{Rotterdam Bright Future}
an anthropological quest to Arrival City Rotterdam

25–26–27 April 2012
An inspiring cities en Deltametropolis Association exchange
Stories of Rotterdam Bright Future, Inspiring Cities Event 25-27 April 2012

After visiting Dublin and London in 2011, we look back on again a very inspiring international exchange last 25-27 April in Rotterdam, opening up new worlds of thought on the theme of the Arrival City and on the city of Rotterdam itself.

We had an international and interdisciplinary visitor group again of 30 people, 50 people extra joining in on Thursday and Friday, and another 50 on the opening night on Wednesday. Participants came in from the UK, USA, Italy, Russia, France, Belgium, Denmark and of course the Netherlands. The group was very diverse in background, creating exchange between disciplines and perspectives – exactly the way we like it at Inspiring Cities.

We opened up the new world of “arrivals” to Rotterdam, inspired by the book Arrival City of Doug Saunders. Rotterdam was the third international exchange in a series looking for new answers for urban development after the crisis. Each time, we have added a new layer to our quest. We started out with the notion of the fundamental shift from making cities to being cities; Dublin added the anthropological viewpoint, and the perspectives of the lived and planned world. London added the connective strength of the Civic Economy, creating new combinations between the lived and the planned world. And now Rotterdam added the perspective of the Arrival City. We are curious what our next visit will bring us.

Our idea behind the international exchanges is to make them into more than a trip only, but make it into a collaborative co-creation with all participants. In Rotterdam, again, we used several moments to exchange ideas within the group; and we’ll again share our mutual stories in this newspaper. This Rotterdam edition is the third in a row, following the Dublin and London editions. You can check the previous two international exchanges at our website.

Rotterdam network

For this exchange, we collaborated with a variety of organizations including Inspiring Cities/Jeroen Laven, Hans Karssenber, Gijs Broos, Kees Machielse, Stipo/Sascha Jenke, Renee Nycolaas, Sanne Slijkerman, Mattijs van ‘t Hoff, AIR/Renate Mous, Patrick van der Klooster, BVR/Bernadette Janssen, City of Rotterdam/Ingeborg Absil-van de Kieft, Merel Richter, Duco de Bruijn, Myron Freeling, Plan F/Stef Fleischeuer, TU Delft/Agnes Franzen, KEI/Marieke Verkaart, Olof van der Wal, EDBR/Hans Huurman, Havensteder/Mark v.d.Velde, MIDred Piijnenborg, the Future Institute/Justien Marseille, Museum Rotterdam/ Paul van der Laar, Woonstad Rotterdam/Ron van Gelder, INTA/Vivana Rubbo, Rotterdam Festivals/Pieter Kuster, Theater Gouvernestraat/Petter van Raalte, Vereniging Schouwburgplein/Theo Hensen, CBK/Siebe Thissen, SEV/Radboud Engbersen, ZUS/Anne-Wil Hop, Deltaambropool/Paul Gerretsen, David Dooghe, and people like Alexandra de Jong, Sjoerdieke Feenstra, Linda Malherbe, Joep Reijngoud Franz Ziegler, Dennis Lohuis, Floor Cornelisse, Dora Borst, Yulia Kryazheva, Jonas Piet, Victor Mees, and many others.

Conclusion

by Sascha Jenke, with Ingeborg Absil-Kieft, Gijs Broos, Stef Fleischeuer, Jeroen Laven

Being a city – what does it mean to be a city? From the 25th-27th of April, a group of international experts explored this subject in Rotterdam. What is an Arrival City? A city of newcomers, their dreams, the facilities, a city has to offer, opportunities and setbacks, potentials, rules, laws and how to avoid them, physical and social networks, civilians and the government.

In principle all cities are arrival cities, only the newcomers are not a mainfocus in the activities of the planned world. Rotterdam, as one of the cities with the highest numbers of arrivals in Europe, for a relatively high percentage of lower social classes, seems to be no exception to this rule. Until now Rotterdam is focussing on attracting and keeping the (upper) creative class and the group with middle and high income. This needs a review. You find the best and brightest people also among the expats and arrivals. They bring new insights, ideas and skills, new products, new (religious) communities and new types of shops – a fact that can be used much more.
Even if Rotterdam has a long tradition as cosmopolitical harbour and trading city and instead of recognizing this in the DNA of Rotterdam we are not enough aware of this. For example created already the move of the city into the Wijnhavenkwartier an attractor for people from many different European countries.

The arrival city and the entrepreneur city were born in this period, but even today the group of newcomers is hard to catch. During the exchange we explored many examples of the arrival city. A variety of groups, all with their own reasons to come here. Group with dreams, their own international networks. Groups that sometimes meet, but often live next to each other. There was inspiration on the moments initiatives helped the groups to intermingle, when boundaries are crossed. These can be large and small projects, but always start with people willing to make the extra step.

Among Rotterdam professionals, working on the city, focusing on the specific challenges, opportunities, threats, for the city if we talk about arrivals, is not a major subject. Yes, there's the expat desk, and some other small initiatives, but embracing the opportunities of newcomers is not a main theme. It seems that in Rotterdam the main subject is to avoid some groups leaving the city; especially groups with a higher income. How can we help newcomers grow, what does it mean for the urban policy, or the culture of working on the city?

A relatively large part of the people arriving in Rotterdam has a lower education. More than other cities. That may be, but use it as a starting point instead of a problem. Educating these people is a market of itself. Everybody brings opportunities; and if people can realise their dreams, their prosperity and that of the city will grow. Not only for the people arriving but also for their offspring and family.

On the other side the situation of the higher educated expats in Rotterdam seems to focus little on English speaking expats. Information for international residents is easier to get in Turkish and Moroccan than English. At the same time, newcomers who only speak English never really seem to arrive in Rotterdam. Dutch people in general speak English well, but to really arrive in Rotterdam you need to speak Dutch.

Newcomers bring a lot of small-scale initiatives. In a time when big projects are no longer realisable, this is an opportunity. Grab it! Energy comes from these small initiatives, where people with passion and professionality start and develop an idea. The local authorities mostly have little or no involvement. There seems to be a parallel with the initiatives we explored during our previous exchange program in London; as described in the newspaper of that experience.

What can professionals, who want to improve the city, do to use the Arrival City theme? To be able to see the potential and help it flourish professionals, such as those working for the local authority, could invest in their knowledge on the newcomers. Not only the question where they are from, but also the question where they want to go. What can the city do for newcomers, and what can newcomers do for the city. Find ways to make newcomers feel welcome, while at the same time using their strength and potential to improve the city as a whole.

A fundamental way to reach that might be to give everyone a chance to become Full Citizen: house, company, education, and let everyone be part of the bigger picture. The rest will go by itself.

In fact we need to take the different scale-layers into account. From global (such as background) to local (area in Rotterdam), from personal demands, to helping the city, etc. An eye opener can be if you don't see Rotterdam as a city, but as part of a bigger city region, or the Deltametropool as a city. That changes the perspective if you look at arrivals and departures.

The exchange in Rotterdam showed us many inspiring developments. The most important message might be: Be proud of the good, big and small, examples of using the potential of the Arrival City. Help them prosper, use them as inspiration. Open up for new initiatives.
Opening Night, 25 April 2012

#1 The Arrival City in a historic perspective
by Paul van de Laar
Director of Collections / Professor of urban History at Historical Museum Rotterdam / Erasmus University Rotterdam

Looking from the perspective of Doug Saunders, I really had to reset my mind. I was brought up with Lewis Mumford who saw the city as THE place of civilisation, sure, but also as a place of conflict, poor quarters. And then you are confronted with this new perspective of Gordon ... and Doug Saunders, looking at cities from a migration perspective. That is was cities are about: migration.

There are two things important: more than half the world population now lives in cities. And secondly, there is the process of globalisation, innovation etc. The new focus is the Transnational City with fluid social spaces that are constantly reworked by migrants. We should observe cities as transnational spatial areas. Social and cultural space have become important for historians as well. This is a huge difference with the perspective of people such as Lewis Mumford and Jane Jacobs.

Then as a historian you ask yourself: should I rephrase or reframe the way I look at cities, also looking back at them? Or is Doug Saunders too optimistic? Is his research too shallow? If we do put on our Doug Saunders glasses then Rotterdam is a great city to study, because it is the fourth city of arrival on the continent. See for instance Katendrecht that we'll visit. First we had the poor migrant casual labourers from other parts of the country working in the harbour, then the Chinese immigrants and then followed by the prostitutes in the 1950s and the 1960s. This triple no-go area for others was a perfect example of this idea of the city of arrival.

Rotterdam is a place you should avoid and when you do become successful you should leave immediately. The working city by Bauman and Bauman was a similar book in the 1950s. In the 1980s we wanted to test their hypotheses. We found they had a comprehensive knowledge, but framed the migration from a negative point of view. When we looked at the evidence we thought we have to rephrase the perspective on migration.

I wanted to deconstruct the migration myth of Rotterdam South as a migration area. Of course many people entered here, became successful and moved to the city. However, migration is planned, and that is what we always forget. It is not a romantic stories, it is about migration networks, people in the migration chain who follow each other – migration is not romantic, it is planned – this is what Doug Saunders shows us. My data shows that when people are not successful, after two years, they move out again. The successful ones move on. Some of the successful immigrants in the 19th century moved on to the suburbs. We need to stretch the term arrival city and use the term circulation city: people moved from one city to the next, following the railway track of for instance the Randstad in the Dutch perspective.

