an international forum of

practice through the mapping and tracing of the hidden layers of each project. At present, he is editor of Footprint, lectures at several architecture institutes, and contributes regularly to architectural magazines.

#### Oscar Rommens (PB-TUD)

Oscar Rommens, graduated at the Hoger Architectuur Instituut Sint-Lucas Gent in 1994. After living in various metropolises (Barcelona, New York, Chicago, Rotterdam) he completed a postgraduate programme Urban Design (Archeworks, Chicago USA, '95-'97) and worked at several architecture offices. (Douglas Garofalo, USA / Kas Oosterhuis, NL / Dirk Coopman, Ghent) Currently he is a teacher in the research group 'Border Conditions' in the TU Delft and in the PHL Architecture Diepenbeek, master 3 programme. In 1999 he founded Import Export Architecture (IEA) together with Joris van Reusel. IEA is a network office with its headquarter in Antwerp that operates from various urban biotopes and from the in-between situated public and private opportunities. It engages in day-to-day architecture practice, the development of theoretical concepts, models, prototypes and has participated in the creation or transformation of furniture, buildings, landscapes or areas.

# 'Vagueness is a form of tolerance that produces a diversity of architectural languages, each inscribed on the particularities of a border condition'

S Umberto Barbieri, from 'Preface', Border Conditions

Given the fragmented nature of the contemporary architectural discourse, the first decade of the 21st century has seen the emergence of a wide variety of notions of space. During the last decade, an entire array of highly specific understandings of space have been developed, influenced by social, ideological, economical and political changes and debates, and in most cases they were made evident via the altered experiences of space, either from an individual or a collective perspective. Our 'global planet', which necessitates dissolving boundaries, has been, ironically, stifled by the reflexive emphasis on nation states that practice spatial exclusion.

In addition to, or perhaps as a result of, these developments, the prevailing atmosphere of a discipline that meanders from crisis to crisis has been the case of architecture during the period. In this decade, the interest in the conflict of space and the space of conflict has resulted from the different moments of crisis with a global impact, ranging from economic stagnation, financial crises and environmental devastation, to name just a few. Each of these events has contributed to the climate of in(st)ability and insecurity in the current architectural discourse.

The current experience of shaky grounds of architecture is hardly conceived nor treated problematic. However, a large portion of those in architecture seems to understand the teeming potentials implicit in this period of uncertainty. In the architectural discourse, the material fatigue of the welfare state (and all the apparently related sense of crises), are countered by alternative forms of engagement, be it via technological explorations, new practices of spatial appropriations or social engagement. In general, environmental concerns and simply the pending collapse of the capitalist market economy have caused a general shift towards sustainable architectural strategies of reuse, preservation and regeneration. The sense of crisis, to be clear, currently brings forward an entire array of explorations regarding architecture's knowledge, means and ends.

A superficial reading of such developments in architecture as a discipline would probably result in the growing emphasis on techniques, rather than discourse, as the symptom of architecture's inaptitude. Whether it is on the level of design methodologies, digital technologies, material and structural possibilities or the gadgets of sustainability, the current state of architectural professionalism seems to obstruct the cultural significance of architecture.

What appears to remain is the kind of operative practices that confirm the economic servitude of architecture (as design). This servitude in turn surrenders to philosophers and thinkers the difficult contemplation of the complexities and meanings of territorial occupation, and to the politicians (and their business interests), the decision of spatial demarcation.

However, especially in the European context, given the discussions on nationality and religion that have become central to the recent political discussions, this reading of current developments in the architectural discourse deserves further articulation. These ideological and political debates have had little influence on the architectural discourse, much different from the debates typical of the decades between 1930s and 80s. These were the decades when ideological agendas were regarded as an intrinsic part of the architectural discourse exploring the boundaries of the discipline with an outburst of energy for the potential of architectural experiments. At the moment the search for the space of encounter architecture is supposed to offer is in need of renewed intensity of theorization, framing and straightforward acknowledgement.

The symposium 'X Agendas for Architecture', in combination with the 2011 Fall Capita Selecta lecture series on Architectural Design, are organized by the TU Delft's research group 'Border Conditions and Territories', and will attempt to frame and discuss these developments and put forward the questions on the necessity of architectural agendas. What are the knowledge, tools and tasks for architecture at hand? What would constitute the appropriate notions of temporal pace and duration? What is the distinction between radicalism and pragmatism? When do we experiment or follow conventions? Such questions are in need of discussions and of being challenged towards our shared future of architecture.

The symposium will consist of two sessions. In the morning, a series of presentations of TUD alumni will be followed by a discussion on the relationship between architectural education and practice. Being active in various fields of the architectural profession, this 'new generation' of architects will hopefully bring forward their specific take on the future of the discipline. The afternoon session will consist of four presentations and a short response, after which an intense debate with symposium participants, guests and audience on the issue of the agenda in architecture will take place.

An agenda is a list of issues that are at discussion during a meeting, things that need to happen and that need to be addressed. An agenda can be random but can have an order of importance as well. Also an agenda can point towards a group of assessments/goals with an ideological meaning. Every objective on the list then stands for achieving a higher ideological whole.