

EUtopia – The Possibility of an Island
Exhibition
20.10.2016 - 17.01.2017
Stad en Architectuur / M - Museum Leuven

In the exhibition *Eutopia – The Possibility of an Island*, five leading firms question the notion of an architectural utopia. Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen, JDS Architects, noAarchitecten, the collective *Camiel Van Noten / Maxime Peeters / Wouter Van der Hallen* and LAb[au] will each contribute an intriguing installation in which they continue the quest for utopia.

*In what way might utopian thinking still be relevant today?
Should good architecture not be a little utopian?*

Thomas More's book *Utopia* launched a long tradition of utopian thinking on architecture and society. Although there is no endeavour to create a utopia – the ideal city exists only on paper – it is one of the most effective tools by which to question our society and introduce new ideas.

Thomas More set Utopia on an island and that was a deliberate choice. An island is an image for a society that wishes to protect its identity from external influences. *EUtopia – The Possibility of an Island* raises the question of the critical powers of a utopia and of architecture as a utopian practice. In what way might utopian thinking still be relevant today? Can we still set utopia on an unspoiled island? What would a utopia look like if it kept its doors open to the other and the alien?

This five-hundred-year-old *Utopia* contains a number of motifs that are particularly topical today, such as the relationship between borders and identity, the debate on surveillance and privacy in public space, the attractiveness of collectivity, and the expansion of the ideal city. Five teams of architects and a collective of artists have worked on these themes to design the imaginary island of EUtopia.

The utopian designs in the exhibition start out from Thomas More's book. The curators Joeri De Bruyn and Ward Verbakel asked the architectural firms Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen, JDS Architects, noAarchitecten, the collective of artists *Camiel Van Noten / Maxime Peeters / Wouter Van der Hallen*, as well as the multidisciplinary firm LAb[au] to embody the pressing questions in this historic book in a delicate installation. *EUtopia* is literally 'paper architecture': the installations are made of paper and other light materials.

DESIGNERS: Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen / JDS Architects, noAarchitecten / Camiel Van Noten, Maxime Peeters, Wouter Van der Hallen / LAb[au]

CURATORS: Joeri De Bruyn (Public Space) and Ward Verbakel (Plusoffice)

EXHIBITION DESIGN: plusoffice architects / **GRAPHIC DESIGN:** Rene Tichelaar, Anagramme

ORGANIZATION: Stad en Architectuur in collaboration with M – Museum Leuven

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: Maarten Delbeke, Nel Janssens, Katrien Vandermarliere, Luc Verpoest, Pieter Walraet / **ACADEMIC**

ADVISOR: Maarten Van Acker

Debate EUtopia

20.10.2016, 20:00 / M – Museum Leuven

Curators and designers will discuss about the challenge of an architectural utopia. In what way might utopian thinking still be relevant today? And should architecture not be a little utopian?

PANEL: Joeri De Bruyn & Ward Verbakel (curators), designers: Kersten Geers (OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen), Julien De Smedt (JDS Architects), An Fonteyne (noAarchitecten), Els Vermang (LA[bau]), Camiel Van Noten. Moderator: Hilde Heynen (KU Leuven)

Registration by mail: inschrijvingen@stadenarchitectuur.be

M - Museum Leuven, Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28, 3000 Leuven

TICKETS: www.mleuven.be, www.utopialeuven.be

INFO: www.stadenarchitectuur.be, www.mleuven.be, info@stadenarchitectuur.be, t 016 22 22 39

AUDITORIUM 16/17 – 6 TOPIA

Lecture series architecture, urbanism & design

Stad en Architectuur / STUK

Next to the EUtopia exhibition the latest AUDITORIUM edition of Stad en Architectuur also proposes a programme that treats architectural utopia.

Thu 27.10.2016 [ASSEMBLE \(GB\) & STAVROS STAVRIDES \(GR\)](#) / "Temporary Utopia"
Wed 30.11.2016 [IWAN BAAN \(NL\) & KUNLÉ ADEYEMI \(NLÉ\) \(NG\)](#) / "People's Utopia"
Thu 16.02.2017 [OLIVIA DE OLIVEIRA \(BR\)](#) / "Modern Utopia"
Thu 23.02.2017 [FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE \(GB\)](#) / "Anti-Utopia"
Tue 21.03.2017 [PETER EISENMAN \(USA\) & PIETERJAN GINCKELS \(BE\)](#) / "Dystopia?"
Thu 20.04.2017 [RENZO MARTENS \(NL\) & DAVID GIANOTTEN \(OMA\) \(NL\)](#) / "New Utopia"

ORGANIZATION: Stad en Architectuur vzw

CURATORS: Czvek Rigby & Natural Born Architects

WHERE: Auditorium, Kunstencentrum STUK, Naamsestraat 96, 3000 Leuven

TICKETS & INFO: www.stuk.be, www.stadenarchitectuur.be

CONTACT PRESSE

Dieter Van den Storm

Mobile: +32 (0)479 65 64 96

dieter@dietervandenstorm.be

Kristel Putseys

Mobile: +32 (0)479 27 77 84

kristel.putseys@stadenarchitectuur.be