

# LEARNING CITIES PLATFORM EVENT 2012



**27 - 29 JUNE UTRECHT**

**STATION AREA UTRECHT (NL)  
HAFENCITY HAMBURG (D)  
PLACES OF CONNECTION BORDEAUX (F)**

[www.LearningCitiesPlatform.wordpress.com](http://www.LearningCitiesPlatform.wordpress.com)

**THE ACADEMY  
OF URBANISM**





## MANAGING URBAN CHANGE IN PLACES OF CONNECTION

An activity of the Academy of Urbanism and INTA's Community of Competence on Workspace Urbanism

### Background

Over the last forty years, a common phenomenon of many European cities has been the restructuring of inner-city land in order to improve places of connection for different modes of transport and to enhance the value of the uses. In some cases this has been triggered by the relocation of logistical functions to peripheral sites, to improve functionality and accessibility, or in other cases to increase the value of the land by redevelopment, while maintaining the connecting function. These developments often take decades to complete, have a considerable impact on the character and functions of the surrounding areas, and can be disruptive to the life and energy of the city.

The European Learning Cities Platform of the Academy of Urbanism, together with the INTA Objective 2030 program, aims to provide a learning network for cities to share experiences, identify common problems and bring together public, private and community partners to propose lasting solutions for managing the process of transforming inner-city places of connection.

### Themes of the Learning Cities Platform

The central issues are:

What are the common ambitions and challenges for European cities in the 21st century?

How can we change our cities in a way that makes them successful, resilient and adaptable enough for the demands of future generations, and how can we make sure they can adapt themselves to environmental, socio-economical as well as technological changes?

What are suitable mechanisms and processes to implement long-term urban change whilst

allowing the city to continue to function successfully?

Transforming a railway station is very often a project of metropolitan importance reflecting the changing nature and size of the city. Train station regeneration - the development of places of connexion - encompasses wider issues of urban development such as: Connectivity and connection; diversity and synergy of functions; the balance of security and accessibility within the public and semi public realm; space and place development; ownership, governance and management; inter-communal cooperation. How are these themes treated in current station renewal projects and how do they relate to each other?

### Case Study Approach

Three case study projects have been selected as "Learning cities" for detailed analysis: Hafen-City, Hamburg, Bordeaux Places of Connection, and Utrecht Central Station Area.

The main learning event will be hosted by the City of Utrecht, Central Station project team 27 - 29 June 2012, with an optional tour of the central area of Utrecht on the afternoon of Wednesday 27 June. The main event will be a plenary presentation and analysis of the three case projects, providing the stimulus for interactive working discussions, to draw conclusions which capture the common principles for successfully planning and managing the structural change of existing inner-city places of connection.

The intensive two day program will be a combination of plenary presentations (35 participants) and; small, 6-7 person facilitated workshop groups, with time for informal networking and exchange of experience. The aim is for projects to learn from each other, by the exchange of experience and insights between the individual participants from different disciplines and cultures.

## 4 | 2. THEMES

A railway station is more than a functional place of connection, it can become a place of environmental innovation; building relationships with neighbouring public spaces and where effective process of urban planning stimulates a process of transformation. In the past, inner-city regeneration associated with major infrastructure projects has not always been both conceived and implemented in the context of the wider city. This programme aims to address the potential risks of stand-alone redevelopment and to identify new strategies for design, implementation, management and partnership.

Five themes have been identified; **Connecting, Collaborating, Changing, Communicating, Controlling**, to structure the discussions with the aim of providing an understanding of how to:

- Identify demand, define expectations, balance interests and thus ensure success;
- Manage a process of continuous change;
- Initiate a collaborative process of planning, design, production, and management including decision making and communication between operators of railway stations and transport systems on one side and urban communities and other public actors on the other side;
- Review the conditions for shared governance for the functional development and management of the various public components of the development of places of connexion.



Stationarea developments in Utrecht



The Utrecht Canals

The **City of Utrecht** is one of the four major Dutch cities, complementary to each other and forming the Randstad. The station is a national, regional and local transport hub through which over 120 million people pass every year. The station acts as a link between the medieval city centre and the recent development of 30,000 new homes on the far side of the rail tracks.

