

Norman Foster Foundation

For Immediate Release

NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION ATELIER 20-24/11/2017 – ROBOTICS

- Norman Foster Foundation presents its first annual Robotics Atelier with the support of the Rolex Institute
- This year's Robotics Atelier, related to design and building, will be explored in a week-long event hosted in the Madrid Headquarters of the Norman Foster Foundation
- A distinguished group of specialists will engage with ten selected students from ten universities around the world who share a common interest in the subject. This year's Atelier mentor is Professor Mathias Kohler from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich.

The first Norman Foster Foundation Robotics Atelier will take place on 20-24 November 2017, supported by the Rolex Institute.

Ten scholarships have been given to students selected by the following universities and institutions: The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK; Institute for Computational Design and Construction (ICD), Stuttgart, Germany; Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), Madrid, Spain; National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore; Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, India; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), MA, USA; Universidad Iberoamericana de Ciencias y Tecnología, Santiago, Chile; Ashesi University, Accra, Ghana; Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland; Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), Barcelona, Spain.

Society is on the edge of being transformed through robotics and artificial intelligence. These technological innovations have the potential to change every aspect of our lives in far-reaching ways. Last June, in the Norman Foster Foundation's inaugural forum 'Future is Now', a glimpse was given into how the world of construction would be revolutionised by these developments in what could prove to be a second digital era.

The selected students will engage with a group of specialists through a series of seminars and lectures culminating in a five days workshop led by the Atelier mentor, Professor Mathias Kohler and his team. Leading robotics manufacturer Universal Robots will loan three units of their highly flexible robot arm, the UR5 Robot, to the Atelier.

Contributors to the workshop include Luis Miguel Ciprés, CEO of Barrabés Next, Pablo Jarauta, Coordinator of the European Institute of Design (IED) Scientific Committee, Amelie Klein, Curator at Vitra Museum, and Gijs Van der Velden, Co-CEO of MX3D.

The Robotics Atelier will include workshops, seminars, lectures, one-to-one tutoring, and development of projects by the students. As a way to disseminate knowledge and ideas, the public lectures will be recorded and live-streamed through the Norman Foster Foundation's website: www.normanfosterfoundation.org. The lectures will be documented for publication in an annual series published by the Norman Foster Foundation.

During the course of the workshops, participants will have the opportunity to engage with the Norman Foster Foundation's archive and research projects.

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Public lectures

22nd November at Espacio Fundación Telefónica - Fuencarral 3 28004 Madrid, Spain

- 18:00 h Lecture “The Robotic Touch” by Matthias Kohler, Gramazio Kohler Research, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- 19:00 h Matthias Kohler in conversation with Amelie Klein, Curator, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

Limited spaces are reserved for press. If you are interested in attending any of the events above, please contact us at press@normanfosterfoundation.org

If you wish to receive the programme and publication, please contact us at press@normanfosterfoundation.org

Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations of architects, designers and urbanists to anticipate the future.

We believe in the importance of connecting architecture, design, technology and the arts to better serve society and in the value of a holistic education that encourages experimentation through research and projects.

The Norman Foster Foundation holds the Norman Foster Archive and Library, which provide a window into the larger narrative and history of our built environment through the work of Norman Foster.

The Norman Foster Foundation is based in Madrid and operates globally.

Rolex Institute – Encouraging individual excellence through philanthropy and education

Driven by an unwavering pioneering spirit, Rolex SA is renowned for its many technical innovations in watchmaking that have made it a symbol of excellence around the globe. The company brand values of quality, know-how and individual achievement pervade all of its endeavours. Rolex is closely linked to many of the world's highest achievers and, since its beginnings, has supported visionary men and women in a variety of fields.

The Rolex Institute embodies this philosophy. Comprising the company's philanthropic programmes and educational initiatives, it aims at recognizing excellence and making a significant contribution to society.

Visit www.normanfosterfoundation.org for more information.

PRESS INQUIRIES

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