

# CHORA



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Founded in 1993 by Raoul Bunschoten, CHORA investigates new forms of architectural and urban design. It operates as a constellation of practices that works with different partners and institutions. This includes the development of methods for emergent planning techniques as well as the formulation of policies pertaining to the growth of cities. In particular, CHORA has experience in environments that have undergone radical changes in political, economic, social or cultural conditions that have propelled them towards new forms of urbanity. Now CHORA has three branches:

- ☐ **CHORA architecture and urbanism:** Founded as an architectural practice. Currently involved in masterplan projects, Public Spaces design and architectural prototypes.
- ☐ **CHORA Research:** a charitable company, which promotes the dissemination of theory and knowledge through books, exhibitions, and art projects. Its methods are based on theoretical analysis and speculative modeling of the forces that shape cities, This has been a long term collaboration with the Architectural Association, London, the Berlage Postgraduate Laboratory, Rotterdam, the University of Amsterdam, the London School of Economics, the London Metropolitan University and more recently the Hong Kong University. The result is the development of a planning instrument called Urban Gallery, a knowledge-management tool for complex environments, and Urban Curation, a practice for the understanding of and intervention in emergent urban processes.
- ☐ **CHORA NL:** a new branch (a charitable association) founded in the Netherlands to undertake research studies specifically in the Netherlands, funded by public bodies.

Academic. The office is currently running the Urban Gallery Laboratory at London Metropolitan University, Department of Architecture and the Environment. Raoul Bunschoten has been Thesis Tutor at the Berlage Institute (1995-2003), Rotterdam. Other academic engagements: Diploma Unit Master, Architectural Association (1983-2003). Guest professorships: École des Beaux Arts, Lyon; Berlage Institute, Rotterdam. Former Visiting Professor at Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, New York (1997); Aarhus School of Architecture, Denmark (1997). Visiting Critic Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zürich and many other schools of design. Workshop leader on various topics from 1984 onwards, in many countries and institutions. Continues to lecture internationally.

## CHORA Team:

Raoul Bunschoten  
Joshua Bolchover  
Roberto Bottazzi  
Gary Doherty  
Lisa Euler  
Jorge Godoy  
Amy Plant

## Partners:

Helen Binet, photographer [www.helenbinet.com](http://www.helenbinet.com)  
Joost Grootens, graphic designer [www.grootens.nl](http://www.grootens.nl)  
Guller Guller Architects and urbanists [www.ggau.net](http://www.ggau.net)  
Adams Kara Taylor, structural engineers [www.akt-uk.com](http://www.akt-uk.com)  
ARUP, advanced geometry unit [www.arup.com](http://www.arup.com)  
ZEF, zero energy foundation [www.zefltd.co.uk](http://www.zefltd.co.uk)  
Gross Max, landscape architecture [www.grossmax.com](http://www.grossmax.com)

# **CHORA WORK 2001-2006**

**The work presented here shows some of the main projects, workshops and exhibitions developed by Chora during the last five years. The Urban Gallery Methodology has been the main driver in the origination and orchestration of these projects, proposing a device to bring new processes of urbanization to light.**

## **URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING PROJECTS.**

### **2001 New Suburbs, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Prize winning scheme in the New Suburbs Ideas competition in Høje-Tåstrup, Denmark. Prototype design development for Høje-Tåstrup.

### **2001 Project W and Sector E, Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands**

Development of a new city and logistical centre near Breda. Part of a large scale strategy developed by Chora for the corridor for transportation of goods between Rotterdam and the rest of Europe, commission.

### **2002 Copenhagen X**

Application of the Urban Gallery tool and method in ten year long development plan for the city of Copenhagen, commission

### **2003-2004 RWS Future Centre**

Project to design the management structure of the "Future Center" space inside the new Rijkswaterstaat Headquarters. The Netherlands. Commissioned by Rijkswaterstaat. Completed. Partners: Guller Guller architects and urbanists

### **2004 Homerton Cross**

Design of a strategic masterplan for Homerton, London. Completed. Partners: Arup, Hackney Community Development (HCD)

## **LANDSCAPE URBANISM, ARCHITECTURE AND INSTALLATION PROJECTS**

### **2001 Signs of Change**

Design and installation of a signs project for a church in Co. Donegal, Ireland.

### **2004-2006 De Landing**

Winner of design competition for a public space in Arnhem, The Netherlands.

A 24.000 sqm park, populated by cement shells structures and glass pavilions

Currently developing and building the first phase of the project.

### **2004-2005 Homerton Cross Pavilion**

A new pavilion for flexible use in the centre of Homerton, Hackney, London, supported by the Arts Council and LDA Business Support.

## **URBAN PLANNING WORKSHOPS**

### **2005 Homerton Scenario Games**

Discussion forums about the management and planning of the Hackney Area, East London. As a strategy to integrate local inhabitants, authorities and developers the Homerton's Scenario Games were ran in different public buildings such as Homerton Hospital, the Public Library and the Local School.

### **2006 Xiamen Urban Gallery**

Joint project with Hong Kong University, London Metropolitan University and Xiamen University

### **2006 Linear City Workshop**

In partnership with Hong Kong University, Planning and design of urban prototypes linked to the KCR  
Project leader Liu Yuyang

### **2006 Knowledge East Scenario Games**

Discussion forums about the management and planning of the Cross River Park Area in the Thames Gateway, in which different partners and local actors are brought together.

## **ATLAS PROJECTS**

### **Preparation of a series of ATLAS books about regions of geopolitical significance**

**Sector E**, Transnational city region framed from Rotterdam to the Ruhr-Rhein area.

**Sector T**, Regional territory for the new developments of East London.

**Sector S**, Bi-Oceanic corridor of 1400 km long running from Valparaiso to Buenos Aires.

**Sector A**, Urban Curation of a 17km long area in London

**Taiwan Strait**, research of a Liminal Body of geopolitical conflicts between China and Taiwan.

**Jo'burg Strip**, research of suburban zone in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## EXHIBITIONS

**October 2004 Archilab.** *Smart mobs, the naked city.* Orleans, France.

**July 2005 Moscow, Russia.** *Games and Playgrounds.*

**October 2005 Berlin.** *Touching the Second Skin.* Technical University Berlin.

**September 2005 Consequence.** *Series on fresh Architecture,* Institute of cultural policy, Hamburg, Germany.

**October 2005 Beyond Media Festival.** *Scripts.* Florence, Italy.

**March 2006 NAI Rotterdam,** *Dynamicity.* Joint exhibition with Stalker, Atelier Bow Wow and Actar.

### Forthcoming exhibitions

**April 2006 Architectural Association London.** *The Thames gateway assembly at the AA.* AA Gallery.

**October 2006 Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Santiago de Chile.** *From Matter to Metaspaces.* MAC Quinta Normal.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### **Consequence 4, From matter to metaspaces: cave,ground,horizon,wind.**

Book series on Fresh Architecture. SpringerWien NewYork.2005

### **Metaspaces, Taiwanese version.**

book and CD Rom, a brief introduction to aspects of dynamic modelling in the CHORA methodology, 2004.

### **Curating London Sector A**

A dictionary of concepts for the project London Sector A. anc- Architecture and Culture monographic issue on CHORA recent projects and methodology, September 2003.

### **Public Spaces**

A book on recent CHORA work, published by Blackdog Publishing, London, 2002.

### **Urban Flotsam**

A major outline of the CHORA methodology, published April 2001 by 010 Publishers, Rotterdam.

### **Metaspaces,**

book and CD Rom, a brief introduction to aspects of dynamic modelling in the CHORA methodology, 2001.