What happened after the War? Rotterdam became the showcase example of the modern city with a business district in the centre and great traffic circulation for cars. The urban planners said: Rotterdam should not be a place for people to live in, because they will be more happy living in the areas around the business district, such as the garden villages in Rotterdam South. Looking at them now, mist garden villages are being reconstructed, because their models did not work.

Looking at the 19th Century neighbourhoods through the eyes of Doug Saunders. They are now the places of immigration, new groups entering the city since the 1970s. These neighbourhood are more successful migration neighbourhoods than the garden villages. Doug Saunders compares these very dense 19th Century neighbourhoods with the suburbs with their highrise. The physical structure can be a blockade for successful migration. In the dense 19th Century people can start their small businesses – and these are the engines of creativity and social mobilisation. Look at the Bangladesh i in East London: they became successful because they started their Curry Restaurants – then accumulating capital and now four people from one family can attend university because of this capital. Doug Saunders refers to this as the flowering of neighbourhoods. One of the signs to test the success is to look at the flowers in the neighbourhoods. Last, when you look at the success of the businesses, do not look for curry but count the amount of Kapsalons.

#2 Looking for signs of the future Arrival City
by Justine Marseille
The Future Institute

I love the subject of the arrival city, because I love to look at Arrivals. I am a trendwatcher and connect signs to possible futures. They are usually the small signs we tend to overlook. Thinking about the future, we say “Things will be bigger”, but if we look at the ideas of people like Rogers and combine these with google, twitter etc we can predict the next few years.

The future is about blowing up the here and now. The risk is building our cities purely on hype. We should not look at the now, but at what will be next afterwards. That is why Doug Saunders’ book is so interesting, looking at not only the people who arrive, but also things arriving.

New arrival is in conflict with the people who have been there already. Looking at arrival cities says more about the people. The Kapsalon (‘hairdresser’) snack in Rotterdam: the idea was from a simple hairdresser in Delfshaven. It is Kebab, French fries and cheese and sauces. There was a shop Tati who tasted these tastes and went to the neighbourhood snackbar with these tastes, brought it back to the shop where the custumers said: we like it. They went back to the snackbar and ask for a Kapsalon (Tati said: ask for a Kapsalon and they will know what you want). They also went to their own neigh-
bourhoods and started asking for Kapsalons. It then went to Zeeland, other parts of The Netherlands and can now be found in New York. All caused by one man, an early innovator with a great taste for greasy food and a great network. We are not good at seeing things we do not recognise. We think that what we don’t see, does not exist. The future is about small things made larger, like the Kapsalon. The signs of arrivals are everywhere and you can train yourself being very sharp to observe them. We ask you, for the next two days, to look at anything that is not normal, a bit strange, a bit different. When you see it make a picture with your smartphone – and then twitter it to #IC12. Then Friday, we can come up with scenarios for future cities of Arrival.

Do not look at the city as a hierarchy of infrastructure. It is not about going to the library, getting a book and take it home. It is about finding a book in the cloud and stay at home. Cities are not collections of cars anymore. In twenty years we will not have cars anymore, they will be banned like cigarettes. Fifteen years from now, cities will not be about cars, not about transportation but about connection. It is not about market places anymore. People do not go to places to get stuff, but rather to get rid of stuff, and to ask for opinions about the stuff they already have. Look at new restaurant formulas, buying your own food. Pinterest is a great place to watch the future, see what people like. The shop of tomorrow is small and tasteful if you look at Pinterest.

Look at food. Hood food will be big, for two reasons. New media enable you to see where in your neighbourhood what food can be found. I can also see in my smartphone that the neighbour offering this food is a nice person. The function of the market, the brand and the shop is guaranteed. Hood food is a very small thing now, but it is possible that we will have a lot of food from the neighbourhood in a couple of years.

Last, the signs are everywhere, and it would be lovely if we could mashup all the signs we collect on Friday. Make a picture. If your emotion is that you like it or hate it, add a plus or a minus and put it on Twitter with #IC12.

#3 Antwerp as Arrival City
by Victor Mees
CityLabo, Antwerp

Antwerp is one of the first cities where people arrived. Rotterdam is the Antwerp of the Netherlands.

There is a rivalry with Ghent who is the inventor of The Martino: the Kapsalon of Antwerp. A Sandwich with rough weed, pickles. It was started with a drunken football player called Martino (people liked Italian names back then). You can now find Martino all over Belgium. 2060 is a zipcode, but it is also an area in Antwerp that has been in the media a lot, Seefhoek in Antwerp North. In Antwerp it is the other way around than in Rotterdam, in Antwerp when you mention North, people think of diversity, drug dealing, dirty streets, African people etc.

CityLabo Antwerp Averechts is about alternative city tours, tours about city life. Since two years I am a pub owner. Doug Saunders researched this area in Antwerp for his book too. We will now take a virtual walk through the neighbourhood.

It is a 19th Century neighbourhood, first for the harbour workers and since the 1960s very diverse, where many people do not speak Dutch. People will sit there with their cheap beers. Then there is the new Permeke library, an investment of the city to get a better image. There are a lot of dancing bars, now being taken over by African people dealing drugs. The feel is that the dealing is getting more aggressive. Most of the people who live there, find it exciting, most of the outsiders find it very negative. Many Africans – most Africans in Belgium live in Brussels, but it does not have a square. A lot of Africans first go to Antwerp 2060, which has a square, to find people from their country of origin and then help them further.

There is a very strong Moroccan influence. In the 1950s it was an important shopping areas, in the 1960s the people left, and the supermarkets came in, taking over the small shops. Then the migrants came in and the Moroccan Meir was started. Last year new Moroccans were fighting Moroccans, apparently shop keepers fighting drug dealers – an important sign for a group protecting their prospects. The strongest growing church is not Islam, but the African church.

Populist politicians are using the image of the area to say we should get rid of the pubs, have early closing hours, ban alcohol, more police. We discovered that once you give the newcomers information on where they are living, their perspective changes. A big new park was built on the old railway depot and people discovered the quality already in place. The police wanted to close the park off at night, but the politicians said no. Now, the park is open for two years, there were hardly any problems and the park is a success. The infrastructure was built upon the idea of the Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam, but the people have been asked what they would like in the park. It was a tough question for the people to answer, but the people asking were very persistent and many ideas entered the park. The architect moved to the neighbourhood and lived there for two years. People attending the park leave each other alone, the only true place of interaction is where the children play.

There is a lot of heritage with high quality. A lot of artists lived there. A design centre for young designers was put up in the district, replacing prostitution.

#4 The History of Rotterdam’s City Centre in 25 steps
by Arjef Knoester
Urban planner in Rotterdam

I’ll introduce the city of Rotterdam to you, from the perspective of the city centre.
1. Here we have the map of Rotterdam and the harbour. To understand the economics and the life of the city, you should understand how important the harbour is. City and harbour have become disconnected. The most important extension is made into the sea now. In the city centre, no more harbour activities take place. There, the connection to the high speed railway is important.

2. The main history of the inner parts of Rotterdam. Starting in 1400, Rotterdam was brought to life at the river Rotte leading into the Maas. The river Rotte is still visible on the city map of 1600. There was the city triangle with the Coolsingel as the border, the Hoogstraat as the central street crossing the river Rotte with a Dam.

3. This is the view of harbour activities in Rotterdam at that time, the Laurenskerk still in place today.

4. During the centuries afterwards, the City Triangle was extended towards the river. This is the 19th Century, where the city has made a first step towards the Maas with quays and docks at the river.

5. Extending the city has been a process of centuries. This is a map of the early 1920s, where the city has leaped over its City Triangle boundaries. The economic boom has led to a lot of working areas to the west of the city, and extensions towards the south side, a leap across the river. Katendrecht is in the middle. You can also see the first extensions of the Waalhaven to the left.

6. Especially interesting for the city centre is the recent and intensive Katendracht transformation. It is especially interesting to visit now, the recent city centre’s extension has stopped now at the Wilhelmina peer.
7. Some images of the idea and the atmosphere, Rotterdam before the war must have been very much like the other old Dutch cities.

8. Before the War, the triangle area was the main area; gradually the Coolsingel had come to be the heart of the city centre. All this came to an end in the bombardment of 1940 in which the entire city centre has been demolished.

9. After the demolished city, the idea was to transform Rotterdam into a modern city centre. The Wederopbouw Plan (Reconstruction Plan) was made in which two principals were important: the separation of functions. The economic and social functions in the heart and dwelling in the areas around. Two, the making of a very sophisticated and robust motorway system for cars right into the city centre, with huge new boulevards.

10. The first thing to do was to create new buildings for economic development, such as the Groothandelgebouw, connected to the station.

11. A new feature of footpaths with shops was the Lijnbaan, the first in its kind, a revolutionary concept in Holland and Europe which has been copied since.

12. The Euromast gave a view of the harbour area.

13. In the 70s the economic development had been successful, but the old dwelling areas were very poor. Restructuring was started and the idea was to introduce new architecture to the centre, such as the Paalwoningen of Piet Blom, looking for a more human scale architecture. It is now on many postcards of the city centre.
14. In the 80s the idea was to add more, not only to contain more economic functions in the centre, but also more dwellings. More people who live in the city are important and the idea of highrise was born. We intensified the city triangle on the one hand, and a leap to the south part of the river Maas was made. There were two ambitions at the same time: densification and the leap across the river. The latter diminished the idea of the first.

