



PRESS RELEASE

Heerlen, 18 July 2019

The Heerlen Rooftop Project: an ambitious architecture competition.

*SCHUNCK announces **an international urban design idea competition** for an urban rooftop project in the heart of the city of Heerlen (NL).*

The city centre of Heerlen is characterized by a dense and diverse urban rooftop landscape. Large grey and sterile roof surfaces dominate the view from above. SCHUNCK and Heerlen aim to explore this unused surface potential for gardening, arts, farming, cultural festivals, music, cinema, coffee houses, sports, tiny housing and much more. Rooftop projects in cities across the globe prove that gardens, art, recreation and/or business activity can turn ugly sterile spaces into something special.

To start a transformation, SCHUNCK invites architects, urban planners, landscape architects and designers to participate in this international competition. The participants are asked to submit their design ideas for the city-centre rooftops in Heerlen to make these rooftops accessible and sustainable.

More competition information on: <https://schunck.nl/en/rooftop-competition/>

The deadline for registration is: 25 August 2019

About The Heerlen Rooftop Project

The concept for The Heerlen Rooftop Project has two principal action lines:

- stimulate owners in the city centre of Heerlen to make their own rooftops accessible and sustainable.
- initiate and co-organize recurring Rooftop Festivals with the municipality of Heerlen and multiple, cultural partners to encourage (local) stakeholders, participants, entrepreneurs and

property owners to establish more and more (sustainable) rooftop projects. The first edition of the Heerlen Rooftop Festival will be in 2021, which is the finishing year of IBA Parkstad Limburg.

The Heerlen Rooftop Project is divided into three phases:

Phase 1 – Research & Design (2019)

Phase 2 – Realisation & Transformation (2020/21)

Phase 3 – Heerlen Rooftop Festival (2021)

About SCHUNCK

SCHUNCK is a multidisciplinary cultural institute that initiates innovative projects and an engaging museum programme in the fields of contemporary art, architecture, design and literature (public library). It acts as a dynamic platform for critical exploration, social interaction and the development of modern urban culture and infrastructure in the broadest sense. As an active player on a local, national and international level, SCHUNCK facilitates interaction between Heerlen and the world, delivering outstanding projects and exhibitions to professionals and everyday visitors. SCHUNCK is housed in the 'Glaspaleis', a modernistic, architectural landmark built by the architect Frits Peutz in 1935 as a fashion house and department store called "Schunck". The Glaspaleis is included in the UIA (United International Architects) index of the 1,000 most significant architectural monuments of the 20th Century.

Note for the press:

For more information and questions: Andrea Croé, Senior Curator Architecture & Urbanism at SCHUNCK / Jeanine Ruijters assistant Curator Architecture & Urbanism at SCHUNCK, rooftop@schunck.nl / 045-5772205

Introduction video on the Heerlen Rooftop Project (in Dutch): <https://youtu.be/DEst5IROY68>