Lebbeus Woods: Architect
April 17 – June 15, 2014

Main Gallery
Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 16, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, Communications Director, The Drawing Center
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February 24, 2014

New York – The Drawing Center will present Lebbeus Woods: Architect, bringing together over 100 works from the past 35 years by one of the most influential architects in the field. Recognized beyond architecture, Lebbeus Woods (1940–2012) has been hailed by leading designers, filmmakers, writers, and artists alike as a significant voice in recent decades. His works resonate across many disciplines for their conceptual potency, imaginative breadth, jarring poetry, and ethical depth. The exhibition will feature drawings and models from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art’s (SFMOMA) collection, along with key loans from other major design collections. Lebbeus Woods: Architect is curated by Joseph Becker, Assistant Curator of Architecture and Design, and Jennifer Dunlop Fletcher, Helen Hilton Raiser Associate Curator of Architecture and Design, SFMOMA. Prior to opening at The Drawing Center, this exhibition premiered at SFMOMA, and is currently on view at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (through March 2, 2014).

Woods worked cyclically, returning often to themes of architecture’s ability to transform, resist, and free the collective and the individual. As an architect whose work lies almost solely in the realm of the imagined, proposed, and the unbuilt, his contributions to the field opened up new avenues for exploring, charting, and inscribing space. Lebbeus Woods: Architect provides a thematic, rather than chronological, framework for understanding the experimental and timeless nature of Woods’s work.

Acknowledging the parallels between society’s physical and psychological constructions, Woods depicted a career-long narrative of how these constructions transform our being. Working mostly,
but not exclusively, with pencil on paper, Woods created an oeuvre of complex worlds—at times abstract and at times explicit—that present shifts, cycles, repetitions within the built environment. His timeless architecture is not in a particular style or in response to a singular moment in the field; rather, it offers an opportunity to consider how buildings can impact the individual and the collective, and reflect contemporary political, social, and ideological conditions, and how one person contributes to the development and mutation of the built world.

In 2011, Woods wrote: "In my work, architecture is meant to embody an ideal of thought and action, informed by comprehensive knowledge of the physical world." The exhibition explores Woods’s evolutionary thinking through the recurring themes in his projects, including the political, ethical, social, and spatial implications of built forms. Many of Woods’s projects addressed cities damaged by war, such as Zagreb and Sarajevo, or damaged by nature, as in the San Francisco earthquake drawings. Additional works considered political divisions of space, like in Havana, Berlin, or Jerusalem. Woods also explored alternative architectures, which could complement and provoke existing tropes, as seen in *Nine Reconstructed Boxes* (1999). And possibly further afield, Woods suggested entirely new approaches to organizing space, as seen in his *Centricity* (1987–88) and *Conflict Space* (2006) series.

**ABOUT LEBBEUS WOODS**

Born in Lansing, Michigan, Woods studied at the Purdue University School of Engineering (1958–60) and the University of Illinois School of Architecture (1960–64). He worked for Eero Saarinen and Associates and Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo Associates (1964–68) before moving into private practice. Woods concentrated on theory and experimental projects from 1976 on; he exhibited, lectured, and published his projects worldwide, and wrote numerous articles of criticism about architectural practice and theory. Woods was a professor of architecture at Cooper Union, where he taught until his death in 2012. In addition to SFMOMA’s holdings—the most in-depth institutional collection of the artist’s work to date—his works are held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, MAK Vienna, and the Getty Research Institute. Woods’s projects and writing can also be explored in the archives of his blog at [lebbeuswoods.wordpress.com](http://lebbeuswoods.wordpress.com).
PUBLIC PROGRAM

Friday, April 18 at 6:30pm
The Drawing Center will host a conversation between curator Florence Ostende and artist Franz Erhard Walther on aesthetics, space, and architecture as part of the ART² program. ART² is presented in collaboration with the Institut français, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and FACE (French American Cultural Exchange).

Date TBD
An evening screening of the film Lebbeus Woods and Steven Holl: The Practice of Architecture followed by a conversation between architect Steven Holl and producer Michael Blackwood.

PUBLICATION
To accompany Lebbeus Woods: Architect, The Drawing Center will produce an extensively illustrated 160-page edition of the Drawing Papers series that will include essays by Jennifer Dunlop Fletcher and Joseph Becker, as well as an introduction by Brett Littman.

CREDITS
Lebbeus Woods: Architect is organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of Elise Jaffe + Jeffrey Brown, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Steven Holl + 32BNY, Edward Cella Art + Architecture, Friedman Benda, Stéphane Samuel and Robert Melvin Rubin.

The media sponsor is The Architect’s Newspaper.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER
The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm. Tickets: $5 Adults, $3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

FACEBOOK: The Drawing Center
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Images Available for Reproduction

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Graphite on paper, 23 in. x 24 in. (58.42 cm x 60.96 cm). Collection SFMOMA, purchase through a gift of the Members of the Architecture + Design Forum, SFMOMA Architecture and Design Accessions Committee, and the architecture and design community in honor of Aaron Betsky, Curator of Architecture, Design and Digital Projects, 1995–2001; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods

Lebbeus Woods, Conflict Space 4, 2006. Crayon and acrylic on linen, 74 x 120 in. (187.96 x 304.8 cm). Collection SFMOMA, purchase through a gift of anonymous donors and the Accessions Committee Fund; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods


Lebbeus Woods, Untitled, sketch for the series Nine Reconstructed Boxes, 1999. Ink on paper, 8 1/2 in. x 11 in. (21.59 cm x 27.94 cm); Collection SFMOMA, Accessions Committee Fund purchase; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods

Lebbeus Woods, Unified Urban Field, from the series Centricity [no. 37], 1987. Graphite on paper, 24 in. x 23 in. (60.96 cm x 58.42 cm). Collection SFMOMA, purchase through a gift of Ned and Catherine Topham and the Accessions Committee Fund; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods

Lebbeus Woods, San Francisco Project: Inhabiting the Quake, Quake City, 1995. Graphite and pastel on paper, 14 1/2 in. x 23 in. x 3/4 in. (36.83 cm x 58.42 cm x 1.91 cm). Collection SFMOMA, Accessions Committee Fund purchase © Estate of Lebbeus Woods