

Indonesia participates in First International Architecture Biennial Rotterdam

Spring 2003 Rotterdam, Jakarta's twin town, will host the First International Architecture Biennial in the Netherlands. During the biennial the overall theme 'mobility' will be addressed in a great variety of events (film productions, forums, excursions, publications, exhibitions) in Rotterdam's leading museums (Museum Boymans Van Beuningen, Natural Science Museum, Children's Museum, Maritime Museum) and in co-operation with many organisations (Netherlands Architecture Institute, Delft University of Technology, Alliance Française, Goethe Institut, etc.). With the organisation of its First International Architectural Biennial Rotterdam ranks among other biennial cities such as Venice, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, and Berlin.

Over the years mobility worldwide, ranging from ITC to infrastructure and motorways, has steadily increased and influenced the physical and cultural shape of cities and their surroundings. Given the irreversible and ongoing nature of this development the question how mobility, now and in the future, (re)shapes cities and landscape is inevitable and the point of departure of this biennial. The objectives are twofold: creating debate and new perspectives on recent developments regarding mobility and stimulating professionals and non-professionals alike to think about the use of innovative design for the future.

To ensure that the many different aspects of the theme will be discussed and presented in a way that is both appealing to professionals as well as a general public, an (inter)national team of renowned architects (including Toyo Ito, Greg Lynn, Winy Maas, Dominique Perrault, Ken Yeang) under the direction of mrs prof. ir Francine Houben started preparations earlier this year. Houben, professor for aesthetics of architecture and mobility at the Delft University of Technology and founding partner of Mecanoo, one of the Netherlands leading architectural offices, did a study on mobility in a conglomerate of cities (encompassing Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden, The Hague, Delft, Rotterdam) in the western part of the Netherlands known as 'Randstad'. This result of this study, entitled *Holland Avenue*, is the reference for the entire programme of the First International Architecture Biennial Rotterdam.

Given Indonesia's specific problems and opportunities regarding mobility Houben earlier this year invited dr ir Moh. Danisworo, professor at the Urban Design Centre (PSUD) at the Bandung Institute of Technology, to represent Indonesia and participate in the central project of the biennial, 'A Room with a View'. Other participating countries project are the United States of America, Mexico, Egypt, Lebanon, Japan, China, Hungary, Germany, and the Netherlands. 'A Room with a View' is derived from the notion that motorways have increasingly become spaces where people spend time and that cars increasingly are perceived as extensions of living rooms - thus the project's name. It aims at analysing current developments regarding transport by car and developments of motorways in different international regions and designing future ones. The studies are done following the methodology Houben developed and applied for her study on the Randstad. Thus each country puts together multidisciplinary teams consisting of architects, landscape-architects, urban designers, graphic designers, filmmakers, and photographers in order to analyse and visualise current and future situations from various perceptions and with various techniques.

The research team Danisworo compiled consists of PSUD-members (Heru Poerbo, Ahmad Tardiyana, Aji Bimarsono, Laksmi Tunggadewi). This team will analyse one of Jakarta's, if not Indonesia's most congested infrastructural strips: Kota - Thamrin - Sudirman - Semanggi - Gatot Subroto - Bogor. For the design part, executed by PSUD graduate students, four locations along this strip will be selected and elaborately designed according to desirable and feasible future developments. As the outcome of these studies will contribute to the planning of DKI Jakarta and adjacent areas, Danisworo's team is endorsed by the municipal government of DKI Jakarta and the ministry of infrastructure. The final result of the analyses and design tasks will be the nucleus of the biennial's main exhibition and reference for debates and lectures, all to be held in the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

The exhibition 'A Room with View' will be opened on 7 May 2003. It is also the inauguration of the First International Architectural Biennial Rotterdam.

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For more information: www.1ab-rotterdam.nl