15. There are 16,621 dwellings in Rotterdam’s city centre, and 30,000 inhabitants. This is far less than in other comparative city centres. The number of 80,000 employees is rather average. The city’s strategy is to increase the number of inhabitants and double to 60,000 by 2040.

16. Rotterdam launched the idea of the city centre as city lounge: more dwellings, better public space, not only dominated by cars, high quality architecture.

17. The strategy is to enhance shops, dwellings and public space, such as this project by OMA (Rem Koolhaas), the redevelopment of the post office, the new train terminal.

18. But it is equally important to realise that the strategy of growth is not valid for the next 5 to 10 years. Temporary use of buildings is important. Here is the Schieblock, a typical example of this new strategy.

19. At the same time, we continue to work on the south bank development, turning the Kop van Zuid into a small city centre in the river area.

20. On the other hand, not only things are produced, but we involve as many partners as possible in the new investment strategy. It is no longer the government making the plans and the deals, it is about connecting all people in the area, investors networks.
21. This is the extension of the university and the hospital. And the cultural functions are concentrated.

22. This is the new market hall on the other side of the city centre, by MVRDV.

23. In areas like the Oude Westen we see many chances for new family homes. Transformed into a social housing area in the 1970s, a very monofunctional concept. Now, individuals buy houses and improve them. It is a very important area for Rotterdam as Arrival City. Especially the West Kruiskade is an area where many cultures are visible with their shops and businesses, an important doorstep to the city centre.

24. A very important aspect of the strategy is the new quality of public space, new boulevards and spaces in the city, introducing new qualities into the city centre that have long been neglected.

25. And last but not least, an important feature in the Architecture Biennale: Rotterdam, people make the city, combining the strategy of densification and greenification.

The development of the Kop van Zuid has affected the development of the city centre in a very important way, but has been criticised as well. Some say moving cultural functions there is a disaster for the city centre. On the other hand, taking the boat to the docks, people always say ‘wow’, this is unique. In the end, it is important that Rotterdam has taken this leap across the river. The centre and the river are still not connected enough though.
New arrival - Better future

By Bert McClure

Rotterdam's historic port has always benefited from the energy and imagination generated by new arrivals. Unfortunately, the Rotterdam Central station doesn't really "welcome" anyone! A simple solution is obvious: in the same way the Information Centre welcomes city centre tourists, the City could also consider a one-stop Welcome Centre at the Rotterdam Central train station. The first contact with Rotterdam should make new arrivals - native and foreign, tourists and newcomers - feel welcome and help them quickly find their place in their new home.

For newcomers, an on-line "Welcome to Rotterdam" Web site could feature downloadable/printable brochures concerning city government structure, municipal policies and services, as well as housing, employment and cultural opportunities. A small local staff would provide advice, maps with addresses, while an on-line network of Web-links could assist newcomers in finding support groups, schools, leisure facilities, worship and cultural activities.

The City could also profit from the central-station development's stately pace by initiating an attractive programme to establish the heart of the city as a destination for entertainment and civic identity. Rotterdam could profit, from the city's social richness and diversity by promoting themed festivals featuring its' many neighbourhoods, nationalities and communities.

Even as a temporary measure, the investment would be minimal (sound system and electrical outlets, supervision and clean-up); the music, costumes, cuisine and traditions would provide much needed animation and give a large part of the population a strong sense of really belonging to this dynamic city.
• The International School 2.0 – realizing this is a fundamental part of the economic infrastructure, the city created the way for a larger, renovated building for the ever-expanding International School, now also offering bilingual courses.
• The Expat Plinth – dragging the expat desk out of its Kafkaesque unfindable spot somewhere on the fifth (or was it the fourth?) floor of the World Trade Centre, into a publically visible plinth, bringing the centre to the street and the public realm. Instant success guaranteed.
• The International Café – a meeting place for different expat communities. An important welcoming structure for new expats and their partners. A place to discuss all the details of how to find your way in Rotterdam’s society, find language lessons, tips for houses and schools, tax advice and marriage counselling.
• The International Party Palace – adjacent to the pub, offering space for expats to celebrate their specific traditions in an inner city setting at fair rates.
• The International Food Market – providing turnover based rent for niche shops of different nationalities, breathing new life into the former Shell Tower.

Middletown, Canada, Reports Success
The mayor of Middletown, Canada, announced a groundbreaking success in the recent competition for finding new immigrants. Middletown Stealth Boat Patrollers have found a so far obscure but yet heavily populated island in the Pacific. The first four representatives of the tribe are to move to Middletown next week. Toronto and Vancouver officials have refused to comment until now. Quebec’s mayor admitted working on counter strategies.

Contact add
Me, expat, 30yrs, just arrived to the city, looking for welcoming structures in Rotterdam. Box#27129.

Letters from our readers

Dear Sir,
I would like to file a complaint against first generation Bulgarians and Rumanians. They threaten our jobs, refuse to learn our neighbourhood rules, cause disturbance.
With Regards,
Second Generation Turkish and Moroccans.

Dear Sir,
I would like to file a complaint against second generation Turkish and Moroccans. They exploit our illegal situation, charging us up to 400 euro per bed per month, robbing us of our sourly earned money.
With Regards,
First Generation Bulgarians and Rumanians.

Dear Sir,
We would like to thank the housing associations for the kind way they have provided us with affordable houses. We will bring our wives and kids over soon and settle down.
With Regards,
First Generation Polish.

Launderette serving ‘arrivés’ and new arrivals
By Jan Ilsink

In the Beijerlandsebaan at his launderette Nico Oosterhof is serving as well clients from the surrounding neighbourhood Bloemhof and Hillesluis as caring the laundry of Rotterdam best restaurants.

Bloemhof and Hillesluis, lodging over 70 nationalities, can be seen as an ‘arrival city’. A lot of the new arrivals no disposes of a washing machine and utilizes Nico’s nice service. Nico is proud to use high quality equipment. Together with the excellent skills of his staff he was able to acquire clients with high demands, like special restaurants. Since the economic crisis on the one hand Nico notes his clients from Bloemhof and Hillesluis utilize less his service. On the other hand he is welcoming more clients. His launderette is facing competition from another near Zuidplein that charges half an euro less. He observed that the washing programme of that launderette only flushes once as his machines flush three times. Flushing one time will leave chemicals in the laundry with possibly alergic reactions. So Nico will use this information as quality selling point of his business!

Dear Sir,
I would like to file a complaint against Dutch politicians. They refuse to give us access to the system, forcing us to rent in the illegal private sector.
With Regards,
First Generation Bulgarians and Rumanians
PS: We will keep coming anyway

Dear Sir,
I would like to file a complaint in hindsight against the social democrat party of forty years ago for their failed policies. They refused to acknowledge that newcomers intend to stay and failed to give them access to the system by denying Dutch language lessons.
With Regards,
An 80 year old communist party member from Spangen.
Municipality neglects policy resource
By Jan Ilsink

At the Beijerlandselaan and Groene Hilledijk the municipal office, staffed by Duco de Bruijn, Serge Lubbe and Abdel el Bouchibi, does a good job. It took more than one and a half year for them to overcome the persistent scepticism of the business owners at this once posh shopping street. Tenacious, strategic, smart and charming they succeeded to create a functioning association of shop owners, which board now is a steering and driving entity in the improving process a that neighbourhood. Still they continue analysing the process and devising new strategic interventions. With their dedication at shop floor level sometimes the communication with municipal bureaucracy becomes rigid. The officials at the townhall show few notion for the importance, range and scope of their work. Let alone that they are invited at the municipal office to share their experiences, comprehension, concepts and outlooks to educate and qualify other colleagues. Their approach is tolerated and that is enough according the superiors. So the municipality is neglecting an important resource of human and effective policy skills.

In the thirties and sixties people put on their new suits and shining shoes to go out in the city. Places like Pschorr at the Coolsingel, jazz cafes along Schiedamse Vest and the dancing near the Park-Maastunnel were the exposures of citizens who celebrated to be part of the city and the community. Our colleague of Baltimore/USA had the same experience in Baltimore.

In Paris African people nowadays are better-dressed for big events and parties than the autochtonous Parisiens. You should shame yourself if you are not well-dressed enough. These new people and their shops represent a new economy for Rotterdam. No longer an economy for survivals, but an economy for and driven by arrivals.

A new way to create community within the city and between different groups of internationals. An economy that is based on celebrating City-life/being part of the city. Contribute and connected to something that is bigger than your own world.

Looking good; let’s have a party in town.

Bling Bling City of Bright Bling City
By Rob Groeneweg

Everywhere in Rotterdam-West, South and East we’ve seen small shops full of bling-bling articles and personal care. This is our new bright future of City-life.

