CALL FOR PROJECTS
PARALLEL CASES – SMART CITIES

All schools and universities in the fields of architecture, urban design and landscape architecture as well as related study programmes are invited to submit proposals for contributions to the exhibition Parallel Cases – Smart Cities.

The exhibition is part of the main programme of the 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam - Making City and will open at the Netherlands Architecture Institute in April 2012.

Proposals may include projects which are connected to the theme of this Biennale and the exhibition Parallel Cases – Smart Cities. These can be projects which are being worked on or will be worked on during the current and upcoming study year, as well as projects carried out earlier.

Project proposals may be submitted up to and including Sunday 8 May 2011 using the web application form. Persons submitting proposals will be notified no later than Friday 20 May 2011 as to whether their proposal has been selected for participation.

PARALLEL CASES – SMART CITIES is being organised by the collective Academies of Architecture in the Netherlands in cooperation with the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam and the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

This Call for Projects is made possible by Archiprix International. Once every two years, Archiprix International presents the world’s best graduation projects in the fields of architecture, urban design and landscape architecture.
5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam  Making City

In just a few decades, 80% of mankind will be living in cities, which is where more than 90% of our wealth is generated but which cover less than 3% of the earth’s surface. Cities are effective habitats, as they drive innovation, offer the best answer to overpopulation and are the greenest answer we have on a planet where crisis and climate change are forcing us to find rigorous solutions. But to realise this, cities must be better managed, better designed, better organised, and better planned than they currently are. Only then can cities save us from ourselves.

With Making City, the IABR will therefore actively engage with “city making” in the form of concrete projects in three cities: Rotterdam, São Paulo and Istanbul. To that end, an international team of curators is engaging in a two-year research programme in these three cities. Their main goal is to redefine the role of and the relation between planning, design and politics and thereby contribute to a more effective toolbox for making the city. Open and new alliances among urban planners, scientists, businesses, developers and local administrators are the driving forces in this endeavour. It will culminate in presentations, exhibitions, lectures and debates in the three cities, after which it is the stated intent of all partners to see the projects realised.

Smart Cities

Within this overall theme, the second edition of the education and research exhibition Parallel Cases focuses on interdisciplinary projects under the title Smart Cities: projects about the present-day city containing contributions from disciplines outside the domain of architecture and urban design. The smart city adds layers in the space and objects comprising the city, layers containing aspects such as intelligent communication, efficient transport and applied technologies, additions that make it possible for complex urban environments to function more effectively. Smart cities create more jobs, are cleaner, safer, more flexible and efficient, and contribute to a more sustainable world, socially as well as physically.

“For cities to become truly smart everything must be connected.” (The Economist, 4 Nov 2010)

This refers to more than just infrastructure and digital connections. After all, linking talents to markets, knowledge to technology, and users to planning and management are important success factors. Because of the specific integrative aspects of the discipline of urban design new opportunities and possibilities are arising to establish this smart city and, in doing so, to shape new social developments. To do this, it is necessary to get to know the playing field, the players and the rules. After all, in many countries, institutions can’t impose long term master plans anymore on parties responsible for implementing urban development, or on the population itself. Everywhere, new forms of urban planning and intensive participation are being developed in order to create the necessary public support. The old division between the market and the government is also no longer adequate, as the parties intensively involved in urban development now include not only the traditional parties like contractors, developers, corporations and investors but also multinationals in the areas of communication technology, transport etc. These parties recognise the market potential of an attractive and healthy living environment for a growing number of urban residents, including the new middle classes in emerging economies. A healthy living environment is based on intelligent urban planning that succeeds in adequately managing aspects such as education, health care, culture, food distribution, and water management.

Global trends, local context

Parallel Cases – Smart Cities presents the selected interdisciplinary projects in an international context and, by doing so, focuses on the specific local context in relation to global trends. Critical attention will be given to the position of the designer in the process, balancing between idealism and pragmatism. It should be clear that the high expectations with regard to the smart city will not be easily implemented everywhere. This will require other types of designs, new types of planning, effective cooperation and far-reaching integration between disciplines, and creative impulses. At the same time, the inert reality of the existing city will also have to be taken into account. After all, in most cases we’re not dealing with new tabula rasa cities with carte blanche for planners and designers. We’re dealing with existing and expanding cities, in which, besides the physical reality, all kinds of interests, values and sentiments determine the status quo.

The exhibited projects will illustrate a broad palette of methods and, in doing so, provide insight into leading international, innovative and interdisciplinary projects with contributions from all the disciplines involved in urban planning. New forms of cooperation are essential to give urban planners and architects the competences they need to continue functioning within the context of the large-scale and complex projects that characterise today’s city. Cross-pollination and reflection will enable designers to interact with other players in shaping and designing cities that function more effectively.
Call for projects
The curators of Parallel Cases invite all universities and schools of architecture and urban design, as well as related educational institutions to submit project proposals connected to the theme of “smart cities”. Proposals may include graduation projects as well as presentations of individual or collective studio work or research projects, as long as the project is of an interdisciplinary nature and the design and research have been or are being carried out by students and the proposal is supported by the school or university where the project was or is being implemented.

