

**CITY IN TRANSITION**

**WINTER 2016**

**EU  
2016**

# **NEW AMS TER DAM #08**

**MAYOR EBERHARD VAN DER LAAN** **NIEUW NEDERLAND** **NEW EUROPE**

**EUROPE BY PEOPLE: FABCITY & THE WALL** **METROPOLITAN FIELD TRIPS**

**THINK GLOBALLY, FABRICATE LOCALLY** **IN SEARCH OF EUROPE**

**REFUGEES WELCOME** **ACT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE** **CROSSING EUROPE**

**CITY MAKERS AGENDA** **OFF THE GRID** **LOCAL INITIATIVES**

# NEW EUROPE

**CITIES IN TRANSITION.EU**

# NEW EUROPE 27-30 CITY MAY MAKERS 2016 SUMMIT

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**PRE-SUMMIT  
PAKHUIS DE ZWIJGER  
4-5 FEBRUARY 2016**

MORE INFORMATION: [CITIESINTRANSITION.EU/EVENT/NEW-EUROPE-CITY-MAKERS-SUMMIT](http://CITIESINTRANSITION.EU/EVENT/NEW-EUROPE-CITY-MAKERS-SUMMIT)



Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union



Ministerie van Economische Zaken en  
Klimaat



PAKHUIS DE ZWIJGER\*

**ZNSTD**

**EINDHOVEN**



**Zwolle**

**Gemeente Groningen**

Gemeente Enschede

**Gemeente Maastricht**

**Gemeente Utrecht**

**gemeente Lelystad**

# LET'S MEET AND MAKE OUR FUTURE CITIES TOGETHER IN AMSTERDAM, CENTRE OF EUROPE

It is true: in the first six months of 2016, Amsterdam is the centre of Europe when the Netherlands holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It's a great opportunity for Amsterdam and for Europe to work on and in the city of the near future and reflect on the Europe we want to live in.

Throughout our own and other cities in Europe, you can find inspiring examples of local bottom-up initiatives which deal with everyday challenges in a practical and innovative way. Our platforms Nieuw Amsterdam, Nieuw Nederland and New Europe about cities in transition, are collecting these initiatives through active City Makers. During the Netherlands Presidency, a European City Makers Summit will be held, where experiences and knowledge will be shared and forces joined. The networks have shown sufficiently that the future of cities does and should not depend on governmental institutions alone. This predicament underlies basically all the programmes taking place in Pakhuis de Zwijger, which will this year focus - even more than usual - on making cities, together.

During this upcoming half year, the political action - informal meetings of ministers and their staff - will take place at the former navy base, 500 metres from our front door. There, the challenges Europe and its cities are facing will be discussed: climate change, energy, refugees, employment, privacy, food production, healthcare and growing division. Solving these problems is not an easy task, but one for which our city is well equipped: it harbours creativity, knowledge, power of imagination and designing capacity. In the cities, working on a New Europe - a self-sustaining, liveable and durable Europe - is already well underway.

Given the opportunity to be one of the cultural intendants of the EU2016 cultural programme, we can put all of these innovative ideas into action, make art and design work in society and together shape our future Europe. The need for collaboration and connection has led to the programme of Europe by People: bringing

together the creative power of arts, design and science. Together, citizens, students, artists, designers and other professionals will reflect and work on everyday problems we are facing in our cities, on different locations and in different forms.

Arts and design programme The Wall started on January 1. The 450-metre long brick fence surrounding the buildings where the ministers and officials meet, will serve as a canvas for artists and as grounds for workshops, meeting points and stages occupied by New Europeans - young thinkers and makers from around the continent. As from mid-April, students and young professionals will be working on practical solutions in collaboration with institutions and companies on the FabCity Campus nearby. Through research, but even more by actually putting theory into practice. Not behind thick walls and steel doors, but in easily accessible pavilions and out in the open - to stimulate the contribution of and interaction with the audience we hope to greet at the theme-based performances, lectures and exhibitions in Amsterdam and Brussels.

Together, we make our future cities. The cities in which we dream, create, work, play, care and love. The future of everyday living.

[dezwijger.nl](http://dezwijger.nl)

[citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu)

[europebypeople.nl](http://europebypeople.nl)

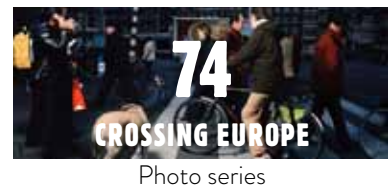
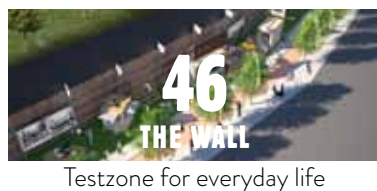


**Egbert Fransen**

*director Pakhuis de Zwijger and  
EU2016 cultural intendant*



**CO**  
**NT**  
**EN**  
**TS**





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© cities.human.co

Human aims to inspire millions of people around the world to enjoy daily activity. The app detects and categorises walks, bike rides and runs, to provide you insights about your exercise patterns. Activity data from people around the world give us amazing insights in Human activity and help us understand what makes people move. Sharing this anonymised, aggregated data helps to shape the future of our cities, to make them a better place and to make people happy and healthy. Human Cities shows how people around the world achieve their daily exercise goals. They compare and ranks 900 cities based on average daily activity and highlight what is going on at this very moment. The map on the cover of this edition of New Amsterdam shows the biking activity in Amsterdam in August 2015.

[human.co](http://human.co) [cities.human.co](http://cities.human.co)



**Eigen Haard is a Trime partner. Trime stands for Trias Mores Energetic, a European project in which ten organisations from five different countries work towards the shared goal of helping housing association tenants reduce their energy consumption, thus saving money and encouraging a healthier lifestyle. Good for the wallet, and good for the environment.**

### **Energy saving of 9%**

Trime is a three-year partnership (2014-2017) involving the United Kingdom, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium. The aim is to investigate how people can use technology and lifestyle changes to achieve an energy saving of at least 9% per household.

### **Energy ambassadors**

One of the projects that Eigen Haard is running as part of Trime involves energy ambassadors/energy coaches. The first three groups of Eigen Haard energy coaches have already been trained. An energy coach is an Eigen Haard tenant who has received training on how to save energy. As an expert on the subject and a good neighbour, they

can then share all of their knowledge with fellow tenants. Are you an Eigen Haard tenant who would like to take an energy coach course? If so, take a look at [www.eigenhaard.nl](http://www.eigenhaard.nl) and search in Dutch for: "word energiecoach" (become an energy coach).

### **Saving energy at home**

With almost 4,000 tenants at seven test locations across Europe, we are investigating energy use in the household as well as the quality and use of household appliances. As part of an Eigen Haard programme, we offer tenants the opportunity to hire appliances, or help them purchase new products. The project also involves taking a look at the home itself and seizing opportunities during renovations to improve insulation and install energy-efficient technology, for example in the ventilation system. All together, these combined measures represent the maximum possible degree of energy consumption reduction.

### **More about Trime**

The project is co-funded by the European Commission. For more information about Trime, visit [www.trime-eu.org/nl](http://www.trime-eu.org/nl).



## LOCAL INITIATIVES

# FILL OUR CITY WITH COLOUR



**Marieke Hordijk**



**Rosaly Studulski**

intern editors  
Nieuw Amsterdam

In Amsterdam, the colour and vibe of the city are not defined by its tall buildings and large projects, it's the small things happening in our city that make a difference. Small scale local initiatives give Amsterdam its soul. With New Amsterdam, or Nieuw Amsterdam as we call it, we try to capture this soul by providing a platform for these initiatives and eventually connecting them with each other, believing that strengthening bottom-up is the way to go.

The fact that every borough flourishes in its own particular way is mainly due to the high amount of local neighbourhood residents and entrepreneurs that are committed to make the best out of whatever their surroundings offers. City Makers, we call these people, an honourable title. We show you a selection of the most special and prettiest newbies among Amsterdam-based initiatives, along with some innovative projects.

Eager for more? By reading the daily City Reports posted on the online platform of Nieuw Amsterdam, you can stay updated on the newest developments, places, events, City Makers and publications of our capital.

[stedenintransitie.nl/amsterdam](http://stedenintransitie.nl/amsterdam)

[citiesintransition.eu/amsterdam](http://citiesintransition.eu/amsterdam)

## LOKAAL SPAANDERS



Initiators René and Roos have the ambition to create Zonnepleins' next neighbourhood living room. They sell as much locally produced and sustainable as possible: from the cakes to the tables. Their focus on the increasing number of families with small children that come to live in Noord, will soon result in a concept store and bar for children.

[lokaalspaanders.nl](http://lokaalspaanders.nl)

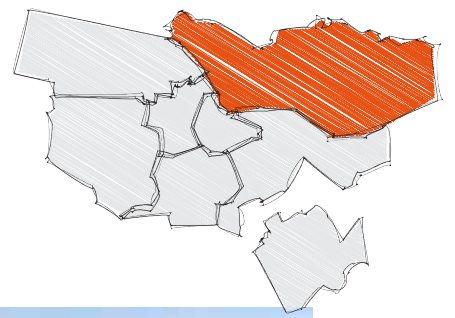
## MX3D BRIDGE



Amsterdam will get its first 3D printed steel canal bridge in the near future, designed by Joris Laarman. The construction site is on the NDSM-wharf, which is also the visiting address to see the progress. Expectations are that the robots will start printing in august 2016, so this is definitely one to be continued!

[mx3d.com](http://mx3d.com)

Amsterdam-Noord



© Zdeno van Dolen

## DE VERKEERSTOREN

This new playground in the centre of the vivid Buiksloterham transition area, where circularity is the central theme of development, is a cooperation of several experienced bottom-up entrepreneurs from Noord, including Upcycle Collective and Crealisatie Coöperatie. The tower hosts a sauna, concert hall, restaurant and work spaces. It's all based on the idea of no waste: neither materials and food, nor space.

[fb.com/deverkeerstoren](https://fb.com/deverkeerstoren)

## 3D PRINT CANAL HOUSE

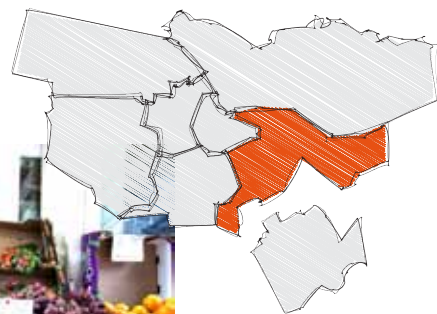


© DUS Architects

That the possibilities of 3D printing are endless, is not only shown by a bridge: DUS Architects is building an entire 3D Print Canal House. The new construction site is publically accessible for three years, so you can watch this slowly growing exposition up close and even give your feedback. The unique open approach makes it a platform for innovation: research by doing!

[3dprintcanalhouse.com](http://3dprintcanalhouse.com)





## TASTE BEFORE YOU WASTE

The student collective that started off as a bunch of food rescue heroes has grown big in Oost, their catch is about 250 kilos of edible food every week.

Amongst their activities is the giveaway market every Tuesday at Science Park: free and still tasty, for everyone who is eager to consume a rescued meal. Save them before they're gone!

[tastebeforeyouwaste.com](http://tastebeforeyouwaste.com)



© Danishwara Nathaniel

## MAN MET DE MICROFOON



Radio- and theatre maker Chris Bajema is the man behind the 'man with the microphone', a crowdfunded and independent podcast show. He drives through Oost in his big orange studio bus, chasing real and almost real stories of local people. Tune in and follow this moving and funny journey of an ordinary man telling extraordinary stories!

[manmetdemicrofoon.nl](http://manmetdemicrofoon.nl)

## KNOWLEDGE MILE COALITION



© Lyke de Wit

The Weesperstraat-Wibautstraat strip had the reputation to be Amsterdam's ugliest street: impersonal, noisy and polluted. The Knowledge Mile Coalition wants to turn this around and transform the area into the smartest street of the Netherlands, by tackling urban challenges and promoting diversity. They link expertise of several companies and new talent of universities with bottom-up experiments.

[knowledgemile.org](http://knowledgemile.org)



## HET FAIRE OOSTEN

In order to find a fair place in the East, you don't have to go far East at all. These 600 m<sup>2</sup> in Oostpoort consist of a shop with all kinds of fair trade, local and sustainable stuff. On top of that they created an art gallery and workshop spaces. Their message is that a conscious mentality, art and fair trade are nothing *hautain*, but obtainable and fun for all.

[hetfaireoosten.nl](http://hetfaireoosten.nl)



# VERSTERK JOUW ONDERNEMERSCHAP IN 2016!

**FNV KIEM BIEDT BETAALBARE TRAININGEN  
VOOR ZZP'ERS CREATIEVE INDUSTRIE**

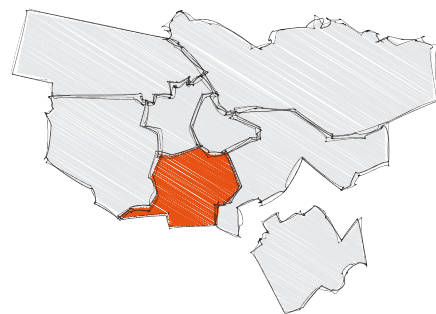
**€ 75,- voor een 1-daagse cursus**

**€ 145,- voor een 2-daagse cursus**

- Hoe werf je meer opdrachten?
- Hoe laat je jouw bedrijf groeien?
- Handjeklap: sterk worden in onderhandelen
- De Boer Op! Netwerken en acquisitie
- Boekhouden voor weinig

**Ons cursus aanbod voor het komende half jaar vind je online:  
[www.academie.fnv-kiem.nl](http://www.academie.fnv-kiem.nl)**

**FNV KIEM IS DÉ VAKBOND VOOR ZELFSTANDIGEN EN WERKNEMERS IN DE CREATIEVE INDUSTRIE**



## ZUIDERKRUID



© Mathilda Jansen

Although Amsterdam is quite a green city, many people lack a garden for growing crops. To get green fingers activated, Zuiderkruid offers a sustainable garden, where ecological plants and crops are brought into the city and the gardens attract wildlife. Knowledge about sustainable gardening is exchanged in workshops. The gardens also function as a local meeting point.

[zuiderkruid.wordpress.com](http://zuiderkruid.wordpress.com)

## SUP



© Jeditah van der Meulen

SUP, located at Surinameplein 33-35, is the new cultural hotspot of Urban Resort, a trust well-known from the Volkskrant and ACTA building. SUP is unique in its kind: in the next five years housing, work and culture will be combined as the building offers affordable accommodation for a mix of artists, dancers, film and radio makers, designers and craftsmen.