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Broedplaats Zuid- Talent City of the Future?
By Rob Groeneweg

Eymel (30)
Eymel arrived in Rotterdam-Charlois when she was 14 years old. Eymel means ‘action and revolt’. Her father gave her that name when she was born in Turkey during the putsch around 1980. In 1982 her family left Turkey and settled as arrivals in Rotterdam. The family grew up in the Boekweitstraat 6b.
Her father worked in the greenhouses in Westland. Her mother was not educated and managed the household. Her parents raised 8 children.
Eymel was a very curious girl. She frequently visited the library in Charlois, studied at In-Holland (Kop van Zuid) and the EUR (management; fiscal Law). She speaks Turkish, Dutch, English and German. She worked the last 6 years at the fiscal authority and Deloitte at the Kop van Zuid. Lately she lived for 4 months in London: besides another study doing voluntary work in health-care.
Eymel doesn’t see Rotterdam as a divided city (North vs South; Centre vs the rest). Rotterdam is one city with a lot of different opportunities, people and places to go.
Shopping: Boulevard op Zuid and Hamam; Zuidplein; Centrum.
Going out: Centrum and Kop van Zuid; cafe’s and restaurants in Charlois and Katendrecht.
Eymel argues that the developments Kop van Zuid and Katendrecht are good for the City. There are more places to go at South, so you can walk to these places. And South is getting more familiar for people from other parts of the city.
Just like other persons in Charlois and Katendrecht she argues that South is very safe. The opinion about Rotterdam-South is the opinion from people that don’t live in South.
Nowadays Eymel supports the designer and people who make art, design and fashion at Zuidplein.

Designer (Ivo van den Baar)
Arrivals or leavers: you can notice them by looking at plants in the windows. When they have plants, they want to stay for a longer period. When they don’t have plants, they will leave the city.
Charlois is the best low wages area in the world. A sort of India in Rotterdam.
The skills of these arrivals (low wages; textile-knowledge; craftsmen) are used by the designer. They live in cheap houses and are for this sort of labour the best and brightest people (NB: amendement op Florida).
The designer design chairs (price a the moment: 3000 euro!), paintings of textiles, turkish ceramics and wallcarpets, that are produced by the labour-forces of the new arrivals.
He already successfully exhibited in galeries in Milaan, Berlin and Washington and sells his art to companies and private persons. A part of the income flows back to the arrivals.
Another initiative: he asked the different groups of arrivals what are the colours of their homeland. From these colours he designed sweaters that are made by an older woman who get benefit payment. Result: 750 sweaters, representing the DNA of Charlois, that are sold. Part of the income goes to the old woman.

Malherbe
She made photo's of different arrivals and entrepeneurs and she made an exhibition of these photo's in Katendrecht. And she invited everybody to visit the exhibition to get to know the different persons and entrepeneurs.
Less loneliness, more connectivity (NB: relation with the wishes of international expats?) and publicity for their products and where to buy these products.
PS: this also has a relation with the wish for more "vibe" in Rotterdam (Ritmeester during the meeting at the RISS)

Chris van der Meulen
(Cosmopolis Rotterdam) argues:
- integration is passe; it's all about new entrepeneurship
- turkish entrepeneurship is very succesfull
- intercultural dialogue matters
- turkish talent city
- Zuidplein is the second shopping-place for youngsters; Ivo van den Baarn uses this with his initiative near Zuidplein!
- One third of the inhabitants of South wants to move away, so South IS an arrival city!

Internationals/expats. Colourful City. Happy Holi
By Rob Groeneweg

Blijberg en RISS
185 kids; 50 nationalities.
Where do the expats live in Rotterdam-Region?
- Some in Dordrecht or Spijkenisse
- Hillegersberg and Capelle/Alexander (auto-orientation)
- In het city (centre, Blijdorp; innercity-fringe). Orientation on public transport and bike
- Lately more and more along the river in centre and Kop van Zuid (where the action and vitality is; good shopping; culture; vivid; much to do; everything nearby)
For the expats the location of the school and the choice of the woman is critical.
Book Catherine Transler (sept. 2012): language and social interaction are important. Most of the parents and the kids are at work or at a school that is not in their neighbourhood.
So: loneliness and networks are important issues.
Loneliness: the Netherlands is a country of individualists. So integration is your own responsibility; we won't help you.
Networks: expats are arrivals. They come and go. There is a balance between the ties with their own culture and the wish to get ties with the new culture.
Language: is the key to integration! As an inhabitant from India I would be offended when a Dutch would not speak Indian after 5-years living in India/my country. It seems like for the Dutch this issue doesn't matter at all.

How to connect and avoid loneliness?
- School as social connection- and integration network
- Parents of the school create social networks for new arrival-expats
- Japanese expats are isolated: no family-ties; no clubs; no networks; orientated at a Japanese School. So: the French wife of a Japanese expat is the guide for the new Japanese expats
- Arrangements around food-groups: french food; vegetarian food
- One to one good service shops are very important for expats and their relations
- School has a school-city relationship programme
- Hindoestaanse community has a very well-organised family network. New arrivals are adulted by family and church
- Internet and facebook as new media: internationals meet internationals; internationals meet Dutch. Sharing, welcoming and helping
- Holi-Hindi party in the fountain at Hofplein. The water is colouring in all the important Hindi-colours during the Holi-fest
What should/could the municipality do?
- Foreign-niche shops and good food shops. Smalland with good quality
- Right, affordable locations for dance-events for the Indian-groups
- Expats have their own religion and place of departure. It is very important to celebrate together and to belong to a place. Churches, dance-places; Hofplein-fountain as example
- The better their own ties, the better integration will succeed
- PS: in the USA and the UK (Not France!!) the expat-groups are so big that they organise themselves. So critical mass is very important!!
- PS: Dusseldorf is extremely succesfull with their Asian and Japanese expat-policy (schools; culture; amenities)
- PS: in the Netherlands there is no welcome- and arrival policy. In New York you are being welcomed at the Central Station. What are the arrival ports in the Netherlands and in the City? Make a policy for this: arrival-place; meeting-places etc.
- PS: lively City (cf Sidney) extremely important. Rotterdam needs more vibe. In the centre you have cinema and Mc-Donalds; around it it’s a dead city. Some streets, maybe where you can find good restaurants etc, but where is it? Rotterdam needs selling and telling. There is a lack in marketing!! We also heard that from students by the way!!
- PS: Amsterdam is a bike-city; Rotterdam is a car- or an Metro-stationcity. There is a lack in structure, beautiful places to stay and connections. City-lounge again!!

City-Centre
By Rob Groeneweg; 2 mei 2012

What I particularly noticed:
A lot of initiatives to improve the public space and the focus on history:
- Fire border art object at Schielandhuis
- Market-hall at Spoortunnel
- Historical city image of Rotterdam before WOII at the entrance of new building at Spoortunnel
- Coloured jerrycans in the centrum near Schouwburgplein
- Turning art object in the inner court yard Lijnbaan/J. Evertsenplaats
- Greenhouse at the Lijnbaan
- Bench of skateboards in the Witte de Withstraat in front of the skate-shop
⇒ Combination: history, DNA, youngstercity, hipster-city, old and new
Keep going with that!

Babe in the arrival city
By Dora B and Myron F.

Once upon a time in St. Pigsburg there lived a witty pig that went by the name of Babe. Even though she lived in a rather depressing factory farm, Babe always looked for the bright side of life. One rainy day Babe was sad however, she had the feeling she was missing out on life between the concrete walls of her environment. While she was crying someone told her: “Don’t cry Babe, it’s a big world out there. Explore, travel, experience and interact!” Despite the uncertainties of this advice, she was inspired by the idea of meeting new friends from all different backgrounds and cultures. She was now longing to broaden her horizon! She decided the time was now. In the middle of the night, she jumped the fence, ran for hours through abandoned suburbs to finally arrive in the city harbor with its huge ships. She jumped on the first ship she could reach. Next stop: Rotterdam.

Excitement ran through her chubby body, she was finally on her way to paradise. Arriving in the Rotterdam harbor, she was unexpectedly welcomed by a Dutch medical team. She was in for an unpleasant surprise. Only a few miles from the Rotterdam city center Babe was taken off the boat and into a quarantine complex together with other animals. Birds, monkeys, cows and big strong horses. They all hated it, except for Babe. She somehow enjoyed the environment and the attention she got made her feel welcome. After three weeks she was qualified clean by the doctors and was free to find her way into the big arrival city. But Babe thought to herself: “I like this place, I am gonna stay!”. New arrivals, lots of different animals, exotic fruits, a personal beach and an impressive view. What more can a pig want? Months went by. Slowly but surely things changed. More newcomers started noticing the quality of this arrival area. Together they rebuild and redeveloped some of the abandoned buildings and a local green economy arose. Open minded animals found their way to the quarantine complex from far and abroad to relax, have a good time, enjoy quality local exotic food and meet likeminded animals. Babe never left. After many years she got married, raised a family and found herself accompanied by a great group of friends in one of the most beautiful areas in the city of Rotterdam. She realized that happiness and prosperity can be found everywhere, as long as you are open minded, work hard, respect and nurture your environment and last but not least, inspire and create.
Katendrecht: they are still arriving
By Christian Zwart

When you see someone who looks like a Chinese woman, but who sounds like she is from Rotterdam - than you’ve probably arrived in Katendrecht. When you see trucks driving from the factories at the waterfront transporting Provitamines, vitamins and minerals through the neighborhood - than you’ve probably arrived in Katendrecht. Your eyes are drawn towards the beautiful renovated houses. To a cozy small theater and the rough Tattoo Bob at Deliplein. You feel you are there where Rotterdam is going to happen. The vitality of the place is contagious. The outside at least. But what’s inside? Is Katendrecht already what Deliplein is representing? Is it only arrival for the young middle class urban families? A new hotspot for tourists?

We walk towards the waterfront and see the painted wall of Katendrecht’s history in the Rechthuislaan. The door is opened by someone who looks like a Chinese woman but sounds different. The door is open. In the back we get to an old church auditorium. There deep in Katendrecht is where some inside Rotterdam is seen; language classes, help with difficult papers and food support to illegals. The arrivals without papers. The arrival city is visible and present on the streets of Katendrecht, but the grounding of a person is happening deep inside the block behind unknown doors that are open when needed. Katendrecht is still arrival.

Don’t let newcomers integrate!
By Yulia Kryazheva and Gerard Lebbink

What happens if we apply the 70’s policy on the today situation.
10 ways not to let immigrants to become Rotterdammers:
1. Make everybody think that their culture is dangerous to yours and they came to conquer Rotterdam!
2. Don’t let them learn the language (learn their language instead).
3. Don’t let them rent a house, only a bed for 400 euro (in a room with other 4-5 beds).
4. Don’t let them bring their national food products. And if they do – never-ever taste it, keep strong on eating Dutch (potatoes).
5. Don’t let them open their shops, so they won’t share with you their world, so diverse and different.
6. Prevent them from bringing their families and keep your daughters away from them!
7. Make them put their kids in an international school, and don’t allow your kids to play with theirs.
8. Don’t let them to get puppies or other pets – they might get a chance to speak to other dog owners and make friends.
9. Don’t let them work legally, but do invite them to do your dishes.
10. And the most important – don’t tell any stories about Rotterdam, its history, people, places – they might fall in love with it.

Examples of the Arrived
By Jim Schalekamp

Shopping Street Kruiskade is a typical multicultural shopping street. We visited a Chinese store with beautiful dolls and Chinese magazines. We could only read the price tags on the products (euro sign and the figures). We actually arrived in Chinatown. Another storeowner originates from the former Dutch colony Surinam in South America. He sells all kind of bling bling shoes, pants, bags and purses. The small show case filled with these products attracts our attention. Inside no imitations of for example Versace or Louis Vuiton, but other well designed and low priced stuff. The owner explained that he obtains his products directly in China from wholesalers. Last year he made his last trip to China. Somehow it must be profitable to travel half the world and sell pairs of jeans for 10 euros or wallets for 5 euros.

At the primary school Blijberg - which offers an international curriculum - we met three parents that came for temporary work in the Netherlands and by incident decided to stay in Rotterdam. We learned that just arrived Rotterdammers need social skills to be accepted in the neighbourhood. And that even left handed men equipped with social skills can let the neighbours do the work. Stef, one of the members of Inspiring Cities told that fifteen years ago he arrived in Rotterdam after his wife got employed in Rotterdam. After seeing the city’s skyline from the Erasmusbridge they decided to settle in Rotterdam.

A young woman living on the South bank of Rotterdam told that in the nineties her parents decided to live in Holland, mainly for political and economic reasons. Her father was a worker in the horticulture in the Westland greenhouses and is yet retired. Culturally the lifestyle of her east Turkish minority group, she explained, is close to the western. Her father also encouraged them to watch Dutch television and enjoy Dutch holidays. Now, all eight children are high educated. She is a role model for other children. These stories learn that Rotterdam is a vital part of the global village.
Interview with Linda Malherbe en Joop Reijngoud by Franz Ziegler, Correspondent in Arrival City.

Despite bad weather forecasts, it was a sunny afternoon in Rotterdam Zuid when we visited Afrikaanderplein. Linda and Joop guided us through the neighbourhood around this notorious square, stopping by their favourite “landmarks.” We were instantly impressed by the energy and the creativity of the local projects and by the passion of our two guides.

Linda and Joop are independent social entrepreneurs who work (with others) as a multidisciplinary team. Linda is an event organiser in the field of art and communication. Joop is a socially engaged photographer. Ever since they met for a project in the Rotterdam Town Hall, where they were asked to promote “open communication” by literally opening up the doors of this labyrinthine house of sectorial thinking bureaucrats, Joop and Linda have developed a strong working relationship. And more important develop “their own way of looking at a (troubled) community.”

Amongst their many strategies and projects, the most successful probably is their yearly exhibition of Group Photographs. The concept of this exhibition is deceptively simple. Linda and Joop trace a variety of people in a neighbourhood and identify the group of people that these different personalities belong to. The group can be anything from family to football team, from restaurant crew to religious sect. The groups are photographed and invited to attend the opening of the yearly group photo exhibit. At the opening of this event, there is always a miraculous sense of community spirit. We wanted to know much more about what we had seen through their eyes, so we sat down at their temporary studio at Kaap Belvedere in Katendrecht and went through many inspiring details of their methods and results.

FZ: To make these photographs we assume you need people to trust you. So tell us how do you gain this trust and get people to open up and tell you their story?

LM: First of all many people know us because we spend a lot of time in the neighbourhood. We find out about people and their networks. We question and listen all the time. We are approachable and want to legislate and drive. The reward we finally get for that is in the amazing stories that people share with us.

FZ: Once you are involved in a conversation, how do you get people to disclose their stories?

JR: At the point that we feel our conversation has come to a comfortable level, we ask the person if he or she is prepared to share with us the photographs that show important moments in their lives. We get to see marriage photos, family reunions, feasts after ritual circumcision, but also informal portraits at the beach. Every photograph represents a world of stories about relationships. We sit with people and extensively discuss their experiences. We hang on and stay as long as we can, never short of time for the next story. We feel it is our job to find the most positive side of people.

LM: By showing people our positive attention and interest, almost everybody opens up and shows us what they are proud of. Even the most bitter and frustrated subjects finally surrender. People are always proud to show the group they belong to. Therefore group photographs are always the favourite belongings people have. It is just amazing to see how happy people can talk about them and drop of all their masks. At the end we always ask if we can borrow these photographs for exhibition in the neighbourhood. More often than not, they are extremely proud to do so and approve to share these photographs in public space.

JR: Once we were in conversation with a Turkish lady who offered us an amazing set of pictures. I was so enthusiastic because the aesthetic quality of the photographs was fabulous too. But after two weeks, the lady came back to ask her images back. I guess she had realized that in our conversation she had shown us too much, overwhelmed by our positive attention. On one hand this story proves to us how successful we are in making people comfortable and proud. On the other hand, at that point we had to give back the images out of respect for people and the privacy they have right to.

FZ: You work with photographs that are borrowed from the neighbours and you make photographs of the people in groups. What is common about them and what do you do with them?

LM: All these photographs represent stories of relationships. What we do is try to connect people. We believe we succeed in connecting people best by looking at them as part of a group. In the photographs that we exhibit, personalities are portrayed as part of a group, never as single! We exhibit photographs as large posters on buildings in the neighbourhood. We have had a pavement exhibition of borrowed photographs right outside in the public square. And we have regular exhibitions inside, preferably in a commonly known gathering space like ‘t Gemaal.

FZ: What photographic techniques do you apply for this kind of work?

JR: In the borrowed photographs and our group photographs alike, every single person is facing the camera. Looking into the camera, one is most conscious of oneself. When you come to our exhibitions, hundreds of people are looking at you. They all have something to tell you. You definitely should feel you are addressed. So when I make the group photographs, I use a small ladder to get to a higher position. With this perspective there is scope for more people in the photograph. The ones in the front and in the back are more equal. But most important: everyone is looking up towards the camera. The face tilted up shows the optimistic and proud side of a person. One need not smile to look positive. Looking upwards reveals an open face and often a curious mind.

FZ: What is the effect of the exhibitions that you organise?

LM: A crucial part of what we do is inviting the groups that we photograph to the opening of the exhibition. In fact we enhance the importance of the presence of everybody by asking the groups to open their own exhibition. Every group photograph is revealed by ribbon cutting or any other applicable opening ritual by the group themselves. And every single name of the persons in the photographs is mentioned. Curiosity drives great crowds. Everybody wants to see their own picture first. The sheer size of our portraits makes everybody feeling important and proud. But then, in this happy and proud state of mind, the real magic happens! One is open to meet the other
persons present and portrayed in the same space. The side by side exhibition of group photographs causes a meeting and connecting of groups. Although many are neighbours and know each other by sight, it is now that people are treated as tourists as part of a group, the ones that they are identified with. Suddenly there is lots to talk about with those they did not know about before. From shoulder rubbing to comparison of group photographs, from an initial question to an in debt inquiry; the full spectrum of social interaction can be expected at these opening ceremonies. This is connecting people the best and most effective way we can imagine.

FZ: In conclusion, do you see a place for new arrivals in your work? Can Rotterdam, as an Arrival City, benefit from your work?

JR: The neighbourhood Afrikaanderwijk we visited today, really has very few new arrivals. It’s strength and character lies in the fact that there are strong communities here that are very attached to this place. The younger generation even moves back after trying out Barendrecht and finding it to boring in comparison with the liveliness of this neighbourhood. Nevertheless we have collected many arrival stories. You can imagine Afrikaanderwijk has many “Port City stories.” These stories are revealed along with the photographs that people show us. What happens in our conversations is that people reconnect themselves with their histories, their walk of life. And these stories are often about their arrival in Afrikaanderwijk too, in the period when also this neighbourhood was highly dynamic with influx of newcomers. So I can see a lot of benefit in the way we work when applied to arrivals and arrival neighbourhoods: it all starts with a deep interest in (his-)story / (her-)story.

LM: I once wanted to talk to a group of new arrivals: ten men who just arrived from Central Africa in a waiting room. Before I knew it, they handed me a small tag with a number on it. Puzzled about what this meant, it took me some time to discover that they assumed I was in this room for the same reason as they were. Even though the colour of my skin, language and appearance was radically different from theirs, they welcomed me into their group. For a moment I was part of a group of New Arrivals….waiting for our turn at the desk for seeking asylum….in Rotterdam.

