

## communiqué / press release

For immediate distribution

**THE CCA PRESENTS *THE GOOD CAUSE: ARCHITECTURE OF PEACE***

**From 16 June to 4 September 2011, an exhibition which explores how architects and urban planners facilitate the process of rebuilding and stabilizing post-conflict spaces.**



Babur Gardens, Kabul, Afghanistan. Photograph: Christian Richters. Used with permission of the Aga Khan Trust For Culture



View of Kimisagara and the proposed football sports centre, Kigali, Rwanda. Concept: Architecture for Humanity / Killian Doherty.

Montréal, 15 June 2011 — The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) presents ***The Good Cause: Architecture of Peace***, an exhibition in its Octagonal Gallery examining issues arising from the reconstruction of post-war territories. *The Good Cause* explores the creation of lasting peace through architecture and planning projects designed to stabilize, humanize, and rebuild cities and territories devastated by armed conflict. The exhibition questions whether reconstruction can be an instrument of peace and conflict prevention, and it highlights the complexities alongside factors of success and failure involved in this process.

Conceived by the NAI (Rotterdam) and Archis (Amsterdam) and realised in collaboration with the CCA, the exhibition looks at the production of space in wartime and peacetime and presents case studies of projects undertaken with the participation of architects, planners, and architecture schools in several regions scarred by long-term geopolitical tensions: **Afghanistan, Kosovo, South Africa, Rwanda, Israel, and Palestine.**

*The Good Cause: Architecture of Peace* is part of a wider CCA research project entitled ***On the Natural History of Destruction***. It also complements the CCA's current exhibition, ***Architecture in Uniform: Designing and Building for the Second World War***.

The completed works and works in progress that were selected for the exhibition by curators Saskia van Stein, Lilet Breddels and Arjen Oosterman include three projects in Afghanistan: a Kabul skate park (*Skateistan*) built by the NGO Architecture for Humanity in 2007; the Gardens of Babur, a key Afghan heritage site dating from the sixteenth-century Mongol Empire which has been rehabilitated as a central public space for Kabul residents; and a work by Dutch architect Anne Feenstra (AFIR Architects), who has designed a visitor centre and community hall for the Pamir-i-Buzurg wildlife reserve.

The exhibition also considers projects in South Africa and Rwanda. In the periphery of Port Elizabeth, the construction of a residential and cultural complex in a township by Noero Wolff Architects in 1999 represents a successful shift toward public spaces that enhance the quality of life. The project is centred on the Red Location Museum, an apartheid memorial commemorating victims for the benefit of future generations. The non-profit Football for Hope Centre in Kigali, Rwanda, by architect Killian Doherty promotes soccer as a way of restoring a sense of belonging and improving public health and education with local youth.

Other case studies in the exhibition come from Europe and the Middle East, such as the creation of a master plan for Ein Hawd, a Palestinian village in Israel, by the Foundation for Achieving Seamless Territory (FAST); the rehabilitation of the historic centre of Birzeit, north of Ramallah, West Bank, by Palestinian writer and architect Suad Amiry; and a work in progress launched in 2005 by the Archis Interventions Prishtina Foundation which regulated formerly illegal construction in Kosovo and fostered improvements in the urban fabric.

*The Good Cause* presents a selection of vital actions by architects and planners who have chosen to address the negative impacts of geopolitical struggle and armed conflict on living spaces and urban environments. These projects shed light on the importance of the mandates taken on by the architects." said Mirko Zardini, CCA Director and Chief Curator.

## EXHIBITION DESIGN

To present the research produced by NAI and Archis, the CCA Octagonal Gallery is conceptually divided into two sections. Six gallery walls provide general information on the conflicts and peace-keeping missions, while a group of six tables presents the case studies of the emerging architecture of peace across time and space. The case studies are presented with photographic documentation of existing spaces, project documents, and documentation of consequences.

The success of the projects is highlighted via seven video stations set up on the tables as well as over 200 objects comprising photos, videos, documents, maps, brochures, and other publications.

Graphic and installation design created for the exhibition was produced by the Amsterdam agency The World as Flatland. [www.theworldasflatland.net](http://www.theworldasflatland.net)

## THE ORGANIZERS

The Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) is a museum, archive, library and cultural platform. The NAI holds important archives and collections relating to Dutch architects from 1800 onwards and provides public access to these records. As an institution it provides opportunities for research and offers a platform for debate. The NAI strives to inform, inspire and stimulate both professionals and the broader public through its exhibitions and publications. [www.en.NAI.nl](http://www.en.NAI.nl)

ARCHIS is an experimental think tank devoted to the process of real-time spatial and cultural reflexivity and action. The Archis Foundation comprises three departments: Archis Publishers, Archis Interventions and Archis Tools. Archis publishes VOLUME magazine and other innovative publications. [www.archis.org](http://www.archis.org)

## RELATED EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS

*The Good Cause* is part of a CCA research project ***On the Natural History of Destruction***, named after a series of conferences and a book by W.G. Sebald that confronts the idea of guilt and oblivion. The project includes the exhibition ***Architecture in Uniform*** and a series of film screenings in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada. It also includes ***A Paper War: Pictures and Words, 1939–1945***, a hall-case exhibition organized by the CCA.

These exhibitions and film series present a new perspective on the process of modernization that took place during and after the Second World War and the challenges contemporary warfare and peacekeeping imposed on architecture. They confront us with our individual and collective responsibility and question the silence and moral evasiveness of our time.

On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition, the CCA will host a **Gallery Talk** in the Shaughnessy House on **Thursday, 16 June at 7 pm** with curator Saskia van Stein. **Free admission.**



## THE CCA

The CCA is an international research centre and museum founded in 1979 on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. Based on its extensive Collection, the CCA is a leading voice in advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on architecture, its history, theory, practice, and role in society.

## PARTNERS

*The Good Cause* is co-organized by the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI), Rotterdam and Archis, Amsterdam in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) and designed by The World as Flatland, Amsterdam.

## FUNDING

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**High-resolution digital photographs** are available online at [www.cca.qc.ca/press](http://www.cca.qc.ca/press) under the heading "Exhibitions." The login is **general** and the password is **journal**.