

Northscapes Collective's installation The Port and the Fall of Icarus



creative industries fund NL

**Venice Architecture Biennale
2018**

FREESPACE

Since its establishment as an institution in 1980, Venice Architecture Biennale has become the most prominent exhibition of contemporary architecture. As an autonomous event, originating from the Art Biennale and under the direction of Paolo Portoghesi, its first theme was “The Presence of the Past”, which opened the way to working with a narrative. This year’s curators, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara have followed the tradition of outlining a narrative. They encourage the participants to reflect on architecture under the title of FREESPACE, which covers a broad area of understanding about space, architectural or otherwise, and most importantly, wants to celebrate “generosity of spirit and a sense of humanity at the core of architecture’s agenda, focusing on the quality of space itself”, as the curators underline.

Today the quality of space perhaps defines our lives more than ever. Through the developments in information technology and the digital advancements of our era, we are linked much more to the rest of the world, with all its miseries and pleasures. The free space we can enter nowadays, even without being there physically, is vast and often impossible to grasp. It exists in more than purely tangible experiences and influences our daily lives and existence. Here, the theme of FREESPACE involves more than the residual space between built environments; it also represents an area where we can reflect on society and the position of the architect as thinker and maker.

In this context as defined by the curators of the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale, Creative Industries Fund NL grants its support to 12 proposals by architects, designers and researchers offering their views on what FREESPACE means for our societies and architecture. Presentations ranging from architectural projects to installations, performances and publications give a colourful overview in various locations in Venice, the Netherlands and on digital platforms. Interpretations by invited creative minds endorse the generosity of free space by exploring scenarios through observations, research and design. Their shared emphasis on a critical yet optimistic approach to confronting problems, changes and reality as well as imagination elaborates on the concept of FREESPACE as it deserves.

April 2018

Aslı Çiçek

architect, writer and lecturer at the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture, Campus Sint Lucas Brussels and advisor Open Calls Venice Architecture Biennale 2018

The Fall of Icarus, 17th century, Musée Antoine Vivenel



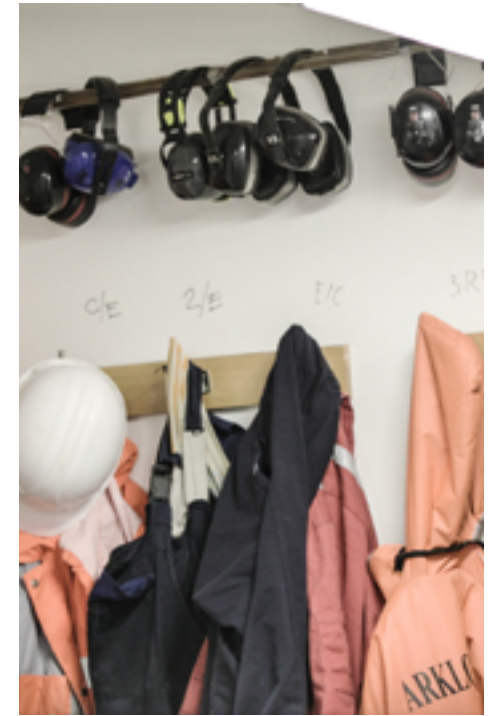
1. The Port and the Fall of Icarus

Northscapes Collective (Hamed Koshravi, Taneha K. Bacchin, Filippo laFleur)

location: Dutch Pavilion (Giardini) and Riva dei Sette Martiri

The Northscapes project takes the discovered manuscript *The Port and the Fall of Icarus* as the point of departure to search for possible scenarios for the future of the Port of Rotterdam. An installation forms the basis for a series of events and discussions around the topic of a smart and intelligent port and its relationship to the vision for Rotterdam harbour, the city and its inhabitants. The events are organized throughout the period of the Biennale in collaboration with academic institutions. The project is the development and continuation of a long-term research and design project on the subject of logistics and their architectural, social and political implications.

project 1-5: extended programme Dutch Pavilion supported by Creative Industries Fund NL and Het Nieuwe Instituut

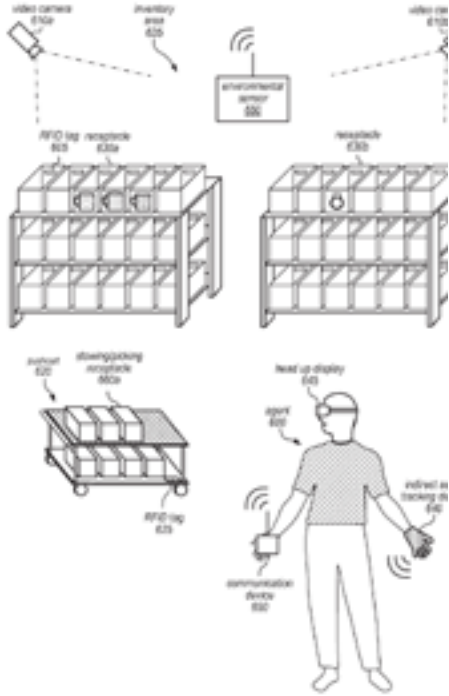


2. Shore Leaves

Giuditta Vendrame, Paolo Patelli, Giulio Squillacioti

location: Dutch Pavilion (Giardini)

