

4th INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE



IABR@RDM

Curator: Ralf Pasel



## CALL FOR PROJECTS

PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM seizes the opportunity, within the freedom provided by 'academic projects', to explore the themes of the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam via a series of future oriented projects, with the aim to contribute to the debate on the *Open City*.

PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM presents designs and research projects from schools and universities from around the world; projects related to the themes *Squat, Community, Refuge, Collective* and *Diaspora*. These themes will be the focus of the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam 2009 and will be presented under the collective title of *Open City, Designing Coexistence*.

PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM is a collective project of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design, the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies in Rotterdam and the Hogeschool Rotterdam.

PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM will run from 24 September up to 11 December 2009 and will be accompanied by a series of additional activities including workshops, lectures, debates and conferences. The Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design will honour the best entries with a special award.

The organisation invites all recognised schools and universities in the fields of architecture, urban design, landscape design, urban development and urban management to submit proposals for contributions to this exhibition.

Proposals may include projects which are being worked on or will be worked on during the current study year as well as projects carried out earlier which are linked to the central themes of the Biennale.

Project proposals may be submitted up to and including Monday 16 March 2009 with the help of the enclosed application form. Persons submitting proposals will be notified no later than 1 April as to whether their proposal has been selected for inclusion in the exhibition.

If you have any questions about submitting a proposal or about the procedure, please send an e-mail to our project secretary Marjolijn Vegter: [m.vegter@hro.nl](mailto:m.vegter@hro.nl)

Our team will respond to your questions as quickly as possible.

[www.avbr.nl](http://www.avbr.nl) // [www.iabr.nl](http://www.iabr.nl) // [www.ihs.nl](http://www.ihs.nl)



IHS  
Making cities work



Academie van Bouwkunst Rotterdam  
Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design

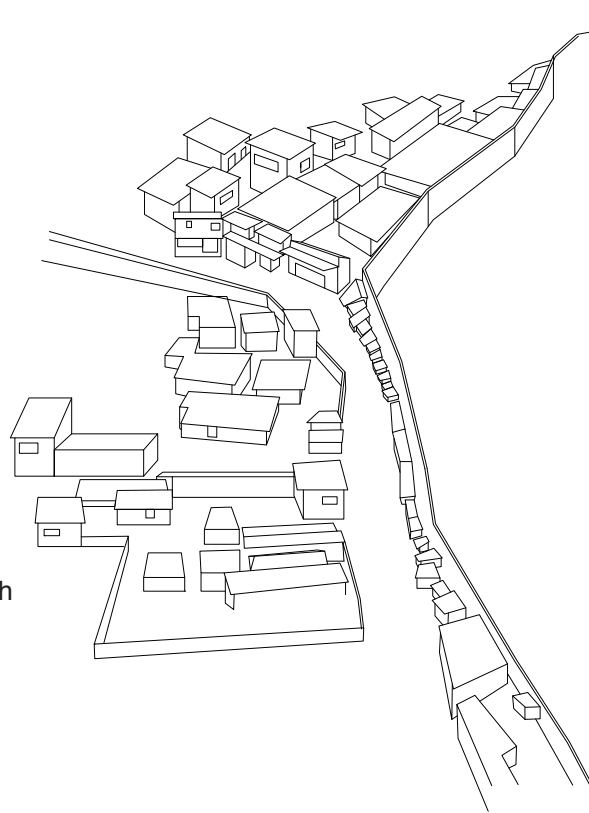
IABR  
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ROTTERDAM

4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam  
**Open City: Designing Coexistence**

How can architects and urbanists stimulate concrete forms of social, cultural, and economic coexistence? *Open City: Designing Coexistence*, is exploring, documenting, and designing strategies for coexistence in today's cities.

The Open City is an urban condition that enables diverse groups to interact peacefully, creatively, and productively. But the Open City is not a "soup"; it is a finely-tuned integration machine. Rather than blending everything with everybody, it balances integrating and segregating forces, encouraging distinct communities and groups to settle, interact, and establish the dynamic relationships that we call urbanity.

A breeding ground for knowledge, innovation, and economic growth, the Open City represents a vital achievement in human culture. But in order to be sustained in the face of today's urban challenges, the Open City must be researched and (re) designed. This is the task of the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam.

