Urban Europe

Marini, Gioia, van Wageningen, Anne, Mamadouh, Virginie

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Part 5
Urban representation
The fifth theme is urban representation, in both senses of the word: ‘representation’ as imagination and identity on the one hand, and as a representative function in relations with other parties on the other. This section opens with a speech given during the Holland Festival 2015 by the Mayor of Amsterdam, Eberhard van der Laan, about the ideal European city. Following this, Michael Wintle opens our eyes to striking buildings in the city of Amsterdam, which can reveal to us how local, national and continental identities are interwoven. Patricia Pisters offers a very different kind of visual exploration that compares the filmmaker Eddy Terstall with Spinoza in her essay ‘An eye for freedom’. Luiza Bialasiewicz highlights the problems involved in using the city for the rebranding of the nation-state, using Krakow and the rebranding of Poland as a full-fledged European nation as examples.

The other three contributions address the theme of diplomacy. Herman van der Wusten sees the city as backdrop in the diplomacy of states. Claske Vos, in contrast, examines diplomacy between European cities and Virginie Mamadouh focuses specifically on partnerships between cities.