Shore Leaves delves into the invisibility of labour under automation, offering an entry point to unravel the otherwise impenetrable logistical worlds of seafarers. It consists of video material produced during fieldwork at the seamen’s organizations in the ports of Rotterdam and Venice, with particular attention given to spaces and movements during the waiting time on shore leave. The project confronts the subject of manual labour that is still prevalent and of infrastructural importance, but generally invisible. It also establishes collaborations with a number of Seamen’s Centres and activist groups that aim to provide social assistance to seafarers of all nationalities.



3. The Institute of Patent Infringement

Matthew Stewart, Jane Chew

location: Dutch Pavilion (Giardini)

The satirical *Institute of Patent Infringement* aims to dissect the dubious world of intellectual property rights that allows 'Big Tech' a monopoly on ideas concerning automation. The project unveils the future of technological innovations imagined and designed by Amazon by detailing and organizing thousands of patents filed since 2010, ranging in scale from the body to the fulfilment centre 1 km² in size. An open call invites practitioners to merge, reimagine and subvert these patent drawings, revealing a possibly radical and emancipatory potential inherent in these technological regimes, as well as a space where architecture can play a role.



Fisher Body Union Orchestra, General Motors Sit-Down Strikes, 1936

4. Songs for Hard Working People

Noam Toran with musicians Remco de Jong and Florentijn Boddendijk

location: Dutch Pavilion (Giardini)

Songs for Hard Working People is a contemporary cover album of work and protest songs from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century that serves as the soundtrack for the Dutch pavilion. The songs – written by workers exposed to the effects of industrialization – provide a historical anchor for the nature of labour today, and connect enduring historical struggles with contemporary debates regarding the effects of industrialization and automation on the working body. The workers' music, lyrics and voices embody the troubling, enduring relationship between capitalism and the conditions of industrial labour, and demonstrate – despite the temporal distance – how uncannily similar our contemporary responses and concerns about automation are.

Renderlands Film still. Liam Young, 2017



5. Renderlands: Installation

Liam Young

location: Dutch Pavilion (Giardini)

Renderlands: Installation is a documentary and installation that chronicles the outsourced animation studios and render farms in India. What we think of as Western visions of the future are actually produced by workers dispersed across the planet and connected through a global digital infrastructure. For its presentation as part of the Dutch Pavilion programme, a massive collaborative physical model will visualize the future and aspirational architecture that the render farm workers themselves dream of: the imaginary worlds they wish they would be asked to visualize.



6. Sisyphus

Simone C. Niquille

url: sisyphus.technofle.sh

Designer and researcher Simone C. Niquille unravels the parameters embedded in design software that shapes contemporary work spaces and bodies optimized for efficiency, ergonomics and human/machine interactions. She contends that the way the models are depicted is based on parameters and data that are invisible to others. This in turn contributes to a standardized representation of the human body. *Sisyphus* is a digital expansion of the physical installation *Safety Measures* in the Dutch Pavilion. Visitors can modify a training human avatar online by manipulating various characteristics. For the implementation of the website and the design of the human model, Niquille is working together with creative coder François Zajéga. You can follow the development process of *Sisyphus* on url sisyphus.technofle.sh



7. A School in the Making

Case Design (Anne Geenen & Samuel Barclay)

location: Arsenale

The exhibition *A School in the Making* presents the ongoing experience of building the Avasara Academy in India. It shares the story of the formation of the school as a collaborative and experimental practice. The exhibition is structured as a collection of material and artefacts that are partly produced in India and partly in Italy. Case Design develops and produces all the items in a collaborative effort and in the spirit of a workshop with several contributors. By sharing these stories, Case Design depicts the process of making a school by showing the work that has already been done, but more importantly by creating new ideas that will eventually return to the campus and students for which they are imagined.



Migrants from the countryside building their settlement 'Barackia' in Berlin, 1870's

8. A City of Comings and Goings: the Exhibition

Crimson Architectural Historians

location: Central Pavilion (Giardini), Room II

Migration is a phenomenon of all times, shaping our cities. What would an ideal *City of Comings and Goings* look like? Crimson presents the results of prior research that focuses on how migration affects European cities in the past, present and future. It is based on the critical notion that architecture and urbanism but also spatial and economic policy are based on a paradigm of settled cities, with a more or less stable demography and an immutable identity. Crimson identified three issues that should be central in a city that systematically deals with migration: architectural quality, shared space and the city as an emancipation machine. Based on these three challenges, they collected examples from countries all over Europe. A virtual *City of Comings and Goings* is created as a speculative, utopian urban image.

