

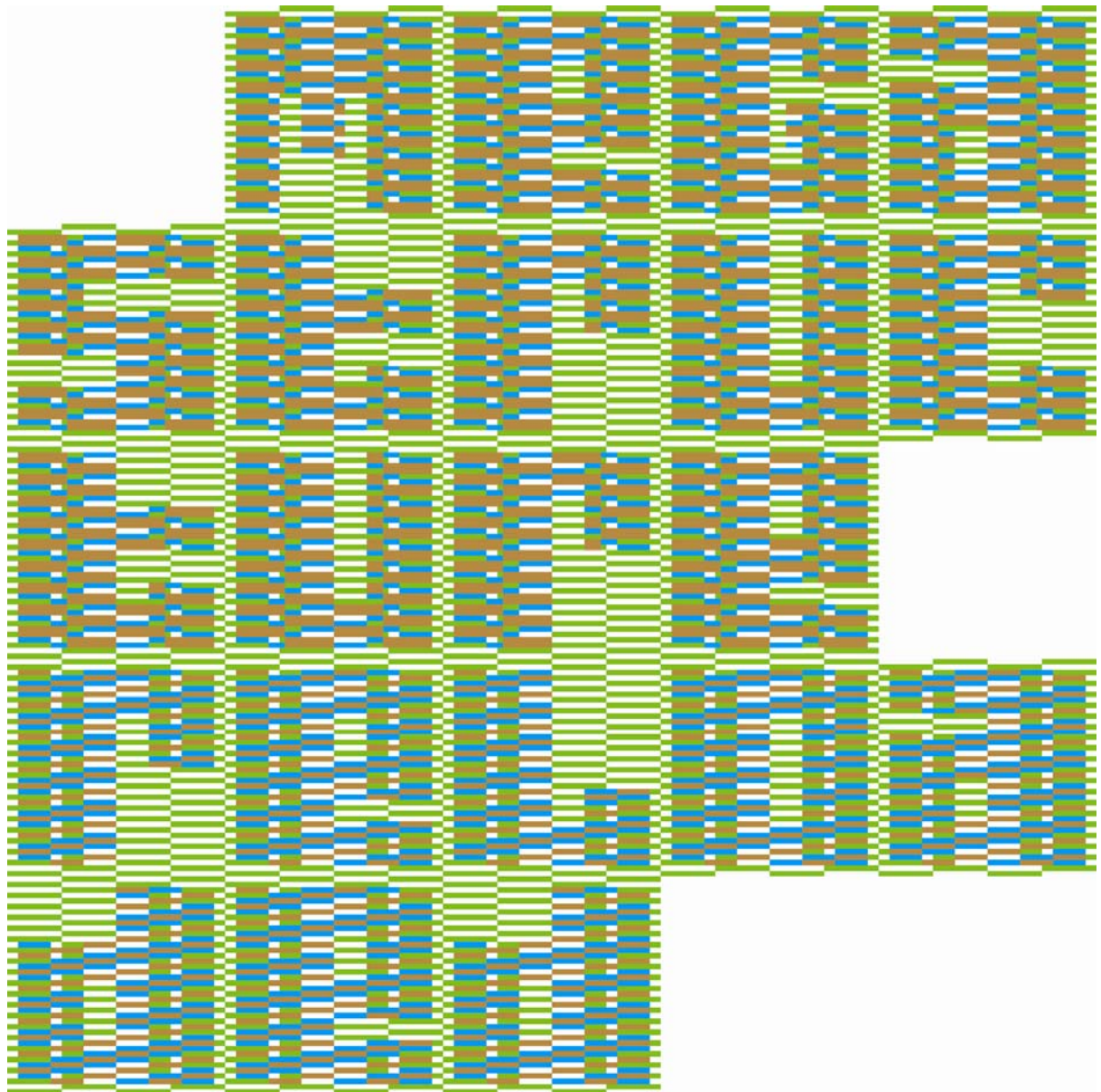
EUROPEAN ART PROJECTS

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MEGASTRUCTURE RELOADED / SYMPOSIUM

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1. CONTENT

The symposium is part of the project MEGASTRUCTURE RELOADED and will be held on 18/19 October in the Former State Mint Berlin.

The symposium will focus on the definition of megastructure, the historical and theoretical context of megastructuralism and its protagonists such as Constant, Friedman, Archigram, Archizoom and Superstudio. Further topics are the realised megastructures, the utopian aspect of megastructuralism and the connection between the 'visionary' movements in architecture of the 1960ties and 70ties with the more pragmatic foundation of New Towns from the post-war period until now.

Another part of the symposium is dedicated to art historical aspects of megastructuralism such as the visual strategies of Archigram or Superstudio and their close connection to the 1960s art scene and pop culture. This part also includes a guided tour through the exhibition, where the original drawings and models can be seen.

Finally the symposium will discuss the afterlife of megastructure in the museum and in urban developments from the 1960ies until today. The currency and relevance of the megastructure ideas for the growing problem of today's Megacities and contemporary urban planning, especially in the 'Newly Industrialising Countries' will be reconsidered.

2. VENUE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The symposium will take place in the *küchenmonument* (kitchen monument) by **raumlaborberlin**, a pneumatic architecture which is installed in the courtyard of our exhibition venue, the former State Mint. You enter via the entrance to the exhibition on Molkenmarkt 2, Berlin-Mitte, directly across from Rotes Rathaus (Red Town Hall), nearest public transport station is Alexanderplatz.

