

POST BOX FOR THE OPEN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 4 SEPTEMBER 2014

Het Nieuwe Instituut launches the online and interactive **Post Box for the Open Society**, an invitation to the international community of architects, designers, thinkers and researchers to submit ideas and designs for an open society.

The Post Box is part of the Dutch entry to the Biennale di Architettura in Venice, entitled **Open: A Bakema Celebration**. It presents a critical reflection on the work and research of Jaap Bakema (1914–1981), in particular his ideas for the open society.

Each month we send out a newsletter with a compilation of submissions to the Post Box. This is the fourth issue, which also includes a preview of the article by Nathalie de Vries in a series of reflections on the subject of the open society.

Visit the Post Box at open.jaapbakemastudycentre.nl

NEW: SUBMISSIONS

- 23. **inter[Venster]**. Lucas van Zuijlen.
- 24. **The Openheid State: From closed to open society in Cape Town**. Michelle Provoost / ArchiNed.
- 25. **StreetTalk**. Niels Wouters.
- 26. **OpenStructures**. Thomas Lomme.
- 27. **[a linha] atelier urban nomads**. Luísa Alpalhão.
- 28. **[jogos de rua]**. Luísa Alpalhão.
- 29. **Media Interventions as Assembling Devices**. Katia Truijen.
- 30. **New Collectivities**. Nathalie de Vries.

inter[Venster]. Lucas van Zuijlen.

Paper subject: The extension in modern 'style' of a cineromoom 't Venster' ('the window') in 1947 by young architect J.B. Bakema on the 'art-nouveau' building Ons Huis, which was built in 1909 for cultural development for kids.



The perfect integration didn't cause any physical or emotional conflict. In contrary, the building still exists and got more timebased interventions. Up till now it had a great influence on the urban and cultural development of the city Rotterdam.

open.jaapbakemastudycentre.nl/content/intervenster

StreetTalk. Niels Wouters.

Various forms of information communication technology are increasingly integrated in our public environments. At the same time, challenges arise to render such technologies locally relevant and meaningful. While electronic public displays can be found in various urban environments, still much is unknown in regards to their social and societal integration within the fabric of the city or a neighbourhood.



In an attempt to uncover the impact of deploying public displays in residential neighbourhoods, as well as expand the typical design space of public displays, we have involved individual households in the design, deployment and maintenance of a set of situated public displays. As a result, StreetTalk has indicated the potential of neighbourhood communication concepts that do not necessarily apply the traditional screen-based characteristics of public displays. In particular, as the cityscape is currently changing and qualities such as neighbourhood cohesion and communication are perceived to be under threat, StreetTalk proved successful in triggering social interaction in and around the neighbourhood where they have been deployed. In most cases, citizens are unable to participate in the design, maintenance and control of content on electronic public displays. However, they are promised to address 'everyone' and enhance people's experience of the city and its services. While StreetTalk aimed to develop public displays, the study started with a critical reflection on neighbourhoods, with the help of participating households. It helped uncover the latent needs and qualities for communication, which helped inform the design of three contextually relevant and personally meaningful alternative public displays. As such, we feel encouraged to promote such participative design process, also in the context of public displays that are aimed to address urban dwellers.

open.jaapbakemastudycentre.nl/content/streettalk

[a linha] atelier urban nomads. Luísa Alpalhão.

[a linha] was one of the winning projects of the programme BIP / ZIP 2012 launched by Lisbon's City Hall (Câmara Municipal de Lisboa). It consisted of 4 routes through Alfama, one of the historical neighbourhoods in Lisbon with an aging population and a run-down building stock.



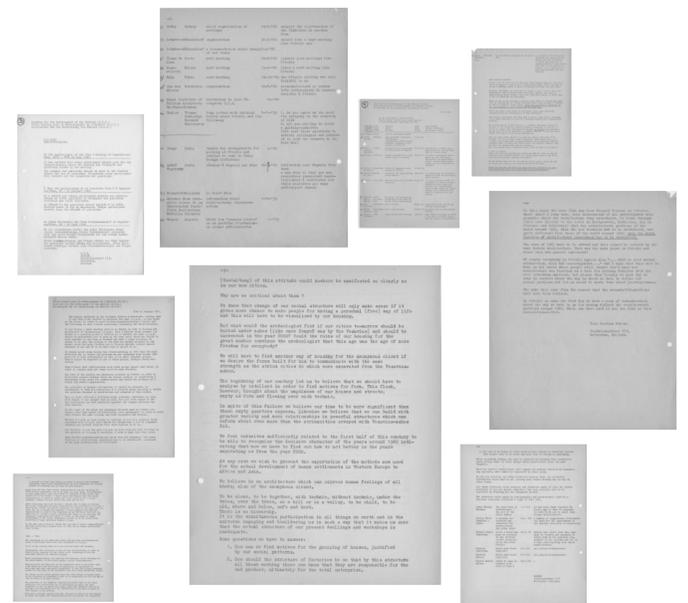
The routes marked 25 neglected spaces in the neighbourhood which then adopted the colours of the 4 lines – green, red, blue & yellow – depending on the programme that would inhabit them (green spaces, cultural events, business related spaces and play and sports). Those should allow local residents and visitors to navigate through Alfama in a more pro-active way engaging with those (formerly) run-down spaces.