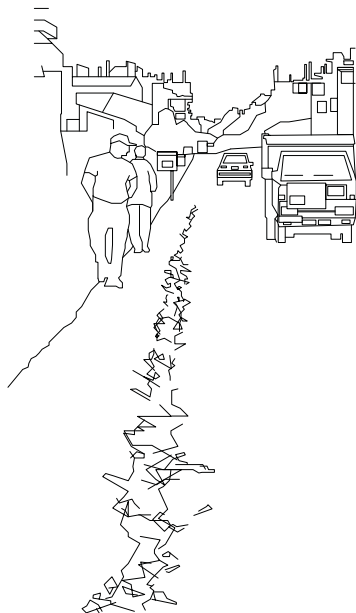


Today, the very diversity that once activated our cities threatens to dissolve them: cities are turning into archipelagos; public infrastructures are splintering; and public spaces are being left to wither. Differences between rich and poor, conflicts among ethnic groups, and the proliferation of gated communities and covered security zones are some of the symptoms that point to the urgent need to readdress the idea of Open City and translate it into concrete intervention strategies.

The curators of the 4th IABR have identified five main situations in which geographical, spatial, typological, and sociocultural conditions reveal different qualities and potentials of Open City. Each of these situations will be explored through research and actual projects, and presented as a sub-theme of the Biennale.

1. *Community* has its geographical focus on suburbia, where the notion that the city is not so much a melting pot of individuals, but rather of communities, will be addressed.
2. *Collective* treats the transformation of the post-socialist city under the influence of emerging radical market mechanisms and shifts in social structure.
3. *Refuge* concentrates on metropolitan places that increasingly suffer from political and religious polarization, cities that produce extreme spatial typologies that range from elite compounds to refugee camps.
4. *Squat* explores potential synergies between the informal and the official production of urban space by means of participation and negotiation.
5. *Diaspora* deals with migratory patterns and survival strategies of populations that have settled in other territories, depositing traces of their original culture in their paths.





### Time schedule

16 March	<u>Closing date Call for Projects:</u> final date for mailing the application form.
1 April	Project selection: applicants are informed about the acceptance of their projects.
1 May	<u>Closing date for registration</u> of the selected projects & payment of the registration fee.
May-Aug	Preparation of the projects and consultations with the curator.
1-5 Sep	<u>Submission of the projects</u> in Rotterdam.
24-27 Sep	Opening weekend of the 4 <sup>th</sup> International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam and Award Ceremony.

### Conditions for participation

Proposals can be submitted by completely filling out the enclosed application form and e-mailing it to the project secretary, Marjolijn Vegter: [m.vegter@hro.nl](mailto:m.vegter@hro.nl)

In the subject line, please mention IABR followed by the name of your school or university.

Participation is open to teams from all recognised schools and universities in the fields of architecture, urban design, landscape design, urban development and urban management, on condition that a teacher or professor at the school or university supervises the project.

In order to participate, a non-refundable registration fee of €100 must be paid before 1 May, after the project concerned has been selected by the curators.

The school or university concerned is responsible for ensuring that the exhibition material is sent to the exhibition location and is picked up after completion of the exhibition and for taking out appropriate transport insurance.

During the exhibition, all the material present will be insured up to a maximum amount per contribution, the sum of which is to be determined.

In the case of more complicated presentation, for example composite models, the teams themselves will be responsible for effective positioning and placement, in consultation with the organisation.

Participating students can pre-register at the 5<sup>th</sup> international Summer School of the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture, which this year will focus on the Biennale.

### Questions or suggestions

A complete set of participation rules will be sent along with the definitive invitation in April. Questions can be sent by e-mail to Marjolijn Vegter: [m.vegter@hro.nl](mailto:m.vegter@hro.nl)

We will do our best to answer your question as quickly as possible by e-mail or by telephone.