[broedplaatssurinameplein.nl](http://broedplaatssurinameplein.nl)

## HOTEL JANSEN - NOT FOR TOURISTS



© Rachel Schraven

Hotel Jansen offers the possibility to book all-inclusive stays, from one month up to six. Perfect for exchange students, expats or young professionals. Every room is unique with its handmade furniture designed by Dutch artists, that easily makes you feel at home during your stay. Not only foreigners, but also locals can find temporary residence here, as the hotel wants to contribute to neighbourhood connectivity.

[hoteljansen.nl](http://hoteljansen.nl)

## BUURTBOOMTUIN

A boomtuin (tree garden) is the small area surrounding the tree trunk. Although they mostly stay unnoticed, these areas can make themselves so much more fun and useful! Buurtboomtuin tries to make use of these small areas to generate nice looking and green gardens. Visit the website to see how you can start your own boomtuintje in your neighbourhood!

[buurtboomtuin.nl](http://buurtboomtuin.nl)



© Natuur & Milieuteam Zuid



## NEIGHBOURHOODS

### DIJKSPARK



© Mediamatic/Ruby Lee

Now the fences between Dijkgracht and the Public Library are removed, the Dijkspark area has transformed into a green promenade. The street is a growing art installation. Together, local residents and businesses created the plan for a lively green park, bee-friendly and without cars. Mediamatic had its Biotoop here: a bio-art lab with a focus on co-creation.

[mediamatic.net](http://mediamatic.net)



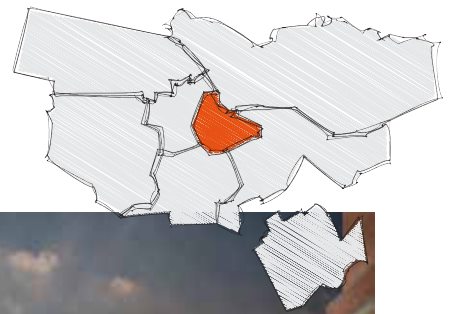
© Marije Kuiper

### HOTEL ECOMAMA

This hotel combines sustainability with cosiness, an initiative of the Cocomama Group going green. Next to seven different types of rooms, the building has a green roof, a water saving system and is built with the use of recycled materials. All the furniture and decorations are second or even third hand, which makes your stay not only sustainable, but also very stylish.

[ecomamahotel.com](http://ecomamahotel.com)

## Amsterdam-Centrum



© Office Winhov

### X BANK

A new platform for connecting the disciplines of fashion, art and design will arise in the old Kas Bank building at the Spuistraat. X BANK will make its debut in the 700m<sup>2</sup> hybrid store in early 2016. Located on the ground and the first floor of the new Hotel W, it will offer a stage to promising Dutch designers, showing their comprehensive collections.

[xbank.amsterdam](http://xbank.amsterdam)

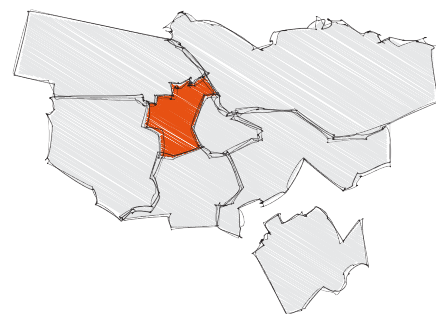
### LUNCHROOM DE BUREN



Lunchroom De Buren is a social spot in the city centre. While enjoying the restaurant, you simultaneously support its staff: De Buren offers their manpower, people who experience a distance to society in terms of labour, an education to give their hospitality career a boost. Enjoy their wonderful service while having a delicious coffee or lunch!

[lunchroomdeburen.nl](http://lunchroomdeburen.nl)





## KOECKEBACKERS

The most delicious *koecken* (cookies) are now produced at Koeckebackers. Come taste the nutty, fruity healthy or the recycled version - yes, that one is made from old but not trashy cookies, in the new bakery store. The bakery also has a social component, as they hire bakers who come from a hard unemployed and/or homeless situation.

[koeckebackers.nl](http://koeckebackers.nl)



© Joep Langen



© Friederike Joppen

## DE BALKONIE

With balconies as one of the main sources of greens and plants in the city, a balcony shop fits perfectly in a sustainable city. Many Amsterdammers will be excited to know they are able to buy nice, cosy and unique furniture, plants and materials that are specially designed for their precious balconies.

Come and be inspired for redesigning your small apartment garden!

[debalkonie.nl](http://debalkonie.nl)

## JAN EVERTSEN BUURTCOÖPERATIE

Inhabitants and entrepreneurs from the Jan Evertsenstraat are united in Jan Evertsen BuurtCoöperatie (JEBEC). This organisation is committed to creating and preserving their own shopping street. The process starts with the two-year pilot Freezone: as soon as a new place is available, the JEBEC members start their own search for a suitable shop entrepreneur to keep the lively neighbourhood *theirs*, with flexible rules and regulations.

[jebc.nl](http://jebc.nl)



© Sara Mohammadi

## BAR BRÅ

In this very homey new bar-restaurant, where everything is furnished with old and vintage design, you can enjoy delicious meals. Unique to the Bar Brå concept is the diverse offering of pop-up cooks and world menus, changing every Wednesday and Thursday. Bar Brå is also a perfect place for a monthly party, movie nights, art exhibitions and birthday parties.

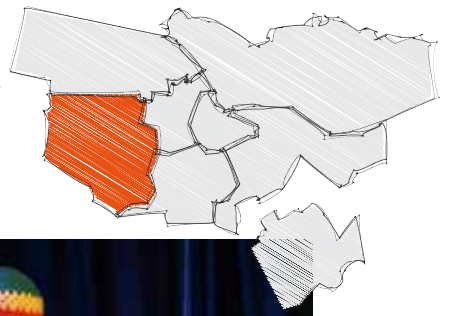
[bar-bra.nl](http://bar-bra.nl)



© Mounir Chadli

## NEIGHBOURHOODS

## Amsterdam Nieuw-West



© Joel Frijhoff

## WILDE WESTEN

Welcome to the wild wild west! This new bar-restaurant and launderette is part of the MOMA co-creation space in the old GAK-building. Waiting for your laundry is fun like never before, with a coffee, cocktail or one of the delicious pizza's they serve fresh from the pizza oven.

[wilde-westen.nl](http://wilde-westen.nl)



© Shirley Bandeis

## KANTLIJN LIVE

Kantlijn is a place where homeless people become writers. Living on the margins of society, they know the city like no other. The messages they can tell through poems and short stories are often very bold and touching. Twice a year, they organise Kantlijn Live: a night with music and poems in Ru Paré.

[kantlijn.org](http://kantlijn.org)

## WEGGEEFWINKEL GEUZENVELD



The give-away-store in Geuzenveld takes 'sharing is caring' to a whole new level. The volunteers work with a points system and monthly stamping tickets that every local can get for free, so the financially less fortunate can still get some new clothing, books or toys every month. Bring in some stuff you don't need yourself, because one man's trash is another man's treasure.

[fb.com/weggeefwinkelgeuzenveld](https://fb.com/weggeefwinkelgeuzenveld)

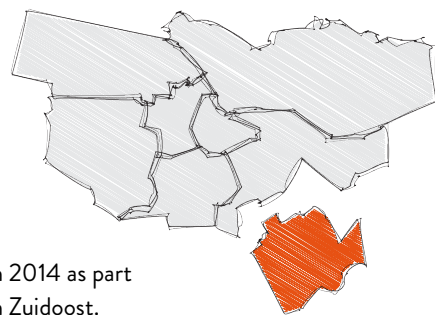


## WORLD WIDE NIEUW-WEST

This art project is a portrait of Nieuw-West and its international connections. It shows small business owners in short documentaries. The films about local shopkeepers are connected to films in other parts of the world, made by correspondents of Metropolis. A map of the world, created by artist Marjolijn Boterenbrood, makes the connections visible.

[worldwidenieuwwest.nl](http://worldwidenieuwwest.nl)





## PANNEKOEKERIJ GANSI



© B. Radelaar

Pannekoekerij Gansi opened its doors in 2014 as part of Sweet Store, a social working place in Zuidoost. Besides enjoying the most delicious pancakes, Surinam sandwiches or other lunch bites in here, you can also help young people who experience a distance to the working field in their intensive hospitality education.

[fb.com/pannenkoekerijgansi](https://fb.com/pannenkoekerijgansi)

## LEIP!



© Imagine IC/Lesly Adu

Language is the key to connection. LEIP! shows how young people experiment with non-standardised Dutch street language, and how it is involved with emotion: from *krakkaka* to *fatu* and *kapot*. Together with some famous Amsterdam-based rappers, typical Amsterdam street language is captured in a sound system. The exhibition in Imagine IC runs until June 2016, make sure to check it out!

[imagineic.nl](http://imagineic.nl)



© Willemien Boland

## REPAIR CAFÉ DIEMEN

Repairing your equipment is the most sustainable alternative for replacing. No wonder repair cafes are popping up all over the city. At this one in Diemen, you can enjoy a nice coffee and a good chat while your stuff is fixed. The initiative fully runs on volunteers who are connected by Duurzaam Dorp Diemen: an organisation that aims for sustainability improvement in the area.

[duurzaamdorpdiemen.nl/repair-cafe](http://duurzaamdorpdiemen.nl/repair-cafe)

## PRINSES OP DE ERWT



© Maarten Hoogland

Growing foods and learning from it all together: that's mainly what this green initiative is doing. Ecological vegetables, fruits and herbs are cultivated while, at the same time, the city yard is an active meeting point for the whole neighbourhood. Not only knowledge about nature, sustainable gardening and animals is shared, joy and friendships are created as well.

[buurtmoestuindiemen.blogspot.nl](http://buurtmoestuindiemen.blogspot.nl)





# MAYOR EBERHARD VAN DER LAAN

## ‘HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE TO LIVE IN THIS CITY’

In the first six months of 2016, Amsterdam is the city where the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union takes place. Amsterdam is actually host to the host, because the presidency is organised together with and commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We asked the mayor of Amsterdam Eberhard van der Laan to offer his thoughts on the position of Amsterdam in Europe.

Mr Mayor, what do you consider to be the greatest challenge for the major cities of Europe at the moment? ‘The trouble spots of the world are increasingly affecting Europe and the European cities in a direct way. For instance through the influx of a large amount of refugees. Other examples of the direct impact on European cities, are the terrorist attacks that hit Paris twice last year and paralysed Brussels for several days. Events in the Middle East, Turkey, Egypt or Syria, but also in Paris, Brussels or Hannover enter the streets of Amsterdam in no time, due to social media. Young citizens who don’t feel at home sufficiently in our cities are perceptible to the temptations of battles far away. It is not a coincidence that the tensions are especially apparent in the cities because that’s where people of different backgrounds live close together. This calls for an involved city government which is on top of developments. We have to dive into the very capillaries of society and actively act on radicalisation, stimulating citizenship and strengthening core values like openness and freedom.’

‘Another example of a problem cities are facing is worldwide climate change. In a lot of big cities, this is more apparent and urgent than elsewhere. Think about the torrential rains that cause a lot of disruption in the cities. In short, we are facing considerable challenges. At the same time, contemporary cities are the places where solutions are being made. Cities attract talented people, who incite economic growth but also come up with creative solutions to contemporary and everyday problems. The political situation also plays a role: on national level party politics often are made too important, thus obstructing a constructive discussion. Here I see city councillors are Amsterdam residents first and members of a political party second. This is why we are better at working together towards solutions.’ >>

>> 'Compared to other metropolises in the world, European cities are a breath of fresh air in many aspects. When I am on an official visit to Beijing, São Paulo or Mumbai, it strikes me every time how the liveability in capital cities on other continents has been sacrificed for economic development. Most European cities are much better off when it comes to infrastructure, equality and liveability. But this doesn't mean we should not learn from aforementioned non-European cities.'

### **CITY COUNCILLORS ARE AMSTERDAM RESIDENTS FIRST AND MEMBERS OF A POLITICAL PARTY SECOND**

**In what aspects does Amsterdam distinguish itself from other EU-capitals?**

'Apart from the beauty of the city and the personality of the Amsterdam people, the strength of Amsterdam lies in its scale. It is a small metropolis with under a million inhabitants. This is why every journey can be done by bike and it takes only half an hour to get from your aircraft seat to the city centre. That is a wonderful thing for the people who live here, but also a reason for foreign companies to set up business in our city. The quality of life is also very high, because of the said scale, the public transport, the many good schools, the parks and the proximity of Schiphol Airport. All very attractive to the employees of these companies. What further sets Amsterdam apart, is the free and open character of the city. It is easy for people to feel part of Amsterdam. Even if you're from outside the city or country.'

**Which role does Amsterdam see for itself in relation to other EU-capitals?**

'Every European capital reflects part of the rich European history: from the democracy of Athens, the revolution in France to England's role in the liberation of Europe after World War II. Amsterdam is also a particularly European city. I refer to the values and characteristics of Europe: a long tradition of strong, democratic citizenship, a rich cultural history, diversity and the relatively small scale - you can find it all in Amsterdam.'

'The ties with other European cities are solid: we collaborate with Paris, Berlin and Athens among others. We learn from each other on areas like fighting radicalisation, stimulating creative breeding grounds and sheltering the homeless. Within and outside of Europe, Amsterdam acts as a responsible capital by committing to increasing growth, jobs, cooperation and development for all of the Netherlands. And by sharing our knowledge on - for instance - water management, waste processing and urban planning. We are a relatively wealthy city and that comes with a certain responsibility.'

'Of course, we also like to compete: we want to be part of the four or five leading regions economists predict will have a leading position in Europe over the next ten years. Amsterdam wants to be the gateway to Europe, both for companies and countries outside of the EU. We consider the capital conference, organised this year as part of our presidency of the EU, a chance to reinforce bonds and define joint solutions locally for the urgent problems of our time.'

**What can Amsterdam residents learn from other EU-cities?**

'I am following the debate in Barcelona with great interest; there, both inhabitants and the municipality are clearly stating the limits have been reached concerning the influx of tourists in the city. In Amsterdam we are not there yet, and definitely not at the same level as Venice or Florence where during the tourist peak season you can hardly find original inhabitants. You won't find me there either. As I said, we have not reached that point in Amsterdam yet, but we have to be careful. We also feel the benefits and the downsides of our popularity. We see how mass tourism causes nuisance for inhabitants. For instance, the growing presence of AirBnB's in the city. We also see major events putting pressure on neighbourhoods and frustrating its people. Amsterdam residents are reasonable people who know living in a big city has its advantages and disadvantages. But there are limits. And the city should primarily be there for its inhabitants. It is a matter of constantly finding a balance. That's what we, as the city council, are doing and maybe can learn from Barcelona.' >>

>> 'London also springs to mind, but more as an example of how it should not be done. In the city centre, you can see developments which are partly similar to the ones in Barcelona, but in London things have gotten out of hand. In some neighbourhoods and streets, you will only find hotels. In some parts, housing has become unaffordable for the common Londoner. And lastly, I want to mention Copenhagen, where I was two years ago. I saw what happens when a city focuses on one theme. For Copenhagen it is durability. They are really establishing something in that area. I think we can learn from them, especially now we are forced to change our ways due to climate change. Apart from that, in Amsterdam we tend to want too many things at the same time. We sometimes lack focus and it might be better to make bold choices.'