open.jaapbakemastudycentre.nl/content/linha

OPEN: ARCHIVE

In every newsletter from the **Post Box for the Open Society**, we will refer to Jaap Bakema's historic **Post Box for the Development of the Habitat**. The newsletters nrs 3, 4 and 5 by Jaap Bakema give some insight in the development of the post-CIAM debates around 1960. Contributions to the Post Box come from all around the world but especially Europe and include the many generations of modern architects from

Victor Bourgeois to Yona Friedman to Giancarlo de Carlo among others. In Newsletter nr 5 Jaap Bakema talks about his view on the projected development in the future 1960–2000, criticism and self-criticism, the topic of mass housing and the anonymous client.



open.jaapbakemastudycentre.nl/content/post-box-development-habitat-newsletter-3-5

NOW: ARCHINED

During the Biennale, **ArchiNed** is taking the discussion about the open society out of the Dutch pavilion and into the present on the World Wide Web. In six articles designers and academics will critically reflect on the idea of the open society. Readers are expressly invited to take part in this debate.

<http://www.archined.nl>

New Collectivities – Nathalie de Vries

Contemporary architectural and urban designs are often made either for individuals or for masses. Hyper individualism goes hand in hand with mass experiences and it sometimes seems as if there is nothing in-between. With the loss of grand ideologies, also the faith in the strength of collectives has disappeared. And with it the interest in designing spaces for the collective. The consequence is that one is in or out, inside or outside. Separations have become barriers.

Gradually we can see a new way of looking at the collective. New ways of connecting people are created, some permanent and some temporarily. People nowadays choose to be part of different groups at the same time. What kinds of spaces are needed to accommodate and stimulate the new interconnectivity between people these days? MVRDV shows how architecture and urban design can create spaces and places for these New Collectivities.

Nathalie de Vries is architect, urbanist and co-founder of MVRDV

<http://www.archined.nl/en/forum/2014/eng/new-collectivities/>

OPEN: POST BOX

The **Post Box for the Open Society** and **Open: A Bakema Celebration** both originated as a collaboration between Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, TU Delft and their shared research initiative the Jaap Bakema Study Centre. The Post Box is supported by ArchiNed, NWO and Mecanoo Architecten.



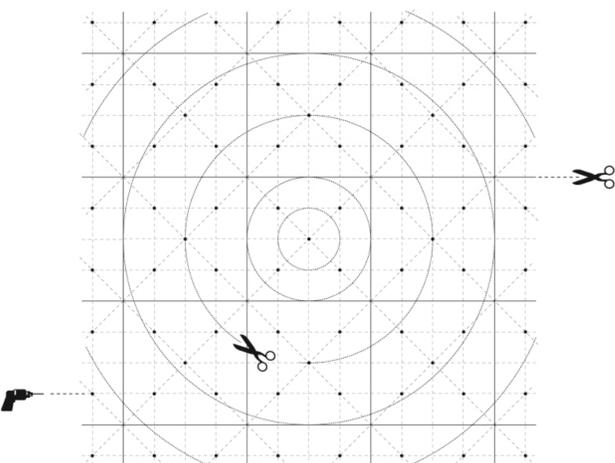
The newsletter is distributed by **Het Nieuwe Instituut**.
Editors: Dirk van den Heuvel and Katia Truijen.

For subscriptions, more information and questions, please visit the website: open.jaapbakemastudycentre.nl

FEATURED: PROJECTS

OpenStructures. Thomas Lomme.

The OS (OpenStructures) project explores the possibility of a modular construction model where everyone designs for everyone on the basis of one shared geometrical grid. It initiates a kind of collaborative Meccano to which everybody can contribute parts, components and structures.



An open modular system has the potential to generate flexible and dynamic puzzle structures rather than uniform modular entities. It will generate objects that have the ability to evolve and integrate old, new, cheap, expensive, original, bootlegged, manufactured and crafted components over time. It will introduce variety within modularity, hereby not only stimulating re-use cycles of various parts and components but also enabling collaborative (and thus exponential) innovation within hardware construction.

open.jaapbakemastudycentre.nl/content/openstructures