

## The public architecture of Barcelona and Brussels demonstrates how to reactivate cities

- Today, the 4th of April at 7:00 p.m., '**\_Import WB \_Export BCN. Re-activate the city**' is inaugurated at Arts Santa Mònica in collaboration with Wallonie-Bruxelles Architectures
- The 40 selected works are built in Barcelona and in the Wallonia-Brussels region with the aim of sharing, reflecting and debating the social role that public architecture plays in the construction of the city
- The exhibition of the Cities Connection Project (CCP) can be visited from the 5th to the 23rd of April

**April 4, 2019.- Cities Connection Project celebrates 5 editions** connecting European cities through reference architecture projects carried out by young architects and presenting a dialogue between two cities. During these years, **more than 150 works – 55 projects in Barcelona- have been showcased**, which has allowed 62 Catalan studios to be visible throughout all of Europe. Thus, in addition to these different connections made in Ticino, Geneva, Zurich, Lausanne and Brussels, the exhibitions were also shown in the cities of Tarragona, Lugano and Milan.

The CCP format allows the opportunity to present 20 + 20 selected works of each city in two venues, with the exhibitions being enriched by debates, conferences and other activities open to the public. In this meeting, under the title '**\_Import WB \_Export BCN. Re-activate the city** ', Barcelona will create a dialogue with the **Wallonia-Brussels** region of Belgium.

The curators and founders of CCP, **Xavier Bustos and Nicola Regusci** highlight how "in this fifth edition, we have worked on **reactivating projects of the city**, understanding the architecture of public facilities (cultural, educational, mixed-use...) as drivers for **social cohesion** especially in areas with a certain level of urban degradation". This is a topic of great interest, both for citizens and the cities themselves, in which we can see how different projects have been assimilated by their habitats and integrated into the social fabric.

In addition to the **opening conference** led by the **Catalan architect Ferran Grau** and the **architecture historian Audrey Contesse**, which will take place on the **4th of April at 7:00 p.m.** at Arts Santa Mònica, CCP has also organised, in collaboration with the Fundació Mies van der Rohe, a **talk between the participating architecture studios scheduled for Friday the 5th of April at 5:00 p.m.** at the **Mies van der Rohe Pavilion**.

## EXHIBITION

After presenting the exhibition in Brussels last October, the dialogue "\_Import WB \_Export BCN. Re-activate the city" arrives in Barcelona, where you can visit it from the 5th to the 23rd of April at Arts Santa Mònica. The exhibition presents some **the best public facility projects in Barcelona and Wallonia-Brussels** made in recent years. The forty selected works include the Vil·la Urània (2017) mixed-use facility by SUMO Arquitectes, the mixed residential and temporary accommodation building (2018) made by Coll-Leclerc and the Guinardó market (2016), the work of BayonaValero/Cantalops-Vicente, the Navez social housing units (2015) by MSA/V+, winners of the latest edition of the EU Mies Award – Special Mention: Emerging Architect, the Brussels Fashion and Design Platform – MAD (2017), the work of V+/Rotor, and the Adeps La Fraineuse sports complex (2015, Spa – Wallonia) by Baukunst.

This edition has the involvement of Wallonie-Bruxelles Architectures, the support of the Department of Culture of the Generalitat de Catalunya, and companies in the sector that are committed to quality architecture.

## CATALOG

During the inauguration, the catalog "\_Import WB \_Export BCN. Re-activate the city" will also be presented and includes images, plans and information about the forty selected works, as well as an augmented reality mobile application that will allow you to expand the contents through short videos of 30 seconds visible from smartphones. The catalog also has critical texts by Audrey Contesse, Ferran Grau and the curators Xavier Bustos, Nicola Regusci and Nathalie Brison (WBA).

"The exhibition includes several projects that start from, or incorporate, a pre-existing building, usually located in a context with a relevant historical background. In these cases, the projects show great sensitivity when it comes to highlighting the pre-existence and firmness when integrating new architectures". Ferran Grau.

"It is true that, for a decade, the architecture in Wallonia-Brussels exudes a particular spatial quality. It is the result of an alliance between a specific architectural approach, focused on the process and control of construction, and a policy of evolving architecture. A user-centered approach based on 'building with'. Building together with: the existing context, a budget often very scarce and, above all, the future user". Audrey Contesse.

Download more material about the exhibition:

<https://bit.ly/2JQmwvB>

#CCP #cityreact #citiesconnect #importWB #exportBCN

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