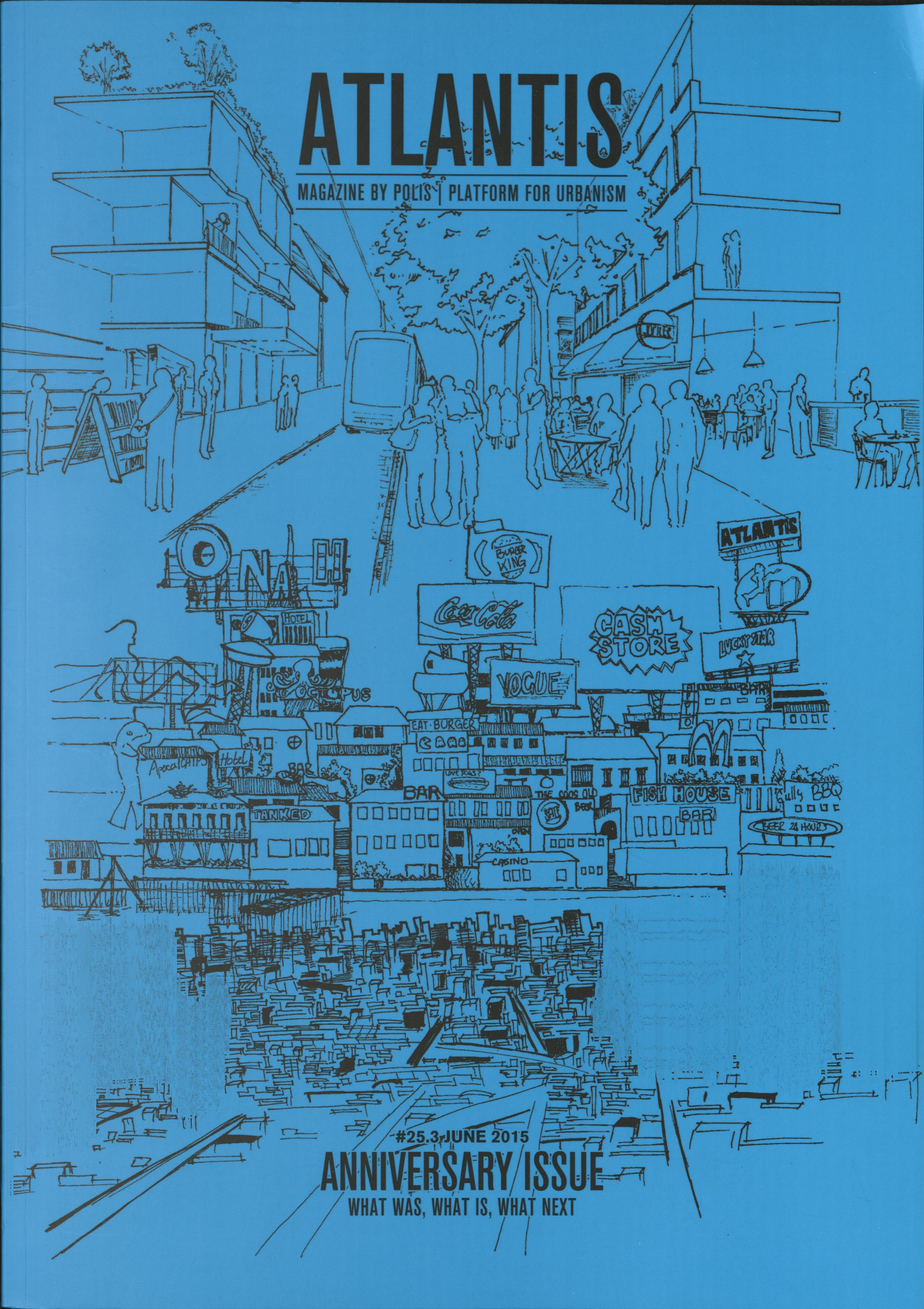


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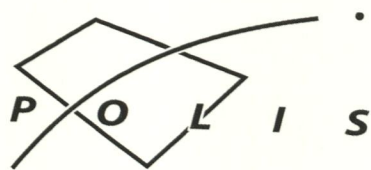
MAGAZINE BY POLIS | PLATFORM FOR URBANISM



#25.3 JUNE 2015

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, WHAT NEXT



FROM THE BOARD

Committees 2015

We could not be as visible as we are without the great effort of a lot of active students. With the help of them we can organise excursions, lectures, workshops, drinks and events. The Polis board wants to thank all the people involved for their great efforts and positive input!

We are always looking for enthusiastic people to join. Interested in one of the Polis committees? Do not hesitate to contact us at our Polis office (01.west.350) or by mail: contact@polistudelft.nl

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SMALL TRIP
EDUCATION
EVENTS

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Kim van Doesburg – Secretary
Nikita Baliga – Treasurer
Daniela Haug – Events
Mark Disco – Public Relations
Ting Wei Chu – Atlantis



polistudelft.nl

Atlantis goes around the world!

The academic year 2014-15 marks the 25th year anniversary of Polis and the Atlantis magazine. On this special occasion, we intend to elevate the visibility of Atlantis to an international audience and grow to be a platform for knowledge and information exchange between international universities and our members. This is achieved by reaching out and sharing our student works and activities to the student bodies of other Urbanism and Landscape Architecture faculties around the world, through our international student body, board and alumni.

As a first step to achieve this goal, we have connected with student bodies of Urban/Landscape Design and Architecture schools in Asia, North America, Europe, South America and Australia. Today, we share our Atlantis magazines with Tongji University (China), National University of Singapore, University of Tokyo (Japan), University of Waterloo (Canada), Graduate School of Design Harvard (USA), ETH Zurich (Switzerland), University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), University of Sydney (Australia), to name a few.

Through this friendly gesture, we encourage them to share their student work and research with us, thus positioning ourselves as a platform for exchange of knowledge, information and ideas on Urbanism and Landscape Architecture between students and professionals around the world. We would like to thank our student members, friends and alumni who helped us in establishing these connections.

Moreover, as part of the Urban and Landscape week 2015, we are hosting an international alumni event to re-establish and rejuvenate our connections with the alumni. Through this event we intend to foster networking opportunities and collaborations between our student members, professional members, alumni and our new international collaborators. Therefore, we look forward to meeting our members and alumni in October this year. Please visit our new website www.polistudelft.nl to keep track of our exciting events & activities and to access the archive of the Atlantis magazines.

We present before you the 25th Anniversary edition of Atlantis magazine, a zealous effort of our Atlantis team. Through this effort, we honour and thank the work of the former Atlantis editorial teams and the Polis boards. We wish you a very pleasant reading.

Polis board 2015,

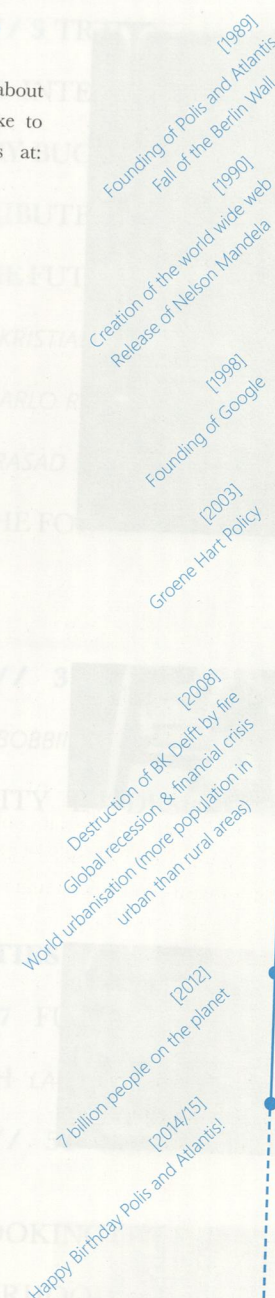
Daniela Haug, Kim Van Doesburg, Mark Disco, Nikita Baliga, Rakesh Naduvath Mana, Ting Wei Chu

ATLANTIS

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Atlantis Volume #25

Are you passionate about urbanism and would like to contribute? Contact us at: atlantis@polistudelft.nl



EDITORIAL

Welcome to this special anniversary edition of Atlantis!

It's been just over 25 years since students, alumni and staff founded Polis and shortly after, its magazine Atlantis. Since then, the organisation and magazine have been carefully passed from hand to hand and seen times of remarkable change.

As such, we take this opportunity to reflect on this story line that we are part of, and explore a range of topics and questions relating to urbanism and landscape architecture over time. The articles collected here reflect on the past, critique the present and are provocative about the future.

Thinking about time serves us well. It opens doors to new critical terrain, aiding us in the development of new ideas and new drivers of change. To reflect and postulate on the surrounding world in such a way is to wield significant agency; shaping discussion and guiding action. However, this agency is by no means determinant. The future's direction is constantly shifting and remains uncertain, just as Orwell's vision for 1984 did not come to pass. Moreover, the past is far from a stable foundation from which to move forward, being continually open to interpretation and reinterpretation.

In our cities and landscapes this complex, shifting story forms layers: in spatial or architectural form, in memories and associations, or even the layers of earth beneath our feet. How we can grasp this multiplicity, depth and complexity, whilst still enabling new generations to play their part in the story, is one of the crucial questions we face, and that this issue of Atlantis attempts to address.

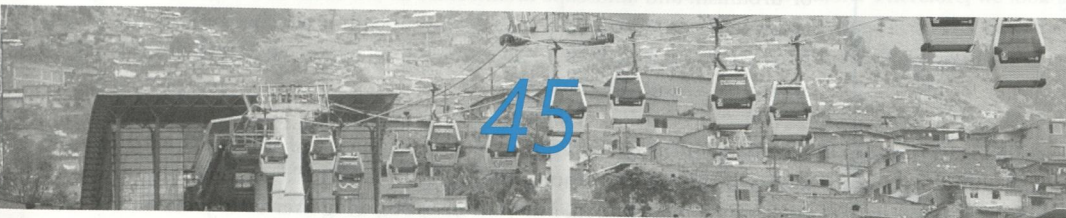
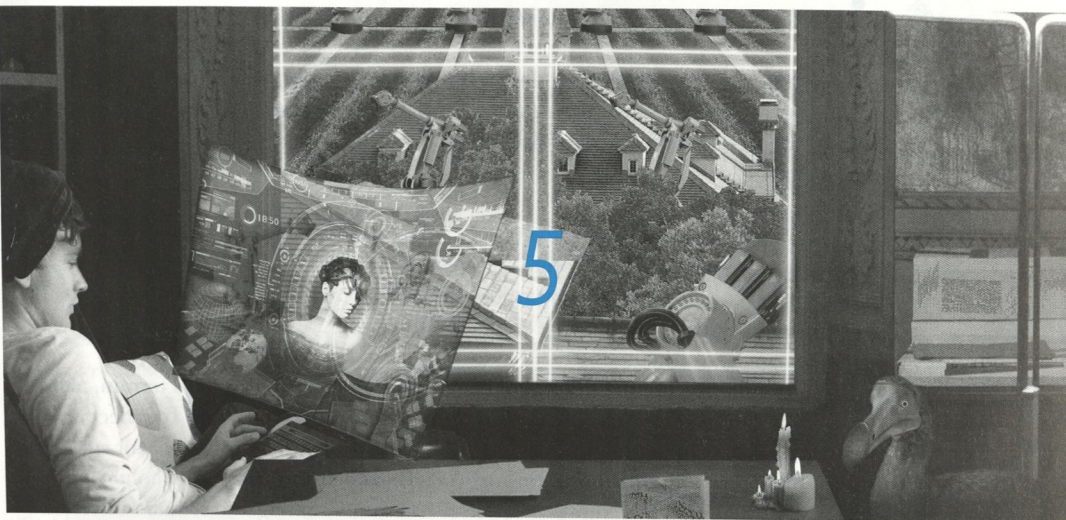
As we mark this anniversary, it's also an exciting time for Polis and Atlantis, as we look to build a more international network and continue to enrich the field of urbanism and landscape architecture at TU Delft and beyond. We hope you enjoy reading this magazine and find it thought-provoking and informative. If you'd like to contribute to a future edition, please get in touch with us at atlantis@polistudelft.nl.

Finally, this issue of our 25th volume marks a year of change. From a radically new editorial team to a new graphic style. I would like to thank our team members Ioana Ionescu, Maryam Behpour, Ting-Wei Chu, Jelske Streefkerk and Laura Garcia for their huge effort and enthusiasm, Eva van Rijen who joined us especially for this edition, and in particular Sarem Sunderland, Gijds de Haan and Alkmini Papaioannou for their patience and dedication in the graphic elaboration of Atlantis. I am specially thankful to Kate Unsworth, with whom we have shared responsibilities this final part of the year, and announce her as next year's editor-in-chief. I'm sure that together they will improve the quality of our dear magazine. I wish you all success and a joyful experience publishing Atlantis.

On behalf of the editorial team we wish you enjoyable reading!

bibliotheek
Het Nieuwe Instituut

Luis Montenegro & Kate Unsworth



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The future is here... looking back at us

by
Burrasca
Italy

"How do you imagine it was people's lives 400 years ago?" she asked "Well, as far as I know, they believed that technology would have changed the shape of cities, poor stupids!", Patrik told her, drinking his second super energizing drink.

"Well," Benedetta said a little annoyed by what she considered to be the usual Patrik's usual carelessness, "isn't it funny though? they didn't understand that they were already in the future, I mean"...

Suddenly she was interrupted by an ear-splitting metal sound outside her tastefully built house's window. She knew what it was, some days there were too many drones around, so they had to pass close to the houses annoying everybody inside, but it was the only way the drones could properly do their job. She knew it, she had changed the protocols in order to permit it.

Since she couldn't hear really well that moment, or simply because she wanted to provoke Patrik, she yelled at him: "the future was already there!"

"Yes, they had robots, sure, they had the technology, but they thought it would have changed the form of the city, they didn't know how their future would actually have been, they didn't understand that form doesn't depend on technology!" Patrik said, knowing where the conversation would go once again. Suddenly a notification appeared on Patrik's screen and he continued: "they didn't know that the future of humanity would have been a matter of performance"...

Those days, in 2492, while the city had become an infrastructure for the production of goods, people lived in datas, everybody believed in "big data" as a God, and information was their messiah. They were all self-regulated in what could be called a kind of advanced WEB: a graphic representation of the digital datas where they happily lived their lives and where their social interactions were set in an auto-indulgent and virtual pleasure. After a few news passing in hiscognitive station (that's how they called the computers then) Patrik continued: "I mean!, they used the streets for cars, they produced a lot of pollution! Today

everything is green, smart and clean. Would you say that, let's say in 2015, society was modern?"
"Of course not Patrik, but..."

Without permitting Benedetta to conclude her thought, he abruptly said: "look outside your window! Everything outside your window, I mean everything!, is done by robots and technology is working for us! The whole city is a perfect and highly technological machine. Can you imagine back then? Going to work!!!!, No no no, listen, they weren't modern!! There were more than seven billion people on the planet, there were races, there were differences, today we live in our pretty cities, there isn't criminality, what could you want more, Benedetta?"

"I know, it was a Middle-age but still, how was their life meeting people at work? Have you ever imagined that? Of course I do think like you that..."

That day, Patrik had already received 73 emails in the last two hours and being tired as he was, he surely didn't want to broach this subject again with Benedetta, so he said, interrupting her: "ahhh! I prefer to live in a greener and smarter world, don't you? I mean!, we can speak this way, no problem, we have no need to meet, not anymore! Back then there wasn't any real automation, they only had the WEB, can you imagine how primitive their information was?! Thank god the revolutions failed, otherwise we wouldn't live in such an efficient world! Benedetta, come on!, don't be stupid!"

"You're right," she said, "but what if the world we live in was an ideology? What if the city was something different from a technological infrastructure? What if we lived there instead of living here in this black hole of information?"

At this point, Patrik was just annoyed by Benedetta's disbelief in technology, so, while he was trying to imagine an excuse he hadn't already used with her to interrupt the conversation, for a moment he looked outside his XVIIIth century house's window. The sky above the port was the colour of a computer screen, connected to a glitching page. •

Burrasca is a cultural association based in Genoa. It is configured as an open and plural platform of discussion which aims to propose reflections, information and activities about Architecture under a large range of meanings. To see more of their work, visit www.burrasca.eu.

Colophon

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Editor in Chief

Luis Montenegro & Kate Unsworth

Editorial Team

Maryam Behpour,	Ting-Wei Chu,
Laura Garcia,	Gijs de Haan,
Ioana Ionescu,	Luis Montenegro,
Alkmini Papaioannou,	Yos Purwanto,
Jelske Streefkerk,	Sarem Sunderland,
Eva van Rijen	Kate Unsworth

Editorial Address

Polis, Platform for Urbanism
Julianalaan 134, 2628 BL Delft
office: 01 West 350 tel. +31 (0)15-2784093
www.polistudelft.nl atlantis@polistudelft.nl

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Laura Garcia, Luis Montenegro, Alkmini Papaioannou

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