### **THE CITY SHOULD BE PRIMARYLY THERE FOR ITS INHABITANTS, IT'S A MATTER OF FINDING BALANCE**

#### **What can other EU-cities learn from us?**

'I think we are privileged: Amsterdam is a compact, wealthy and green city. We don't have no-go areas like in Paris, Brussels or Budapest. This comes with obligations though. I would be hesitant to say others can learn from us because we have it relatively easy - we are fortunate to live here. You can however see the people of Amsterdam have a tradition of looking out for each other, partly out of our trading spirit and partly because we care for each other and want to be there when needed. Take for example the refugees. We are sheltering 1500 of them and over 5000 voluntaries have come forward. Earlier I mentioned Amsterdam wants to be a responsible capital. We are happy to share with Paris our knowledge on preventing radicalisation. And to Athens, we offer our expertise on processing waste and sheltering the homeless.'

#### **In conclusion, how will Amsterdam and the metropolitan region develop itself in the EU over the next ten years: what are we committing to as a city and in what areas will we excel?**

'Economic and demographically speaking we have not reached our limits yet. It's good news, because a wealthy city is great to live in. Families like it here and the city attracts students as well as expats. We should really think about where we will house newcomers. It is the green spaces that make Amsterdam an attractive city, and public places like parks and squares are being used for recreation. This means we have to consider building upwards in order to create sufficient housing. Moreover: it is not a law of nature we are living her agreeably - it takes effort. Amsterdam's success has its downside, a trend you can observe in other European cities too. We can expect a growing increase of the number of tourists in the next ten years: China's and India's middle class have discovered Europe. Already investors are buying the most beautiful historic properties, only to live there a couple of weeks per year.'

'As for as I'm concerned, in Amsterdam - and we should excel at that - we make sure our economic growth through business and tourists, goes hand in hand with an increasing instead of a decreasing liveability for our inhabitants. Our second ambition is to maintain Amsterdam as a place with chances for everyone; where no-one is excluded or with a risk of slipping into criminality or even radicalisation. The trouble spots I mentioned earlier are also 'alive' in our city, that's a given. That's why it's important we continue a dialogue about differences and similarities. Everybody should have the opportunity and feel safe enough to express an opinion: in the way they live, through expressions of art, but also in debates or even demonstrations. Amsterdam is a city where you can be you, and where everyone is entitled to an opinion. But we will be firm with those who think this should be achieved through threats or aggression.' ..

**amsterdam.nl**



# IN SEARCH OF EUROPE

© Phile Deprez



IN SEARCH OF EUROPE

Five battles



# 5 BATTLES OF A CREATIVE GENERATION

For the project in Search of Europe, I travelled in 30 days to 17 cities in 8 countries and I interviewed more than 20 young creative professionals who are trying to change the society they live in for the better. What struck me is that there is a new generation awakening in Europe and that they are ready to fight for change. >>



**Lucas de Man**  
theatre maker, artistic director  
Stichting Nieuwe Helden and  
initiator In Search of Europe  
[stichtingnieuwehelden.nl](http://stichtingnieuwehelden.nl)

>> Professor Hans Trapman of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam said that people will never change in essence, that evilness and greediness will never disappear and that it's our duty to offer a counterweight, to not be afraid and effectively really take every step we can. There are three types of people Trapman said: those who are destructive, those who are indifferent and afraid, and those who want to improve. I'd like to add a personal footnote and point out every person is all three, but it's about the leading attitude. In my theatre show *Us, Pigland*, I spoke about three types of piglets: the boss piglets that can suckle from the first nipples, the standard piglets that drank from the middle nipples and the specials that got the rest in the back. All three types of people will always exist and they keep each other balanced, even though the balance is always off and leans often towards destruction and fear.

Even though I sometimes would rather be 'a scared, tunnel-visioned, I-only-care-about-myself-and-the-small-circle-around-me' standard piglet (more that I am now) and even more rarely a 'power-hungry, fuck the world, I-want-more-more-more' boss piglet, I am not. Why? No idea. Upbringing? Genes? Certain movies or art or books or friends that inspired me? The fact is that beside my power-hungry, self-gaining, egoistic side (which I certainly have) I also have an 'I-want-to-cause-something-in-the-world, I-want-to-create-something-and-preferable-something-that touches-people, brings-them-closer-to-themselves-and-each-other' side. I have the necessity not to surrender to the inequality and loneliness and unfairness of the world, even though I know full well that it won't go away and that this side I have doesn't make me 'better' or more 'good' than every other. It's just a part of me. >>

**THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH  
A CAUSE AND THE BALLS  
TO CARRY IT OUT**

## VISIONARY HANS TRAPMAN

Prof. Dr. Hans Trapman is Professor Emeritus of Intellectual History at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and specialised in intellectual history from 1500 to 1700. The study of the ideas of Desiderius Erasmus plays a central role in his scientific work.

[erasmus.org](http://erasmus.org)



© Allard de Witte



## VISIONARY SIMON ALLEMEERSCH

Simon is a theatre maker. His performances have a socio-artistic character. Well-known projects are *Marre the Boire*, *Rabot 4-358*, about his depopulating neighbourhood, and *Het Fioretti Project* by temporary theatre collective Lucinda Ra.

[simonallemeersch.wordpress.com](http://simonallemeersch.wordpress.com)

[rabotatelier.be](http://rabotatelier.be)

>> So apparently I am somebody with a cause and I surrender to that. What's more, I follow this cause so intensely and disciplined and vulnerable as I can. And sometimes I fail because the other piglets are in me too, but I do my best alone and together. Because that's the beauty: there are people like me all over the world. What's more, in every country, in every discipline (business, banking, art, sports, food, etc) are people with a cause and the balls to carry out this cause. All the people I spoke to so far share with me that they try to carry out in full *virtù* (as Machiavelli defined), their necessity to cause something. No matter how different they and the ways in which they do this are, we share the cause. We, piglets from the back nipples, we creators, we share a battle and that makes the loneliness bearable and most of all: it connects us and allows us to carry on and keep carrying on.

I noticed that the battles of all these creators I met, no matter how different they are, share some common elements.

### 1. Creators strive to create a society, rather than a *better* society per se

I quote Simon Allemeersch, who we spoke to in Ghent. He literally said: 'I don't want to create a *better* society, I want to create a *society*'. Society is a moment in which people meet each other and share or show their story. Simon spoke about the necessity for a sense of belonging that is essential for a community. If people don't feel they belong or are seen, then you don't have a society.

## WHAT WE DO IS CREATE A SOCIAL GLUE

In their own way, everyone we spoke to on our journey so far is trying to create 'shared experiences' (as Slawomir Sierakowski defined it), so people can regain a sense of belonging, ideally in a public space. 'What we do is create a social glue', Sierakowski said. >>



IN SEARCH OF EUROPE

Giorgio de Finis



**VISIONARY**

**GIORGIO DE FINIS**

Giorgio is a curator, filmmaker and anthropologist who squatted an abandoned salami factory in a suburb of Rome in 2012 that he turned into a museum for contemporary art. Moreover, he housed two hundred Roma in the building. By clever use of social media, he made MAAM one of the hotspots of Rome.

[fb.com/museoMAAM](https://fb.com/museoMAAM)



## VISIONARY SLAWOMIR SIERAKOWSKI

Slawomir Sierakowski is a sociologist, leader of the Krytyka Polityczna movement and the director of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Warsaw. He has held fellowships at Princeton, Harvard and Yale, and has published in *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*.

[krytykapolityczna.pl](http://krytykapolityczna.pl)



### >> 2. Creators are battling for a true public space, places of common ground

The idea of the world as something that belongs to us all - water, air, nature are something we, animals and everything on earth, are part of - has been increasingly challenged throughout history. In the 13th century, we had the *Charter of the Forest*, which declared that the forest was for all people. But in the centuries that followed more and more forest became the private property of less and less people. Thomas More revolted against this process in his *Utopia*. He loathed that some owned everything and many nothing and it hasn't changed since. Reclaiming the common grounds, the public space, the places where we - as people - can meet each other, regardless of private or commercial intentions, is the other European battle we must fight today. And continue to fight, even though we've been at it since the 13th century.

### 3. Creators have, communicate and share visions

The Mayor of Warsaw once said that visions are something for people who take hallucinating drugs, not for politicians. Aside from the ridiculousness of this statement, it also illustrates a misunderstanding of the concept of visions. They are not fleeting, absurd dreams. Visions are concrete, can be executed, maybe not instantly, now-now-now, but they are achievable dreams that allow us to look beyond tomorrow. They provide insight as well as a horizon. And without a horizon you're staring at a wall. And walls are terrifying. >>

**WITHOUT A HORIZON  
YOU ARE STARING  
AT A WALL**

>> Giorgio de Finis' vision to open a museum for modern art in an old salami factory in Rome occupied by two hundred immigrants and outcasts is very concrete. Three hundred top artists from Europe donated a total of four hundred art pieces, usually made on the spot and often in collaboration with the residents. You can find the art pieces throughout the compound in larger shared spaces, as well as in the living quarters of the residents. People can visit the museum every Saturday and everyone works and cooperates for free. Giorgio works so hard to execute his vision, he is not making any money now and even moved back to his mother's house. Honestly, I was touched walking around there. Not because of the suffering of the residents, which is horrible of course, but by Giorgio's vision on how art can really cause something.

'I am trying to save these illegal people and this illegal place', he said. 'I use art because art gives them a horizon, imagination, dreams, collaboration and encounters. Also, because people would never come to the ghetto's of Rome for a social project, but they will come for modern art. I lure them here and that's how they meet the residents and find the human aspect in the immensely complicated problem of legal outcasts of society.' I asked him if he fears the eviction of the people that live there illegally. 'Yes and no', he answers, 'because I have a plan. Two hundred refugees that are thrown out on the streets might lead to a small article in the newspaper. But destroying four hundred works of art, that's barbaric, that's impossible.' We need visions and real visions are always a combination of dreams and actions, of starting something and keep going.

#### 4. Creators keep on kicking, biting, questioning, doubting and examining the general way things are

This happens in, from and against the system, but never away from it. We can only have some impact if we are in constant dialogue with the ruling systems. Running away and starting your own private Epicurean garden might seem like a revolution, but it doesn't change anything. Real change comes from 'confrontation' with what is. And creators are the best people to do this because we can talk to the kings as well as the beggars of a country. And we can do it in many countries simultaneously. Creators are not bound to geographical, social, economical, political or other borders. We can and must, in the spirit of Erasmus, continuously and always actively (re)think and question what is happening around us.

Why do banks function the way they do? Why is power so often corrupt? Why is inequality so immense? With active (re)thinking and questioning I mean that creators not only think, but always act too.

## WE MUST ALWAYS QUESTION WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND US

This 'acting' or 'confronting' can take many forms. Whether it's writing, creating, organising or protesting, it doesn't matter as long as we act. No matter how meaningless and useless it sometimes feels, it is precisely this active (re)thinking and questioning that keeps the world in at least some sort of balance.

#### 5. The battle of the local and the global

What we do locally reverberates globally. The people we met on our journey are all active locally, even though some - such as Slawomir - are known internationally. The local is necessary to realise the sense of belonging, while the global ensures the work itself is recognised. Social media can and must be used by the creator to offer a countermeasure to globalisation (that centers mostly around the economy), by presenting the power of the human and local to the world.

#### Conclusion

The battle of the creators, who are everywhere and in all layers of society, is a difficult and everlasting, but essential battle. It is of the utmost importance that they meet every now and then, to share and exchange their ideas and visions. Because the most difficult, and the most important, is to never give up the battle. Carry on, keep carrying on, alone together. That is the fate of the creator, that he is alone yet connected, and that every day the world turns again with or without you. ••

[insearchofeurope.eu](http://insearchofeurope.eu)



## IN SEARCH OF EUROPE, DISCOVERING THE SELF

© Phile Deprez

Lucas De Man and his team traveled through Europe looking for knowledge and inspiration for a better understanding of urban society and the individuals that shape it. They talked to a young generation of artists, as well as historians that are experts on Luther, Copernicus and Erasmus. Based on meetings and discussions with these experts and creators they calibrate past, present and future and try to articulate a statement about the direction of our continent. All meetings are documented in film and writing. After returning to the Netherlands, Lucas presented his travel report in a theatrical show, taking you through the meetings, images, discussions and insights he collected.

From 4 - 8 January, *De Man door Europa* will play in Pakhuis de Zwijger.

For more play dates, see [stichtingnieuwhelden.nl/agenda](https://stichtingnieuwhelden.nl/agenda)







# A NEW NARRATIVE FOR EUROPE

How important is it to have a shared European identity? This question arises now that Europe is facing major challenges like dealing with IS, the refugee crisis or increasing polarisation. It seems vital to find a European common ground from which we act. Is it time for a new European narrative to which we can connect and unite? And if that's the case, what should this narrative look like?

Journalist Arnold van Bruggen and Eefje Blankevoort from Prospektor joined hands with designers Rogier Klomp and Janneke de Rooij and started to search for an answer to this question. 'We looked at the existing European propaganda, and thought, 'wow, if this is it, it's so empty. Take the European slogan United in Diversity'. This won't touch people on a personal level, you cannot make your own narrative of it.' Frustrated with the current developments of crises and nationalism in Europe and with the existing propaganda in mind, they initiated the project Propaganda by the People. Started this fall, they're searching for the narrative of Europe. And according to the initiators, this narrative should not be created from above, but from the bottom up: by the people.

A first step was a workshop on poster making. Participants were guided step by step in shaping their opinions about Europe. From Amsterdam to Kiev and Riga, the same questions are asked: What do we need Europe for? What do you love about Europe and what do you hate? What issues need fighting for and what problems need to be solved?

The participants slowly worked towards a poster template where everyone can express their own idea about Europe. Next, all of these different opinions from around Europe will be combined, resulting in a story we can tell together. An exciting task for the initiators, which won't be easy. As one of the participants of the workshop said: 'I see Europe as a big hill. If you're at the bottom of the hill,

you have a completely different view of Europe then if you're at the top.' All the collected posters will be used in a crowdsourced animation. The expected result: an inclusive narrative that will keep on developing, just like Europe itself.