Project proposals should consist of a written explanation and motivation, supported by relevant illustrations and factual information. Project proposals are to be submitted only by completely filling out the digital application form (see below).

The projects that will be part of the exhibition at the 5th IABR in the spring of 2012 will be selected by the Parallel Cases curators team in the spring of 2011 from all the proposals submitted. This selection committee consists of the director of the IABR, one of the curators of Making City and the curators from the organising Schools of Architecture.

Based in part on the advice given by an interdisciplinary expert group, the projects selected will then be divided over several sub themes. An editorial committee consisting of the curators of the academies will supervise the progress and implementation of the projects until the opening of the Biennale. This supervision will take place via the exchange of project documents and responses to these documents via e-mail/internet.

Selection criteria
The main selection criteria used by the curator team when selecting the projects are the following:

**Definition:** Does the research or design project make a significant contribution to defining the concept of a “smart city”?

**Development:** Does the project make a contribution to the development of “smart cities”?

**Multidisciplinary nature:** Does the project contribute to innovative cross-pollination between the disciplines of architecture and urban design on the one hand and other domains outside these disciplines on the other, such as: energy supply, mobility, food production, social issues, financing, etc.?

**Contribution to the exhibition itself:** Will the intended end product be an interesting and stimulating addition to the exhibition?

Award
During the opening weekend of the Biennale, an independent international jury of professionals will select one or more winners from the projects selected. The Academies of Architecture will contribute €10,000 in prize money for the best proposals.

Time schedule
- **18 February 2011** Call for Projects
- **8 May 2011** Closing date Call for Projects: Final date for mailing the application form
- **20 May 2011** Project selection: Applicants are informed about the acceptance of their projects
- **15 June 2011** Closing date for registration of the selected projects & payment of the registration fee
- **July 2011 - Feb 2012** Preparation of the selected projects and consultations with the curators
- **1 March 2012** Final deadline for arrival of exhibition entries at the NAi in Rotterdam
- **April 2012** Opening weekend of the 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam
- **April - August 2012** Thematic IABR side-programme on Smart Cities
Conditions for participation
- Proposals can only be submitted by completely filling out the digital application form (see below).
- Participation is open to students and student teams enrolled in any recognised university or school in the field of architecture, urban design or landscape architecture as well as related study programmes.
- Students or student teams cannot submit proposals individually, but need the support of their school or university. The schools and universities are formally responsible for the submitting the proposal, although students can function as contact persons.
- A school or university may submit a maximum of 2 projects per faculty.
- Once selected by the curators, schools and universities agree to pay a non refundable registration fee of €100, to be received by the organisation no later than 15 June 2011.
- School and universities are responsible for ensuring that the exhibition material is sent to the exhibition site and for taking out appropriate transport insurance.
- During the exhibition, all materials will be insured by the organisation against theft and damage.
- The material becomes the property of the organisers of the exhibition, unless other agreements are entered into with the organisers before the material is shipped to the exhibition. In the latter case, the participants themselves will be responsible for picking up the material after the exhibition. The material will then be stored for a limited time after the exhibition.
- If the entire exhibition or part of it goes on a travel tour after the exhibition, then additional agreements will be entered into in a timely fashion with the parties submitting the projects.
- There is limited AV and computer equipment available for individual projects. The party submitting the project may be asked to provide this equipment or else compensate the exhibition organisers for the cost of obtaining the necessary equipment.
- In the case of complex presentations, for example composite scale models or large installations, teams may be asked to assist in order to ensure appropriate installation and placement. This also applies to disassembly after the exhibit.

Submit your proposal here

Application form

Questions:
If you have any questions about this Call for Projects, please contact the project secretariat by e-mail at pc2012@hro.nl. It is not possible to submit project proposals by e-mail.

Organisation
The exhibition “Parallel Cases – Smart Cities” is part of the main programme of the 5th IABR. The exhibition will be shown at the Netherlands Architecture Institute from April 2012 onwards and will be accompanied by an extensive side programme.

Parallel Cases - Smart Cities is being organised by the collective Academies of Architecture in the Netherlands, in cooperation with the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam and the Netherlands Architecture Institute. The project is supported by the Netherlands Architecture Fund.

The six Academies of Architecture in the Netherlands offer fully accredited Masters level courses in the areas of architecture, urban design or landscape design. During their studies at the Academy students combine working and learning. The Academies are located in Amsterdam, Arnhem, Groningen, Maastricht, Rotterdam and Tilburg.