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**DUPONT  
UNDERGROUND**

## **Dupont Underground** Announces the Winner of the *Re-Ball!* International Design Competition



### ***Raise/Raze*** by **Hou de Sousa**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — March 21, 2016 — The [Dupont Underground](#) is thrilled to announce the winner of [Re-Ball!](#), an open design competition for a site-specific installation in the former streetcar station below Dupont Circle. The winning proposal was submitted by [Hou de Sousa](#), an award-winning architecture and design studio based in New York City.

***Raise/Raze*** transforms the 650,000 three-inch, translucent plastic balls from the **National Building Museum's *Beach*** exhibit into an assembly block system that is fully reconfigurable. While the installation will open with pre-assembled "zones", visitors will be free to alter the installation to create their own objects and spaces.

"We were inspired by the competition brief's emphasis on repurposing a material," the design team explained. "We proposed a re-usable system, rather than a specific form or design, resulting in a dynamic and direct relationship between creation and destruction. *Raise/Raze* is like sand in a massive sandbox; it allows its users to alter their surroundings with ease."

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"The jury was particularly struck by the interactive potential of Hou de Sousa's proposal," said Craig Cook, an architect with the design studio [Archotus](#), director of Re-ball!. "We were impressed with how their design translated a material concept into a social concept. Visitors will activate the installation and implicitly engage in a democratic process: some build, some destroy, some work together, some work alone. It is a piece that is especially relevant to Washington."

"Raise/Raze is the first ever art installation in the old station and the first time it has been opened up for use in two decades," said Philippa Hughes, Dupont Underground board member. "The exhibition will establish Dupont Underground as a place for world-class community engagement and creative exchange through the arts. It's not what anyone expects to see in D.C. and we're happy about that!"

Hou de Sousa is the design practice of Jia Min Nancy Hou and Josh de Sousa, who began collaborating in 2010, shortly after graduating from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Recent awards and honors include: Finalist for the 2015 City of Dreams Competition, a Notable Entry in the 2015 Socrates Park Folly Competition, and the Winning Restaurant Design for the IIDA's 2015 Best Interiors of Latin America and the Caribbean Competition.

Due to the interactive nature of the installation, visiting ReBall!: Raise/Raze will be in small groups by reservation only. To reserve admission for the installation exhibition, Dupont Underground encourages advance registration through their [Indiegogo](#) crowdfunding campaign Open These Doors! Donors at the \$25 level receive priority when making a reservation during the exhibition, which will run April 30 - June 1, 2016.

#### **ABOUT RE-BALL!**

Re-Ball! is the result of Dupont Underground's partnership with the National Building Museum to reuse the hundreds of thousands of translucent 3-inch plastic balls that were part of the museum's blockbuster BEACH installation last summer. In addition to donating the balls, the National Building Museum's Executive Director Chase Rynd served on the competition jury.

The Re-Ball! design competition call-for-entries closed on March 4th with over 150 registrants, which included 92 proposals from 19 different countries. All submissions can be viewed at [re-ball.org](#). The prestigious competition jury consisted of:

**Julian Hunt**, Founder, Dupont Underground; architect and Co-Principal, Hunt Laudi Studio.

**Chase W. Rynd**, Executive Director, National Building Museum.

**Vesela Sretenović**, Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Phillips Collection.

**Michael Kubo**, Co-Founding Partner, Collective-LOK.

**Tendani Mpulubusi EI**, Founder, Tendani Studio.

**Ultramoderne**, Yasmin Vobis and Aaron Forrest, Principals.

"The response we received for Re-Ball! was amazing. While there were many local entrants, we also received entries from all over the world, from artists and designers across many disciplines", said Philippa Hughes. "The combination of our unique space, an intriguing design problem, and a stellar jury of internationally known curators and designers, really elevated the profile of this competition."

Created in collaboration with District design studio Archotus, the Re-Ball! competition was open to everyone: artists, architects, designers, and the general public. The competition asked entrants to repurpose the plastic balls in a way that engaged and responded to the unique qualities of the

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Dupont Underground's east platform, a massive, curving, 14,000-square-foot venue. Complete Re-Ball! information is available at the competition website: [re-ball.org](http://re-ball.org).

The Phillips Collection, the venerated museum of Modern art that sits just blocks from the Dupont Underground space, is also a Re-Ball! institutional partner. The Phillips' Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Vesela Sretenovic also served on the jury. Additionally, the museum will work with the Dupont Underground on cultural event programming and venue collaboration during the exhibition's run.

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### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **ABOUT THE DUPONT UNDERGROUND**

The Dupont Underground, a nonprofit organization, is revitalizing a forgotten piece of Washington, D.C., history — the old streetcar station beneath Dupont Circle — as an exciting new venue for arts and design; live music, theater, and dance; and other creative endeavors. We seek to establish a cultural destination that partners with emerging voices, encourages public engagement in arts and culture, and leverages our long-term development as a catalytic force for the District in the 21st century. • [dupontunderground.org](http://dupontunderground.org)

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM**

The National Building Museum is America's leading cultural institution dedicated to advancing the quality of the built environment by educating people about its impact on their lives. Through its exhibitions, educational programs, online content, and publications, the Museum has become a vital forum for the exchange of ideas and information about the world we build for ourselves. • [nbm.org](http://nbm.org)

### **ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION**

The Phillips Collection, America's first museum of Modern art, is one of the world's most distinguished collections of Impressionist and Modern American and European art. Stressing the continuity between art of the past and present, it offers a strikingly original and experimental approach to Modern art by combining works of different nationalities and periods in displays that change frequently. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum, supported primarily by donations. • [phillipscollection.org](http://phillipscollection.org)