[propagandabythepeople.eu](http://propagandabythepeople.eu)



**Karin Arendsen**  
intern Tegenlicht Meet-ups  
Pakhuis de Zwijger

## WHAT DOES YOUR EUROPE LOOK LIKE?



© Daniel Ibañez

# THINK GLOBALLY, FABRICATE LOCALLY

## A CONVERSATION WITH NEIL A. GERSHENFELD AND VICENTE GUALLART



**Bernat Puitobella**  
director Revista Barcelona Metròpolis  
and editor & founder Núvol

[barcelonametropolis.cat](http://barcelonametropolis.cat)

[nuvol.com](http://nuvol.com)

Growing numbers of people live in cities and are increasingly connected, but only productive societies will be able to decide their future. A plan has been implemented in Barcelona to place technology within everybody's reach, allowing the community to work together. Neil A. Gershenfeld, professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and director of the Center for Bits and Atoms. Vicente Guallart, for his part, is Chief Architect of the City Council and founder of the Barcelona network of fab labs. >>

>> **Mr Gershenfeld, you claim that the digital revolution has not come out yet to the physical world. We are going now from programming bits to programming atoms. We have reached the first stage of the digital revolution, but we have yet to move to another level. Where are we now?**

**Gershenfeld:** 'There is a very precise historical analogy that shows where we are now. As computers evolved, we first had mainframe computers, followed by a secondary stage with mini computers, and after that came the 'hobby' computer, and finally the personal computer. So that was the history of digitising communication and computation. We are retracing that history now for fabrication in different stages, so in an initial stage you would have the main frames of fabrication, that is, the big machines and factories. We are in the minicomputer era of digital fabrication. So the fab labs work today like the minicomputers, and the minicomputers were the moment in history when the Internet was invented. Now fab labs are working on machines that make machines, so fab labs make fab labs (those were the *hobby* computers) and the research we are doing is leading up to the personal fabricator. That is still a research project – one machine that can make anything – but the historical lesson is: 'You didn't have to wait 20 years from the invention of the PC before you could start using the internet'. So the revolution is here today. There are still many years to work on the technology, but the revolution has already arrived.'

**Mr Guallart, in your book *The Self-Sufficient City*, you make a striking assertion: 'The Internet has changed our lives, but it hasn't changed our cities, yet.' How will the digital revolution change the way we live now?**

**Guallart:** 'The architecture of cities is the last to change when society undergoes a transformation such as the one we are experiencing now. We usually build our idea of society according to the technologies we have at hand at a given time and place. In the 21st century we are all globally connected, and thanks to the Internet we have gained access to all sorts of information generated around the world. This information will enable us to produce our own goods in a self-sufficient way. We are not there yet, but we will be able to produce locally only if we are globally connected. So, we sense that a big change is looming on the horizon, but it hasn't happened yet. We see that we live in a different way and use technologies in a new way, but the way that cities work with the idea of fabrications, the way we produce food, the way we recycle materials... All these point to a larger

change, so we are waiting to see the technologies that will transform our cities. For now, we can see that the way we move around and the way we produce energy is going to change in the near future.'

**Gershenfeld:** 'Today our cities import goods and produce trash that we can only partially recycle. We are still immersed in the PITO model (Product In, Trash Out) but we are moving towards a new model in which the flow of information will be the key. The DIDO model (Data In, Data Out) will enable information to flow so that production can be based locally. If we decrease the flow of matter, the flow of information will increase.'

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF CITIES IS THE LAST TO CHANGE

**How is this change going to come about?**

**Guallart:** 'In the city of the near future, all houses and businesses will necessarily be connected to the Internet. The city of the future should be a metropolis of neighbourhoods, where everybody should be able to walk to work or have a bakery or a swimming pool or a fab lab within walking distance. Barcelona is implementing a plan to have a fab lab for every district and thus create a public network of fab labs in order to make technology accessible to everyone.'

**It has been said that the first fab lab at MIT appeared as if by accident. How did it come about?**

**Gershenfeld:** 'From CBA and MIT the answer is very narrow. We had a big grant from the National Science Foundation and they asked us to show the social impact of the research and we had no idea, so we just set up a lab as a requirement for the grant, and then they have been doubling it for ten years since. Barcelona has been one of the earliest and biggest and most important labs for this history because the city has a fabulous tradition of design and 50% youth unemployment. There is this great knowledge base, and then there is this broken economy. What is happening here in fab labs in Barcelona and in this international meeting is really profound – it is actually creating a new economy that challenges the fundamental assumptions about how the economy works and so on, all over the world, and Barcelona is a real leader in this. Digital fabrication leads to personal fabrication, which is leading to a new economy.' >>

## CITYMAKER

NEIL A.

GERSHENFELD

Gershenfeld is a professor at MIT and the head of the Center for Bits and Atoms at the same technological institute, a sister lab to the MIT Media Lab. His research studies are predominantly focused in interdisciplinary studies involving physics and computer science, in such fields as quantum computing, nanotechnology, and personal fabrication. Gershenfeld is one of the most prominent advocates of the notion of personal fabrication and has been an inspiration for many scientists and engineers working in fab labs today across the globe.

[cba.mit.edu](http://cba.mit.edu)

© Jean Baptiste



## CITYMAKER

VICENTE GUALLART

Vicente is the Architect in Chief of the City of Barcelona and the founder of the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), an international centre of education and research that focuses on architecture understood as a discipline that encompasses different scales, ranging from territorial analysis, urban development, architectural projects and digital fabrications to informational environments. Fab Lab Barcelona is part of the IAAC. Next to that, Vicente is the author of *The Self-Sufficient City*, a luminous book on the future of the city.

[guallart.com](http://guallart.com)

[iaac.net](http://iaac.net)





### >> **Vicente, how has the MIT lab shaped Barcelona's fab lab? What sort of inspiration...**

**Gerschenfeld:** 'Well, let me correct the question. We started it at MIT, but Barcelona's lab is bigger than MIT's. The notion of fab labs has been invented by the world. MIT was a little seed and we are still involved, but what goes on in fab labs is the result of a global community collaboration.'

**Gualart:** 'In our case, Neil has always said that MIT is a safe place for strange people. So we are some of those strange people that engaged in thinking how to invent the future. I have some previous experience with digital production, but we realised that if we were not able to work in collaboration with other people, we would never be able to produce anything and would be reduced to consumers. We created our lab, and our Master of Advanced Architecture arose when we could work with Neil to create the Media House Project together. The idea of a fab lab is having a community in which you can share ideas and solutions while you use the same kind of technology, and from that point of view we are trying to learn as much as we can from MIT. We come from the Cistercian tradition, which springs from the Middle Ages, when monasteries replicated each other. We decided to replicate ourselves in other laboratories, here in Barcelona, but also in Lima and Addis Ababa, so we can become a kind of proactive partner with the fab academy in order to make the revolution possible.'

## WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ECONOMY

**Fab labs in Africa. Valentina, an 8-year-old girl in rural Ghana, can do something by herself that we currently need different people to assemble... Now three students at MIT are scaling innovation done by an 8-year-old in Africa...**

**Gerschenfeld:** 'The bigger lesson is not the students at MIT, which after all fits a few thousand people. They are bright and inventive, but they are only a few thousand, whereas in the planet there are a few billion. What is driving the lab story is that you find exactly the kind of profile of bright inventive people in rural African villages or above the Arctic Circle. The existing advanced education industry does not reach the

brain power of the planet. So it's not changing MIT, but scaling MIT. We are finding people all over the world but there is no place for them, and this is the gap fab labs are trying to fill.'

## IN A FAB LAB WE USE THE BRAIN POWER OF THE WHOLE PLANET

### **So what can fab labs do for democracy today?**

**Gualart:** 'We are in a global crisis that affects both the way we work and the way we organise ourselves. We are moving towards a world in which people will live mostly in cities and will be more and more connected, but in the future only the countries and cities that are productive will be able to decide their own future. This is why the city of Barcelona has decided to create a plan similar to the one that was developed 100 years ago with the libraries. Recently I was at the Boston Public Library, and at the entrance there is a motto that says 'FREE TO ALL', which is an invitation to open the knowledge of academics to all citizens. Until now, technology was closed to universities and we have decided to open it to everyone. This is why in Barcelona we are developing a plan to set up a laboratory in each district in the same way that we have libraries, schools, health centres, etc. We work to make technology accessible to everyone, we create a network that allows the community to work together... and this is fundamental to grant people the right to decide their future for themselves. Today many people are calling for a revolution, but we are already making a revolution, empowering the citizens, allowing them to have the tools to connect with other people and to share knowledge. We also want to empower cities, because often cities have collapsed, not only economically but also intellectually when confronted with the question, 'What to do next?' In the 50s, after the Second World War, the economy was being pushed forward by democracy, mostly in America, and we were all growing together. Today, though, the money is coming from places that are not very democratic, like China or Russia or the Middle East... so we need to invent other ways to manage the economy in order to empower and to connect economic growth to democracy.' >>

>> **What are the current main obstacles that make cities resistant to change, or contrary to the emergence of new cities? It seems that the logic of big companies is that people are meant to consume rather than to create technology...**

**Gerschenfeld:** 'No, that's not exactly the problem. Remember that when the personal computer appeared, the leading computer companies all failed because they considered PCs a toy; they did not see them as a threat. In the same way, big government or big business are not threatened because they see fab labs as toys; they don't understand them. The biggest challenge for fab labs is not confrontation but organisation: building an organisational capacity. What Vicente and his colleagues have done is profound. They have essentially taken over running the city to build that capacity. There aren't direct obstacles... The hard part is to build the organisational capacity to support this revolution. So we had to spin off a fab foundation and a fab academy to help support this growing network, and

projects like the one Vicente is leading in Barcelona are building the civic infrastructure. It's a real invention: he is inventing new ways to organise the city around a new notion of infrastructure. And so that's the limitation, sort of inventing a new city, because if anybody can make anything, how can you live, work and play?'

**In an article published in *Foreign Affairs* in 2012, you said that the hype for 3D printers can be compared to the interest that newspapers showed for the microwave oven in the 50s, when it was seen as a substitute for cooking. Now we know that microwave ovens have improved our lives, but that we still need the rest of the utensils to cook. The fab labs would be the kitchen and the microwaves would just be the 3D printers.**

**Gerschenfeld:** 'The research we are doing at my lab at MIT is to take all the tools in a fab lab and merge them in a very deep way, fundamentally structuring the properties of materials. Today, in a fab lab like the >>



>> Architecture Institute in Barcelona, the 3D printer may actually be the least-used tool. There are bigger machines that involve much more complex processes. Right now there is a bit of hype in the media about 3D printers, but it is silly because the articles are written by journalists who don't even actually use them. There is a revolution today, which is digital fabrication, which means turning data into things and things into data, and the 3D printer is a small corner of that big space.'

**In Barcelona, we have marked 300 years since the siege. You might have seen the show M.U.R.S. by La Fura dels Baus. The idea of the siege is relevant to the rise of fab labs since you aim to create cities that become more self-sufficient, as Vicente Guallart's book title points out. If we are to be under siege, we should be prepared to produce our own goods...**

**Guallart:** 'The original title for the book was *The Connected Self-Sufficient City*. The ideal is not to be isolated. The way we are connected with others is different from the way we were in the past. The question is to empower local production. Basically because we must do it in order to be leaders of our future, but we will only be able to do this if we are connected to the world.'

**Gershenfeld:** 'Barcelona is under siege today. The economy is broken; people far away take your money and your jobs. You are under siege. It's today.'

## THE CITY OF THE FUTURE IS A METROPOLIS OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

**How do you envision the city of the future?**

**Gershenfeld:** 'Think globally, fabricate locally.'

**Guallart:** 'The city of the future will be multi-scalar, because the city of the future will be a network of cities. We will all be connected, and this implies that we will live in different places at the same time somehow. The city of the future is a metropolis of neighbourhoods. The future is not having a rich centre and a poor periphery, but a city in which many neighbourhoods are empowered and have the right facilities in order to be able to produce nearly everything.'

**How many things are you wearing that you have produced yourself?**

**Gershenfeld:** 'When you came to this interview I was working on the internals of the software that controls the machines that make machines – the engineering processes. One of the things that most excites me is the workflows, so I am wearing this laptop. The software in here is what I make. I am more interested in the workflows in the lab rather than the products of the lab. So that's what I wear.'

**And you Vicente, what are you wearing that you have produced yourself?**

**Guallart:** 'What I wear is myself...'

**Gershenfeld (interrupting):** 'No, no, I can answer for you. It's the city. Look at this hall, look at Barcelona full of fab labs. I think the answer for Vicente is he is wearing Barcelona.' ••

[fablabbcn.org](http://fablabbcn.org)

*This article was originally published in Barcelona Metròpolis (numéro 93), a quarterly magazine about Barcelona, capital in transformation. Bernat Puitobella interviewed Neil and Vincente during the 10th International Fab Labs Conference and Fab Festival, celebrated in Barcelona. During this yearly event, international Fab Lab Network members from more than 450 labs in 55 countries are gathering, where they will share technical expertise, best practices and the powerful stories.*

[fab10.org](http://fab10.org) [fab11.org](http://fab11.org)

# Green Urine

Together we can  
create a greener  
Amsterdam!

At FabCity Campus from the 8th of  
April till the 26th of June 2016 we'll  
convert your urine to phosphate.

waternet





# SURROUND YOURSELF WITH ENERGY

## EXCHANGING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS

© Martin A. Pegglen / CC BY-SA / 2.0

**Most of us are like foetuses. Idly floating around, feeding off the big unknown machine bringing us all the energy we need through a cord. But this is about to change. We'll become energy producers too. We'll send electricity back through that cord. And it won't be just us and that one big provider. We'll be connected to our neighbourhood, or to a car park where we temporarily stall our vehicle. In the future, we'll all be part of a smart microgrid.**



**Liedewij Loorbach**  
freelance journalist and copywriter

[liedefiximperium.com](http://liedefiximperium.com)

Somewhere in the east of the Netherlands a bungalow in a holiday park is filled to the brim with batteries. 'We've closed the curtains, so it doesn't show', says Detlef Meijer, programme manager strategy at Alliander, a big energy grid company in the Netherlands. The holiday park, called Vesting De Bronsbergen, harbours one of the few microgrids in the Netherlands. The solar panels installed at the parc generate enough power for the entire park to be independent from the regular energy infrastructure. Thanks to the batteries where excess energy is stored for the times when the solar panels cannot deliver, like at night. The microgrid at Vesting Bronsbergen was developed by Alliander. It was placed in 2008, when batteries were huge compared to their current offspring. 'One bungalow wasn't big enough for storage, so we placed a container in the garden', says Detlef. The experiment showed that the batteries were more inefficient than the traditional electricity cable. >>

### >> IT HAS TO BE MORE EFFICIENT THAN OUR CURRENT OPTIONS

An off-grid microgrid is a crazy thing to develop in the Netherlands, says Detlef. The Netherlands is highly developed, so it is very difficult to find a place where you cannot hook up to the main energy grid within three kilometers. Being connected to the grid is relatively cheap, and energy efficient. But it is important to experiment with the possibilities of a microgrid, says Detlef. 'Times are changing. More and more people want to produce energy as well. We also notice a growing sense of collectivity.'