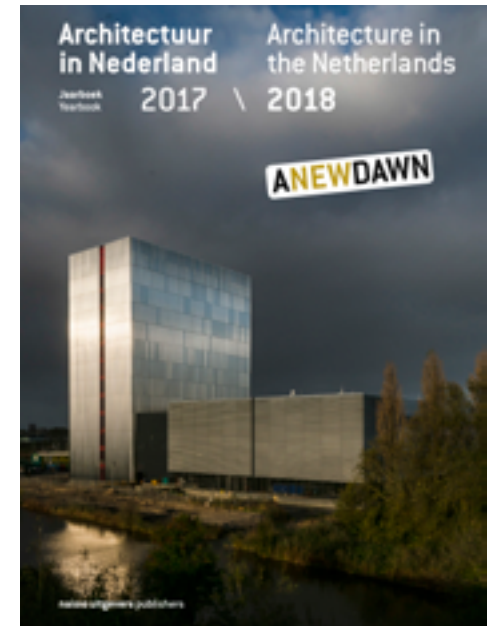


9. Cosmogonia Mundi

MAKE MOVE THINK

location: Riva dei Sette Martiri and Venice Pavilion (Giardini)

Cosmogonia Mundi reflects on the possible futures of the City of Venice and the Port of Marghera in the form of live dance, using Northscapes Collective's installation *The Port and the Fall of Icarus* on the shore of the lagoon as a backdrop, and a film documentary in the main exhibition of the Venice Pavilion. In this project, which is part of a larger research programme, MAKE MOVE THINK explores the dialogue between individualism and collectivism in contemporary urban culture. Performing Arts and Architecture meld to create a moment where Dance is not merely performance and Architecture is not permanence. www.make-move-think.org



10. Architecture in the Netherlands - A New Dawn

naiOIO publishers

Lara Schrijver, Kirsten Hannema, Robert-Jan de Kort, Reinier de Graaf

location: between Dutch Pavilion and Belgian Pavilion (Giardini)

Every year naiOIO publishers produces a new edition of the *Architecture in the Netherlands Yearbook*, with an overview of 30 realized projects, which describes the most important developments and trends that influence the production and design of Dutch architecture. This year the presentation of the yearbook takes place simultaneously with the Flemish yearbook by the Flanders Architecture Institute, on the border between the Belgian and Dutch pavilions as a symbol of the dialogue between the two neighbouring countries. The discussion partners explore the various interpretations of the professional field in Belgium and the Netherlands, with particular attention paid to new forms of housing, circular design, the rediscovery of rural areas and the role of private commissioning of housing.



Crimson Architectural Historians with Hugo Corbett, 2015

11. Free Market

Jeffrey Bolhuis (AP+E) with Jo Anne Butler (Superfolk), Miriam Delaney (DIT), Tara Kennedy (Culturstruction), Orla Murphy (Custom) & Laurence Lord (AP+E)

location: Irish Pavilion (Arsenale)

