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Reprogramming the City: Opportunities for Urban Infrastructure

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[Editor's note: High-resolution images and interviews with the curator are available upon request.]

Boston (June 25, 2013)—*Reprogramming the City: Opportunities for Urban Infrastructure*, the new exhibition at BSA Space, presents a global overview of ways in which the existing infrastructure of cities around the world is being redesigned, repurposed, and reimagined to serve alternate and expanded functions for urban dwellers and visitors. *Reprogramming the City* celebrates more than 20 examples of imaginative reuse and repurposing of urban infrastructure, from physical objects to the city's most functional systems and surfaces. Cities represented include London, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, and Boston.

Curated and designed by renowned urban design director Scott Burnham, *Reprogramming the City* reveals the city as a creative platform for new approaches to urban design. As Burnham explains:

“Designers, architects, and cities themselves are realizing that in an era of limited resources, there is a vast amount of untapped potential in the existing physical stock of the city. A new approach of designing with the existing materials of the city is bringing a new resourcefulness and sense of opportunity to the urban landscape. This new spirit and attitude is not only expanding the functionality of urban objects and areas but [also] increasing the creative spirit of the city itself.”

“*Reprogramming the City* is well aligned with the BSA Space mission to encourage exchange between the profession and the public,” says BSA president Mike Davis FAIA. “It’s an ideal opportunity to promote an innovative exhibition that highlights the accessible, fun, and adventuring aspects of architecture and urban design.”

The exhibition, which spans an array of disciplines including architecture, design, engineering, and urban planning, is a media-rich global overview of this new spirit of resourcefulness in urban design featuring numerous installations, videos, photographs, renderings, and models.

Highlights of the exhibition include:

City Meter, developed by Mayo Nissen and Scott Burnham in collaboration with the City of Boston, is an exploration into how parking meters can be repurposed to better serve all citizens of the city in which they are installed.

UTEC Water Billboard, proposed by the University of Engineering and Technology (UTEC) in Lima, Peru, converts the region's 98 percent relative humidity air into drinking water.

Urban Air, created by Los Angeles artist Stephen Glassman, represents an initiative to transform billboard structures into living, breathing, air-cleaning bamboo gardens.

Softwalks, designed by Bland Hoke and Howard Chambers, is a kit of parts including a chair, counter, light, and planter that, when attached to scaffolding structures, transform them into temporary assembled areas for public rest or play. Showing for the first time in Boston, this large installation features a new bench entirely funded by Kickstarter.

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About Scott Burnham

Scott Burnham has created and directed design and urban initiatives in 11 cities worldwide, ranging from short-term engagements and advisories to directing the \$32 million cultural regeneration project *Urbis, The Centre for Urban Culture* in Manchester, UK, and leading the *Trust Design* project for Premisela, the Netherlands Institute for Design and Fashion, in Amsterdam (now called the New Institute). After 16 years working and living in seven different cities and five countries since graduating from Boston University, *Reprogramming the City* marks Burnham's return to Boston.

About BSA Space

BSA Space (290 Congress Street, Boston) is Boston's leading cultural institution on architecture and design and home to the Boston Society of Architects. The BSA Space gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am–6:00 pm, and on weekends and holidays from 10:00 am–5:00 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit bsaspace.org.

About the Boston Society of Architects

The Boston Society of Architects (BSA) is committed to professional development for its members, advocacy on behalf of great design, and sharing an appreciation for the built environment with the public at large. Established in 1867, the BSA today consists of nearly 4,000 members and produces a diverse array of programs and publications, including ArchitectureBoston Expo and *ArchitectureBoston* magazine. A chapter of the American Institute

of Architects, the BSA is a nonprofit, professional-service organization. For more information, visit *architects.org*.

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