### Award

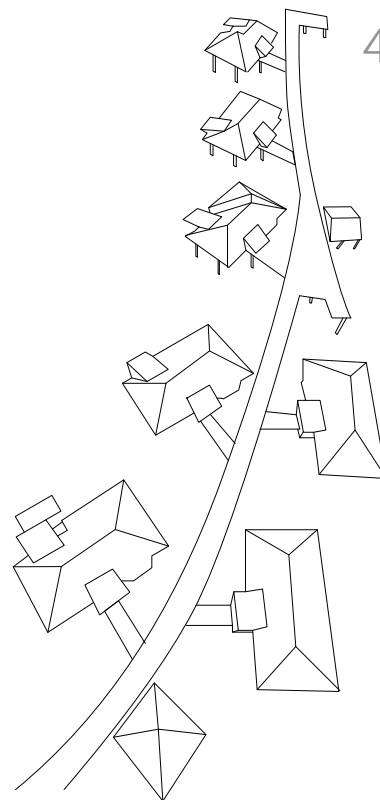
The Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design will honour the best entries with a special Award. Projects are to be selected by an independent professional jury with prestigious members. Prize money is €10.000,-. Winners will be announced during the opening weekend of the Biennale in September.

## Organisation

PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM is being organised by the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design (AvBR) together with the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR), the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) and the Hogeschool Rotterdam (HRO).

PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM will take place on the RDM Campus.

The RDM area on Rotterdam Heijplaat previously housed one of the largest shipyards in Europe. Renamed the RDM Campus, this inspiring site now provides space for several innovative businesses and educational institutions, including the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design. A fast link by boat serves to connect the RDM site with the city centre of Rotterdam.



## Acknowledgement

We like to thank Archiprix International for making this Call for Projects possible. Archiprix International brings together the latest generation of talented designers and offers the educational institutes a global platform on which they can present themselves. The 2009 edition takes place in Montevideo from March 26 to April 3 ([www.archiprix.org](http://www.archiprix.org)).

## Selection committee

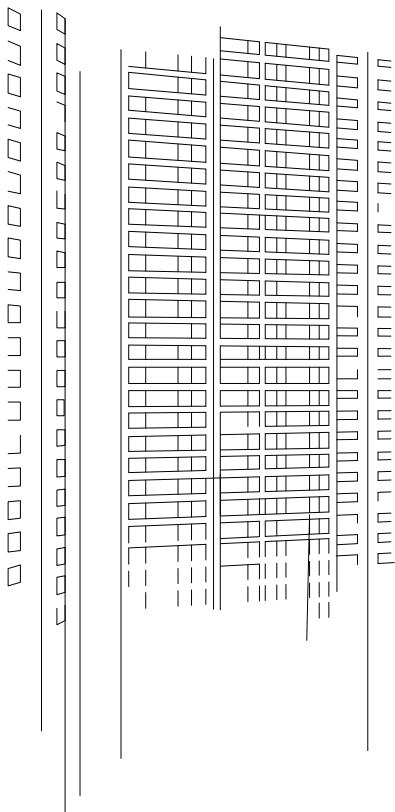
The projects will be selected by a committee composed of the following members: Ralf Pasel, Tim Rienets, Jan Fransen, Chris van Langen and Jan Duursma.

### Ralf Pasel – Curator Parallel Cases // IABR@RDM

Ralf Pasel is principal architect of [pasel.kunzel architects](http://www.pasel.kunzel.com). The office won several prizes and awards, amongst others the prestigious International Bauhaus Award 2008. Ralf Pasel studied Architecture at the Ecole d' Architecture de Paris, France, the University of Liverpool, England and at the Technical University of Dresden, Germany where he graduated in 1998 with 'Honors Cum Laude'. He worked as project architect at KCAP (Kees Christiaanse Architects & Planners) and has previously worked with Jean Nouvel, Santiago Calatrava and David Mikhail. He is presently Visiting Professor at the Academy of Architecture and Urban Design Rotterdam, taught at the Technical University in Delft, the Netherlands and was Visiting Professor at the Universidad Catolica de Santiago de Chile and at the Universidad Central at Santiago de Chile in 2004.

### Tim Rienets – Co-curator Open City: Designing Coexistence

Tim Rienets is lecturer and researcher at the chair for architecture and urban design at the ETH Zurich. He is initiator and coordinator of the Urban Research Studio and co-coordinator of the research and publication project Grenzgeografien. He is co-editor of the publications Atlas of Shrinking Cities (with Philipp Oswalt) and Cities of Collision – Jerusalem and the Principles of Conflict Urbanism (with Philipp Misselwitz). He has curated and participated in several exhibitions and has worked as lecture, teacher, and critic at international institutions.



