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B_NIEUWS

monthly periodical | march 02, 2009

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Pays Bas

Architectural positions

Rules NO Rules

Veldacademie

Building for Bouwkunde

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The Municipality of Rotterdam and the Faculty of Architecture opened a local Research- and Design center for urban regeneration in Rotterdam: the FieldAcademy. The center is located in the transformation area Oud-Charlois, Rotterdam. Students, researchers and local residents participate in creating a new approach to city development with the wellbeing of its citizens, its community, its environment and economy in mind. By continuously processing future scenario's the approach is tested and improved.

Field

Meeting place for theory, research and urban practice
BY OTTO TRIENEKENS



colofon

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Unsolicited articles can have a maximum of 1000 words;
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have an insinuating, accusing or vindictory character
or contain unnecessary coarse language. The editorial
board informs the author(s) concerning the reason for its
decision, directly after it has been made.

System Change

Western cities are confronted with growing and persistent problems, resulting in criminality, poverty gaps, neighbourhood deterioration and unemployment. During the past fifty years the Municipality tried to present solutions, but did not succeed in establishing sustainable examples. After years of investment in the urban areas under attention, the situation has improved very little. Many districts in Rotterdam still face complex social issues, degeneration and crime. Apart from numerous causes at micro- and macro level, a one-sided sectoral approach from the local government and insufficient coherence in implementation are causing problems as well. Various well-intentioned parties operate exclusively from their own perspective, while also from a district orientated perspective. However, superimposing these solutions doesn't seem to result in the sustainable solution required. We don't seem to create a good link between different scales in urban development and the relationship "inhabitant – living environment – city" is not present as a result. Therefore the Municipality of Rotterdam is experimenting with an integral, "district-driven approach" in urban development. The method is derived from the issues faced by the district and its inhabitants. This means that the district, its inhabitants and the implementators in the field leading and the deployment of local authority efforts is following. A

District Director is coordinating the various activities in the area. Bureau Frontlijn is supporting the District Director by developing a script for district based guidance and control.

Oud Charlois

The district of Oud-Charlois is situated on the southbank of the river Maas and has been assigned one of the pilot areas to develop the district-driven approach. Charlois became a characteristic independent municipality in 1895. Since then Rotterdam decided to expand the harbour activities south of the river, Charlois was annexated and has been part of the city ever since. Huge harbour related industries settled in the area and even an airport was built. To accomodate the growing population of harbour workers, the grounds around the ancient village were filled up with cheap housing. The expansion and automatisation of the harbor itself and of the harbour related industries resulted in extensive unemployment of harbour workers, while other large industries slowly left the area. Since the 1970's Oud Charlois started to deteriorate. The largely outworn housing stock becomes an attractive residence for lower income groups, emigrants and more recently, guest workers from countries of the former Eastern Block. Principally with the help of some local artist collectives the potential of the area came back into

view and since the 90's various initiatives have been released by the inhabitants. Basically the district of Oud Charlois consists of 3 different transformation zones: the area enclosed by the dykes, the transitional zone from residential area to harbour area, and the industrial- and harbour area outside the dykes. The interconnection between the zones concerning the social, economical and physical perspective forms an important focus point within the design task.

Research & Design

The opening of a local Research and Design center forms one of the experiments in Oud Charlois. To sustain the process of integral district driven processes a growing demand is shown for an institute, continuously surveying, and providing insight in all variables related to urban transformation. In February last year talks began with the dean of the faculty Wytze Patijn, to determine whether a co-operation with the Faculty of Architecture and the Municipality of Rotterdam, in erecting and operating such a center, would be a viable opportunity. Since a closer relationship between academic education and practice seemed to be a priority, the decision was made to persist with the co-operation. Meanwhile the search for a building started. The

Academy Rotterdam



Historic center of Oud Charlois surrounded by apartment blocks



Deteriorated housing stock in Oud Charlois

main conditions formed were easy access for the neighbourhood, visibility and placement in the heart of the district. Finally a former and long time abandoned shop in Oud Charlois has been renovated with the help of some local artists. The renovation directly addressed the potential of decayed space in the base of housing blocks. By low-tech renovation solutions and with little money a distinguishable center has been constructed, while the quality of public space has simultaneously been altered. The renovation project was supported by students of our faculty.

