

NETHERLANDS
ARCHITECTURE INSTITUTE

THE NETHERLANDS ARCHITECTURE INSTITUTE (NAI)
ORGANISES TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS



TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

NOW AVAILABLE:
THE HUNGRY BOX, THE ENDLESS INTERIORS OF MVRDV
URBAN NATURE, WEST 8
TEAM 10, A UTOPIA OF THE PRESENT
HORROR VACUÏ, URBAN IMPLOSIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS
TANGIBLE TRACES

Horror Vacuï, Urban Implosions in The Netherlands



Running counter to the 'cluttering up' of the Dutch landscape as a result of the unremitting dispersion of the city (about which government and architects are rightly concerned), is a contrary movement towards densification of the existing city. Although demographic predictions indicate that the Netherlands may well be on the brink of a fall in population, there is no sign of this as yet in the construction industry, where the number of square metres development per person that society can bear continues to rise unabated.

Whereas in other parts of the world cities are growing explosively, the Dutch situation is better described as an implosion, an inner-directed growth whereby gaps in the urban fabric are being filled in – even in Rotterdam where emptiness has defined the genius loci ever since the destruction of the city centre in 1940.

Until recently, almost every Dutch city featured a considerable number of residual spaces, 'overshot' zones, redundant sites and other types of 'blank' space. Besides which, the modernist ideal of openness had had far-reaching consequences in many areas.

During the past two decades, however, gaps in the urban fabric, whether natural or designed, have speedily disappeared, filled in with buildings or public spaces that have swallowed all the openness like a black hole. And anything that has not yet been taken in hand, will probably be tackled in the coming years. The most important interventions of the last fifteen years, and some promising projects currently in the pipeline, mainly concern the transformation of former industrial and port areas, the densification of inner cities, the regeneration of post-war housing estates and the intensification of transport routes and nodes. In those project, a wide variety of strategies are present, from the meticulous repair of old structures in inner cities reshaped by modernist urban planning, to radical new solutions such as building over existing structures and dual land use.

Travelling schedule:

May 31 through July 31, 2007
Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

Floor Area:

150 - 200 square meter



Impression

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