The symposium will be held in English.

The fee of 20 EUR (10 EUR for students) is payable at the door and includes the entrance to the exhibition.

3. PROGRAMME

1. Day (18. October 2008)

10.00 **Welcome / Introduction**

[Sabrina van der Ley & Markus Richter](#)

10.15 **From New Babylon to New Gotham**

From the beginnings of the megastructure theory and planning to its contemporary reinterpretations in film and comic

[Thilo Hilpert](#)

10.45 **Just what is it that makes megastructure so appealing – today and yesterday**

Megastructure brought to the theory of architecture a set of innovative approaches for urban-design. Isn't it now necessary to understand the shift between the actual relevance of megastructure to architecture, and the current fascination of art and the media for it?

[Dominique Rouillard](#)

11.15 **Discussion**

11.45 **Megastructure realised**

Case Study 1: Berlin. *Freie Universität Berlin* by Candilis, Josic, Woods & Prouvé, 1963 ff;
Linear-Überbauung der Stadtautobahn by Georg Heinrichs.

[Carsten Krohn](#)

Case Study 2: Montreal. Though the progressive urban development of the 'Megacity Montreal' (Reyner Banham) has later been claimed by the avantgarde, the ideas were mostly developed by anonymous architects, engineers and planners commissioned by the city administration.

[Laurent Stalder](#)

12.15 **Discussion**

12.30 **Lunch Break**

14.00 **Raumstadt (Spatial City)**

Wolfgang Fiel and Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz discuss Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz' Raumstadt (Spatial City).

[Wolfgang Fiel and Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz](#)

14.30 **Living Pod revisited**

Minimaforms was invited by Archigram's David Greene to revisit his seminal projects the Living Pod and High-Rise Tower. Minimaforms Director Theo Spyropoulos will discuss the metamorphosis of the pod with David Greene.

[David Greene and Theo Spyropoulos \(requested\)](#)

15.00 **Discorsi per immagini**

The usage of visual art strategies and media in the drawings & collages of Archizoom & Superstudio

[Marie Theres Stauffer and Gian Piero Frassinelli](#)

15.30 **Discussion**

16.00 **Coffee Break**

16.30 **Archigram Lecture**

[Dennis Crompton](#)

17.30 **Discussion**

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2. DAY (19 October)

10.30 **Breakfast**

11.00 **Guided tour** by the curators

[Sabrina van der Ley & Markus Richter](#)

12.00 **raumlaborberlin – true storys**

The symposium takes place in the *Küchenmonument*, an inflatable structure by the architects' collective [raumlaborberlin](#). Members of the collective will give an introduction into their projects, ideas and acting in public.

12.30 **Discussion**

12.45 **Lunch Break**

14.00 **Metabolism and Spatial City**

The evolution of the megastructure concept in Europe and Japan: exchanges, parallels and differences.

[Wolfgang Fiel and Florian Urban](#)

14.30 **A long way from Megastructure: Contemporary Urban Development**

Lingang New City, China

[Stephan Schütz, gmp Architekten](#)

15.00 **Discussion**

15:30 **Coffee Break**

16.00 Panel **Megastructure for Megacities?**

[Philipp Oswalt](#), [William Menking](#), [Dennis Crompton](#), [Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz](#) and [Stephan Schütz](#). Chair: [Markus Richter](#)

17.30 **Discussion**

18.00 **END**

4. SPEAKERS

Dennis Crompton, architect, writer and lecturer, London. Co-founder of Archigram

Wolfgang Fiel, doctoral candidate at the Centre for Advanced Inquiry in the Interactive Arts, University of Plymouth

Gian Piero Frassinelli, architect, designer and theoretician, co-founder of Superstudio

David Greene, architect, theoretician and writer. co-founder of Archigram

Thilo Hilpert, historian and urban planner, professor at the Wiesbaden University of Applied Sciences.

Carsten Krohn, architect, writer and curator of the exhibition 'Unbuilt Berlin'

Sabrina van der Ley, curator of MEGASTRUCTURE RELOADED, artistic director of Art Forum Berlin

William Menking, founder and editor of The Architects Newspaper, N.Y., architectural historian, writer, critic and curator, professor of architecture, urbanism and city planning at Pratt Institute

Philipp Oswald, architect, theoretician and writer, Berlin

raumlaborberlin, Markus Bader, Benjamin Foerster-Baldenius, Andrea Hofmann, Jan Liesegang and Matthias Rick, Berlin based architects collective.

Markus Richter, curator of MEGASTRUCTURE RELOADED

Dominique Rouillard, architect and theoretician, professor at the école d'architecture Paris-Malaquais. Founding member of ArchitectureAction.

Stephan Schütz, architect, gmp Architects, Berlin

Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz, architect, Essen/ Bregenz

Theodore Spyropoulos, director of the architecture and design practice Minimaforms, co-director of the Architectural Association Design Research Lab and visiting research fellow at MIT

Laurent Stalder, assistant professor for architectural theory, eth Zurich

Marie Theres Stauffer, art- and architectural historian, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich

Florian Urban, visiting professor, Center for Metropolitan Studies, Berlin