

PRESS RELEASE 23 March 2012

OPENING OF THE SPHINXPARK IN MAASTRICHT

On Sunday 25 March 2012 a new temporary park, the Sphinxpark, will open its doors to visitors. Until 1 July 2013, REcentre, NAIM/Bureau Europa and Marres Projects will be developing this park on a vacant enclosed lot in the inner city of Maastricht. The site lies near the Eiffel building of the former Sphinx factory, and is the ideal setting for the construction of a temporary park.

The Sphinxpark is an interesting site on which to develop the basis of a contribution towards answering the question of how the park of the future might appear. The park will also address the relationship between the city and the landscape, focusing on issues such as social cohesion, public involvement, urban agriculture, contraction and innovation. A number of projects are being developed in collaboration with local players from Maastricht and the Meuse-Rhine Euregion to address these questions.

Local players from Maastricht and the Meuse-Rhine Euregion

Over the coming year a range of projects and activities will be organised for both residents and visitors to encourage social cohesion and public participation. The Sphinxpark offers everyone a chance to think about the opportunities provided by this temporary city oasis. With the help of various media, a toolbox will shortly be created in order to promote dialogue with the stakeholders.

The urban agriculture issue will be addressed in two projects with **Het Landhuis** and **Studio Kernland** from Maastricht. Het Landhuis will bring urban agriculture to the

Sphinxpark in a real and practical sense, by growing vegetables and herbs. Studio Kernland will offer support through the Bee Collective project, an initiative to encourage bee-keeping in an urban environment. The Sphinxpark offers an ideal setting in which to conduct a case study for communal bee-keeping in the inner city.

The subjects of contraction and innovation are addressed in two projects with **Studio Stad** from Maastricht and the **Fachhochschule Düsseldorf**. These projects are approached from an urban planning angle. Preliminary research will start in late March, and the results will be made visible in the park later.

Karin Peulen, in the dual role of artist and curator, will work together with several Euregional artists to create installations focusing on landscape, heritage and memory, subjects that have an obvious connection with a former industrial site with a rich history.

Ecological gardener **Hans Engelbrecht** (De Groene Stap) is responsible for the mowing policy in the park, which will be based on the existing vegetation. By mowing, he will not simply create paths, but will also lay out a ground plan for the park within other projects can be implemented.

Opening

From **Sunday 25 March 2012**, everyone can walk through this special area. The entrance to the park is on the Boschstraat side, near the Belvédère information centre. The festive opening of the Sphinxpark, during which a number of projects will be launched, will take place on **Saturday 26 May 2012**.

Organisation

REcentre

The Sphinx Park is a project of REcentre, NAIM/Bureau Europa and Marres Projects and is developed with the generous cooperation of the City of Maastricht, the province of Limburg and the district development company Belvédère.

REcentre is a knowledge and promotion centre for sustainable design in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine. REcentre therefore makes its network and know-how available to companies, designers and schools. On the other hand the organisation also organises

projects with a societal agenda to publicise sustainable design. REcentre wishes to expand the Euregion Meuse-Rhine to a reference region at the crossroads between ecology and economy.

REcentre is an Interreg IVa project, supported by Wallonie Design (Liège, BE), Z33/Design Platform Limburg (Hasselt, BE) and NAIM/Bureau Europa (Maastricht, NL).

www.recentre.org

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