Klushuizen
By Annerieke de Jong-Halff

“Klushuizen”: a paradigm shift from plannend city development to letting the ‘real world’ determine the city’s future looks.

A city-masterplan contains the visions of authorities involved for the future of a city. Yet, the day after such a plan is established, nothing has changed in the lives or surroundings of the people living in their homes and working in their shops within this area. In fact, the real future is never going to look exactly like the plan.

Especially for re-use or renewal of existing parts of the city, a perspective of making use of the dynamics of the world outside, instead of planning change, might be a successful one. A very practical example, based on local potential and organic development, of revitalising neighbourhoods we saw on one of the tours is the concept of “klushuizen” (do-it-yourself houses). An initiative marked by our foreign visitors as an ‘exciting new export-product for the Netherlands.’

Klushuizen are part of an entire block of houses in poor condition, which are sold in units for a low price to new owners. They are free to rebuild and renovate the entire interior of the house and make it a house of their own taste. By doing this en block, contractors, architects, etc. can be hired by the group for lower prices. The idea is that this concept attracts mainly young, middleclass newcomers. This in turn is desirable for stimulating diversity in the neighbourhood. Which benefits social and economic development within these neighbourhoods, and at the same time improves the street view within the neighbourhood. The owners on their turn get a chance to buy a house of their own for a reasonable price, and making their home an expression of themselves as they get a free hand in arranging it as they like. And hereby they can invest in upgrading the value of their property.

For local government this concept means: being flexible in applying rules and regulations. And sometimes facilitating the group in architectural questions and authorisation. But most of all this means partly letting go of (artificial) control of the future by local government.

Buy a home for a penny - a small scale evidence of a large scale shift
By Mads Christian Bundgaard, Analyst, House of Heritage, Copenhagen

Roaming through Rotterdam you may stumble upon signs proclaiming worn-down, derelict buildings to be offered as Klushuizen. The concept is the newest tactical instrument in the war against urban degeneration.

The concept of the Klushuis was invented in Rotterdam and is very simple: The local government selects decaying buildings in deprived neighbourhoods and buys them only to sell off apartments again. Instead of trying to make a short term economic profit from selling the apartments, the local government chooses a more long term strategy based on bottom up development and local pride.

One Euro apartments
The apartments are sold for only 1 euro with a clause for the buyer to invest 200,000 euros worth of working time and materials for renovating the place. This strategy has proved very popular across Rotterdam, and the concept has already been adopted throughout the Netherlands.

On the face of it is a good idea just because of the fact that young people get a chance to get in to the property marked in a time where this becomes increasingly difficult. In the age of industrialised mass production housing development, the possibility for people to in-
To buy a home for pence is another sign of the shifting paradigms in city planning: From ‘making a city’ to ‘being a city’. In order to consolidate what we have instead of making new greenfield developments, the Klushuis concept should be one of a variety of instruments to regenerate the city and raise life quality. By attracting middle class people (who are the most likely to be attracted to the concept) to refurbish buildings in run down neighbourhoods, the concept directs creative energy from people with a surplus to areas in deficit. In a post industrial, post capitalist era, the creative energy of the people is an unutilised resource that should be harnessed a lot more to better our societies. The Klushuis concept can help struggling welfare states with resource full inhabitants everywhere. Let’s go save our cities – for the bargain of a few Euros!

Two Bikes, a Love Story
by Emily Berwin and Mette

On a sunny spring morning on Rotterdams north bank of the harbour, two bicycles met and were unable to resist each other. They joined together suddenly with great passion, surprising all onlookers at their intensity and unwillingness to be separated. Eventually, 7 people intervened to assist and after an intense struggle were able to facilitate the love affair to make honest bicycles of each other with a happy engagement to be married! They will soon be enjoying their honeymoon on the southbank!

“Vleselijke Liefde: laat me laden waal” (Dutch-Chinese)
Tellible Love: let me guess who’le
By Rene, Rien, Rob and Vera

West
In this part of the city we constantly see new owners for existing shops. Vacancy is hardly seen over here. How is it possible that they survive even in a crisis like we have today? It seems like these shops have their own ties in the neighbourhood, their own family-relations and their own customers. A self-organising and self-sustainable shop-area.
A chain of shops like Oom’s-Liquers, Oom’s-Fish; Oom’s-Partycentre;
Katendrecht

Katendrecht have always been an arrival city. At first harbour-lords bought land at the southern bank and build their own castle along the river (a situation compared with other harbour cities such as Riga).

Later on the harbour extended at the southern bank. Arrivals or peasants from Brabant and Zeeland lead to housing projects for harbour-labours. Cafes and prostitutions came to Katendrecht.

In 1920 their was a big harbourstrike. The harbour-lords asked Chinese labourforces to come from London. The Chinese community grew very strong, while they were hardworking and cheap. Later on the Chinese spread all over Rotterdam and got higher incomes. At this moment the Chinese Community returns to their Katendrecht-roots. And these renewed chinese arrivals arrange private chinese investments to create for instance the Chinese church and the European Chinese Trade Centre. At the same time we’ve seen new arrivals of legal people who don’t have a home yet. They are temporarily hosted in the church of love and get free food-supplies from this church.

The third type of new arrivals are the middle- and high-income groups that come to Katendrecht from other parts of the city and the country. “Kleinschalig opdrachtgeverschap”, building their own houses.

Finally there is a small supermarket with a tremendous hospitality, that is selling products to all the different groups of Katendrecht. Not a survival-shop like West, but a real visual small melting pot store right at the corner.

North

North is no longer an arrival-city like Doug Saunders mentioned. There are some new arrivals in the Hofbogen-area like the photo-studio 500watt who was earlier located at Marconiplein, designers from The Hague and some architect bureaux. But mainly North is a gentrification-area; not an arrival-area.

The housing-corporation Havensteder owns 80% of the housing. Many dwellings have been restored. Havensteder is constantly following and designing developments in the area and has been a key player. The former problems within North are gone; North nowadays has its own dynamics. It is marketed as a hip and trendy area for food, fashion and design.

There are, besides the Hofbogen-initiative, 2 interesting developments in North: “Kookpunt” decided to concentrate all their shops in Rotterdam in North near the Noordplein. A lot of people from Rotterdam and outside-Rotterdam have discovered “Kookpunt” and other good restaurants in North like Destino, Zino ans Branco.

The old Roteb-building has been transformed in Rotab: a building for starters in fashion, design, second-handclothing and so on.

Conclusion:

Rotterdam as an arrival city has neighbourhoods which seems and are constantly on the move but each neighborhood forms at different times in history (and also in the future) a specific function. Not every neighborhood in an arrival city is an arrival neighborhood. West is an family-tied survival-city, North is a good example of a gentrification city and last but not least Katendrecht was, is and will be the real arrival-city. Although even there it is also the arrival of the white middle class which returns compared to the harbor lords with there castle homes in earlier times before there was even a harbour. What all these examples show us is that there was and is a place for everyone to arrive and stay in cities. Family ties, be amongst equals, cultural ties are things that tie people together. Physical structures suits that. Love is all there is and love matters.:)

Welcome home – A helping hand from your new home city.

By Matt Newby

Rotterdam is a melange of different communities with a rich social and cultural tapestry of people from many backgrounds, ages and aspirations. The personal accounts from the parents at the Rotterdam De Blijberg International School, surrounding the key issues and approaches to integrate and engage newcomers into multicultural communities gave the group first hand experiences of arriving into new communities. It was clear from the stories told that the school offered not only an international education facility, but act as an additional support group set up by staff and parents for new international members to the school. The utilisation of the schools strong international network means that in turn it can act as a hub to support new opportunities to wider social and economic development opportunities in the community. The personal accounts in the discussion identified that the balance between the schools educative function and its role in providing the initial stepping stone to support and integrate parents to the community was a key component to developing the international and local community. This social and educative responsibility was recognised as a valuable entity to the development of an effective welcoming strategy for newcomers to cities. The international perspectives found that the school had an important role in supporting its families to develop their economic and social aspirations. The discussion identified the following key points to address:

• Do arrivals have a platform to access services (e.g. housing) and social networks?
• Can local community led (with ex pats) support groups assist new arrivals with first step into the community?
• It is important for arrivals to integrate into new multicultural communities and not just established similar communities
• Loneliness can reduce aspirations to evolve socially
• Community led initiatives and events for arrivals from a multicultural perspective
• Community created welcome packs could be obtained to engage newcomers into new areas at an earlier stage.
Personals
By Matt Newby

Rotterdam: I am a young and forward thinking city with a passion for modern architecture, cycling and new ideas. WLTM new arrivals who wish to build their social and professional aspirations and integrate into new communities.

Vacancy Nieuwe Binnenweg as incubator for the area
By Lola Davidson and Alexandra de Jong

The Nieuwe Binnenweg is the ultimate starting point for many entrepreneurs. Laamari Et Taouyl for instance, born in Morocco, opened up the first nightshop of Rotterdam in 1981 at the Nieuwe Binnenweg. Laamari is not the only immigrant entrepreneur at the Nieuwe Binnenweg. Many shops are owned by immigrant shopkeepers, such as the Brazilian supermarket, Turkish bakery and Surinam ‘Tropical market’. The current shop vacancy offers opportunities for (new) entrepreneurs to experiment and start a business. This will make Rotterdam even more attractive as Arrival City. The opportunity to start a business will not only attract entrepreneurial immigrants, but also adventurous and creative youngsters. How the Nieuwe Binnenweg will develop, depends (partly) on how the vacant space is (temporarily) used. Various different scenarios are possible, of which two will be described below.