A tomato grower who needs heat for his greenhouses, can deliberate with a neighbouring company producing excess heat. Why not help each other out? We want to be able to help people achieve what they envision: to collectively take care of their own energy supply.'

Detlef is head of one of Alliander's start-ups, called Zown. He explains the name: 'People want to own their own energy, and want to be in charge of how their energy flow is organised.' Alliander's grid operator Liander is appointed by the Dutch state to organise this new energy grid. Now, customers pay a yearly fee for using the energy infrastructure. This will change when people create their own energy infrastructure through a microgrid. >>



© Cris Toala Olivares

## PAMPUS

Pampus, a tiny island in a lake close to Amsterdam, will soon have its own smart microgrid. It relied on a microgrid for years, since it's not connected to the national electricity grid. Electricity for the museum, an old fort, for the one house on the island and for the local pub is generated by diesel engines. Alliander made Pampus more sustainable by installing solar panels and a remote monitoring platform. Recycled batteries from

electric cars now stores the excess sustainable energy so the diesel engines are less needed. The possibilities for better insulation, a wind turbine and heat pumps are now investigated. 'The goal is to have a smart microgrid which completely runs on its own sustainable energy in 2022', says Detlef Meijer. 'I personally want to raise the bar a bit. I think we should be able to fix it before 2020.'

[pampus.nl](http://pampus.nl)

>> Isn't helping people accomplish this like digging Lianders grave? 'I doubt the conventional energy grid will become completely redundant', says Detlef, 'but I'm convinced we'll see a lot of change.' By experimenting now, Alliander hopes to develop new ways of doing business: designing microgrids, installing microgrids and providing the operating software to manage a microgrid.

## PEOPLE WANT TO BE CONSUMERS AS WELL AS PRODUCERS

### Blijburg

For now, Zown focusses on industrial plots and business area's, as the road to microgrids in residential neighbourhoods is covered with bureaucratic hurdles. For example, the law states everybody has the right to choose his or her own energy supplier. So if you get an entire residential complex to create a microgrid together, the next person moving in might say: 'I don't want your energy, I'm choosing my own supplier'. Which means the collective weakens, as a result the microgrid becomes less beneficial for the other participants, and other people will start to consider leaving the microgrid as well and everything might fall apart. Business areas usually already have a kind of collective taking care of communal facilities like roads, green areas, and security. If one business leaves, a newcomer automatically signs up to be part of this collective. So chances of the microgrid collective falling apart are much slimmer. >>



© Fabian Calis

### BLIJBURG

On Centrumeiland in Amsterdam, beach pavilion Blijburg found a permanent home base. Not only is it suitable for summer swims and nightly parties, but also cosy and romantic in the colder months. Producing the ice that keeps your soft drink chilled, creates a lot of heat. Blijburg is now using that heat in the winter months to heat up the rooms. And that's only one of the fancy new energy saving tricks they've installed in their newly rebuild waterfront space. Even though on busy days a band might be playing while the

kitchen is preparing food for hundreds of people and ice cubes are in high demand, Blijburg decided to have a regular connection to the main grid of 3 x 80 ampère instead of the heavy user connection of 3 x 250 ampère. It'll save them money, as the regular connection is much cheaper, and it forces them to be very energy efficient. The company Spectral Utilities designed, with the help of energy provider Eneco, a smart power block that monitors the energy demand in Blijburg. When there is a peak demand which cannot be met by the regular connection to the grid, the batteries are activated. The batteries store the energy delivered by the 71 solar panels on the roof, or by the grid. If activating the batteries doesn't provide enough energy, the smart power block can diminish the energy being sent to the cooling systems to save power. The system with the smart power block, solar panels and other tricks was an investment of 200,000 euros - twice as much as a regular system would have been - and Blijburg expects to have saved 40,000 euros in 12 years.

[blijburg.nl](http://blijburg.nl)

[spectralutilities.com](http://spectralutilities.com)



## MICROGRIDS

>> Ad van Wijk, sustainable energy entrepreneur and professor Future Energy Systems at the TU Delft, doesn't doubt our apartments one day will be part of a microgrid, a neighbourhood microgrid, to be more specific. Every building, house or apartment will become an energy producer as well as a consumer. The neighbourhood smart microgrid will provide everyone with enough energy on demand. Even if all residents decide to use their washing machines and dishwashers at 9 pm, when the sun is down, there will be enough energy.

The solution Van Wijk envisions for storage of energy are hydrogen tanks in our cars. 'Hydrogen is a very interesting way of storing energy. One kilogram of hydrogen contains more than 200 times more energy than one kilogram of batteries.' Hydrogen can be stored in the tanks of our

## Hydrogen tanks

future fuel cell cars. The fuel cell in our car can convert the hydrogen very efficient into electricity again. 'With these fuel cell cars we can drive, but we can also produce electricity for our homes when the car is parked', says van Wijk. 'One fuel cell in our car can provide the electricity for about 100 households. If, during the day, the solar panels on the roof gather more energy than is being used, the energy can be stored in the tank of our car as hydrogen for later use.' Currently, people owning solar panels use about 30% of the harvested energy themselves; the excess is sent onto the big grid for other people to use, according to Van Wijk. 'The solar panel owners have to buy energy at the going rate, for the times their solar panel doesn't produce electricity.' Clearly, storage of our own energy for our own (or our neighbour's) use can bring big financial benefits. >>



- >> Like the batteries, the fuel cells will become more and more efficient. And it won't be long - Van Wijk estimates about ten years - before we will be paid to park our fuel cell hydrogen car. Yes, paid in stead of charged a parking fee per hour, because the car is producing energy: 'The fuel cell in our car will be valuable for storing energy and providing it when necessary.' These cars will also be the solution for neighbourhood microgrids during the winter, Van Wijk believes. Excess electricity from a wind turbine for instance can be converted into hydrogen at a hydrogen fueling station and then stored into the tank of our cars. And one car can deliver the electricity for hundred households for a couple of days. So if the neighbourhood grid runs out of energy, we'll head to a fueling station.

Driving back and forth to pick up energy might not feel totally off grid, but as we have to go places anyway, it is still efficient. So we might not be off grid on our own grid, we will be able to be on part of a smart microgrid. Owned by us. Now isn't that a sunny future! ••

[alliander.com](http://alliander.com)

[zown.nl](http://zown.nl)

[profadvanwijk.com](http://profadvanwijk.com)

## FABCITY CAMPUS

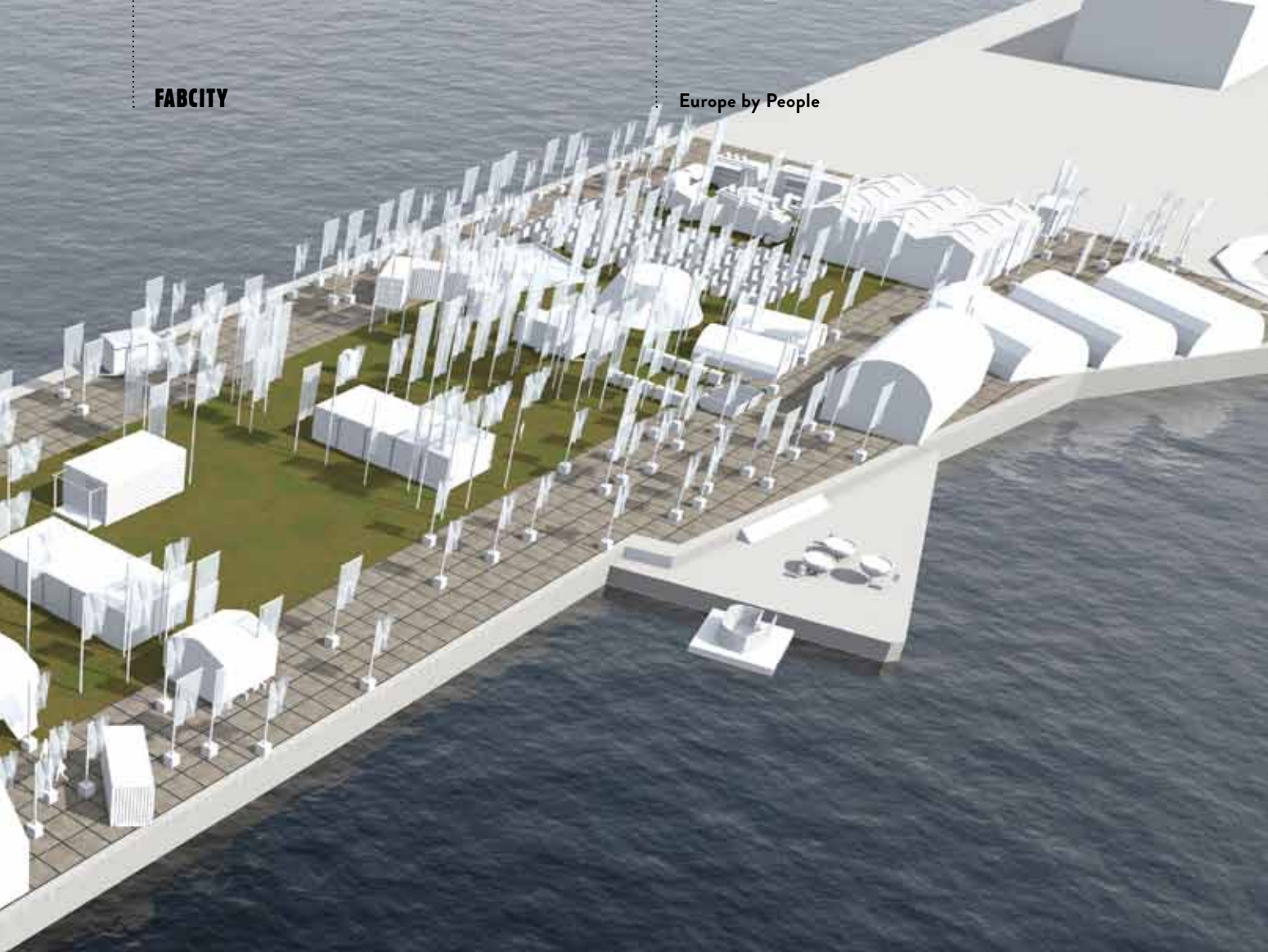
While the political leaders in Europe will debate at length the former navy basis during the Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the European Union, at the FabCity Campus at the Kop van Java, 300 young people will look for solutions for big city issues in co-creation with experts and professionals. 'The initial idea was to propel ourselves into the future and make the campus completely off-grid. But that soon seemed a bit too ambitious', says Theodoor Koelewijn, together with Christel van de Craats leading the off-grid-project. 'So we've decided, together with partners like Alliander, Waternet and AMS, to make at least parts of the campus completely off-grid. And hopefully, during the months the campus exists, those off-grid areas will grow and link up.' All participants - from lab and construction workers to artists and food trucks - have been asked about

their expected energy demand, water usage and waste disposal. 'We also want to know how much energy they plan to put back into the microgrid and how much waste materials can be transformed into new products', says Theodoor. 'We'll start in April', Detlef Meijer adds, 'it can still be pretty chilly then.' If there's a lecture being held in a tent, you'll need quite a bit of energy to create enough heat. That might be provided by a solar panel on the roof. Or by a system that changes heat into energy. 'Otherwise the invited hot shots will be huddled in their coats', Meijer jokes. 'Maybe that's the best way to illustrate the challenges for smart microgrids and off-grid life.'

[europebypeople.nl/fabcity-campus](http://europebypeople.nl/fabcity-campus)







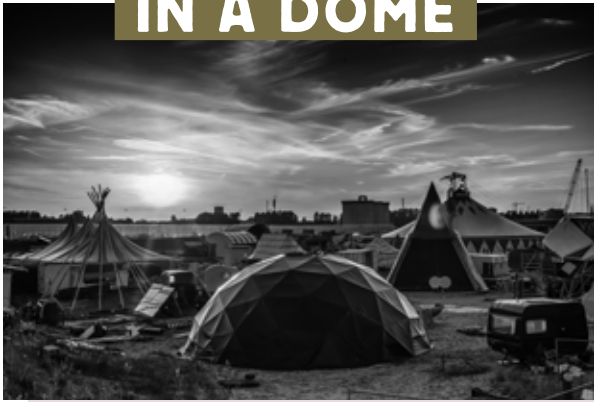
# FABCITY

## CAMPUS FOR

## URBAN INNOVATORS

During the Dutch presidency of the Council of the European Union, the west-end of Java-island will be bursting with life and activity. Part of the official cultural programme Europe by People, FabCity will be realised, a campus for urban innovators. Young professionals, scientists, students and locals are reshaping everyday life, finding solutions to metropolitan and universal problems. >>

## DEMOCRACY IN A DOME



© Jacqueline Reboir

The Pavilion Network Democracy, hosted by Netwerk Democratie, is a dome designed and constructed by Iranian/Dutch artist Ehsan Fardjadniya, to harbour democracy. It is an open and inviting place to be used by different democratic organisations, like Argu (a forum for substantive discussions) and Democratic Challenge (enhancing local democracy). During the day, representatives of these organisations will interact spontaneously with visitors and offer educational programmes. At night and during the weekend, the audience can visit theme-related lectures, workshops and screenings. There is room for (online) democratic experiments in and with the campus community - which serves a practical purpose since different groups are working and living on the grounds, with both communal and individual needs. The dome is property of Fardjadniya, who fled to the Netherlands in 2000 and subsequently studied at the Royal Academy for Visual Arts. He designed the tent as a means for education and cinema. In the tent, the audience is surrounded by a screen and a five speakers sound system - watching a movie is a truly cinematic experience.

[ehsancritique.com](http://ehsancritique.com)

[argu.co](http://argu.co)

[democraticchallenge.nl](http://democraticchallenge.nl)

[netdem.nl](http://netdem.nl)

- >> The campus is still in development. Over the first few months in January the FabCity is being built, after a design of Studioninedots, SLeM and Kop van Java Makers. The designers created a white vision for this European utopia - a dream which is actually already coming true. The white from the flags, pavilions and screens symbolises a blank world, waiting to be filled in and projected upon by individuals. A new world, but from a very near future.

## WE'RE FACING ISSUES THAT NEED IMMEDIATE SOLVING

FabCity Campus is inspired by the Fab Lab and FabCity movement world wide. The first FabCity was founded in Barcelona after the 10th International Fab Labs Conference in 2014 and are now widespread all over the world. The labs are all about making a city work in a more durable and self-sustaining way. Challenged by global problems, like shortage of energy, food and water, the draining of the environment, the climate change and subsequent danger of flooding. But also the consequences of a fast expanding and aging population: age-related diseases or growing need of healthcare. Urgent issues which can't afford years of political negotiation and need immediate solving. Fab labs are, like FabCity Campus, actually creating solutions by encouraging local production and storage of energy, producing food and wearables locally and innovatively, building infrastructures for a new data economy, reorganising mobility and healthcare.

The grounds of FabCity Campus' location are changing over the course of a few months - the empty and open space on the island, ideal for festivals and events - is being transformed into a proper campus, with roads, buildings and recreational spaces. But unlike a university, it will not be dominated by theories. Ideas, plans and assumptions will be materialised into prototypes and installations and tested for usability, durability and practicality. >>

## TOGETHER AND HYPERCONNECTED, LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND ON A EUROPEAN LEVEL

>> It will not be all about inventing and discovering: a lot of solutions for future problems already exist. We can grow food in offices, we can heat our houses without gas or coals, we can generate energy without fossil fuel or nuclear plants, we can recycle waste into useful materials, we can grow crops that don't exhaust the soil. At FabCity, inspiring examples of companies, individuals and institutions working on creative solutions will be demonstrated. Examples like Hemp Collective, a Dutch initiative from the north of Holland, which represents manufacturers of hemp products. At the campus, they will show how you can build with this natural product without putting a strain on the environment - to demonstrate this they will even set up a hempfield. Parts of the campus will go off-grid. All participants have been asked about their expected energy demand, water usage and waste disposal. If possible, they put back energy into the microgrid and transform waste materials into new products. All over the campus data will be collected and analysed on site for further research. Everything will be done together, hyperconnected, searching for new forms of organisation and relationships, locally, nationally and on a European level.

Europe by People invited European students, young professionals and students from Amsterdam vocational schools, together with young professionals from companies who are eager to work with creative minds on urban and societal questions. The interaction between young people from different disciplines - science and technology and also arts - will spark creativity and energy. >>

EUROPE  
BY  
PEOPLE



© Scott Lewis CC by/2.0

## A HOUSE MADE OF HEMP

The Hemp Collective wants to promote the special qualities of hemp as a raw material. Not just for clothing, cosmetics and food, but also for building. They provide information through the website and social media, organise Hemp Meetups - showcasing different kinds of use for the material - and demonstrate hemp at exhibitions and events. At FabCity, Hemp Collective will build a house out of hemp, in collaboration with the creative students of the Willem de Koning Academy. The prefab walls of the pavilion are made of the locally fabricated hemp concrete. Hemp has proved to be an extremely sustainable raw material. When growing it doesn't need pesticides or artificial fertiliser - and it even improves the quality of the soil. The hemp plant also binds more CO<sub>2</sub> than most trees (13,500 ton per hectare) and it continues binding when transformed into building material, like hemp concrete. This bio-based material provides better thermal insulation than conventional concrete and can endure higher impact (for instance from earthquakes), but is at the same time eight times lighter. All these features make it extremely suitable for prefab constructions and the techniques developed make building much faster, cheaper and environmentally friendly.

[hempcollective.nl](http://hempcollective.nl)

[wdka.nl](http://wdka.nl)

## CITY OF CYCLES



© CycleSpace and Emma architecten

No better place to promote cycling than Amsterdam. CycleSpace designed a pavilion and bicycle flow for FabCity. At the site, CycleSpace shows the world's first in domains like measuring neurological functions on bicycles, a Bicycle University, VR-tools for urban planners to experience bike-eye view, full-scale bicycle oriented city plans and a cycle-centric crowdfunding platform. Afterwards, this mobile off-grid pavilion will travel all over the world. It is designed by Steven Fleming and Emma Architects, principal designer of Cycle Space International Pty. Ltd., which is aiming to make cycling the world's mode of transport. The collective of architects and designers developed building types and models of land divisions particular to an age of bike transport. Cycle Space argues cycling is not just better for health and environment, but also contributes to economic wealth. 'City centres where cycling now dominates (Groningen for example) provide the fastest door-to-door trip times relative to population. Our modelling shows how this speed advantage can be carried through to cities of up to six million', their website states. If only more people would use bikes... 'The selfishly rich would be even richer if their cities were faster.'

[cyclespace.org](http://cyclespace.org)

[cycle-space.com](http://cycle-space.com)

>> The different teams working and learning on campus have defined several research questions, having to do with living your everyday life in a new, sustainable and healthy way. The hundreds of people are doing their research, experiments, manufacturing and demonstrations at the premises - some of them will even live on the campus 24/7, which would be a great experimental usage of the Tiny Houses - a movement from the US that's gaining ground now in Europe as well.

FabCity Campus will be an open city, inviting EU-politicians and their officials, companies, tourists, professionals and the people of Amsterdam. There will be receptions and special excursions, lectures, workshops and talk shows, screenings of relevant films and documentaries, but also performances and exhibitions. A series of programmes will also take place at FabCity, as well as in Pakhuis de Zwijger, only a three-minute walk away. They will address themes like the impact of art on society, the power of data and their collectors, redesigning democracy, the pro's and cons of growing tourism in cities, green in the city, creative ways to grow food or saving and generating energy.

## THESE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES CAN BE FOUND IN CITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD

Off-campus, different teams of students and young professionals will make their way into the city of Amsterdam. Eleven area's have been designated because of their specific challenges, which at the same time are found in cities all over the world. For ten weeks these teams will focus on issues like revitalising deteriorating neighbourhoods, transforming obsolete offices, redesigning industrial areas and developing new sustainable residential and work areas on the outskirts. All the results of both on- and off-campus efforts will be exhibited and discussed at great length at the end of June, and at the same time should be a starting point for structural solutions and developments. And hopefully, a source of inspiration for the European politicians, negotiating on the other side of the water. >>



>> The FabCity Campus is created in collaboration with dozens of partners: knowledge- and educational institutions, corporations, small enterprises, start-ups, neighbourhood communities, civil society organisations, the municipality of Amsterdam, ministries and other governmental institutions, creative bureaus, media partners, designers, cultural entrepreneurs and committed professionals and students. Among the partners are Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions (AMS), Stimuleringsfonds voor de Creatieve Industrie, Pakhuis de Zwijger, Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW), Gemeente Amsterdam, Waternet, Alliander, Hanzehogeschool Groningen, Amsterdam Rainproof, TU Delft, Wageningen RU, Rietveld Academie, Sandberg Instituut, Saxion Hogeschool, Willem de Kooning Academie Rotterdam, Waag Society, Mediamatic, Cities, Studio Joris Laarman, SLeM, Studio Nine Dots, Metabolic, ARCAM, Over het IJ Festival and Map Your City. The Board of Inspiration for FabCity consists of Jurgen Bey (Sandberg Instituut), Gunter Pauli (Blue Economy), Jacqueline Cramer (Amsterdam Economic Board & University of Utrecht), Maurits Groen (WakaWaka & Kipster), Farid Tabarki (Studio Zeitgeist), Henk Ovink (Ministry I&M and Dutch Water Ambassador), Jeanet van Antwerpen (Schiphol & formerly High Tech Campus Eindhoven) and Marleen Stikker (Waag Society).

Come and visit FabCity Campus from mid-April till the end of June. And if you feel you can contribute to the campus in any other way, don't hesitate to get in touch with the organisers! ••

[europebypeople.nl](http://europebypeople.nl)



**Nicole Santé**  
(freelance) journalist and  
editor Europe by People



© Karin Barmann

## B&B FOR BEES

Bees are essential for our existence. Without their pollination, flowers and plants would cease to exist. Bee Inc. creates hotels for solitary bees - the kind that pollinates but doesn't produce honey. These bees are under threat because of pollution and a lack of places to live. The manmade hotels ensure a safe environment for the bees and thus prevent extinction. The hotel is crystal shaped and made out of wood. The shape is developed from original beehives but is made wind and rain resistant. It is made out of wood from trees chopped to keep the tree population in cities healthy; the wooden planks are produced in local sawmills. These sawmills specifically use wood that otherwise would just disappear into shredders. By recycling the wood to construct safe havens for our bees, Bee Inc. is a remarkable example for the circular cities of the future. On the FabCity Campus, Bee Inc. demonstrates their innovative, bee loving hotels.

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

# THE WALL

## TESTZONE FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

It has been standing in Amsterdam for centuries, being part of the city - almost unnoticed. This will change. For six months the almost 450-metre long wall, enclosing the former navy base in the centre of the Dutch capital, will be in the spotlights. During Europe by People, the cultural programme of the Netherlands Presidency EU2016, artists, reporters and creative professionals will form the wall into a canvas for their reflections on a New Europe. >>









**Nicole Santé**  
(freelance) journalist and  
editor Europe by People

>> For over 350 years the wall has 'protected' the navy basis from the inquiring eyes of the passing citizens. The complex behind it started off in the seventeenth century as a wharf for warships. It was a workplace for national hero Michiel de Ruyter, it was used as a landing space for helicopters, a rehabilitation centre for traumatised soldiers and controversial politicians like Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Geert Wilders found protection behind the wall. Now the grounds are being developed into a residential area combined with work and recreational spaces. It is already harbouring some start-ups, a hostel and a workplace for archeologists. And for six months this year it will host the official programme of the political European Union.

## EVERY MONTH ANOTHER ARTIST WILL SHOW HIS WORK

The Wall is one of the four cultural programmes (next to FabCity Campus, On Stage and Brussels) of Europe by People - surrounding the Dutch presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January up and until 30 June 2016. Creative director Pjotr de Jong of design bureau Vandejong is one of the initiators of The Wall - the opening of which will mark the start of Europe by People. 'The project consists of two parts', he explains. 'In January, we will kick off with the first of a series of exhibitions on huge billboards, erected right in front of the actual brick wall. Every month another artist will show his or her work, connected to Europe, and the theme we have come up with: *New Europeans: A Testzone for Everyday Life*.' >>



© Henk Wildschut

## THE JUNGLE OF CALAIS

Henk Wildschut photographed the Jungle of Calais, an area of a few hundred square metres, close to the port, where refugees are living. For his documentary photography project, Wildschut travelled extensively to Calais, the south of Spain, Dunkirk, Malta, Patras and Rome. The people occupying The Jungle have travelled many miles to get there and their journey is continuing. The thousands of people from Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Nigeria are all in search of a better life in Great Britain. They await an

opportunity to cross the Canal but meanwhile have built temporary shelters: tent-like structures made of waste material from the immediate surroundings of the camp. In the best cases, the cultural characteristics of the country of origin can barely be distinguished in these. The way in which the primary requirements of life are manifested in such shelters forms the leitmotiv of this documentary photography project. For Wildschut, the image of the shelter - wherever it is in Europe - became the symbol of the misery

these refugees experience. Wildschut studied at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. He exhibited his work in Amsterdam, Sydney, Shanghai, Beijing, London, Prague, Rome and The Hague, among other places. He began his *Shelter* series in 2005. In 2010, this resulted in the book *Shelter* and the film *4.57 Minutes Back Home*. In 2011, his book was awarded the Kees Scherer prize for the best Dutch photobook of the years 2009/2010 and he won the prestigious Dutch Doc 2011 Award for best documentary project. Currently, he is working on a project about the Dutch food production for the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. *Shelter* will be exhibited on The Wall from April 1 until April 30, 2016.

[henkwildschut.com](http://henkwildschut.com)



## THE MICROCOSMOS OF HIGH SCHOOL

Raimond Wouda has for a long time been interested in the microcosmos of high school students. In 2009 he published the book *School*, displaying the interaction between Dutch high school students and their relationship with their school surroundings. In the aftermath, he developed a fascination for the similarities and differences he found in youngsters in different European countries, with different languages and historical, sociological and cultural backgrounds. He wanted to know what schools in all these places looked like. The importance of his research was heightened by the economic and refugees crisis occurring in Europe, with a huge political and social impact. 'The political tendency in several European countries seems to me xenophobic and anti-European', Wouda says. 'This will definitely affect the way a new



generation of youngsters will perceive Europe.' Wouda wants to show a more complete picture of the European youth, with its challenges and the current societal and political reality. He chose countries that differ geographically, economically, socially, politically and historically: Italy, Poland, Sweden, Belgium and Ireland.

[raimondwouda.com](http://raimondwouda.com)

>> First one up is photographer Robin du Puy, who for a while has been making pictures of Amsterdam people of all nationalities. 'Seeing those pictures together will give you a real sense of Amsterdam as an international and European city', De Jong says. Another photographer whose work will be showcased in larger than life portraits is Raimond Wouda. He visited schools throughout Europe and captured the children in their daily habitats: the classroom. 'For this project Wouda travelled to Belgium to make pictures in both French and Dutch speaking school', De Jong elaborates. The daily life of photographer Henk Wildschuts subjects, also inhabitants of Europe, is worlds away from the safe environment of Wouda's schools. Wildschut visited the temporary - although it seems they're here to stay for a while - and provisional camps built by refugees in and around Calais, where they await a chance to cross the Canal for their final destination Great Britain. The pictures shed a gruelling light on the disaster happening in our European backyard.

The billboards will not just showcase photographs. De Jong is pleased he managed to get Paul Faassen on board, illustrator of magazines and newspapers. 'We have asked him to make drawings for our campaign', says De Jong, who is a fan of Faassens work. 'His takes on everyday life are very original and will lend some light-heartedness to the project.' And in the month of June, when the programme is coming to an end, the wall will be filled with news photo's selected by Hans Aarsman. This creative data-analyst and self-proclaimed photo-detective will, over a period of six months, chose a news-photo every other week and comment on them, the way he does weekly in Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant*. The photo's and comments will be uploaded on The Wall's own website, and in June be shown on the billboards. 'This way we can look back on the events that occurred during the six months of the Dutch presidency', says De Jong. >>

## HOW DO WE WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER IN A FUTURE EUROPE?

>> The second part of the project will begin in April - although work has already started. Twelve young makers and thinkers, from all over Europe, will set up base in front of the Wall for an innovative and creative research project called New Europeans. The team will be supported by Amsterdam-based Radna Rumping, cultural programmer and initiator and Mark Minjan, programmer, researcher and editor. They both are partners at Non-fiction, a bureau for cultural innovation. 'We are talking about artists, video-reporters, designers and journalists', De Jong explains. 'They are working together as a team on what we call a test zone. Their assignment is to find out how a new generation - their generation - wants to live together in a future Europe.' In front of The Wall, a small village will arise for the eyes and ears of the general public. The 75 metre-long test zone will consist of a workshop, an editorial room, a canteen, a watchtower and platforms for rituals. The twelve team members can be seen working on and exhibiting their art, but they will also programme performances, screenings and debates - which will take

place on the provisional stage. Passers-by are invited and encouraged to interact with the young creatives, both on-site and online.

'We hope people will stop and hang out with us for a while. We really need to get input from the people around us', says De Jong. 'That is why we also want to connect with the neighbourhood. Across the street is a residential area, where really not much is going on. We will organise events that involve these inhabitants.' Online there will be input from all over Europe, collected by a team of reporters. 'We want examples of everyday living throughout the continent - this is not just about Amsterdam.'

The website will show the progress of the team at the premises, but will also supply context and deepening of insights. In front of the wall, the content of the site can be seen on a large digital screen. 'There will also be screens behind the wall,' De Jong says, 'in the reception hall, where all officials and the international press will be present every day. They will be confronted with the work and the opinions of New Europeans to bridge the gap between politics and society. We expect the relationship between the people on either side of the wall to grow.' ••

[europebypeople.nl](http://europebypeople.nl)

[robindepuy.nl](http://robindepuy.nl)

[vandejong.nl](http://vandejong.nl)

[non-fiction.eu](http://non-fiction.eu)

## THE EUROPE WE LIVE AND WANT TO LIVE IN

Hans Aarsman analyses press photo's for his weekly section called *De Aarsman Collection* in the Dutch daily newspaper *De Volkskrant*. 'I analyse these photo's like Sherlock Holmes would have done if he were real and still alive', Aarsman says. He screens all the photographed images entering the newsroom, which amounts to 5000 photo's a day. Every week he picks one that catches his eye. During the Dutch presidency of the Council of the European Union, he will direct his focus on pictures with a

European angle. 'Even more than I am already doing.' The pictures and the analyses will be uploaded on the New Europeans website, every other week. At the end of the six-month period of the Dutch presidency, his work will be shown 'live' on the six by four metre large billboards at The Wall.

Illustrator Paul Faassen will create landscapes, populated by the Europeans of today and the future. 'This will counterbalance the political Euro-meetings. It will be about the

Europe we want to live in, with a pluriform population, and about what we think and do. The billboards will show aspects of the everyday European life, like new technology, 'strangers', everyday communication, real and virtual life, wishes, dreams and thoughts on the human condition. The landscapes are squares and parks, where individuals come together, talk to each other and interact, despite their differences. The concept is based on my book *Horizonvervuiling* (horizon pollution).'

[paulfaassen.nl](http://paulfaassen.nl)

[hansaarsman.nl](http://hansaarsman.nl)



# NEW EUROPEANS

INTRODUCING THE TEAM OF TWELVE YOUNG EUROPEANS, WHO WILL BE PART OF THE WALL:

**Andreea Breazu (28)** is a Romanian art historian and cultural entrepreneur. Andreea likes paella, Fernando Pessoa's *Lisbon* and *Show Me A Hero*. She wants to nurture her civic spirit while discussing Europe and creating plans for an everyday Europe.

**Anna Berkhof (28)** is a Dutch architectural historian who likes the islands of Oslo, pumpkin gnocchi by her Italian friend Serena, and *La Grande Bellezza*. She explores what it means to be a European citizen.

**Charlie Clemoes (26)** is a British writer, editor and researcher and likes ratatouille, the Reumann-Hof housing complex in Vienna and *Militant Care*. He wants to discover new forms of society that are being shaped across Europe.

**Charlien Adriaenssens (27)** is a Belgian artist. Charlien likes good food and good people and Baudelaire's *Le Spleen de Paris*. She wants to work on the Europe of tomorrow by playing, drawing and building stuff.

**Devika Partiman (27)** is a Dutch writer, activist and event producer and likes *hutspot*, Zeeland and the movie *About Heaven*. She wants to contribute to a Europe of human diversity.

**Domenique Himmelsbach de Vries (32)** is a Dutch conceptual artist and social designer who likes Bosnia, Polish Pierogi and *The Salt of the Earth*. He wants to provoke people to approach social themes from other perspectives.

**Elisa Grasso (27)** is a British/Italian artist and filmmaker. Elisa likes the movie *Eros + Massacre*, pizza Margherita with mushrooms and London. She is interested in identity and a sense of belonging in an increasingly complex Europe.

**Freja Kir (26)** is Danish designer and likes Copenhagen, Italian food and Douglas Copeland's latest exhibition at Witte de With. She wants to open up ideas about Europe and involve different people.

**Paolo Patelli (31)** is an Italian designer and researcher who likes 'globally abused' pizza, the Bosphorus and the last Venice art biennial. He wants to provoke social imaginations and active citizenship in Europe.

**Stefan Auberg (31)** is an Austrian designer and likes Brussels, *Weißwurst mit Brezel und Hausmacher Senf* and Knausgard's *My Struggle*. He wants to focus on society as a human organism, not a term.

**Tessa de Vries (29)**, a Dutch anthropologist and journalist who likes Cadaqués, kroket, and a radio doc about the Sarejevo-fled Omerovic family who refused to be called refugees. She wants to explore Europe through personal stories.

**Waël el Allouche (25)** is a Dutch/Tunesian artist and designer, who likes *stamppot*, Amsterdam and Amin Maalouf's *Samarkand*. He wants to gain a better understanding of the European Union and develop an activist mentality.



# ACT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE

## HOW THEATRE MAKES US BETTER PEOPLE

'SYRIA. The country of fattoush, Arak, where Bashar al-Assad, the mother of Jerry Seinfeld and Majd Mardo were born. A country presently so torn up, you don't know who's fighting who.

YUGOSLAVIA. Nowadays known as Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The country where it didn't matter what religion you worshipped or hairstyle you had, until of course the war. The country of börek and landmines. There where Goran Višnjić, Nicola Tesla, Daria Bukvić and Vanja Rukavina were born. But most importantly, a country that doesn't exist anymore.

IRAN. The country of oil, caviar and sand. The threshold of civilisation and birthplace of the handshake, whereas nowadays people are executed publicly for committing minor crimes. Also the country where Asghar Farhadi, Kader Abdolah and Saman Amini were born. To cut things short: three nations ravished by poverty, corruption and war, from where four different children fled their home and travelled miles and miles to reach the Netherlands. The country of peace, prosperity and playgrounds.' >>







**Dymphie Braun**  
programme maker  
Creative Industries

>> It's the start of the trailer of *Nobody Home*, a performance directed by Daria Bukvić that hit theatres throughout the Netherlands last year. Together with actors Vanja Rukavina, Majd Mardo, Saman Amini and their families, she went on a search for their roots in the Netherlands. A country where the immigration policy has changed dramatically over the last twenty years and the dynamics between 'us' and 'them' is constantly influenced by fads.

Just like Vanja, Majd and Saman, Daria is born in 1989. In the next eleven years, all of them had to leave their home country and fled to the Netherlands, in search of a safe home. In 2009, they met at The Maastricht Theatre Academy. Five years later, they tell the stories of their lives in *Nobody Home*: from the country of origin to the refugee centre (AZC), from the theatre to the stage. From the absurd life in the AZC and the Dutch bureaucracy to the hilarious cultural clichés like drama queening Syrian moms and B-boys in white socks and slippers, it's a touching, humorous and critical portrait of a young generation of theatre makers who fled into the theatre trying to find their home.

Daria left Bosnia with her mom when she was only three years old, her dad stayed behind. In the AZC she realised that she wasn't going back anytime soon. The current refugee movement brings back memories, but she does not shy away from her own discomfort or pain. 'To live is to suffer. To survive is to find some meaning in the suffering', Nietzsche once said. 'I want to make my mother's decision at that time worthwhile', Daria recently told in an interview on Dutch television. 'In Bosnia she had everything, but had to leave all that behind.'

## I WANT TO MAKE MY MOTHER'S DECISION WORTHWHILE

Her flourishing career, her life, she lost everything. My whole life I'm trying to make up for that. Besides changing the public perception, this performance is a tribute to our mothers.'

The influx of refugees in the Netherlands is nothing new. During the First World War, one million Belgians sought refuge in our politically neutral country. As from the beginning of the nineties, due to the war in Yugoslavia, the flow of refugees and the number of applications for asylum faced rapid growth. The situation in Kosovo and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan led to another peak. At the turn of the century, the Netherlands tightened up its policy and the amount of applications for asylum dropped. Until the last few years, among others due to the war in Syria.

## ART CAN ADD A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE TO THE DEBATE

Especially now, with all the stories, debates and measures filling up our newsfeeds and timelines, people like Daria can add a human perspective to the discourse surrounding refugees. This issue concerns all social groups and strata of our society now and it is complicated. And the more we read about it, the more questions we have. 'With *Nobody Home*, we wanted to appeal on empathy. And empathy will only become more necessary. We hope to address people who live where perhaps a refugee centre will be opened soon.' And isn't that the true power of art? To spur a conversation we might not otherwise have? To keep questioning ourselves? To sneak past our intellect and directly speak to our hearts? >>





## CITY MAKER DARIA BUKVIĆ

>> The next performance Daria is working on, is the Dutch version of *Djihad, le spectacle*, a humoristic play about a rather serious subject by Belgium theatre maker Ismaël Said. It tells the story of three boys who decide, partly out of frustration with their roles in Western society and partly out of boredom, to travel to Syria to take part in the Jihad alongside their Islamic brothers. It's a total deception, nothing like *Call of Duty* at all. Who are they actually fighting for, and why? The play was such a success, that Belgian minister Fadila Laanan introduced the concept of *pièces de utilité publique* - theatre for the public utility - and wanted the play to be staged in schools in Brussels. Rehearsals for *Jihad*, a coproduction of Senf and theatre De Meervaart and rewritten by Daan Windhorst, are well underway. You can see *Jihad*, in which Majd and Saman also take part, play in De Meervaart in Amsterdam on January 25 and February 15 until 18. ••

Director Daria Bukvić, daughter of a Bosnian Muslim woman and a Catholic Croat, was born in the Bosnian town of Tuzla. At the outbreak of the Yugoslav Civil War, Daria and her mom fled to the Netherlands in 1992. They spent two years in a refugee centre before getting a permanent resident status. At 17, she joined the directing programme of The Maastricht Theatre Academy and graduated in 2011. Since then, Daria directed performances for Frascati Producties, De Parade, Hofplein Rotterdam and Toneelschuur Producties. Nobody Home was the first performance of her own foundation. Last year, she was granted the Van Praag Award by theatre maker Adelheid Roossen with the words: 'You're someone who spits with beauty'. As from 2017, Daria will be directing at the National Theatre in The Hague as part of a four-year talent development programme.

[dariabukvic.nl](http://dariabukvic.nl)

[nobodyhome.nl](http://nobodyhome.nl)

[senf.nl](http://senf.nl)



*The 'Luchtsingel', a pedestrian bridge crossing the Schiekade in Rotterdam, was a citizens' initiative by the City Makers from ZUS (Zones Urbaines Sensibles). With the aid of a publicity campaign and crowdfunding, they gathered the support required to realise this initiative.*

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# THE CITY MAKERS AGENDA

## FROM CIVIL INITIATIVES TO A CIVILIAN POWER

The movement of the new City Makers has taken off in recent years. They seem to be everywhere nowadays, people who take their own initiative and give shape to the public good through locally based bottom-up approaches. Meanwhile, the central government leaves more to the organising ability of society. This shift raises the question of power. If you allow City Makers to give substance to public services and facilities, shouldn't you give them the responsibilities, powers and means to do so as well? The City Makers Agenda tries to develop a strategy with which City Makers can strengthen their position of power. From civil initiatives to a civilian power. >>



>> In the run-up to the municipal elections of 2014, a number of Amsterdam's City Makers advocated for an open section in the new Administrative Agreement. The idea was that after the elections they would be allowed to decide on the content of this section. The section was supposed to cover the changing relationship between the government and the citizens of Amsterdam, and to delineate the responsibilities and rights of the City Makers as a citizens' initiative. The idea was well received, both by the eligible candidates and the other City Makers. Other groups and municipalities copied the idea. The open section, however, would never become a reality.

At about the same time, an open alliance of informal health and welfare initiatives was being formed in Amsterdam's city borough East. Social entrepreneurs and volunteers in areas such as family care, integration, care for the elderly, debt counselling and self-help groups, united themselves in order to stand stronger in the light of the decentralisation. The initiative was welcomed and embraced. Soon the open alliance formed part of the steering committee that was to shape a pilot named *Wijkzorg* (Community Care). They were mentioned among the institutional parties in an official agreement. A year later, it turned out that their symbolic value overshadowed their actual contributions by far. Amongst public authorities, health insurers and large healthcare and welfare organisations, there was hardly room for them to exert influence. The open alliance sat mostly at the back, waving at the crowd.

These are just two practical examples that illustrate the current situation. The movement of the City Makers has been gradually maturing and now demands a say in decision-making. Topics such as policy-definition, decision-making and the City Makers' role in it, have become increasingly important. The City Makers, who like to put their shoulders to the wheel and find practical solutions to problems which the authorities have been indecisive about for years, suddenly want to share their views, provide feedback and have a say in decision-making. Go-getters who pride themselves on doing something, averse to bureaucracy and political intrigue, are now moving to the other side, to the world of systems. This seems a logical consequence of the recent trend in which the movement of the City Makers has developed itself, both qualitatively and quantitatively. But what does it mean in terms of public responsibilities, powers and resources?

## CITY MAKERS WANT TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS, PROVIDE FEEDBACK, AND HAVE A SAY IN DECISION-MAKING

The City Makers, as well as other parties, are desperately searching for an answer, preferably an answer that is grandiose and has attention value, something like a G1000, a citizens' summit, a Neighbourhood Law, a civil manifesto or a covenant. It is striking that many of the suggested answers do not depart from the logic of the City Makers' movement, but from the political and administrative world. This is strange for four reasons.

Firstly, it changes priorities and reverses roles. The government is faced with large austerity cuts and qualitative deficiencies of the services developed under her wings. To find a solution, they now turn to the 'civil society', which was already busy organising its own initiative by, for and with the community. So it is the government that is the requesting party here. Why don't the authorities turn to the City Makers and have talks with them on the latter's terms, following the City Makers' methods, when it fits their agenda? Why do the City Makers make themselves dependent on others and thus so vulnerable?

Secondly, it bolsters ideas that impede real change. There are three commonly heard reasons why people have faith in the current political system. (1) The political system ensures the interests of those who lack the ingenuity or articulacy to stand up for themselves or develop their own initiative; (2) the political system focuses on durability and the future and (3) the political system monitors the treasury to avoid a quick and painful bankruptcy. For each of these reasons, one can easily argue that the opposite might also be true. These assumptions mainly serve to maintain the status quo, and the City Makers encourage this by adjusting themselves to this situation and by using the establishment's jargon. >>

>> Thirdly, the new instruments are usually not designed to encourage participation, but instead to lead people away from it. Take the example of today's G1000 or the citizen's summits. They differ in one crucial aspect from the original idea of randomly selected citizens as an alternative to elected members of parliament that was outlined by David Reybrouck in his book *Against Elections*. A G1000 is only functional if it is allowed to make decisions, to set the agenda and to decide on policy and spending. In most of the experiments, however, that was not the case. The G1000 was reduced to an entertaining game just for show, which usually resulted in a heavy hangover.

