PRESS RELEASE

Series of Lectures on Modern Design, Autumn 2016
« Inside Belgian Modernism II »
Three cases on design for the industrialized society, and what to do with them today.
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Interiors, furniture and design shape most closely everyday life and as such testify directly to the ever changing cultural conditions. Due to constant renewal and replacement they represent the more ephemeral side of architecture. From this perspective Docomomo Belgium offers a series of three lectures which approaches the heritage issues of Modern Design through the lens of these seemingly subsidiary aspects. The presentations of the series questions examples, discourses and possibilities for innovative ways of preservation of Modern(ist) design artefacts.

Geographically spread through the country, with two lectures in Brussels (in English and in French) and one in Ghent (in Dutch).

Lectures:
October, 25th 2016, 8PM, Ernie Mellegers
Atelier van de Vlaamse Bouwmeester: Ravensteingalerij 54-59, 1000 Brussel
In English

‘7316 X 6 or Turning Circle #2 (no more beds from Brittany)’
The early 20th century history of the modern movement in architecture is strongly related to that of the automobile. Obviously it was to be the car the Modernists chose as their fetish object when illustrating their romance with the machine, as is evident from the massive automobile’s presence in photos, drawings and publications: the car was the modern men’s key accessory. In the meanwhile the new architecture purposely linked buildings to their automobile equivalent. This lecture explores the interaction of architecture and automobilism, i.e. automotive architecture taking several specific automobiles as a lead.

Ernie Mellegers studied History of Art at Leiden University and published 9097U2 Le Corbusier en de auto (1992) on the influence of the car on Le Corbusier. He lectures at different architecture and fine arts institutes and universities in the Netherlands while the focus of his research and publications has remained the influence of the machine, especially the car, on modern architecture and urbanism.

22 November, 22nd, 2016 8PM, Katarina Serulus (UAntwerpen)
Gent Designmuseum: Jan Breydelstraat 5, 9000 Gent
In Dutch

Belgian Design Framed: the interior of the Design Centre in Brussels (1964-1968)
The year 1962 is a key moment in the history of Belgian Design. In that year, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Design Centre in Brussels comes into being. The goals for this new design center were ambitious: it should serve as a ‘permanent exhibition center’ that strengthens the image of Belgium on the international markets, and by doing this give prestige to the words ‘made in Belgium’. Based on old photographs, building plans and oral testimonies Katarina Serulus will reconstruct this remarkable interior in her lecture while examining the curious alliance between politics and design.
**Katarina Serulus** obtained in 2016 her PhD at the Faculty of Design Sciences at the University of Antwerp where she is also affiliated as researcher. She has contributed to books and wrote exhibition and book reviews. She is also curator of the exhibition *25 Biennials* (2016) on the Interieur Biennale in Courtrai and *Modern Design in Belgium* (2017) in the Art and Design Atomium Museum (ADAM) in Brussels.

**20 December, 20th, 2016, 8PM Pierre Lhoas (Lhoas & Lhoas)**

Museum ADAM: Belgieplein 1, 1020 Brussel

In French

‘Beaucoup avec rien’: la Musée Art et Design Atomium (ADAM) á Bruxelles

**Pierre Lhoas** is an architect. He founded the practice Lhoas&Lhoas with his brother Pablo Lhoas in 1994. One of their most prominent projects is the Atomium Arts & Design Museum. Since 2013 Pierre Lhoas is also responsible for the section interior architecture at the ENSAV, La Cambre in Brussels.

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**DOCOMOMO in a nutshell**

DOCOMOMO Belgium is the Belgian wing of the international non-profit organization for the Documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement. Since its creation in 1988, DOCOMOMO International established itself as a major player not only in the field of but also in the broader field of architectural culture. This interdisciplinary organization has 67 national organizations and more than 2,300 members worldwide. It brings together historians, architects, engineers, urban planners, landscape architects, conservationists, teachers, students and public officials. Since May 2011 DOCOMOMO Belgium is a joint organization of DOCOMOMO Belgique Wallonie Bruxelles-a.s.b.l. and DOCOMOMO België Brussel-Vlaanderen v.z.w.

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