Part of the building has been arranged as a comfortable studio space for students. Other spaces are equipped for presentation and debate, with high-end technical facilities like a Smartboard, a graduation studio, office spaces, and a space for model building.

The FieldAcademy was officially opened about 4 months ago, on October 17th (2008). Part of the ceremony was a panel debate attended by Hamit Karakus, alderman of housing and urban development, Frank van der Hoeven, replacing dean Wytze Patijn, Stefan van der Spek, researcher with the department of Urbanism, Piet van Namen, District Director, Barend Rombout, chief of Bureau Frontlijn, and Otto Trienekens of the FieldAcademy Board. The discussion was moderated by the chief of the local center for architecture (Air), Patrick van der Klooster, and addressed the question of the

necessity of an institute like FieldAcademy. Inhabitants and local organisations participated in the discussion. In general there seemed to be a common agreement on the need of collecting and providing an overall knowledge of urban transformation. The opening resulted in an informal neighbourhood reception for everybody interested. The event was dressed up by an exhibiton of design results of the MSc2 studio of Frank de Josselin de Jong, dealing with an extensive fabrication and analysis of Rotterdam City Parks.

Cross-sectioning

At the moment various educational programs are being linked to FieldAcademy. The MSc2 studio Urban Design and City Analysis is focussing on the relationship of program and the quality of public space, while the BSc6 studio "design strategies for deterioration areas" is defining its unique personal projects by interviewing local inhabitants and occupants. Therefore a so called "confrontation lecture" has been organised, where people from the area inform students about life in the district. The studio is directed by Fokke Wind and Remon Rooij. Our aim is to organise different studios for at least the coming 5 years, meanwhile probably opening other hubs of Fieldacademy in several transformation areas. This particular setup provides a continuity in research&design giving a great advantage

to all participants involved. A central and general accessible database contains all projects and research data. Besides cross-sectioning, the various studios and activities might be addressed as an important surplus value. Lectures, presentations and workshops of educational studios and third parties will be public, and if possible, publically accessible.

GIS

In order to invent and visualise data of various social, economic and physical origin within one single system, a new "language" has to be developed. The starting point is formed by linking all data to the built/ geographical environment of the district. Therefore, and while considering the availability of resources and techniques, the choice is made to use a Geographic Information Systems (GIS). A collaboration has been started between several municipal services and the Faculty of Architecture to develop the new language.

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editorial

Rules / No Rules

Rules. From the day you are born you are confronted with all kinds of rules. How to behave, how to speak, how to dress and so forth. It gives you something to hold on, but at the same time they can be pain in the ass.

No Rules. Remember when you were a kid and the teacher went out of classroom for a while? What a sense of freedom! Complete fun and chaos at the same time. Suddenly paper planes start flying through the air, everybody is making jokes. The teacher comes back:

Rules. The Netherlands is a country of rules, everything is regulated, so are the people, everyone seems to be down to earth, disciplined in their work or study. Those, who want to escape, go the phenomenon which recurs every year in February:

Carnival. Drinking, lousy music, party, the 'polonaise', 'hossen', drinking again, fun, chaos. For a short while, there are completely no rules. Relations are ending because grown up people cheat on each other, 'carnival'-babies are being made!

Rules or No Rules. They need each other. Without the Joker there would be no Batman right? Without rules you can't have as much fun as when there are none. So I conclude: break the rules from time to time. But of course, don't get caught! In the end you will appreciate the rules even more. That's why people turning back from carnival seemed to have a peace of mind (or they are just still drunk).

In this edition, there are different projects that are trying to challenge rules. The Field Academy tries to link the rules of the everyday experience to design. In 10 ways we give you some clever tips, in how you can break a rule without getting caught. In the guide to Holland a Turk and a Dutch give their views about breaking the rules. The Why Factory researched the city of Hong Kong based on data but then they completely let loose of any rule whatsoever to create their Hong Kong Fantasies. In the Architectural Positions seminars different architects and artists talked about rules of forming the public sphere. Last but not least, in our forum (please keep sending in your opinions) there is one who is fed up with the rules at our faculty.

