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An International Symposium on the Practices of Off-site Reuse in Architecture

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft

Visiting Professors: ROTOR

Chair of Architecture and Dwelling / Jaap Bakema Study Centre

April 24-25, 2017

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MONDAY, APRIL 24TH

14:30 Welcome by Dean Peter Russell

14:40 Welcome by hosting chair / JBSC
Dick van Gameren / Dirk van den Heuvel

14:50 Introduction by Rotor
Lionel Devlieger and Maarten Gielen

15:00– RE-SITUATING REUSE

17:30 *How to understand the practices of off-site reuse against the history of modern architecture and industrialized building? Why did off-site reuse become marginalized after WWII? And how to approach the topic from a heritage point of view? This session takes a historical look on urgent contemporary issues.*
Lionel Devlieger (Engineer-architect and architectural historian, principal of Rotor, Brussels) — *Demolition and reuse in history. Examples from 18th, 19th and 20th century Brussels*
Annette Condello (Architectural historian, senior lecturer at Curtin University, Perth) — *Spolia as luxury*
Stephanie van de Voorde (VUB; engineer-architect and architectural historian) — *The specificity of post-war building materials*
Wessel de Jonge (TU Delft, practicing architect and architectural heritage expert) — *Components removal and re-installation in modern heritage projects*

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH

9:30– CONDITIONS FOR PRODUCTIVE REUSE

12:00 *What logistic, legal and economic challenges lie ahead? How can we make deconstruction and building component salvage work? What might be viable business models? Who are the allies, who the enemy? This session discusses the practicalities of deconstruction as opposed to demolition.*
Anne Nicklin (Architect, Director of the Building Materials Reuse Association) — *The professional building materials reuse sector in the US. Recent achievements and challenges ahead*
Ted Reiff (Founder and president of The ReUse People of America, Inc) — *The Reuse People of America. Current business model and perspectives for development*
Jan Jongert (Architect, founder of Superuse Architecten, Rotterdam) — *SuperUse, Shortcutting material flows in the Netherlands for two decades*

14:00– FUTURE REUSE

17:00 *What qualities are (re)introduced by designing with reused components? How to design for future reuse? How to anticipate future disassembly and productive deconstruction practices? This third session presents challenging and advanced examples in reuse design of today.*
Izaskun Chinchilla (Architect, Principal Izaskun Chinchilla Architects; Senior Teaching Fellow and Senior Research Associate, Barlett School of Architecture) — *Casa Solariega and other projects*
Eva Prats (Architect, Principal of Flores Prats, Barcelona) — *The discipline of the existing: Sala Beckett Theatre and Drama Centre in Barcelona*
Mark Gorgolewski (Architect, Professor at Ryerson University, Toronto) — *Resource Salvation - The Architecture of Reuse*
Felix Heisel (Architect, head of research Professorship of Sustainable Construction Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), and ETH Zurich's Future Cities Laboratory (FCL), Singapore) — *Building an Urban Mine. The example of UMAR in Switzerland.*
Reinier de Graaf (Architect, Partner of OMA, Rotterdam) — *The case of Timmerhuis, Rotterdam*

DECONSTRUCTION

The topic of the 2017 International Symposium of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment — TU Delft, with visiting professors ROTOR, is off-site reuse in architecture, a practice that involves salvaging components and materials from buildings that have reached the end of their life cycle, in order to reuse them elsewhere. Off-site reuse has been a common practice for centuries; however, during the twentieth century it became a forgotten art as most buildings were built with no idea about reuse and the concomitant question of sustainability. Today, the idea of off-site reuse is once again gaining momentum as the linear modes of materials consumption proper to the age of industrialization are being questioned.

Yet, in a highly streamlined building industry, many obstacles and tenacious routines need to be overcome to make these practices more than marginal again. Legislations need to be rewritten, certification protocols to be reinvented; designers need to change habits, engineers to rethink component assembly technologies, etc. In the past decades, deconstruction professionals, designers and other experts have pushed this agenda and made some valuable progress. This symposium will bring several of these actors together in order to gauge where we stand now, what lies ahead and what progress is within reach, in terms of engineering, design and overall policy.

The breached topics will fall under the following headings: — What might off-site reuse mean in terms of building culture, heritage and social value? — How to deconstruct existing buildings slated for demolition practically? What are the technological, logistical and administrative implications? — What design challenges, but also opportunities lie in the integration of existing components in new structures? — How to design buildings in such a way that you maximize its potential for later reuse, on site, but also off-site? Is the “legolization” of the building industry within reach? And is it desirable?