What if..
..vacancy is used for Galleries, artist studios and hipster shops?
The empty shops could be used by artists, designers and other creative people that will attract other young, hip people. This is a popular strategy to encourage gentrification. Will this turn NB into a hipster area? On the other hand, will that be damaging to the current shop owners because of a rise of rent due to gentrification? Possibly, but since Rotterdam has little hipster areas at the moment, the Nieuwe Binnenweg could form a great opportunity for Rotterdam to attract young urban professional ‘new arrivals’.

..vacancy is used for community development?
The vacant shop space could be used for local residents and cultural programs. This could increase social cohesion and possibly stimulate residents to develop their own activities. This will increase the attractiveness of the area and strengthen the local community.

Cosmopolistest
What Oude Westener are you?
By Lola Davidson and Alexandra de Jong

Question: In your opinion, in the near future, what your Nieuwe Binnenweg will be?
A/ NB will be the hipster cluster where shops and creative entrepreneurs settle in the area and are the marker of the street in a BOBO (Bourgeois-Bohême) Atmosphere?
B/ NB, a transversal community based development mixing shop owners and inhabitants, new comers and ‘autochthones’ (local meeting places, social cafés, associative bars, shops, short chains supply and local production)
C/ NB, the worldwide culinary street
D/ A salad bowl of A, B and C will be described below.
Results:
A/ You're a good hipster and you queue on Sundays to Koekoela to get their famous cookies.
B/ You're a shy geek afraid of speaking with your neighbours? This program is designed for you!!
C/ You're fed up with ‘broodje gezond’ and ‘stamppot’, you have subscribed to the Delicious Magazine. Stop dreaming, and go to buy and test exquisite food from all over the world in NB!
D/ You’re an organic development obsessed person, so no plan, wait and see!
Ps: Don't recognise yourself in this test? You can always write to us for the readers' mail section of the next edition of the Inspiring Cities Journal.

Making Rotterdam complete
By Dennis Lohuis

Rotterdam will be the first city worldwide in the history of mankind with all the world's nationalities.

There are 195 nationalities worldwide. Rotterdam wants to have them all. Already people from 179 different nationalities live their lives in the city. We still need 16 nationalities. So, if you’re from Tuvalu, Vatican City, Madagascar or one of the other 13 countries, Rotterdam cordially invites you our beautiful city. You’ll get full citizenship: a house, a working permit, a school for your children, free registration and of course a city that welcomes you.

Please register before 31 December 2012 and start a new year in Rotterdam. Help us to make Rotterdam unique and become the first worldwide city in the world!

City of Arrival, City of the future.
Some personal notes from 2 days international event “Rotterdam bright future”, 13 excursion trips, 4 meeting moments
By Viviana Rubbo

Rotterdam is the European city with the highest number of 1st and 2nd generation of immigrants. This percentage rises up to 60%. We can significantly define Rotterdam a place of migration.

This is an ongoing process, “fluid social spaces constantly reworked by migrants and their ways to live and occupy the urban space; the transnational city” as Paul van der Laar suggested during the opening speech of the 2 days urban trip “Rotterdam Bright future”.

The old history of the city is about migrants who came to work in polders and in the harbour.

First the Chinese employed in the harbour.
During the 50’s and the 60’s, the city centre saw the arrival of prostitutes and Moroccans, Italians, Portuguese... Those who were not successful moved back to their countries. The successful ones... in the 90’s, moved out of the city centre.

“Arrival - a beautiful confrontation with our own paradigm....” declared Justien Marseille in the opening.

Some questions we will have to keep in mind during the trip:
- How does the city develop itself from inside?
- Why people decide to come here to live?
Since the 70’s, social democrats have not really wanted integration policies to be encouraged. They used to call the migrants coming to the Netherlands to work the gast-arbeiders: “the guests”. It was thought that at a certain point, they should have gone back home again.

Dutch people accepted newcomers but didn’t act to look for long-term solutions. For a long time, Dutch policies never coped with the issues that the migrant flows posed.
A recurrent remark during the two days seemed to be the lack of welcoming structures and the feeling of being foreigner in its own city: “Where is everybody? Enthusiastic female newcomer looking for interesting people & place to meet”.

“I saw the city. But I don’t completely understand what I liked of it because the city made me feel like a newcomer”. It seems that, being the workers’ city – the arrival city of the working class - Rotterdam didn’t realise it was going to change. Immigrants didn't go back home as expected. Newcomers became inhabitants and looked for their own way to be home here.

A real patchwork of cultures, co-existence of immigrant stories, different populations, people.

I had the chance to pass through the city from West to the inner city centre and then straight to South. By bike, on foot... Starting on the Western border, Spangen, Marconiplein, the Justuskwartier, Schiedamseweg, Visserijnplein market, Mathenesserdijk, Asiatic supermarket, Brazilian kitchen, twinkling Indian clothes, exotic fruits...concentration of differences!
Long walk along Middellandstraat reaching Kruisplein.
The South bank is again another book with amazing stories: each neighborhood has its own identity, a complex and dense cultural and economic melting pot. The coloured and tumultuous Winkel-boulevard Zuid and the charming blooming Vreewijk. Afrikaander-wijk: the ’boksen’ gym, demolitions, new urban development and the Afrikaanse fotofestival, the arrival city story tale through the pictures of the inhabitants.

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Restoration of a monument of social housing
by Marijke Storm

The housing project Justus van Effen of 1922 looks brand-new again. The famous architect Brinkman constructed a unique project to house skilled labourers.

The 264 dwellings were a novum. The well designed dwellings were based upon the socialist ideas for a good and healthy family life. With a wide balcony as a public street alongside the upper apartments, with lots of open space on the ground level and with public amenities like central heating and a public bath for doing the laundry and bathing.

In the 80's this monument was ruined by a disastrous restoration. Now the housing association Woonbron decided to renovate it again. The old splendour came back. Houses are combined, there are now 154 dwellings between 50 and 200 m², with rental prices between 450 till 700 euro or purchase prices of 145.000 till 350.000 euro. May 2012 the first inhabitants will move in.

The Justus Van Effenblock looks beautiful again, with the clean yellow bricks and the renovated wooden window frames. A new life for a famous monument of social houses. But it is difficult to grasp that it no longer is a social housing project as middle income groups will live here. New reality.

Why moving to Spangen? Some families who bought restored apartments a couple of years ago are saying: good houses for relatively low prices; many young urban families are moving in; our children play safely in the inner garden, we made many friends with the other couples and we thought it adventurous to move to an area that before had a bad fame. Little by little the Spangen of only social houses is changing towards a mixed neighbourhood with many different cultures. The new mix of inhabitants in Spangen started a bottom up initiative for planting a public community garden with fruit trees and maintaining it. And it works. While visiting this garden project a young Moroccan boy came to the gardenkeeper to ask whether he could help with sowing the seeds. The example shows that gardening in the city unites people.
But, what would this jelly cake look alike in the European side, and in particular in cities with a high rate of annual migrants?

During the seminar, one of the participants developed the idea that each neighbourhood in Rotterdam’s city had an “arrival function”. Without exploring this idea in any depth or detail – a question that is much well addressed elsewhere (Saundler, 2011) – the simple mention of this thought seems to suggest that the city as a whole would have failed to cope with the integration of its in-migrants. And yet, the substantial development of a myriad of ethnic enclaves in any cosmopolitan cities aimed at welcoming expatriate, illegal migrants from the same origin would be consistent with this hypothesis.

There remain major questions that urges to be first addressed before taking the decision to implement or not, and the design any policies around the “arrival-city making”.

Can the “arrival city” be a culture? Should it be organised by the local political authorities through the provision of services for specific needs (language assistance, administrative help). Or, should it build and develop within the society itself, the autochthonous themselves being the key proactive agents? But firstly, does the scale of the migration allow us to promote a routine of welcoming newcomers? The challenge which is posed for these cities is not an impossible challenge but these questions need fast to be addressed and answered.

Looking for signs of the future Arrival City
by Justien Marseille, trendwatcher and founder of The Future Institute

I love the subject of the arrival city. Saunders’ project and book projects the core of trendwatching: attention for arrivals, In Arrival cities focused on people, watching trends in general focused on arrivals in general: people, things, idea’s.

Arrivals aresigns of possible futures. The unpolished gold, hidden beyond our cognition and imagination. Neglected because the idea is to far from our own paradigm, not on the agenda of the mass. Overseen in the spur of the moment. And Saunders thorough work explains this al.

Blinded by our own paradigms we tend to neglect signals of possible futures. We just don’t see them, or categorize them as rare events not to be taken serious. Years of trendwatching learned that these signs, strange, uncomfortatle, hard to categorize signals, are the source of the future.

Signs like the famous ‘Kapsalon’. A snack founded by a hairdresser <kapsalon> in dutch in the raw Delfshaven district, now, 10 years later the greasy snack is even available in New York, a well documented case, our own example to Saund’s database.

Caused by a <not to be taken serious> hairdresser with a great taste for greasy food and a large network. It is with us for 10 years already.

We tend to neglect the signs of the future because we are too busy seeing what we want to see. Surviving in the everyday’s follie.

