

# THE INDEPENDENT | Urban - Think Tank

## Città Parangolé

A project by Alfredo Brillembourg and Hubert Klumpner (U-T T)  
produced with the support of ETH Zurich, Department of Architecture

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Rome 1 December 2017. **Alfredo Brillembourg** and **Hubert Klumpner**, founders of **Urban - Think Tank (U-TT)**, will be presenting at MAXXI the project **Città Parangolé**, an overview of contemporary society, imagining a more equitable and sustainable future. Models reflecting these utopian and post-utopian theories will be exhibited at MAXXI **from 1 December 2017 to 25 February 2018**.

**Urban Think Tank** is the protagonist of the **sixth event** of 2017, curated by **Elena Motisi**, of **THE INDEPENDENT**, MAXXI's project devoted to the identification and promotion of independent spaces and thinking, ideated by Hou Hanru, Artistic Director of MAXXI.

The **Città Parangolé** project is inspired by the concept of *Parangolé*, suggesting that *life is movement*. Formulated in the Seventies by the artist Hélio Oiticica, this concept extends its principle from the human body to the urban context. This concept of a "future city" – comprising of a manifesto in which people and movement are central - has been applied by the studio to cities such as São Paulo, Brazil and Piacenza.

The exhibition features the results of these case studies with *Freetown Parangolé*, an architectural model produced on the occasion of the *OC Open City International Summer School* by Urban-Think Tank (U-TT) with Milan's Polytechnic's Department of Architecture, visually translating this concept of an alternative city to a hypothetical, future city of Piacenza. Alongside the model, a graphic wall compares life in a generic present day city with that of the city of the future.

**Città Parangolé** is a sensual and playful city that explores radical new solutions for many of the problems the future cities will have to tackle: a drastic **growth in the population, unregulated expansion**, environmental **degradation** and the decline in **natural resources**. The project responds to these problems with the **study of the old city** - of its morphology and its spatial potential - with the intent of offering new solutions.

**THE INDEPENDENT**, curated by Giulia Ferracci and Elena Motisi, explores the contents of the innovative groups and spaces operating within the ambit of the arts, architecture, design and social practice. It monitors the growth of the independent spaces active nationally and internationally and lends a voice to each independent group through a dedicated internet site [www.theindependentproject.it](http://www.theindependentproject.it) which includes an ongoing mapping of the various independent entities. In parallel, the project is enriched with the online newspaper *Garibaldi*, which investigates various geographical issues and contexts from multiple points of view.

**Urban-Think Tank (U-TT)** is an interdisciplinary design practice dedicated to high-level research and design on a variety of subjects, concerned with contemporary architecture and urbanism. The philosophy of U-TT is to deliver innovative yet practical solutions through the combined skills of architects, civil engineers, environmental planners, landscape architects, and communication specialists. In 1998, Alfredo Brillembourg and Hubert Klumpner founded U-TT in Caracas, Venezuela. Since 2007, Brillembourg and Klumpner have taught at Columbia University, where they founded the Sustainable Living Urban Model Laboratory (S.L.U.M. Lab), and since July 2010, they hold the chair for Architecture and Urban Design at the Swiss Institute of Technology, ETH in Zurich. Their work concerns both theoretical and practical applications within architecture and urban planning. Working in global contexts by creating bridges between rest world industry and third world, informal urban areas, they focus on the education and development of a new generation of professionals, who will transform cities in the 21st century.

**The press kit and images of the exhibition** can be downloaded from the Reserved Area of the Fondazione MAXXI's website at <http://www.maxxi.art/en/area-stampa/> by typing in the password **areariservatamaxxi**

**MAXXI – National Museum of XXI Century Arts**

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Admittance free for students of art and architecture from Tuesday to Friday

**MAXXI PRESS OFFICE +39 06 324861 [press@fondazionemaxxi.it](mailto:press@fondazionemaxxi.it)**

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si ringrazia



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