

It is a great honour for me and for the TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment to be the host of this year's EAAE Conference. Since 1988 our faculty, in cooperation with the European Association for Architectural Education, has organised an international conference in every Olympic year. We like keeping this tradition standing as we are inspired by values and spirit of the Olympics. This year the event will be a combination of the EAAE annual General Assembly and EAAE conference.

Every four years the aim of the conference is to present and discuss the roles of the architect and the critical potential of architectural projects in present and future transformation processes of cities and territories. The conference of this year with the title 'For example Delft: a case study discussed in the context of institutional profile(s) and the future of architectural education' fits very well within this series.

In our age of globalisation, cities and their territories can no longer be viewed as autonomous identities, but have to be understood as part of larger networks where a new landscape for contemporary projects comes into being. At the same time issues such as mobility, nature, water management, energy use or public space are specific in each case and require the input of several disciplines simultaneously. In addition, Europe and the whole world is nowadays caught up in a complex process of transformation where all kinds of conditions mutate rapidly and the pressure given by unexpected changes is very high.

In short, to keep up, adapt and challenge our education and research profiles and prepare our staff and students to tackle with a multifaceted and ever transforming world, we all have the increasing need of sharing thoughts and experiences on how to operate between existing knowledge and today's questions in order to envision and construct a bright future. This conference is therefore a great opportunity to explore and discuss together about the role of our institutions and the new frontiers of our discipline.

On behalf of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment of the Delft University of Technology I would like to thank the European Association for Architectural Education for giving us the possibility of hosting this conference. I hope we will have stimulating meetings and debates with all colleagues gathered here and I look forward to welcome you here again in the next Olympic year.

Delft, 22th of August 2016, Peter Russel, Dean Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology