



Vacant NL, the Dutch entry at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2010 created by Rietveld landscape, makes a powerful plea for reuse of the thousands of empty state-owned buildings to be found throughout the Netherlands. In their own words, the "installation 'Vacant NL, where architecture meets ideas' calls upon the Dutch government to make use of the enormous potential of inspiring, unoccupied buildings from the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries for innovation within the creative knowledge economy" (www.rietveldlandscape.com). The above picture shows the 4326 buildings that were documented in the Dutch Atlas of Vacancy and scale modeled in blue foam to be shown at the Biennale. The Dutch Association for Brokers (NVM) researched vacancy in the Netherlands in 2010, coming to the conclusion that 6.2 million square kilometers of office space is vacant which is tantamount to 13% of the total stock, whereas at the same time at least 18,000 hectares of industrial estates need to be restructured. For the exhibition, Rietveld landscape focused on the more cultural and unique buildings to show the opportunities and potential for their (temporary) reuse in connection to the creative knowledge economy.