

Press release

23 June 2010

POWER TOILETS

Opening: Wednesday 30 June, 16.00

Location: Park van Luna, at the Strand van Luna, Heerhugowaard

An unusual lavatory building has been erected on a beach in the new recreation area Park van Luna in Heerhugowaard. In close collaboration with NEZU AYMO architects, the Danish art collective SUPERFLEX have built Power Toilets, an exact copy of the lavatories used by the members of the United Nations Security Council in New York. Though the exterior has a neutral, nondescript shape, the interior appears to have been moved intact from the UN to this new development area in North Holland.

The UN building was the result of the collaborative efforts of a multinational team of leading architects. When completed in 1952, it stood as a symbol of unity after the Second World War and has since hosted many historic aspirations, speeches, debates and gatherings of world leaders.

The exterior of the Power Toilets looks incomplete or timeless - like backstage to a movie setting or like the toilets have been taken out of a larger building. The interior is a copy, as precise as possible, of the UN Security Council toilets. Based on photos taken secretly by an ex-UN staff member - the UN headquarters is one of the most secured buildings in the world - the drawings of the toilets were meticulously reconstructed. The exact same materials and detailing as in the UN toilets have been applied - marble division walls, stainless steel doors, yellow ceramic tiles, grey anthracite mosaic floor tiles. American Standard toilets and urinals were specially imported from the US, and furniture and sanitary accessories were rebuilt to every detail.

When entering the toilets, they appear to be slightly different from other public toilets due to the materialization and the equipment. Thus, standing in the UN-Headquarters toilets in Heerhugowaard you get a feeling of being in another time and place. Furthermore, the UN represents the power from which individual rights and peace are protected and maintained. Power Toilets distribute the idea of power and question hierarchical structures by transferring the most basic elements of this power structure. With the Power toilets, bathers and canoeists at the Park van Luna are free to use the same toilets as the world's most powerful leaders.

How to get there:

By car: on the N242 take the exit 'Park van Luna'. At the traffic light, continue straight and follow the road, pass Intratuin and turn left into the park. Park on top of the dike behind the windmill.

By public transport: take bus 360 from Alkmaar Station NS direction Heerhugowaard. Get off at Park van Luna and walk for 5 minutes towards the nearest big windmill. The Power Toilets are located at the waterside, at the edge of the beach.

NEZU AYMO Architects

is a Japanese-Danish office based in Amsterdam. It is led by Yukiko Nezu (1971, Tokyo) and Skaftø Aymo-Boot (1970, Lausanne). Through research and unconventional thinking we develop new ideas in the form of buildings, urban plans, interiors, and spatial concepts.

www.nezuaymo.com

SUPERFLEX

has won international recognition for its art projects. The work of SUPERFLEX has been exhibited around the world, at venues including Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland; Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig, Germany; Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany, and the Gallery at REDCAT in Los Angeles, United States. In the Netherlands, SUPERFLEX has worked with partners including the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, the Zeeuws Museum and De Vleeshal. Superflex is Rasmus Nielsen, Jakob Fenger and Bjørnstjerne Christiansen.

www.superflex.net

For more information about the project, please contact Yukiko Nezu or Skaftø Aymo-Boot: info@nezuaymo.com or tel. +31(0)20-4233615