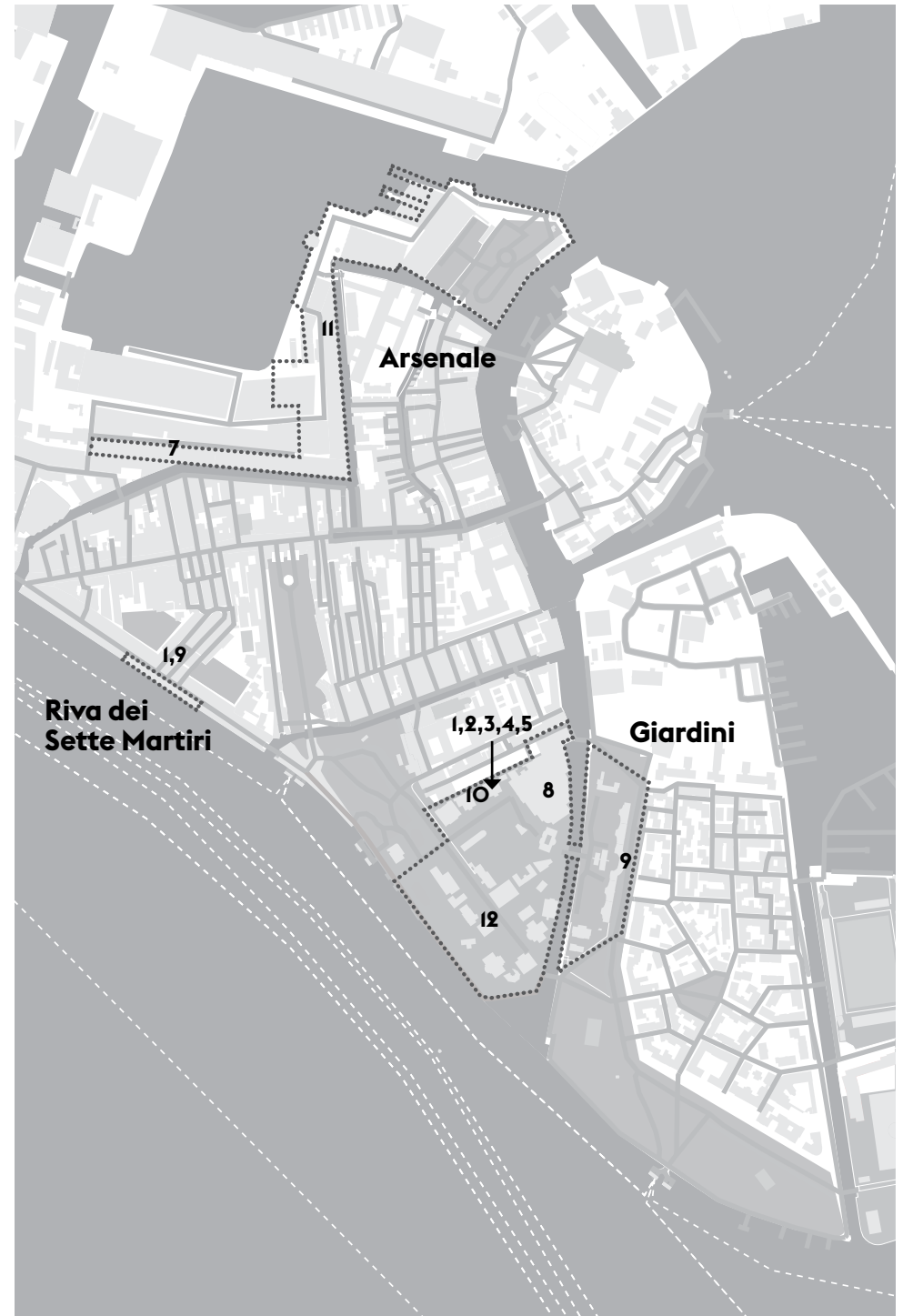
With the *Free Market* project, co-curator of the Irish pavilion Jeffrey Bolhuis explores the role of marketplaces in Irish villages. These marketplaces were once the social and economic centres of the villages and their wider surroundings, but have now largely lost their original function. *Free Market* focuses on the potential of these places, with the aim of encouraging social cohesion and sustainable economy in the villages and region. As a result, this research also has significant relevance for regional development in the Netherlands and Europe. The *Free Market* exhibition marks the starting point for a travelling exhibition and a longer-running project that is part of the international debate about the future of rural villages.

12. Do You Hear The People Sing?

Crimson Architectural Historians

location: Japanese Pavilion (Giardini)

With *Do You Hear the People Sing?* Crimson evokes a worldwide decennia-long history in a 24-metre long panoramic drawing composed of 10 scenes of riots and protests, fused with their spatial environments. It presents an allegorical street scene in which architecture, protesters, instruments of authority, slogans and other paraphernalia tell a story of the street as the place where democracy is instinctually shaped and represented. The panoramic drawing *Do You Hear the People Sing?* in collaboration with Hugo Corbett will be part of the Japanese pavilion with the theme *Architectural Ethnography* curated by Atelier Bow-Wow.



“During the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale, the Creative Industries Fund NL is supporting 12 presentations where designers and creative minds reflect upon, respond to and provide fresh perspectives on the FREESPACE Manifesto by curators Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara. Precisely this power of imagination is a driving force in bringing solutions for the future closer.”

**Syb Groeneveld
(director Creative Industries Fund NL)**

The 12 supported presentations can be seen throughout the main locations of the Arsenale and the Giardini, and the public space in between. The Creative Industries Fund NL, the Dutch cultural fund for architecture, design and digital culture, strives to make a substantial contribution to the quality of professional design practice. Part of this endeavour is the interdisciplinary interplay between the cultural, social and economic domains. The Fund supports exceptional and innovative projects and activities of designers, makers and cultural institutions in the creative industries, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

**creative industries
fund NL**

**architecture
design
digital culture**

**+31 (0)10 436 16 00
info@stimuleringsfonds.nl
www.stimuleringsfonds.nl/en**

**facebook.com/Stimuleringsfonds
twitter.com/StimuleerFonds
linkedin.com/in/stimuleringsfonds
instagram.com/stimuleringsfonds**