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INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE SHOWCASE

International residencies bring fresh perspectives and new ideas to East London

This June will see the return of the British Council's annual International Architecture Showcase; a programme delivered in partnership with London's embassies and cultural institutes as a Headline Project of the London Festival of Architecture 2014 (LFA). Curated as a series of residencies, this year's showcase will see ten architects from around the world paired with ten London-based practices to workshop new ideas for the Poplar area in East London.

The programme is inspired by Poplar's historic relationship to the Festival of Britain of 1951 when the area was the focal point for architecture. This year's International Architecture Showcase will once again see Poplar as a space to generate new ideas and fresh thinking for this area that is undergoing significant change and has been earmarked for further development in the future.

Run in collaboration with Bow Arts Trust, the programme has been conceived to celebrate the role and influence that émigré architects have had on London and responds to the London Festival of Architecture's central theme of 'Capital', exploring the notion of London as an international city which continues to benefit from global connections from around the world.

The participating architects, including muf, Sarah Wigglesworth and Karakusevic Carson Architects, will collaborate over a two week period from 9 June, critically exploring five themes: housing, culture, town centres, nature and transition in both a local and an international context across four specific sites in Poplar. During this time the visiting architects will stay at the iconic Balfron Tower located in Poplar and designed by Hungarian-born architect Ernő Goldfinger.

Vicky Richardson, Director of Architecture, Design, Fashion at the British Council, said: "We are delighted to be bringing architects to London from countries as far reaching as Austria, Chile, Estonia, Latvia, Nigeria, and Taiwan. By collaborating with UK studios we hope they will develop long-lasting friendships and professional partnerships. The programme also seeks to create encounters between individuals and cultures that will bring fresh ideas to London. I very much look forward to seeing the proposals they come up with as a result of this initiative."

The public programme for the London Festival of Architecture 2014 includes the headline event *New Perspectives: A Celebration at Balfron*, as well as a series of events hosted by embassies and cultural institutes examining the theme of émigré architecture.

The residency programme will culminate in a public-facing series of events and activities sparking curiosity and discovery about architectural stories in Poplar. Held at the Balfron Tower on 21 June, the participating architects will present their new ideas for the area; other activities will include building tours of Balfron, walking and bus tours, screenings aboard UP Project's Floating Cinema and discussions on the role of the émigré architect in the London context. Throughout the afternoon interior design students from the Royal College of Art will create immersive environments and invite dancers, performance artists, beatboxers and poets to respond to the space. The public will be able to discover the stories and take part in these interventions. All activities will be free and open to all.

The International Architecture Showcase's participating architects are:

Culture

muf architecture (muf.co.uk) and Paula Velasco, MoVe from Chile (move-architects.com)
Delvendahl Martin (dm-architects.co.uk) and Arnita Melzoba, GAISS from Latvia (gaissarhitekti.lv)

Housing

DK:CM (dk-cm.com) and Aet Ader, b210 from Estonia (b210.ee)
Duggan Morris (dugganmorrisarchitects.com) and Hossein Hejrat, ZAV Architects from Iran (zavarchitect.com)
Karakusevic Carson Architects (karakusevic-carson.com) and Rune Veile, BCVA from Denmark (bcva.dk)

Nature

Friend & Company (friendandcompany.co.uk) and Jonathan Nsubuga, J.E. Nsubuga & Associates (Uganda)*

Town Centres

The Decorators (the-decorators.net) and Stephan Schwarz and Ingrid Sabatier, ISSSresearch&architecture from Austria (issresearch.com)
Studio TILT (studiotilt.com) and Papa Omotayo, o+o from Nigeria (o-oad.com)

Transition

Natasha Reid (natashareid.co.uk) and Thireshen Govender, UrbanWorks from South Africa (urbanworks.co.za)
Sarah Wigglesworth (swarch.co.uk) and Kane Yanagawa, studio_KaneYanagawa from Taiwan*

**Please contact the British Council for more information on participant.*

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Notes to Editors

The International Architecture Showcase will also address the theme set by Curator Rem Koolhaas for the national Pavilions at the Venice Architecture Biennale, which runs alongside LFA: "Absorbing Modernity: 1914-2014".

London Festival of Architecture runs from 1–30 June www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Event Details

New Perspectives: A Celebration at Balfron

21 June 2014, 12noon – 7pm
Balfron and other venues in Poplar
For full event details please visit: www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Associated events have been programmed by London's Embassies and Cultural Institutes to explore the theme of émigré architecture including the Bulgarian Cultural Institute, Embassy of Denmark, Romanian Cultural Institute and Embassy of Switzerland. For full event details please visit: www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

For more information about the British Council contact:

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About the International Architecture Showcase

The International Architecture Showcase has been running with embassies and cultural institutes in London since 2008, increasing year upon year and expanding into fashion in 2012. We now run both the architecture and fashion showcases with the embassies as annual events.

The International Architecture Showcase was formed as the international strand to the London Festival of Architecture; the project is led by the British Council, a Director of the London Festival of Architecture, along with The Architecture Foundation, New London Architecture and RIBA London. In 2012 nearly 50 of London's embassies and cultural centres participated in the architecture showcase, putting on exhibitions, talks and other events throughout the city. In 2013, the British Council invited international partners to participate in a single exhibition, *Atlas of the Unbuilt World*, which exhibited models of 65 projects from 39 different countries all real and either in planning, design or construction as a glimpse of future architecture from around the globe. In 2014 the British Council will be curating the Showcase as a series of international residencies generating new ideas for Poplar and culminating in a celebration at the Balfron Tower on 21 June.

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's cultural relations organisation, extending trust and engagement between the UK and countries around the world by the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The Architecture, Design, Fashion team in Arts Group develops exhibitions, seminars, workshops, collaborative projects and exchanges in conjunction with our colleagues and partners in over 100 countries. <http://design.britishcouncil.org/>

About the London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA), now in its 10th year, celebrates London as a global hub of architectural experimentation, practice and debate. Taking place throughout June, the annual festival provokes questions about the contemporary and future life of the city, and promotes positive change to its public realm. The city-wide programme is delivered by leading cultural and academic institutions alongside associated projects by practices and individuals.

www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

#LFA2014; @LFArchitecture;

facebook.com/LondonFestivalofArchitecture

About Bow Arts Trust

Bow Arts was established as an educational arts charity in 1995 based in East London, where it supports a community of over 400 artists with affordable, secure, creative workspace in the heart of London's Artist Quarter. Bow Arts also manages one of the country's most exciting education programmes. The schools programme takes world-class artists into schools to improve the lives and learning of children and young people. Our projects, workshops and training are proven to raise attainment, deliver on school improvement priorities and provide top quality learning experiences. Bow Arts also runs the Nunnery, a contemporary art gallery a stone's throw from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which supports a diverse range of local, national and international exhibitions and events. Bow Arts works closely with a number of partners including East Thames, Poplar HARCA, Crisis, Tower Hamlets Council and Newham Council, and joined the National Portfolio of Arts Council England in April 2012.

www.bowarts.org

About the Royal College of Art

The Royal College of Art is the world's most influential postgraduate university of art and design. Specialising in teaching and research, the RCA offers the degrees of MA, MPhil and PhD across the disciplines of fine art, applied art, design, communications and humanities. There are nearly 1,400 masters and doctoral students and more than 200 professionals interacting with them – including scholars, leading art and design practitioners, along with a distinguished roster of visiting specialists, advisors and academics www.rca.ac.uk