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Bicycle Architecture Biennale Reveals how cycling is creating our future cities

Exhibition of outstanding, built environment projects - that transform places through cycling - launches in Amsterdam before international tour

The Bicycle Architecture Biennale (BAB) is a prestigious showcase of cutting edge, visually striking and high profile building designs that are facilitating bicycle travel and transforming communities around the world. After a hugely successful first run, the 2nd edition of the BAB launches - bigger and bolder - on Monday 17th June in Amsterdam.

A total of 15 projects - from nine countries - form the biennale. Projects were selected on their ability to demonstrate how design solutions can go beyond the functional, and also lead to healthier lifestyles, more inclusive communities, a cleaner environment or a more sustainable economy. Organisers hope it will inspire new ways of thinking about how to create cities fit for the future.

The BAB was conceived and is run by BYCS, an Amsterdam-based social enterprise that works internationally to accelerate cycling progress. It developed the BAB to strengthen its mission, which is called 50by30 and calls for half of all city trips to be by bike by 2030. BYCS believes that cities that put cycling at the heart of urban design unlock massive social, economic and environmental gains. The curation of the projects was overseen by BYCS' partners, NEXT architects, an award-winning international firm with offices in Amsterdam and Beijing.

The projects in the BAB are comprised of curated projects, along with - for the first time - projects selected from a global open call application. 11 of the chosen projects are fully constructed designs, whilst four are design concepts or plans. The exhibition is organized by three themes - Routes, Connections and Destinations. These themes reveal the variety of ways that cycling transforms people and places, and try to convey the balance between moving and staying that bicycle architecture employs to create thriving, livable places.

Maud de Vries, CEO at BYCS, said:

“Cycling is much more than a transportation solution for cities. By improving mental and physical health, addressing air pollution and climate change and by bringing communities together in dynamic ways, it is also a powerful force for transformation. Every city or neighborhood has the potential to become a success story through cycling. With this biennale, we want to offer the inspiration to make that happen, so we hope many cities will take up the offer to host the BAB on its international tour.”

Selected projects include four from the Netherlands, a country still leading the global cycling movement, with around 43% of people cycling every day. Bicycle architecture there is helping to facilitate the ever-growing number of cyclists, and integrate cycling more seamlessly into every aspect of urban life. Projects include the groundbreaking bike parking at Utrecht Central Station, the largest in the world, soon with space for 13,500 bikes. Projects also come from communities where architecture performs a more inspirational role, revealing the many benefits of prioritising cycling if more support is given. This includes the iconic Bicycle Skyway that carries riders on an elevated 8km path through the city of Xiamen in China.

Bart Reuser, founding partner at NEXT, said:

“We proudly present some amazing achievements in the field of bicycle architecture; the designs convey the balance between moving fast and healthily but also slowing down to create thriving, livable places. Bicycle architecture can be used to experience the environment in the form of routes, to bridge barriers in the form of connections, and to create destinations where people and cultures come together. Most encouragingly, the selected projects not only come from places with mature cycling cultures but also from places that lack that ideal context but are still showing what is possible. That makes us hopeful that inspiring examples can arise everywhere.”

The BAB will form a flagship event next week at WeMakeThe.City, Amsterdam’s multi-venue citymaking festival. It is on display at Circl, in Zuidas from 17 to 21 June. It will then tour internationally at major architectural and citymaking events. Cities or organizations that wish to stage the BAB in its two year run are encouraged to contact BYCS before it books up.

All projects are available to view in the online gallery at bycs.org

For more information on the BAB, please go to: bycs.org/bab

For interviews please call Rafi at BYCS on 06 39 30 55 07

The full list of projects selected for the BAB 2019/20 are:

1. **Cycling and pedestrian connection** by Batlle i Roig (Barcelona, Spain)
2. **Coffee & Bikes** by BureauVanEig/Biq (Delft, the Netherlands)
3. **Curtin Bike Hub** by Coniglio Ainsworth Architects (Perth, Australia)
4. **Xiamen Bicycle Skyway** by Dissing+Weitling (Xiamen, China)
5. **Cycling through water** by Visit Limburg, Lens°Ass Architects (Limburg, Belgium)
6. **Biggest bicycle parking in the world** by Ector Hoogstad Architects (Utrecht, the Netherlands)
7. **Cycling through the trees** by BuroLandschap (Limburg, Belgium)
8. **Nelson St Cycleway** by Monk Mackenzie, LandLAB, GHD (Auckland, New Zealand)
9. **Ölhafen Bridge** by Schneider+Schumacher (Raunheim, Germany)
10. **Upside Down Bridge** by Nooyoon (New York, USA)
11. **Nørreport Station** by COBE and Gottlieb Paludan Architects, Sweco (Copenhagen, Denmark)
12. **RheinRing** by SPADE (Cologne, Germany)
13. **Radbahn Berlin** by Paper planes e.V. (Berlin, Germany)
14. **Bike Parking Canopy** by NL Architects (The Hague, The Netherlands)
15. **Melkwegbridge** by NEXT Architects (Purmerend, The Netherlands)

BYCS

About BYCS

BYCS is an Amsterdam-based social enterprise driven by the belief bicycles transform cities and cities transform the world. We work internationally with governments, businesses, and nonprofits to initiate and scale breakthrough ideas that accelerate cycling in cities. In this way we can unlock massive social, environmental and economic gains for every person on the planet. We have a bold Mission called 50by30: 50% of all city trips to be by bike by 2030. We invest our profits into game-changing programs that can be adopted around the world. An example is our Bicycle Mayor program that is now active on every continent. In all our work, we always ask - ‘Where can the bicycle take us?’

www.bycs.org



About NEXT

NEXT architects is an international architecture firm that has worked on research and design projects in the field of urban planning, architecture, interior, and infrastructure since its foundation in 1999. NEXT architects connects. By reflecting on the role designs play in their environment, NEXT incorporates ‘connection’ as a core theme in its portfolio and work method. The strength of this architecture firm lies in its ability to develop strong ideas that become a persuasive part of the project’s specific context.

www.nextarchitects.com

About the first BAB (2017/2018)

The first Bicycle Architecture Biennale was curated for BYCS by Dr Steven Fleming. It launched in Amsterdam during the international Velo-city conference.

ABOUT BYCS

BYCS sees a world where 50% of all city trips are by bicycle by 2030. We call this global vision 50by30. This ambitious goal demands the brightest ideas and the most determined action. We believe it will lead to fundamentally healthier, happier and more prosperous cities.

BYCS acts as a catalyst for breakthrough solutions around cycling. We create and accelerate ideas, and we kick start collaborations. We're pursuing our bold 50by30 goal by launching innovative programs that can scale and engage people globally.

To realise 50by30, we work with others who share our vision. If you'd like to contribute to one of our programs or have a suggestion for a way we could collaborate, we'd love to hear from you.



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