



Press Release - 29 July 2010

Living Architectures

Main Gallery: 18 August to 3 October

An exhibition of short films exploring architecture as an experience rather than an image



© Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine

Living Architectures is a series of films by Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine which explore the intangible aspects of seven iconic buildings, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects.

The films call into question the fascination with the visual and technical aspects of buildings. They demonstrate the vitality, fragility

and vulnerable beauty of architecture as experienced by the people who actually live in, use or maintain the spaces depicted.

Stately spaces will inevitably be inhabited, and from line-dancing grape-pickers to abseiling window-cleaners, these films investigate the joys and absurdities of personal contact with spectacular architecture. Through moments and fragments of life, unusually spontaneous portraits of the buildings emerge.

The Films

Koolhaas Houselife

Experience the daily intimacy of a house in Bordeaux, designed by Rem Koolhaas. This intriguing building is revealed through the stories and daily chores of Guadalupe Acedo, the home's caretaker and housekeeper.

Pomerol, Herzog & de Meuron

See the joyful atmosphere at harvest time at the Jean-Pierre Moueix vineyards. At the heart of it all is the dining hall designed by Herzog & de Meuron, where the grape pickers are celebrating.

Xmas Meier

This film describes how the new church designed by Richard Meier in 2003 has transformed the life of the Tor Tre Teste neighbourhood in Rome, lifting it from anonymity to international renown. Residents from the neighbourhood, filmed over the Christmas period, talk about how this new architectural icon affects their lives. Positive and negative responses show that not all iconic buildings sit comfortably within communities.

Gehry's Vertigo

A rare and vertiginous trip to the top roofs of Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, as the film presents a portrait of the climbing team in charge of the glass cleaning. Viewing the museum from its external walls, it is no ordinary gallery tour.

Inside Piano

Three films exploring Renzo Piano buildings through the employees who experience them daily. The Fondation Beyeler museum, the offices of the B&B Italia furniture company and Piano's extension on the IRCAM building in Paris are all depicted.

Film trailers can be viewed on the Living Architectures website:

<http://www.living-architectures.com/html/trailers.html>

The exhibition *Living Architectures* was initiated by The Architecture Foundation in London and New York's Storefront for Art and Architecture.

One event accompanies the exhibition:

Lagos / Koolhaas: A film by Bregtje Van Der Haak

Film at Arnolfini: Thursday 9 September 2010

£6/£4.50

Booking through Arnolfini: 0117 917 2300

This multi award winning film presents an engaging and sensitive exploration into the maelstrom of redevelopment in Lagos, Nigeria. It follows Rem Koolhaas (winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize) and students from Harvard University as they research the type of urban environment produced by explosive population growth, and the failure of the design profession to cope with accelerated urbanization.

The film follows Koolhaas over a two year period, as he discovers the human forces behind the whirlwind of activity in this city. Wandering through Lagos and talking with people, he is able to interpret the 'culture of congestion' positively, helping to develop a new concept of the big city.

The documentary reveals another side of Rem Koolhaas' architectural work, just as Living Architectures demonstrates the unseen life of his award-winning house.

Dir. Bregtje van der Haak 2003 55 minutes

Further information on Lagos/Koolhaas can be found on the Icarus Films website
<http://icarusfilms.com/new2003/lag.html>

Ends

Listings

Living Architectures

Main gallery: 18 August to 3 October

An exhibition exploring architecture as an experience through the people who inhabit, use or maintain iconic buildings.

Lagos/Koolhaas

Film at Arnolfini: 9 September, 18:30, £6/£4.50

Booking through Arnolfini 0117 917 2300

Rem Koolhaas leads a sensitive analysis of the accelerated urbanization of Lagos, Nigeria.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Living Architectures

1. Louise Lemoine was born in France and lives in Paris. She is a graduate in cinema and philosophy at the Paris Sorbonne. Ila Bêka was born in Italy and lives in Paris. He is an architect, director and video-artist.

2. <http://www.living-architectures.com>

3. The Koolhaas Houselife book and DVD will be available in the shop at the Architecture Centre, Bristol.

The Architecture Centre

1. High resolution images are available on request from Grace Denton or Jodie Marks graced@architecturecentre.co.uk or jodie.marks@architecturecentre.co.uk

2. The Architecture Centre aims to increase people's awareness and enjoyment of architecture and the built environment, and to demonstrate the value of good design through its exhibitions, events, education and outreach programmes. The Centre is situated on the waterfront in Bristol with two exhibition spaces, a meeting room and shop.

3. Centre opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday, 11am - 5pm
Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon - 5pm
Closed all day Monday (office open)

4. Centre address:

The Architecture Centre
Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA
0117 922 1540
www.architecturecentre.co.uk

5. The Architecture Centre is funded by Arts Council England, CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), and creating excellence, and is a founding member of the Architecture Centre Network.