The founding of the City of Utrecht dates back to the Roman Empire (Ultrajectum) and the city has a beautiful old city centre with its own characteristic canals. Utrecht has approx. 350.000 inhabitants and is part of the Randstad with approx. 7 million inhabitants. It is the capital of the Dutch Catholic church and until the 17th century, the Dutch Golden Age, was the leading city in the Netherlands. With the growth of rail and car transport, Utrecht became the crossroads of the Netherlands. This attracted major companies in finance, communications and professional services. Utrecht has a university, founded in 1636 and now with . 30.000 students. Its hospital is one of the largest in the Netherlands).

### 3. PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

#### Learning Cities

The Learning Cities will display their inner-city projects and assess their performance in small group discussions, facilitated by a panel of experts, with representatives from each of the three Learning Cities, and the three invited Reference Cities. One person per Learning City will also travel to the other two cities for the familiarization visits.

You can participate in the Event as:

#### Reference Cities

The Reference Cities will have the opportunity to introduce their projects at the main event. They will compare their own projects with the projects of the Learning Cities. They will participate in the panel discussions and draw conclusions from

their own projects to help formulate principles of relevance to all.

#### Observers

Observers will attend the event and have the opportunity to actively participate in the plenary discussions. They will gain new insights into large-scale development practices and interact with decision makers and project leaders of the Learning and Reference Projects.

## 6 | 4. THE LEARNING CITIES

The three learning city projects are each different in their context and scope, whilst addressing the common theme of restructuring underperforming inner-city land to rejuvenate the city improve the places of connection.

**Utrecht**, the premier rail interchange for the Netherlands, through which over 120 million passengers pass per year, is embedded within a major retail centre. The station acts as a link between the medieval city centre and the recent development of Leidse Rijn, 30,000 new homes on the far side of the tracks. After decades of discussion, in 2002 a newly elected party announced the city would take the lead and decide on the approach through a referendum. The result was an afreed development framework and leading role for the city in celebrating its local character, whilst accommodating major “national” programmes, for a public transport hub, shopping centre and exhibition ground.

**Bordeaux**, a proud trading centre from the past, and distinctive regional centre, over the last two decades has revitalized and given new identity to its fine historic centre through the construction of 47 km of tram network and associated public realm design. In 2017 the high speed rail to Paris (2 hrs) will be completed, with a second phase to Madrid (3.5 hrs) in 2020. The construction of the tram system has given confidence in the role that transport investment can have in stimulating the economy and improving the quality of the environment. The second phase reflecting the national connectivity of the city, is a station redevelopment site and regeneration of the surrounding markets and waterfront, combined with a plan for 50,000 homes associated with the expansion of the tram network, and used as a catalyst to re- envision and create identifiable places in the low density, car focussed, metropolitan hinterland.



*Utrecht New Canal*



*Bordeaux, new riverfront*

**HafenCity Hamburg**, is a project of immense ambition, to integrate the 157 hectare, enclosed Freeport site, back into the fabric of the existing urban heart. Since 2004 with the establishment of HafenCity GmbH a 100% subsidiary of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the area has become a destination with 1,800 residents, 8,500 jobs and over 300 businesses. HafenCity building fast is more than a building site, it is equally concerned with economic and social development. It is innovative in its approach, focussed on quality, learning through evaluation, reflection and feed back. HafenCity is an exemplar of integrative, collaborative working, and a yardstick against which to measure other projects.



*HafenCity Hamburg, west*

## 5. PROGRAMME

The programme is jointly organised by the Academy of Urbanism and INTA. John Worthington, Founder of DEGW and Director of the Academy of Urbanism, Michel Sudarskis, Secretary General INTA, and Henk Bouwman, director of Urban Impulse.eu will jointly chair the programme. There will be experts from the AoU and INTA to assist.

Each of the Learning Cities will provide key comparative data and 50 of your supporting brochures/reports for distribution to participants.

On the thursday each Learning City project has 1:15 hours for presentation of their project. Leaving time for questions is discretionary. The presentation should set the project(s) in the wider urban context, recognising that date sheets will have been provided beforehand.

The presentations cover five themes:

- **Connecting**
- **Collaborating**
- **Changing**
- **Communicating**
- **Controlling**

Each Learning City has 5 delegates, who should cover the 5 themes. Aim to have representation from:

- The project leadership – (executive and or political)
- Finance, implementation,
- Marketing, managing change and tenant relationship
- Community
- Education, research and innovation links



## Programme and timing for main event

### Wednesday 27 June

- 14.00 – 17.30 Optional walking introduction to site and surrounding areas  
19.00 Informal pre symposium dinner

### Thursday 28 June

- Places of Connection: Three projects, three places, three cultures, three stages of completion; one goal**
- 08.30 Welcome and Introduction  
09.00 - 10.15 Station Area, Utrecht  
10.15 - 11.30 Places of Connection, Bordeaux  
*Break*  
12.00 - 13.15 HafenCity Hamburg
- Lunch: Eat , walk and talk*
- 14.15 - 15.45 **Places of Connection: Defining the agenda**  
Five working groups each focused on a theme, reflecting The morning presentations and participants project experience  
**Connecting**  
**Collaborating**  
**Changing**  
**Communicating**  
**Controlling**
- 15.45 - 17.15 **Assessing the Learning Cities**  
Three workshops, with five theme perspectives, led by three reference places  
- Hafen-City, Hamburg  
- Places of Connection; Bordeaux  
- Centraal Station; Utrecht
- 17.15 - 18.00 Plenary feedback – Common issues, distinctive differences  
20.00 Symposium dinner

### Friday 29 June

- Places of Connection: Framing the Issues, Establishing the principles**
- 08.30 - 10.00 Five working groups, five themes, one set of common issues and principles  
*Break*  
10.30 - 12.00 **Three Learning Cities groups, one set of principles**  
Three working groups
- Lunch*
- 13.30 - 14.30 Plenary feedback and synthesis  
*Break*  
15.00 - 16.00 Plenary drafting: ten principles for achieving great places of connection  
16.00 - 16.45 Conclusions for the European Learning Cities Platform, Places of Connection  
17.00 Closing by the **Mayor of Utrecht**

## 10 | 6. OFFER AND COSTS

You can join the Event 2012 by participating as Observer. Learn from the experiences on Connecting, Collaborating, Changing, Communicating and Controlling in their plans. Below you will find our offer to join the Event 2012:

### ✓ **Reference Cities: € 5,500**

Each Reference City will be offered:

- Preferential rates for attendance to a one day learning event at the two additional Learning Cities
- Summary assessment and case study of their strategic project
- Naming as secondary sponsor on promotion and publications
- 3 participants at main Learning Event (travel and lodging costs incl.)
- Copies of final publication

### ✓ **Observer Project : € 1.000 per participant**

Each observer will be offered:

- Active participation in the main learning event
- Access to supporting documentation
- Visibility in the final publication
- Copies of the final publication

### ✓ **Individual Observer : € 900**

Each observer will be offered:

- Active participation in the main learning event
- Access to supporting documentation
- Copy of the final publication

In addition all will be offered preferential rates for a learning day events at the two additional Learning Cities.

Please contact Henk Bouwman + 31 654 295 377 or see contact information.



*Bringing back old waterstructures in Utrecht and redeveloping the area*

## 7. CONTACTS

Find the latest updates about the Event on:

[www.learningcitiesplatform.eu](http://www.learningcitiesplatform.eu)

and

<https://learningcitiesplatform.wordpress.com>

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## 12 | 8. SPONSORS

The three Learning Cities Bordeaux, Hamburg and Utrecht sponsor the Event 2012. Utrecht will be hosting the event in June. During May project information will be collected for each of the three Learning Cities and made available on the web site for all participants. A research will be done on the material and it will be made 'comparable'. For the event we will offer a guide with the relevant information.

