# *The Giant Dolls’ House Project*

# *London Festival of Architecture 2016*

May 25 – July 15

 *‘A dolls’ house made in a shoebox reflects the ideas, dreams, hopes, whims and ideas of its creator.’ When assembled onto a black canvas and linked with ropes and ramps and ladders, the shoeboxes form a patchwork of spaces, ideas and colours that all become related: a Giant Dolls’ House.*

The first giant dolls’ house was developed between October 14 and October 18 in 2014 in TESTBED1 in Battersea, as part of an installation, a *Giant Kitchen Island-Peepshow*, by Catja de Haas. The project consisted in total of about 200 shoeboxes. Since then there have been installations at Shelter HQ during London Festival of Architecture 2015, at 80 the Gallery on Richmond Hill. Workshops were also held at the Windmill on the Wimbledon Common, Bournemouth University department of architecture and # Transacting Values on the Horses Parade and at a Fun Palace Event in Raynes Park.

The aim of the project is to raise money for the housing and homelessness charity Shelter and an awareness of how houses and communities can grow (the theme of the 2016 London Festival of Architecture is Communities). The organisers carry out workshops, in the UK and abroad, encourage people to organise their own workshops and to document the results.

The next *Giant Dolls’ House Project* is in Maestro Arts, One Eastfields Avenue, SW18 1FQ, 23 May and 15 July (15 July being the last day of the exhibition). As part of the London Festival of Architecture professional architects and local schoolchildren will participate and donate boxes to the project.

**About the Organisers**

The project is the result of ongoing research by **Catja de Haas** into the use of dolls’ houses and imaginary homes as a way to explore domesticity and architecture. Catja is a qualified architect, holds an MSc from the Architecture department of the Technical University Delft, an MA in housing and Urbanism from the Architectural Association and a PhD by Architectural Design from the Bartlett school of the Built environment from UCL. She has worked for award winning architectural practices as well as with her own practice, on housing projects in Japan, Malaysia, Barcelona, France, the Netherlands and the UK. She has exhibited her work and has been a visiting critic at several universities in London and the Netherlands.

Workshops are run by **Lala Thorpe**, director of Artescape Ltd. Artescape is an independently run company that provides an extensive programme of practical and creative workshops that encourages children to explore their own ideas through a wide range of materials and techniques and through exploring and understanding the work of contemporary artists and designers also through investigating historical and cultural references. Lala recently completed an MA in Arts Education and Contemporary Practice at Goldsmiths College and also delivers schools-workshops in museums and galleries across London.

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Maestro Arts owns the encompassing portfolio of skills required to represent and manage artists, originate and develop creative projects, and sell and promote major artworks to the market.

**Instructions for participants**

The dolls’ rooms can be made from recycled materials: shoeboxes, wallpaper sample books, old magazines, empty packaging, wrapping paper, old fabric. Plasticine©, lollipop sticks, matchsticks, cotton wool, paper and card.

Though the project leaves you completely free to decide what you want to make there are a few things you should know:

Please make sure that the lid doesn’t stick out from the bottom or the top of the box, nor is attached to the back, nor is glued to the back of the box. It is difficult for the organisers to staple the box to the canvas if the lid is on the back, and it is difficult to see other boxes, or the interior of the box if the lid is attached to the bottom.

If you make a ‘façade’, make sure it can be taken off so your work can be stapled to the canvas. We have ramps and ropes and ladders, but if you have a specific idea about how your box should be connected with the other dolls’ houses you are welcome to make your own.

We aim for the boxes to reach Maestro Arts on May 23 between 9.30am – 6pm, for alternative arrangements please send an email to shoebox4shelter@gmail.com. Please make sure you include the £1 for Shelter with your dolls’ house and to fill out the form at the bottom of the page. Thank you so much again for participating!



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| Name: Contact:I like my box back and will make sure it is picked up by July 15/ I want to sell my box (the proceeds will go to Shelter, but you will be reimbursed your £1/ other: I am happy for my box to be photographed and used in promotions and merchandise for the Giant Dolls’ house project if the profits go to the Housing and Homelessness Charity Shelter. Signature:Disclaimer: The Giant dolls project cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred during transport, or collation of the dolls houses to the canvas. If the dolls’ houses are too difficult to hang, because they were not made according to the guidelines drafted above, the Giant Dolls’house holds the right to exclude them from the installation.   |

