23.10 CIRCULAR CITY HARBOURS

Nadia Casabella (1010au / Brussels), Marco Vermeulen (Studio Marco Vermeulen / Rotterdam) Karel Van Den Berghe (TU Delft / Ghent)

19.00–21.00, WTC-I, 23rd Floor

World Transformation Sessions

Panel |

Isabelle Vries (port of Rotterdam, Rotterdam Makers District) Hans Ten Hoeve (Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)

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World Transformation Sessions

You Are Here puts twelve urgent questions on the agenda, both in exhibition and in programme: with the slogan "no transition without spatial transformation", we ask the question what role spatial design can play in imagining and testing optimistic answers. The World Transformation Sessions is a series of twelve public debates where innovative practitioners speak up. Their presentations are followed by a conversation with other persons of interest. As such, transition thinkers, experts, spatial planners and architects are invited to the 23d floor of the WTC-I building.

What is it all about?

Today, we invest billions of euros in government money to strengthen our world position in the field of logistics. We are building wider locks, larger docks and huge logistics centres. With all these investments we subsidise the overseas manufacturing industry and we compete against our own local economy. The large ports of the Eurodelta are still dependent on fossil fuels. But we are at a tipping point: renewable energy and circular economy are on the rise. Time is running out. If the ports of Antwerp, Rotterdam, Zeebrugge, Ghent-Terneuzen and Amsterdam jointly decide to make the switch to a circular system, they will hold the key to the gate of Europe. That transition will be felt by the residents of the cities themselves. The 'city ports' are the nurseries for the circular economy in the future. The search for how residential and port areas can exist together is raging.