### Jan Fransen – Deputy Director IHS

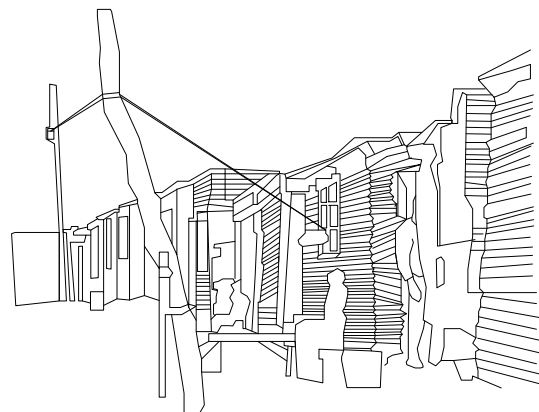
Jan Fransen is a senior Urban Development Specialist with a focus on poverty alleviation and local economic development, focusing on employment, capacity building and participation. He lectures on these subjects at IHS in addition to providing technical advisory services to national and local governments, and international development agencies. Jan Fransen also lectures at overseas educational programmes jointly with IHS counterparts in various parts of the world. He has long and short-term working experience in European, the African and Asian countries including China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Korea, Netherlands, Namibia, Romania, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### Chris van Langen – Head of School Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design

Chris van Langen completed his studies in 1989 at the Faculty of Architecture of the Technical University of Eindhoven with a major in the History and Theory of Architecture and Urban design. After completing his studies, he worked for the Rotterdam Urban Planning Department (dS+V) as an urban designer in the city centre. From 2000 to 2006, he served as coordinator for the internal discussion platform for the department. During this period, he was also a member of the department's urban design staff for two years and started working as programme coordinator for urban design at the Rotterdam Academy. From 2006 to 2007, he worked as a senior urban designer at dS+V and, starting in February 2007, he spent a brief period as a researcher at the TransUrban knowledge centre of the Hogeschool Rotterdam. Since 2008, Chris is Head of School of the Rotterdam Academy.

### Jan Duursma – Project manager Parallel Cases // IABR@RDM

Jan Duursma studied History of Art & Architecture at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, with a major in modern urban architecture and spatial planning. After completing his studies, he worked for the University for one year, after which he worked for a great many clients on a freelance basis. From 1996 to 1998, he worked as coordinator of Coast Wise Europe, an international educational project of the Rotterdam Academy, and as a staff member of Rotterdam 2001 - cultural capital of Europe, he was responsible for the architecture programme during that year. He also did work for WiMBY!, Archiprix International and European Netherlands. Since 2007, he has been a staff member at the Rotterdam Academy.



### Appendix:

Call for Projects / Letter of Recommendation / Application Form



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*Erasmus*

**Academie van Bouwkunst Rotterdam**  
Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design



**INTERNATIONAL  
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Rotterdam, January 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

Subject: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM

To whom it may concern

As curator of the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam 2009 *Open City-Designing Coexistence*, I am delighted to invite you and your students to participate in the exhibition PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM. The Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design (AvBR), the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) and the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) have jointly initiated PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM to encourage students to participate in the upcoming Biennale.

The IABR engages the fields of architecture, urban design and landscape architecture, in research, design and public dialogue. Conceived as a research Biennale, the IABR is based on an urgent social agenda, and is generated with the conviction that architecture can and must contribute to solving some of society's most complex problems. This edition of the Biennale will focus on one of the most basic questions of urbanism: 'How can people of different social and cultural backgrounds live together and make our cities places of engagement, entanglement and innovation?'

Under the title *Open City-Designing Coexistence* the Biennale has invited architects and urban designers from around the world to explore, document and conceive design strategies for coexistence in today's cities.

Beside these international experts mentioned above, we would be pleased to welcome the young generation to present their visions of the *Open City* in PARALLEL CASES // IABR@RDM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a series of loops and a long, sweeping tail that curves upwards and to the right.

Kees Christiaanse  
Curator