

## PRESS RELEASE

Vijfhuizen, April 26th, 2010

### *International Design Competition for a Center for Contemporary Art*

#### **'Silver Bullet' gleaming winner!**



Left: Interior views Genieloods of the winning design "Silver Bullet", with its silver-coloured heat-regulating wall screens, which can be utilized in a flexible manner, depending on the season. Right: Participants attending the award ceremony and exhibition.

**On Saturday April 24, Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen proudly announced the winner of the International Design Competition for a Center for Contemporary Art, which was launched in December of 2009.**

**After the award ceremony, the exhibition of the winning design and the remaining entries was opened. This exhibition will show in Kunstfort's Genieloods until June 26, 2010.**

The main issue of the design competition was the reuse of a historic military engineers barrack, the "Genieloods", on the premises of the fort. The competition was won by a joint venture of the architects **Office Jarrik Ouburg, Paulien Bremmer Architects** and **CC Studio**. The Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen Foundation wishes to actually realise their winning design, **"SILVER BULLET"**.

Until now, particular challenges related to the construction of the Genieloods limited the use of the building as an exhibition space. Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen issued the design contest with the aim of transforming the engineers barrack, which dates from 1896, into a spectacular and suitable exhibition space, while still respecting the monumental status of the building.

To the opinion of the jury, none other than the winning design, “**SILVER BULLET**”, articulated this objective better. Modest on the outside yet ingenious on the inside, the design intrigued the jury by reconciling the two extremes that are contained in “Genie”, -the Dutch word for military engineer:

**Ge-nie.** (noun) (1) army unit responsible for all military engineering  
(2) extraordinary talent

The SILVER BULLET-design on one hand shows great care toward the military heritage of the barrack. The simplicity of the design exposes the original construction in a bold and aesthetic way, and enhances the functional characteristics of the building. On the other hand, the winning team of architects exceeds the competition brief by creating an intelligent, advancing, environmentally friendly, sustainable and (-of particular importance-) *affordable* design and climate management.

The interior decor is hardly inferior to Versailles' Hall of Mirrors. An overabundance of light and reflections is bound to be experienced as a new challenge by many an artist, -as indeed they had become used to the dark and incommensurable rooms in the protective bunker architecture of the fort itself. With this design, the contrast between the various exhibition opportunities of Kunstfort could not become greater. 'Spanish steps' on the slope of the military embankment complete the image.

A full-color tabloid was issued especially for the event, containing a detailed jury-report, and also mentioning other designs that were representative in some way. Two runner-up designs were awarded an honourable mention : “**Cross Roads**” by **Forum Architecten & Planners** and “**UP**” by **Ateliereen Architecten**.

On **Saturday, June 26, 2010** Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen will participate in the “**Day of Architecture**”, by hosting the awards ceremony of the Haarlemmermeer 2010 Architecture Award, which will take place in the Genieloods.

And **Sunday, June 27, 2010** will be the last chance to visit “**Dreams are my reality, the seriousness of play**” the current art exhibition at Kunstfort.

This project was realized as a collaboration of: Municipality of Haarlemmermeer, the Province of Noord Holland and the Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen Foundation, with its many volunteers.



# KUNSTFORT B.I.J. VIJFHUIZEN

CENTRUM VOOR ACTUELE KUNST

**Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen** is a center for contemporary art, and is part of the “Stelling van Amsterdam”. This historical line of defence around the Dutch capital, dating from the late 19th century, is declared a UNESCO world heritage monument for its unique character. Besides exhibition rooms, the Fort houses a restaurant with meeting rooms, as well as (guest) studios for professional artists. The village of Vijfhuizen is located by the “Ringvaart” canal between the cities of Hoofddorp and Haarlem.



**Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen,  
center for contemporary art**

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**Opening hours:**

Friday to Sunday from 1.00PM to  
5.00PM

**Extra opening dates:**

Ascension Thursday May 14, 13-17u.

2nd day of Whitsun, Monday May 23,

13.00-17.00u.CET

**Information and directions:**

[www.kunstfort.nl](http://www.kunstfort.nl)

**Editorial note (not for publication):** For further information, please contact coordinator Dorine van Delft, 023-5589013 (tue-wed-fri until 13.00hrs CET) or email [coordinator@kunstfort.nl](mailto:coordinator@kunstfort.nl)



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