

LABORATORY INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE ROTTERDAM CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION

IABR09 SQUAT CITY

Squat in the Open City

Today, the ability of the city to guarantee the co-existence of its inhabitants is threatened by social segregation, functional differentiation, and spatial fragmentation. In this context, the goal of the IABR 2009 (does this need to be explained?) 'Open City' is to display projects that negotiate between the integrating and segregating forces that enable people of diverse cultures and lifestyles to connect and interact. Squat City is part of the Rotterdam Biennale and deals with the increasingly common phenomenon of informal urban developments all over the world.

If 'squatting' can be understood as the process of appropriation by which excluded local actors gain access to the territory and resources of a city, then a new type of activism should focus on the strategies and techniques that allow these informal processes to develop in a more inclusive and sustainable way.

Squat City is a platform that supports the self-empowerment of local actors in the informal city.

Squat City launches a competition calling for best-practice projects in the fields of architecture and urban design.

Squat City will collect and display these projects and practices on the Squat City Community webpage.

Squat City presents best-practice urban and architecture projects to potential sponsors in order to fund their realization.

Squat City fosters strategies and practices that enable diverse co-existence in the Open City.

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Collaborating Institutions:
Genesis Institute for Social Business and Impact Strategies

Competition

The projects submitted for the Squat City Competition should contribute the agenda of the 'Open City' by proposing inventive design strategies and techniques pertaining to informal urban development.

The call goes out to projects from the fields of architecture and urban design that are based on or that support bottom-up practices, that encourage the self-empowerment of local actors, and that help formalize and legalize such developments.

They qualify by being:

- economically sustainable, e.g. by creating jobs and supporting social business.
- ecologically and energetically sustainable, e.g. by reducing waste or energy and material consumption.
- socially sustainable, e.g. by creating education facilities and enabling communities to become self-reliant.

Please enroll in the competition by completing the online submission form.

The uploading of your contribution will result in a mini-documentary and a fact sheet.

You can examine the three exemplary mini-documentaries, one from each of the three categories below:

Tool:
construction technologies, equipment, building material
Building:
design schemes for buildings and/or open spaces
City:
urban design schemes, financing strategies

The selected projects will be displayed on the new Squat City Community webpage and be exhibited at the IABR 2009.

Deadline for Submission: MAY 31st, 2009.

The first prize is \$2'000, the second \$1'000, the third \$500.

The jury is composed of members of the IABR curatorial team:

Kees Christiaanse (chief curator, KCAP), Tim Rieniets (ETHZ), Fabienne Hoelzl (ETHZ), Can Altay, Michelle Provoost (Crimson), Georgeen Theodore (Interboro), Bart Goldhorn (Project Russia)