



THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME

***Three Cities in Flux | An investigation into urban regeneration
in London, Milan and Rome***

Reinier De Graaf, The Office for Metropolitan Architecture | “On Hold”

4th May | 25th May 2011

Opening: 4th May 2011

H. 18.00 pm Lecture by Reinier De Graaf

Introduced by Pippo Ciorra

H. 19.30 pm Exhibition Opening

The British School at Rome, Via Gramsci 61

Press Release

“Conceived in the virtual space of the computer, and with no imminent prospect of realisation, these projects remain virtual in every sense. By retroactively creating physical originals, this exhibition hopes to make the virtual tangible, as an alternative reality. Prints on canvas, paper on card show the imagery as if dug up from an archive...history with a message for the future, looking back as a way of looking forward...”. Reinier de Graaf

In this sixth event of our programme “**Three Cities in Flux, an investigation into urban regeneration in London, Milan and Rome**”, **Reinier de Graaf**, Partner at **The Office for Metropolitan Architecture**, will present the lecture and exhibition “**On Hold**”.

De Graaf will exhibit ten of his practice’s masterplanning schemes: urban regeneration in White City in London, Nuova Bovisa in Milan, and a selection of projects in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. As the projects are commissions which are now on-hold or discontinued, the representations exhibited may well be their only physical manifestation.

The architect will discuss the sometimes difficult role that architects play in master planning as they negotiate the forces of the private sector, political pressures, the declining power of the public sector and the severe economic crisis. Through the analysis of these urban plans, De Graaf will reflect on the rehabilitation of urbanism as the ‘other product’ of the construction boom, as well as the implications these plans have for the future.

“What will be next? The current time is mainly one of questions. Will the pre-crisis boom go into the history books as an aberration? Or, will the previous building boom prove only a precursor of things to come? Is ‘On Hold’ merely a convenient euphemism to keep hope alive (for clients and architects alike), a shared inability to face the facts, or does it really only signify the pause it seems to insist on, a coma from which these enterprises will one day awake?”

Reinier de Graaf is a Partner of **OMA**, and leads a number of building and urban projects, some of which are displayed in the exhibition. He is currently working on the Stads Kantoor ‘Town Hall’ and Coolingsel Mixed-use Buildings in Rotterdam, the new G-Star Headquarters in Amsterdam, and the Commonwealth Institute in London. **De Graaf** also directs the work of **AMO, OMA’s research and design studio**. While OMA remains dedicated to the realisation of buildings and master plans, AMO operates in fields such as media, sociology, technology, energy, fashion, publishing and graphic design.

De Graaf is a sustainability expert and is currently overseeing AMO's involvement in energy policy and in renewable energy planning, including *Roadmap 2050: A practical guide to a low-carbon Europe* published last year, and most recently published in The WWF Energy Report in February of 2011.

Architecture Programme British School at Rome curated by Marina Engel

Reinier De Graaf - OMA | "On Hold"

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H 19.30 pm Exhibition Opening

Duration: 4th May – 25th May 2011

Opening times: from Tuesday to Saturday from 17.00 to 19.30 pm

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