When was your last time you broke a rule?

All the best,

Dino

FieldAcademy: Urban Innovation

As the necessary system change in urban transformation requires a broad perspective on the whole range of opportunities, ongoing experiments and present methods the Technical University of Delft and the Municipality of Rotterdam (Department of Urban Planning&Housing) will launch an extensive post-doc / promotion research program. With the support of Hans Goedhart (chief-director dS+V, Gem.Rotterdam), Jacob Fokkema (Rector Magnificus, TU-Delft), and Frank van der Hoeven (secretary of research, Faculty of Architecture) the research program is going to be introduced during a 3-day international conference. The event is planned shortly after the summer break. Knowledge sharing, constructing strategic alliances, knowledge creation and peer group analyses will form basic ingredients of the conference.

The present priority is set by creating an international alliance in order to develop and slowly implement the methods of "urban innovation". Following the theory of social construction several potential participants will be invited to join the strategic alliance, while setting the agenda of the conference. The participants will be leaders and top experts within a broad field of knowledge and competences.

As well as exploring and preparing possible research themes we are now focusing on two major aspects; the realisation of an "urban barometer", and defining "vital coalitions". The urban barometer collects all relevant data affecting sustainable urban transformation (energy consumption, transition patterns, income level, garbage handling, number of inhabitants, frequency of removals etc.). The system focusses on improvement and monitoring of municipal policies and implementation. By using the system interconnections between information, layers can be explored, development scenario's calculated, while data can be provided for a wide range of people. Possible consequences of physical, economic and social interventions can be realistically visualised. Sub research themes on the "urban barometer" consist of "sustainable mobility", "energy consumption" and "social hotspots".

Vital Coalitions. The future role of urbanism apparently shifts to integral process-control (direction) and scenario development. Therefore the changing relationship between plan and process forms an essential focuspoint. Concerning urban transformation at present a universal search appears to be going on towards process transition in relationship to vital coalitions. An academic approach and validation implies connecting several networks of expertise delivering sustainable solutions. Mapping parties, institutes and networks of expertise is part of the new role of the urbanist (being a process coordinator). The demanded research commission refers to this, to a large extent.

for more information:
www.veldacademie.nl
www.stadswerk.nl



Carlos Beira, Gijs Sanders and Sander Smoes at work

BY SANDER SMOES, CARLOS BEIRA AND GIJS SANDERS

FieldAcademy: Explore Lab

Explore Lab is the Graduation Laboratory of the Faculty of Architecture, TU Delft. In this Lab students follow their fascination for a certain issue, do research and produce a graduation project out of it. In this particular project three students, Carlos Beira, Gijs Sanders en Sander Smoes, formed a group to participate in an inter-faculty, multidisciplinary graduation studio. The studio is placed on location. That means that the field of activity is directly linked to the investigation area Oud Charlois, and there are direct connections with the existing inhabitants and the influence of the city Rotterdam is touchable. The studio will be facilitated by the Explore-Lab but the research and design task will be on the location of Oud Charlois in the building of FieldAcademy.

The goal of the graduation project is to find solutions for the problems that are occurring in Oud Charlois. Solutions can be found in the public area. Other solutions can be found by defining strategies and give the district a new impulse. It is also possible to define some areas in the district, which can be improved by doing some interventions. Introducing new programmatic aspects can be a step forward for the whole district and also make a contribution to better living conditions for the inhabitants. By investigating all the things mentioned before, a solution can be found for Oud Charlois. It will result in an intervention in the district and/or the addition of new buildings.

The investigations regard district-level, the level of the public space but also separate buildings in Oud Charlois. Before giving a defined proposal for each separate graduation-projects, a thorough analysis in the district will be needed. And the problems have to be exposed.

One of the ideas for a graduation-project is to combine living and working areas. The industrial- and dock area, the former harbour, contains a lot of old industrial-buildings. Which have become unused in the past couple of year's. The dwellings around this area have been out of repair for many years. A solution may be to find a new work-program connected to renewed housing. New inhabitants can be attracted to this area. These aspects can give an indication on economic and social levels and give this part of the district a better future.

The public space is also an important issue in the area. The public space, as it is now, can be a cause

of some problems in Oud Charlois. Research will teach us how to deal with the public space and show where the critical points are. Maybe the present criminality and the problems with youth hanging around can be found in how the public space is arranged now. The re-arrangement of the public space can be a solution of the problems.

A third proposal is based on the local artists. In the district there are a lot of artists living and working. They provide employment in Oud Charlois. All the artists are scattered all over the district. In the areas outside Oud Charlois the artists are not or less known. A design task can be to take the artists as a focal point and try to take advantage of their potential. A possibility is to place them more central in the district where visitors of Oud Charlois can find them more easily.

There are sufficient possibilities to investigate and projects to elaborate. During the first months of the graduation the exact thesis will be formulated and worked out. The end of the graduation will result in three different projects. Each of them will dissect one or more problems in Oud Charlois.

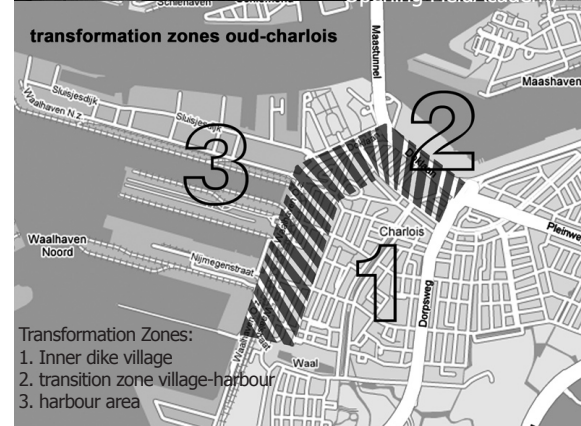
Future

By February the team of FieldAcademy will be joined by Lisa Haenitsch and Erik Burgmeijer, both students of the faculty. As student-assistants they will be dealing with various aspects of publication, communication, organising events and facilities. A website has been launched to keep you informed about the latest student projects, job-opportunities and upcoming events like the OOR-workshop; a 3-day workshop taking place april 2-4th for professionals and master students considering public space and structure. We aim to involve other educational- and research institutes in the near future, bringing their specific expertise on for instance economics and demography.

In this way FieldAcademy Rotterdam has the potential to evolve into a knowledge center actively contributing to a new and improved way of urban transformation, our main design contribution to the near future.



Opening FieldAcademy



Transformation Zones:
1. Inner dike village
2. transition zone village-harbour
3. harbour area



Library Column B-Nieuws 6

It's easy to forget when you are part of a community, such as the University, that there are many on the outside looking in, interested in the goings-on of the place. For those on the inside toiling away, after a time it's the classic case of no longer seeing the forest for the trees. Luckily, once and a while someone from outside the forest comes and takes you by the hand, leads you to a hilltop, where you can stand and consider that clump of trees, gaining a new perspective.

Recently, I had the brief pleasure of a 'hilltop view' offered by two guest speakers, invited to say a few words at the official opening of the new architecture library. Tracy Metz, author and architecture critic for the NRC newspaper, called hearing the news of the fire last May a 'JFK moment' and noted that the library was the 'collective memory of a profession'. Ms. Metz was refreshingly passionate and animated as she spoke about architecture and books, also stressing the importance of the collection in a national and international context. This bigger picture is something that tends to get forgotten at the faculty.

Vincent van Rossem from the Amsterdam Department of Building Monuments spoke 'off the cuff' on the subject of books, libraries and fire. I laughed at intervals together with the other invitees as Mr. van Rossem stoically and humorously condemned the layout of most current architecture monographs and deemed them thoroughly unreadable. In old-school Amsterdam style he also urged all those present to delve into the architectural history books and rediscover the building detail, as many new residential housing projects attempting to use the classical styles miss the mark. It's a rare opportunity to be able to address so many professionals in the field of architecture (in the broadest sense of the word) at one time, and Mr. van Rossem, in true architectural historian fashion, took full advantage of this chance and gave modernism a good bashing. Ironically, most people in the room probably agreed with him.

Considering the fact that the continuing existence of the architecture library as a separate entity has been threatened by budget cuts and trends towards digital media in recent years, stressing the importance of an autonomous architecture collection can't happen often enough in my opinion. The Faculty of Architecture needs its own library and the importance of the physical presence of books should not be underestimated. A while back we all jumped onto the digital bandwagon and now, with the lessons learned along the way, a lot of us have jumped off again, ready to embrace old-fashioned forms of media once again. As a child of the digital era, I feel that we should take it all with a grain of salt and use our common sense when it comes to digitizing the world. The greatest gains in terms of digitalization can be found in the storage and safe-guarding of knowledge (back-ups), the organization of media (catalogs), and the process of searching (internet search machines). These sources lead us ultimately to a final destination: a website, a book, a drawing, a magazine, etc. Searching, sorting and organizing is well suited to digital media and reading, studying, and examining are well-suited to physical media. Digitize the trees but don't burn the actual forest.

Anna Ghijs

Anna Ghijs is an MSc Architecture student and former student member of the Architecture Library Committee.

announcements

Peter Boelhouwer becomes the Dean of Bouwkunde

Due to personal circumstances, Jan Rots was unable to continue in the role of acting dean at the Faculty of Architecture. Therefore after the process of drawing up the 2009 budget and related business has been concluded, the Executive Board selected a successor to Jan Rots. In selecting a successor, they searched for an individual with a similar profile; someone from 'outside' the Faculty of Architecture, but who is involved and familiar with its work. In Peter Boelhouwer, Scientific Director of the Research Institute OTB, they have found someone who fits this profile.

We are delighted to announce that Peter Boelhouwer agreed to take on the leadership of the Faculty of Architecture with immediate effect. It has been agreed that Peter Boelhouwer will, on the basis of current knowledge, continue in this role until 1 September of this year.

Het buitenterrein 'under construction'

Het was je vast al opgevallen: niet alleen aan het gebouw, maar ook aan het buitenterrein van de faculteit Bouwkunde wordt flink gesleuteld. Zo wordt er hard gewerkt aan de nieuwe serres van het gebouw, de bestrating rondom het Ketelhuis, de fietsenrekken bij de ingang en de entree bij de Espresso-bar. En er staat nog veel meer te gebeuren!

De werkzaamheden aan het buitenterrein zullen nog tot eind mei plaatsvinden, dus tot die tijd vraagt de faculteit van haar werknemers en studenten of ze een paar extra meters willen lopen om bij het Ketelhuis een broodje te halen, of ze de zanderige schoenen door de vele bestratingswerkzaamheden nog even willen verdragen, of ze de bouwvakkers in de serre nog even hun vriendelijkste glimlach willen blijven schenken en of ze de typische geluiden van een gebouw en buitenterrein 'under construction' nog tijdelijk willen tolereren. Eind mei kan iedereen dan eindelijk genieten van een prachtig buitenterrein met serres, verschillende entrees per vleugel, een piekfijne bestrating en een heuse picknickplaats bij het Ketelhuis.

Ga voor meer informatie over de laatste ontwikkelingen van het gebouw en buitenterrein naar de website van BK City: <http://www.bk.tudelft.nl/live/pagina.jsp?id=67bc7065-ea8e-4ae5-8081-f5487113a472&lang=nl>.

events

Open Dagen bacheloropleidingen

Op 12 en 13 maart is het weer zover. Dan wordt de TU Delft twee dagen lang bezocht door middelbare scholieren en studenten die misschien wel

een toekomst voor zich zelf zien weggelegd op de TU Delft of de faculteit Bouwkunde in het bijzonder.

In een algemeen programma en een programma per faculteit worden de studenten in spé vertrouwd gemaakt met alle ins-and-outs van het studeren aan de TU Delft en het reilen en zeilen op de faculteit Bouwkunde. Hoe is het om een college te volgen? Waarom zou ik nu juist in Delft gaan studeren? Wat heeft de faculteit Bouwkunde mij te bieden? Belangrijke vragen waarop medewerkers en huidige bachelorstudenten antwoord zullen geven in workshops, lezingen en rondleidingen.

Voor meer informatie over de open dagen, ga je naar: www.opendagen.tudelft.nl.

Intreerede ir. C.M. de Hoog

Op woensdag 18 maart houdt ir. C.M. de Hoog zijn oratie getiteld 'Atlas ABC'. De Hoog is als hoogleraar werkzaam op het vakgebied Stedenbouwkundig Ontwerpen.

De Rector Magnificus van de Technische Universiteit Delft, prof.dr.ir. J.T. Fokkema, nodigt u uit tot het bijwonen van deze academische plechtigheid. Na het uitspreken van de rede is er gelegenheid tot het aanbieden van gelukwensen.

18 maart 2009 | 15:00 uur
plaats: Aula TU Delft en Berlagezaal Bouwkunde

seminar

Seminar over Public Space

Op 19 en 20 maart organiseert de TU Delft een 2-daags seminar Public Space. Tijdens het seminar komen wetenschappers op het gebied van bouwkunde, sociologie, stadsgeografie, culturele antropologie en ruimtelijke ordening samen met als doel de uitwisseling van visies op bestaand en nieuw uit te voeren onderzoek in relatie tot de openbare ruimte.

Thema's als openbare ruimte en de kwaliteit van de leefomgeving, interventie in de openbare ruimte en management van de openbare ruimte zullen tijdens het seminar aan de orde komen. Tijdens het seminar is er ook tijd om specifieke openbare ruimte-locaties in Rotterdam te bezoeken.

Inschrijfkosten: € 100
19 maart 2009 - 20 maart 2009
plaats: TU Delft, OTB

excursion

Excursie Berlijn

Reis per trein en overnachting in een hostel. Meerdere begeleide excursies naar o.a. Tachelen en diverse woningbouw projecten in Berlijn.

- Vervoer ter plaatse met fiets en metro.

- Let op! Beperkt aantal plaatsen beschikbaar.
vertrek 16 maart, terug 21 maart
Kosten: ca. € 400,00
Aanmelden via TUexcursieBerlijn@gmail.com

review

Confrontation Lecture

BY LISA HAENITSCH

Friday 6th of February 2009



Since the beginning of February a group of master students of the chair "Urban design and city analysis" (Faculty of Architecture, TU Delft) are working on the project "Design strategies for regeneration areas". The upcoming semester they will be dedicated to an analysis of the present living environment of the Rotterdam district Oud Charlois. Based on their research the students will develop strategies to improve the situation.

During the introductory "Confrontation lecture" in the district Oud Charlois itself, students and citizens were brought together. From different points of view living and working in the district was described by several speakers: Ivo van den Baar (father, entrepreneur/artist and inhabitant), Paul van Oers (teacher Highschool Nieuw Zuid) with two students, Aart de Gast (restaurant owner "Hof van Charlois") and Carla Lee (from local resident support office run by volunteers). The Municipality of Rotterdam was represented by Cor Korpel (inspecting agent of department urbanism and public housing) and Rob van Vliet and Sebastiaan Oskam (Bureau Frontline of Municipality of Rotterdam). After the brief presentations there was time to discuss various questions and the future vision of the area.

In particular the views expressed by the citizens made clear that besides the existing social problems there is a big image problem that the area has to deal with. Even though there has been a big improvement in the security within the district, keywords like "crime" and "unsecure" seem to stick to Oud Charlois. Those definitions do not seem to match the description that the inhabitants give of their surroundings. Listening to the attending speakers the most defined problems are:

- insufficient appealing business and catering industry to attract visitors from other parts of the city
- unused buildings and empty plots make the streets look shabby and create a negative picture
- the lack of a central meeting place for the youth makes them gather in public where other inhabitants find them not appropriate and discomforting

With the received information the students will formulate an appropriate assignment with the emphasis on analyzing and improving the stated problems. On march the 20th the students will present their (spatial) solutions to the same audience.