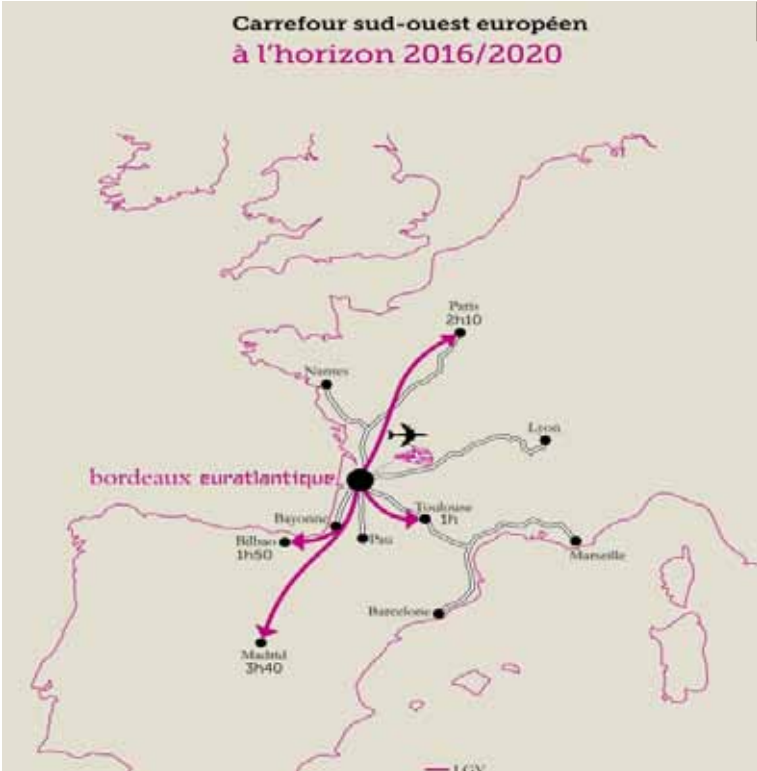
After the event a report will be made with the findings.

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and post comments to the blog or at  
Twitter: @learningcities1

and contact us at:  
[info@learningcitiesplatform.eu](mailto:info@learningcitiesplatform.eu)



*Utrecht, exploded view of the new central station*



Hamburg Hafen City aerial view  
[http://www.bordeaux-auratlantique.fr/images/image\\_carrefourLGV\\_light.jpg](http://www.bordeaux-auratlantique.fr/images/image_carrefourLGV_light.jpg)

## 9. INITIATORS

### THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM

The Academy of Urbanism is an autonomous, politically independent, cross-sector organisation incorporated in 2006 with the aim of expanding urban discourse. The Academy brings together a diverse group of thinkers, decision-makers and practitioners involved in the social, cultural, economic, political and physical development of our villages, towns and cities, and is an active membership organisation.

The AoU has an annual awards programme for places, neighbourhoods, streets, towns and the European City of the year award. Since inception over 90 places have been shortlisted for awards and visited.

[www.academyofurbanism.org.uk](http://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk)

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### HKB URBANISTS

HKB Urbanists is a Dutch consultancy and design studio. HKB develops practical spatial and programmatic solutions within the ever-changing human biotope. Our focus is to create meaningful places in order to let people develop their talents. For that purpose, we gain knowledge on the physical context, but also explore stakeholders' values. Reflecting on the ultimate ambitions of these aspects will result in a spatial and programmatic agenda instead of blue prints.

HKB is based in Rotterdam and Groningen, and has clients based in Europe and Asia. In our 60 years of existence, we have developed a strong continuous relationship with the Universities of Delft and Amsterdam.

[www.hkbs.nl](http://www.hkbs.nl)

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### INTA - INTERNATIONAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT ASS.

INTA is a global membership association, based in Paris, of public and private policy makers and urban practitioners that share knowledge, experience and tools for integrated urban development. Different Communities of Competence within INTA further deepen the understanding of specific issues identified within the membership, that most likely will have a significant impact on urban society, thus fostering new insights, tools and methods to improve decision-making and public action. INTA's Annual Congress is the forum where the results of the Communities' efforts are brought together, in order to provide urban stakeholders with useful insights for strategic debate.

[www.inta-aivn.org](http://www.inta-aivn.org)



### SPACE SYNTAX

Space Syntax is an expert consultancy office providing a unique, evidence-based approach to the planning and design of buildings and urban areas. Based on 25 years of academic experience at University College London, Space Syntax has been able to illuminate a range of physical and spatial factors that strongly influence the performance and value of built environments. This approach helps to reduce or mitigate the risk of functional failure and can help to boost returns of many sorts: footfall, safety, interaction and, generally, the 'buzz' that is the goal of so many initiatives. Operating out of its Bloomsbury studio in London, Space Syntax has developed a 'spatial language' that cuts across disciplinary boundaries and translates the objectives of public and private agencies and stakeholders into meaningful frameworks of action.

[www.spacesyntax.com](http://www.spacesyntax.com)

**Space Syntax**

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works on how to exchange with them  
works on how to learn from them  
works on how you can change it into your own  
urban biotope  
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*New station including the many railway tracks*



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