The V&A to take part in the 2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen) in December

The V&A, London, will present *Unidentified Acts of Design* at the 2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (2015 UABB) in Shenzhen, opening on 4 December 2015. The theme of the display emerged out of wider ongoing research undertaken by the V&A as it prepares to open a new gallery of design in Shenzhen in 2017. *Unidentified Acts of Design* will explore the particular creative environment that can be found in Shenzhen and examine the design intelligence that has developed outside of the conventional design studio context.

Presented through a series of objects and oral histories, *Unidentified Acts of Design* will explore instances of design that have occurred or are currently emerging in Shenzhen and the Pearl River Delta outside of the conventional designer studio. This will include examples taken from urban villages, production facilities, the work of part-time makers and inventors and the open-source system of manufacturing in the city.

*Unidentified Acts of Design* aims to show how in a region of unprecedented growth, which has long served as ‘the factory of the world’, design acts can take on unconventional forms and occur in unpredictable places, redefining our understanding of design history in the region. Challenging the notion that design in Shenzhen is limited to reproductions with little originality, the exhibition will seek to uncover innovative design pieces that have developed in the region. The display will be curated by Brendan Cormier and Luisa E. Mengoni from the V&A.

The V&A was one of the highlight exhibitors at 2013 UABB and won the Public Choice Award for their presentation *Rapid Response Collecting*. This display engaged designers, architects, curators and others to collect objects representative of the invisible forces that shaped the reality of the city.

Tim Reeve, Deputy Director & Chief Operating Officer of the V&A, introduced the Museum’s engagement with 2015 UABB as the Biennale announced its full exhibitor list today. Reeve said: “We are delighted to host the launch of the 2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture here at the V&A. The Museum has a long history of working in and with China, and most recently in Shenzhen as we support the China Merchants Group in creating the Shekou Design Museum. 2015 will be the second time we have presented at the Biennale and we are really excited to have another opportunity to shine a light on the creativity that is shaping the dynamic city of Shenzhen.”
UABB is the world’s only biennale dedicated to the themes of urbanism and urbanization. Curated by Aaron Betsky, Alfredo Brillembourg, Hubert Klumpner and Doreen Liu, as well as featuring over 75 exhibitors, 2015 UABB will be set around the central theme Re-Living The City. 2015 UABB will enable the participants to explore how the reimagining, repurposing, and remaking of our existing urban spaces and architecture can improve the way people experience cities.

2015 UABB will open in Shenzhen on 4 December 2015, and will take over the former Dacheng Flour Factory in Shekou, Shenzhen, one of China’s first Special Economic Zones. The Xipu New Residence in Longgang District will act as an affiliated venue.

Notes to Editors

About the V&A
The V&A is the world’s greatest museum of art and design with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A’s collections, which span over 5000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform. The V&A recently embarked on a pioneering collaboration with China Merchants Group (CMG) to support CMG in establishing in Shenzhen the Shekou Design Museum. Within the new museum the V&A will have a dedicated gallery of international design drawn from the V&A’s world renowned collection. Special V&A touring exhibitions will also be presented at the Shekou Design Museum, opening in 2017.

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About UABB
Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (UABB) is currently the only biennial exhibition in the world to be based exclusively on the set themes of urbanism and urbanization. Co-organized by the two neighboring and closely interacting cities of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, UABB situates itself within the regional context of the rapidly urbanizing Pearl River Delta, concerns itself with globally common urban issues, extensively communicates and interacts with the wider public, is presented using expressions of contemporary visual culture, and engages international, avant-garde dimensions as well as discourses of public interest. UABB is a forward-thinking biennale that focuses on the conceptual issues on urbanism and architecture. With around 770 exhibits and 310 activities since the biennale launched in 2005, UABB has attracted over 860,000 visitors worldwide. The past five editions of UABB(SZ) have investigated a range of themes including ‘Urban Village & Spontaneous City’, ‘City of Expiration and Regeneration’, ‘Public Space’, ‘Urban-rural Relationship and Agriculture’, and ‘Border/Edge’. The research, ideas and discussions have made a significant impact on the global discourse on architecture and urbanism as well as on Shenzhen, a ”Vanguard“ city. This year, 2015 UABB (SZ) will be curated by four of the world’s leading architects, critics, and educators: Aaron Betsky, Alfredo Brillembourg, Hubert Klumpner, and Doreen Heng Liu. Drura Parrish of Parrish Holdings and MakeTime, and Droog, led by Renny Ramakers, will contribute.
as co-curators of the Biennale. Graphic design and exhibition design will be led by Netherlands based firm Thonik, supported by the Chinese design studio Another.

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