

# Press information

For the first Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism (Sept-Nov. 2017)

Dominique Perrault SubLab, Archizoom at the Swiss Institute of Technology (EPFL) &  
Yoonhie Lee ADSlab at Ewha Womans University  
present the exhibition:

## **GSXP<sup>2</sup> – Groundscape eXPerience Pavilion A 30m long urban folly in the heart of Seoul**

As part of the Groundscape stories, a design concept initiated by prof. Dominique Perrault, the installation is a lifesize model representing the 2.7km long Seoul city central Euljiro underground gallery. Featuring a sequence of 28 experiments by 60 university students from EPFL (Lausanne, Switzerland) and EWHA (Seoul, South Korea), this 30m long exterior large scale steel structure, implemented in front of Zaha Hadid's landmark Dongdaemum Design Plaza (DDP), is offered to all visitors as an urban folly, freely accessible at all time, to reflect on underground architecture.

A catalogue is published on the occasion.

This project proposal follows the letter of invitation sent to EPFL SubLab's Pr. Dominique Perrault by curators Hyungmin Pai and Alejandro Zaera-Polo to elaborate an academic contribution for the first Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism (SBAU) as a part of the Seoul Biennale International Studios (SBIS) to be held in Seoul, South Korea, in fall 2017.

Out of the 12 proposed sites by the Seoul Biennale International studio committee, Euljiro Underground gallery was assigned to a team comprised of the EPFL SubLab in Switzerland and EWHA ADSLAB in South Korea team.

Running under the heart of Seoul, the Euljiro underground is the setting for this new Groundscape story. The study case is a powerful toolkit for all metropolis facing the challenge of rethinking obsolete, abandoned or underutilized underground facilities.

### **1\_The installation – GSXP<sup>2</sup> (Groundscape eXPerience Pavilion)**

Inspired by artist such as Antony Gormley or minimalist artists as Sol LeWitt and Carl André, The Groundscape Experience Pavilion (GSXP<sup>2</sup>) features a L 30 x l 1 x h 2 m black steel grid wireframe that scans through the metropolitan condition of the 2.7km long gallery. The structure reveals 28 enigmatic shapes that appear to the visitor as urban fossils, 28 experiments that disclose the possibilities of underground design.

## **2\_The Groundscape concept - a new vision for the underground**

In architecture, when we want to separate the outside from the inside we build walls and above them a roof and by this we draw a line between two spaces, one remaining open while the other is enclosed.

It is the same when we represent the independence of air and earth.

By drawing this ground line that separates above from below, we inadvertently use a model for representing reality, which, in fine print, expresses the only thing that does not exist.

However, below this simple ground line hides a universe of possibilities.

The perception of the underground of cities may well raise concerns at first, as we imagine it dark, damp and uncomfortable. But if we go beyond this fantastical prejudice, we will find another image of the underground, one that is more physical and sensitive.

The Groundscape offers a potent catalyst for urban networks, a naturally ideal thermal inertia, an unrivalled respect for the landscape, an elegant enhancement of our architectural heritage, and a unique palette of lights.

Furthermore, this frontier is economically at reach, as above all it holds a vast reserve of real estate. For developers, the Groundscape opens the possibility of expanding a building with respect for the context. For authorities, it is a major source of revenue as it opens up new sites in central locations. This place of resources allows the intensification of urban life without adding density.

The Groundscape is an underside of the world, it is what we would see when diving if the ground was like the ocean and cities like vessels on its surface.

The Groundscape is a landscape of a different nature, which extends the latter and broadens our world.

## **3\_The experiments**

The project the result of 60 architecture students from EPFL and EWHA coming together to work on underground architecture. Students have proposed a sequence of experiments for the existing underground gallery. The interventions consider this misused market not only as a simple urban link, but as part of an incredible network of urban substance and material.

Registration to the event & information:

<http://archizoom.epfl.ch/sublab>

## **4\_The catalogue**

This 500+ pages book presents the complete analyses and projects developed by both universities. A catalog of conditions and proposals constituting a unique achievement of the reutilization of an underground infrastructure.

Published by NemoFactory. Editor Joon-Hee Lee.

## **5\_The Authors**

### **EPFL SubLab, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland**

EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), one of the world's most cosmopolitan universities, is located on the shores of the Geneva Lake, at the foot of the Alps. Its main campus brings together over 11,000 people from over 120 nations.

As part of the ENAC (School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering), the SubLab, (Laboratory for Underground Architecture) founded by Pr. Dominique Perrault, rallies Juan

Fernández-Andrino, Ignacio Ferrer, and Richard Nguyen, a team of professionals, teachers, and researchers with specific architectural, technical, and academic experience in underground architecture.

### **EWHA ADSlab, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea**

EWHA comprises 14 colleges, 14 graduate schools, and 25,000 students, and each year has produced 3,500 graduates with bachelor's degrees, 2,000 with master's degrees and 200 with doctoral degrees. As Korea's first educational institution for women, Ewha has now grown into the largest women's university in the world.

Professor Yoonhie Lee is director of ADSLAB (Architectonic Design Strategy Laboratory) at ELTEC College of Engineering, Ewha. Establishing research foundation in ADSLAB, she seeks to work on the projects engaging her theoretical research and topics such as materials, details, and tectonic application.

<http://ea.ewha.ac.kr>

<http://adslabplus.com>

## **6\_ To know more**

### **Groundscapes a new vision for the underground – International Symposium an event presented by Dominique Perrault – April 23&24, 2018 in Lausanne, Switzerland**

The Groundscape Symposium, a global think-tank and research event, exploring the potentialities and possibilities of the underground, to expand the realms of our territories. we invite all experts, in architecture, urban design, landscape, art, engineering, ..., stakeholders and all public at large to gather and public at large to gather and reinvent the World below.

### **The Groundscape MOOC – Fall 2017**

In parallel to the Groundscape Symposium the SubLab, along with the MOOC Factory, is proud to announce the first Groundscape Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which will start in Fall 2017.

<http://sub.epfl.ch>

### **Prof. Dominique Perrault**

Praemium imperial award winner (Japan), the French architect and urban planner, Dominique Perrault, is a professor and director of the Underground Architecture Laboratory (SUB) at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland. He is also the founder of DPAX, a multidisciplinary research platform exploring architecture from a wider perspective, and DPA Lab, a laboratory of research and innovation developing processes that reinvent the vocabulary of architecture.

Along with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, his main projects to date include the Olympic Velodrome and Swimming Pool in Berlin, the extension of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg, the Olympic Tennis Stadium in Madrid, the Ewha Womans University in Seoul and the Fukoku Tower in Osaka. In recent years, Dominique Perrault inaugurated the tallest tower of Austria in Vienna, the DC Tower 1, and led various heritage rehabilitation projects, including the new public entry pavilion for the Château de Versailles and the repurposing of La Poste du Louvre in Paris.

Current studies and urban research projects include the Olympic Village – Paris 2024 and the "Mission Ile de la Cité," an urban study commissioned by the president of the French Republic that reflects upon the future of the thriving, historical center of Paris from now until 2040.

## 7\_Contact

Contact for press inquiries

In Korea:

Prof. Yoonhie Lee  
archma@ewha.ac.kr  
82 (0)10 9254 5802  
EWAH ADSLAB  
Dept. of Architecture  
Ewha Womans University  
52 Ewhayeda-gil, Seodaemun-gu  
Seoul, Korea 03760

In Switzerland:

Cyril Veillon  
cyril.veillon@epfl.ch  
+41 79 535 00 53  
ARCHIZOOM EPFL  
Lausanne, Switzerland