Saunders concentrated on arriving people and everybody in de department of city planning and city economics should read and discuss it. But the project also shows the value of looking beyond all our other paradigms on the city. Not only the people, also in hidden and unpolished gold of arrivals in economy, transport and agriculture. Overcoming todays paradigm can be trained by being aware of the small signs of change, the unpredicted, creative, alternative solutions.

From a snack you never heard of before, to the embrace of a planning mistake nearby a hospital.

And as your eyes are the eyes of an arriver. It would be fun if you would share your gasps. Be aware of anything that is not normal, a bit strange, a bit different. Picture it. Share it Tag it with #IC12.

(As the Friday mash up was interrupted by live itself, herewith some of notes to the material.)

Interesting are the thoughts are captured on kids and education. They are, in demographic way, the most interesting group to invest. Concentrated in homogeneous neighbourhoods, sizable solutions for the future of the cities. Even in economic way the most interesting, as they are with many and have everything to win. Its seems that the era of art’s solution to any problem, have last its time. Some even say that all this community art attracted the wrong kind of artist, they who followed the money, not the art.

Art is heading to neighborhood activities around food and playful-ness, and divides to agriculture.

A nice test with interesting material. Worth further investigation.

Some notions beyond today’s paradigms I want to share are:

Do not look at the city as a hierarchy of infrastructure. It is not about going to the library, getting a book and take it home. It is about finding a book in the cloud (and stay at home). Cities are not collections of cars anymore. In twenty years we will only drive the cars ourselves on the race circuits, Selfdriving will be banned like cigarettes. Fifteen years from now, cities will be about connection. Marketplaces dissolves. People do not go to places to get goods, but rather to get rid of goods, and to discuss the goods they already have. Be aware of the #hoodfood. It is possible because of two reasons,. Layered media enable you to see where in the neighbourhood what food can be found. Matches with as less as possible transportation.
On the other hand guarantee and trust are shared with the network. Transparency leading to better effort. #Hood food is a nice sidestep from the somewhat overwhelming street art as solution to all problems.

And don’t forget to enjoy all the Layar app Art all over the city.

Find the presentation of Justine Marseille over Arrival City Rotterdam on http://prezi.com/y9b7fnw/arrival-rotterdam/

Rotterdam Bright Future in two minutes
by Jolai van der Vegt
Chair Urban Area Development TU Delft

The Chair Urban Area Development of the TU Delft, together with Inspiring Cities and Pameijer-TV filmed interviews with urban planners and entrepreneurs of two typical ‘arrival’ neighbourhoods, Oude Westen and Charlois. A total of twenty interviews, as well as a compilation-film can be viewed online at www.gebiedsontwikkeling.nu and www.inspiringcities.org.

Due to the book “Arrival city” (2010) by Doug Saunders, the city of Rotterdam has discovered the economic potential of its ‘arrival’ neighbourhoods. According to Doug Saunders, slums in developing countries and poor neighbourhoods in Western cities are linked because they are settlements in different stages of dynamic migration processes worldwide. He also convincingly argues that migrants are fundamental motors behind economic growth of cities, but only according to certain social and spatial conditions. Therefore, the city of Rotterdam came up with questions as: Which chances are offered by the city of Rotterdam to new arrivals? Which chances do new arrivals offer to the city? And: How can the city of Rotterdam improve its accommodations for new arrivals?

However, these questions are too complex to just pose them to urban planners or entrepreneurs. Furthermore, for our film-project we had to consider that people’s general capacity to concentrate on online news-items is limited to two minutes only. Therefore, the interviews had to be short and concise and we prepared several operational questions. For the Urban planners: What is it that fascinates you about the subject “Arrival city”? Why is this subject important? And: Does this subject give new insights on planning issues for the city? And for the migrant-entrepreneurs: When did you start with this business? How did you start with this business? How did you start? Is your family involved? Why on this location? Is your business successful?

In the three-day’s process of intense filmmaking, some important and show these hidden fruits. Floor Cornelisse succeeded in that.

On our last day we visited two international schools and interviewed teachers, parents and representatives of organizations that help expats to find their way in The Netherlands. Catherine Transler and Anupam Tripathy told us how they decided to become migrants instead of expats, thus choosing to stay in Holland for longer period of time because they felt at home or needed to settle down. Catherine also did research on the phenomenon of expats and discovered that expats generally feel very lonesome, and that this feeling is stronger in Holland than in any other country. Her personal explanation was that individualism and privacy in Holland are highly valued and Dutch citizens seldom mingle with people outside their circle of family and friends.

Expats told us that the city of Rotterdam is not paying much attention to new-arrivals. People are not helped to find their way to a job or a house. Information on regulations and procedures at the city hall, for example, is not available in the English language. At international schools parents receive important information and get in touch with fellow expats. The children are warmly welcomed in small classes where they receive lessons in English and can feel save. Their background and cultural identity are respected and with that they are stimulated to discover their new surroundings.

In Charlois we heard from entrepreneurs that for migrants arrival in Rotterdam is even harder. Without any money and connections it takes a long time to start to identify with the city they live in. Sometimes it takes generations. The biggest problem for them is to get the chance to meet and become acquainted with Dutch citizens. Spatial and social segregation is a fact and only Dutch artists and designers like Ivo van den Baar who belong to the so-called creative-class are willing to move to ‘arrival’ neighbourhoods of Rotterdam. And only very hard-working, talented and ambitious 2nd and 3rd generation migrants like Eylem get the chance to integrate and find a way to the top.

Hans, one of the filmmakers, approached me after we finished our last interviews with two urban planners who openly showed their in-
convenience with the theme of immigration. He was emotional and upset. He said that in none of these interviews the real story of immigration had been told. He asked me if any of the professional urban planners at this congress had ever experienced an arrival without any means and knowledge of the city. He told me how lost and very ill he had become due to his migration from Nigeria to Holland. It had taken him decades to find his way around. He has lived for many, many years in Rotterdam, but only recently did he have his first conversation with a Dutch neighbour.

I realized he had a point and asked him to speak out in front of the camera. And I think he did a magnificent job, because he understood something very important. He understood that one cannot reach urban planners or any city-professional by telling a personal story, by talking about despair and pain. Instead, he translated his complex and dramatic life-experience into short and catching statements. For us to recognise. In two minutes, no more.

Time Travel through Rotterdam Noord

Colophon:

Redaction: Sascha Jenke, Jeroen Laven, Hans Karssenberg
Layout: David Dooghe
Cover: Yulia Kryazheva

Inspiring Cities, Stipo & Deltametropolis Association
May 2012
Rotterdam

The Ultimate City
by Stef Fleischeuer, Kim Zweerink, Vera Bauman

Durf ik te dwalen, voel ik me veilig
Zonder te weten wie ik ontmoet
Wil ik hier met mijn kinderen wonen
Moet je overal wel willen wonen?

Rotterdam is Noord of Zuid
Ik word er soms niet vrolijk van
Mannelijke stad, hoekig tegendraads
Werelds, wijds maar raauw

Je dappere pogingen
Bewijzen wat je kan
Bruut verstoord
Door slechte lijstjes

Hoeveel moeite moet ik doen?
Rotterdam is rusteloos, stad van vele sferen
Palet van kleuren
Vaak zo bruusk gescheiden

Een sterk karakter
Je staat voor wat je bent
En achter het pantser van hoogbouw
Schuilt onzekerheid om wat je niet bent

Rotterdam is zacht, aandoenlijk
Op zoek naar het verdwenen hart
De ziel van het verleden
Bron van de toekomst

Rotterdam omarmt
Ontwapenende speelsheid neemt me mee
Het onbekende maakt niet angstig
Nieuwsgierig naar het nieuwe

Bruggen verbinden
Het nieuwe hart bonkt overal
Rivier en stad, Zuid en Noord
Als je het wil

Rotterdam is vrouwelijk, hard to get
Als ik je al weet te vinden
Mijn kinderen
Hebben je al lang gevonden

Photo Gallery
Last night program

Friday 27th of April
Artful City by Night: a night-time visit to the Witte de Withstraat, Rotterdam’s street of culture.

I cannot walk through the suburbs in the solitude of the night without thinking that the night pleases us because it suppresses idle details, just as our memory does. — Jorge Luis Borges

There is a palpable air of culture and innovative creativity in the Witte de Withstraat and the small streets that intersect it. An area with many galleries that present a diverse and provocative range of artistic expressions. Besides culture and the arts, the street also has many cafés, bars and restaurants where people from different backgrounds meet, mingle and interact. In a way, the Witte de Withstraat is an artful city of its own, for those who believe that in the night, when the destructive analytic of day is done, when words fade and things come alive, all that is truly important becomes whole and sound again.

Together we will discover the Artful City by Night with a visit to Café LaBru, Wittie Aap, Tikka Bar, Restaurant Bazar, De Schouw, NRC amongst many others.

Tweet your answers #R2012
> Whisper three compliments in someone’s ear that you would like to give to Rotterdam.
> Make a picture of a group member with the line: everybody will be famous for 15 minutes. In it.
> Ask for a Rotterdam drink at de bar.
> Give a short speech about the most exciting thing you discovered in Rotterdam today.
> Ask a man to describe the Rotterdammer in three words.
> Finish the following: Minny Shun... her job.
> Where is the big clock in LaBru come from?
> Where does the name Wittie Aap come from?
> The building that now houses the New Rotterdam Cafe was originally built for what?
> The facade of the Schouw is famous for what?
> The biggest Twitterer wins a bottle of champagne!