Fourthly, the current approach forces the City Makers to alienate themselves from their own values, while it is their distinct authenticity that has proved their strength in recent years. City Makers are the kind of people who want to get things done; their main goal is to achieve something. This approach changes the minute they start talking to the Deputy Mayor. In a City Hall people are supposed to talk, to negotiate, to lobby, to build coalitions and close deals. It turns city-making into politics, and during this process the strength and energy will fade away rapidly. Is there an alternative? Is it possible to turn city-making somehow into a new kind of politics? A kind of politics rooted in the practice and following the logic of the new city-making? In other words, can we change or complement the current practice of politics, modelled on and linked to the movement of city-making? Is it possible for an outsider to reform politics and to change the way the government functions? A better and more familiar strategy for the City Makers would be to develop a new way of doing politics, in which the City Makers use their own power and follow their own logic and values, and leave it to the old politics to connect with that.

## PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR PRACTICAL PROBLEMS

The year 2011 is an important marker in time. In this year, the term '(active) citizenship' seemed to be popping up everywhere; new concepts like trust were adopted from abroad, and all of a sudden different public initiatives were taken from within the society - a neighbourhood vegetable garden, a local energy cooperative, a residents' initiative to improve the pedestrian area, a community centre run by the locals. It all happened with new impetus. These

initiatives were neither old-fashioned nor soppy. They used social media and modern marketing techniques and relied on entrepreneurship. At least that was the idea.

It was also the year in which Pakhuis de Zwijger started to focus on the city in transition. We introduced concepts like 'City Maker' and 'City Embassy' and started to inform about this movement, especially on behalf of the initiators. By telling the stories of these first City Makers and by interviewing them, we wanted to inspire and encourage urban development. A lot has happened since that marking year. The initial period was characterised by a pioneering spirit of dedicated volunteers who started to realise a number of excellent initiatives. But there was still a lot of uncertainty, struggling and searching. People struggled with questions such as: what does the organisation of a so-called 'trust' look like in practice?

Even though the buzz-words from 2011 are hardly ever used nowadays, neighbourhood businesses, community enterprises, CPO's (*Collectief Particulier Opdrachtgeverschap* - Collective and Private Commissioning), social enterprises and all kinds of cooperatives are being set up throughout the Netherlands. Learning by doing - the City Makers are good at that. The first thing they do, is to find practical solutions for practical problems. For instance, they set up their own energy supply. Next, they try to find or create a more (formal) construction.

## HOW CITY-MAKING TURNED INTO A MOVEMENT

The best way to realise development was by bringing together City Makers and by connecting them with each other on the basis of shared practices. Getting to know each other, exchanging ideas, philosophising about their aspirations and showing how you do things - that's how the City Makers develop themselves and others. The fascinating thing is that the diversity among the City Makers and their initiatives can act as an accelerator. Urban farmers, neighbourhood entrepreneurs and energy cooperatives - by bringing together different disciplines and fields, new energy was released. All these kindred spirits recognised something in each other and could not stop talking about it. A movement was born. >>

>> Since the publication of Jan Rotmans' book *In het Oog van de Orkaan* (In the eye of the storm), the movement has even its own 'church' of 'change agents', who gradually guide the world through a major transition. And the movement is growing, which is noticeable in increased media attention, acknowledgement in political circles, and in one's immediate surroundings. Where previously a small group of innovators and early adopters joined in, now a much larger group of what you might call 'the early majority' is joining the movement. This broad group seeks to join a renewal movement that has been reasonably established and developed recently.

The movement of City Makers is spreading like wildfire. The growth is fuelled by the wish to make things happen. City Makers seem to have a natural tendency to organise themselves as a network. They focus on small-scale projects that are feasible. They strive for a better world in their immediate environment, but they connect with others who have a similar mission. They recognise themselves in others and see the power of alliance and congeniality. By forming networks, they ensure the visibility of the size and strength of the movement. This is not the traditional visibility of a brand, but the visibility of the multiplicity, diversity and coherence of the initiatives and the people behind them. This visibility has a magnetic effect on others and creates a self-perpetuating story.

Forming networks based on practical experiences, sharing stories, knowledge and experiences, conducting dialogues about shared ambitions and new connections, starting collaborations and entering into partnerships - these are natural but effective strategies to make a City Makers' movement. Therefore, the logical next step would be to follow the same strategies when it comes to the political development of the movement and its positioning as a civilian power. Let's call this strategy the 'City Makers Agenda'. This is not an agenda in the form of a manifesto or a programme. It's a continuum of activities that are continuously shaping its form and content. It aims to position itself as a movement, while seeking support outside their own group. The City Makers Agenda is not only an activity for City Makers, it also focuses with enthusiasm on the outside world.

## LET'S SHOW THE WORLD WHO WE ARE

### Learning by doing

The strength of the City Makers' movement lies in the variety and diversity of its initiatives, which are coherent because of shared ambitions or an underlying philosophy. It is a unity in diversity, with an enormous potential to produce power. These are the first two components of the City Makers Agenda: the network and the competencies. A unique story, worthy to be told and listened to. But this does not happen automatically. The City Makers Agenda is the making and telling of that story. We need to define together the unique qualities of the movement. We need to develop ideas, collect examples, use the media and build platforms. We must show the world who we are, what we are capable of and how many we are. Above all, we must ensure we reach the public with our stories and appeal to them. The City Makers Agenda must inform the public about what the movement can do for them, in their own communities and for the sake of their own lives.

The City Makers Agenda is about how the public good can be created. The City Makers must win the confidence of those for whom the public good exists. This may well start with the above-mentioned reasons why people put their trust in politics. A network of City Makers might be the perfect instrument to penetrate into the fabric of society and define its needs. It might be a very good alternative to a government that has become alienated from society. How can a local politician feel himself a true defender of the interests of those who lack the ingenuity or articulacy to stand up for themselves or develop their own initiative? When it comes to knowing and representing the less self-reliant and what they need, I personally put my trust in the City Makers, on the people who are working from their own initiative in their own neighbourhood. For that purpose, we need to frame the City Makers' movement as a new stakeholder and a new power in the public domain. We should make the people aware of the possible impact. We have to make sure they realise the effects of the work done by the City Makers and appreciate it as such.

What about topics such as sustainability and the long-term future? What about financial responsibility? The City Makers' movement has to respond to these issues as well. In a country where every two years a new government takes office and political parties, under pressure by populism and the dynamics of the political game, constantly change course, the work of the City Makers seems a beacon of calm and continuity. That's also something we can show the public. In the same vein, we have to prove that we can do it cheaper by demonstrating balanced budgets. Put your money where your mouth is. >>



- >> Showing it by putting it into practice, of course. But let's not forget in the first place to chronicle our successes and to use them in an appealing and effective communication strategy.

But telling the story is not enough. The City Makers' movement must position itself as a political choice. Not as an alternative political party, but as an alternative kind of politics. An alternative as to how you want the public domain to be shaped. Not necessarily as a replacement of traditional politics, but as an enrichment of or an addition to it. The City Makers Agenda makes sure that the City Makers' movement puts itself forward as a 'candidate' for election; people can join the movement or support it in other ways. That is the third and final component: to develop a joint or shared strategy to gain power. This will enable people to assign responsibilities, powers and resources to the City Makers, just out of appreciation for their work.

The task for the City Makers is, to create and to offer different ways of how the public can make that choice. We already have a lot of experience with that. We are familiar with crowdsourcing and crowdfunding, neighbourhood initiatives, the use of new media, co-design, the use of technological innovation to empower people, community building, etc. We will have to focus this knowledge and expertise more effectively, and use it better in order to enable people to make this new political choice. All this will have to be connected with practical experiences again and again. These may concern private initiatives, but also cooperative ones.

## WE WILL HAVE TO DO IT OURSELVES

The City Makers Agenda is nonexistent unless we make it happen ourselves. There is a huge potential of creative power among the City Makers to make the Agenda successful. We must therefore take action, seek the appreciation of others and find ways to turn that appreciation into tangible responsibilities, powers and resources that solidify our position in the public domain. It is tempting to seek partnerships with existing institutional stakeholders. They too have become more aware and in their quest for innovation they have even

addressed to the City Makers' movement. The caveat here is that the movement might be (unintentionally) annexed and that the energy and the power are being squeezed out of it, before any reform has taken place.

Setting up partnerships with institutions should be - if it were up to me - the ultimate goal of the City Makers Agenda. But then we have to realise that the possibility to create our own position of power should be a condition to shape that partnership in a good way. The City Makers' movement can be a fertile layer between political parties and society. Of course, in reality all this will turn out very differently. There are countless nuances and hooks and eyes to mention. For instance the fact that City Makers can be found within the institutions, or the fact that many collaborations, in a subtle and light way, absolutely contribute to more fundamental changes in the long term. But that does not change my call. For a 'New Netherlands', in which the City Makers give shape, colour and content to the public good, the City Makers Agenda is indispensable. It is a self-awareness from which we can even do better what we do best: making the city together. ••

[stedenintransitie.nl](http://stedenintransitie.nl)  
[citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu)



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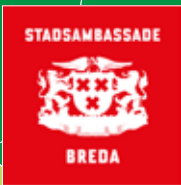


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THE NEW NETHERLANDS

City Embassies



# THE NEW NETHERLANDS

## A NETWORK OF DUTCH CITY EMBASSIES

The smell of freshly baked bread fills the air when entering the empty building. Overlooking the buffet filled with bread baked from locally ground flour, vegetables from the neighbourhood garden, local beer Geus and pear juice coming from the pear orchard De Hof van Seghwaert, which is run by active residents, it almost feels like stepping into a still life of Willem Claesz Heda. The feast, an impressive result of a collaboration between passionate people, is served by volunteers of the social community organisation Piëzo, at the opening of the City Embassy Zoetermeer, organised by its initiators Nathalie, Piet and Alcuin.

'This is exactly what we were missing. A place where everything comes together', Nathalie Vinke answers the question what was the drive behind organising a pop-up City Embassy. Within Nieuw Nederland - Steden in Transitie, the community-run network of Dutch City Embassies, stories of different bottom-up initiatives have already inspired and connected thousands of active citizens, engaged professionals and opened up the dialogue around city making. In Pakhuis de Zwijger we have been facilitating a similar dialogue for years now, about our own city in transition, about a Nieuw Amsterdam (New Amsterdam). In 2012, we started to exchange stories between City Makers in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, sharing knowledge and know-how between different cities.

It was the unofficial start of the New Netherlands platform for City Makers throughout the Netherlands. An exchange that soon appealed to other cities in the Netherlands and resulted in the Dutch City Embassies' kick-off in June 2014, with over more than 250 City Makers from 25 different cities. The cross-sectoral platform examines new ways of working together on innovation in the city and gives visibility to City Makers and their initiatives: engaging in the redevelopment of neglected real estate, organising health care in an alternative way, creating employment in the neighbourhood, co-designing public space and realising local food production. The platform stimulates the exchange of knowledge and practice among these initiators. >>





## CITY EXPEDITIONS

A City Expedition is a perfect opportunity to visit and hear the stories that lie behind the bottom-up initiatives. Preliminary to the Dutch City Embassies' Kick-off in June 2014 the City Makers visited urban farming and care projects, neighbourhood companies, redeveloped buildings and so on. A series of City Expeditions followed directly after the summer organised by the City Embassies of Leiden, Eindhoven en Groningen. Starting in Leiden with a group of thirty people it has grown to over more than hundred participants. Divided in different routes focusing on theme's as industrial heritage, social design, care, sustainability or urban farming the network was invited in 2015 by the City Embassies of Delft, Arnhem, Utrecht, Leeuwarden, Zaanstad and Rotterdam. The Hague, Zaanstad and Tilburg were inspired to organise local expeditions. Moving from one place to another by walking, sitting on a boat, in a bus or the Dutch way, on a bicycle it is the perfect time to meet other City Makers from all different parts of the Netherlands. And after a full day of impressions the expedition is often concluded with a dinner and experiences of the different routes are shared. Within 2016 we are looking forward to visit at least the cities of Breda, Zwolle, Den Bosch.

[stedenintransitie.nl/stadexpeditie](http://stedenintransitie.nl/stadexpeditie)



>>

The character of each of the more than 32 City Embassies is subject to the identity of their city: its size, geographical location, demographic make-up, presence of knowledge institutions and cultural backgrounds and particular interests among the engaged City Makers. Such is reflected in Delft, known as an eminently high-tech and innovative city. The City Embassy placard received an honourable spot on the wall of the historical Prinsenkwartier, where a consortium of cultural organisations addresses the current societal problems from a preeminently technological point of view. They organise debates on climate change, the smart city, architecture, technological innovation in the social sector and so on. In Leeuwarden, the City Embassy takes on a more creative character, inflicted by the same group of active citizens that gave the city its title of EU Capital of Culture in 2018. In the redeveloped Blokhuispoort prison, the former cell blocks are now used by artists and a music venue and platform for urban debate and creativity has been created within the prison walls. >>



>> The City Embassy of Arnhem is in the hands of Coehoorn Centraal, a previously neglected area that is currently being developed in an organic way. Their platform role is articulated in an urban lab, where the know-how emerges from the project itself and new approaches are prototyped in practice immediately. Within co-creative sessions, Coehoorn Centraal examines the opportunities of community rights such as the Right to Bid and the Right to Challenge. Questions regarding the execution of participatory processes and how top-down institutions relate to civic engagement and social entrepreneurship, are underlying the programmes on temporary use of wasteland, the maintenance of green spaces and value creation.

In some cities, the initiative for the City Embassy has been adopted by more institutional actors, such as local governments providing a platform for redefining collaboration between different stakeholders in the city. This is the case for the Maastricht-LAB, aiming to enhance new takes on the (re)development of the city, through establishing previously nonexistent connections between City Makers and institutions. In Tilburg, De Kennismakerij redefines the traditional role of the library, turning it into a more engaged platform for encounters between City Makers and issues arising from everyday life in the city, such as increasing digitalisation.

## WE NEED A TOOL FOR CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

The City Embassy is also used as an instrument for compiling existing activities and organising programmes within a city-wide network. Like in Utrecht, where the Utrechtse Ruimtemakers already formed a swarm of people actively involved in the shift of power between market, government and residents. As they specifically focused on the physical development of the city, the City Embassy is perceived as a tool for setting up more

### A tool for cross-sectoral cooperation

cross-sectoral cooperation, with City Makers operating in the sustainable, cultural or social domains. The Ruimtemakers have deliberately chosen not to pick one specific location, as for example the City Embassy of Den Bosch did with the old fodder factory Tramkade. Groningen chose to share the placard among several places already fulfilling a platform function within the city. They decided upon a traveling placard, alternately nailed to the wall of De Wolkenfabriek, an old sugar factory, and creative hub The Big Building.

It is inspiring to see how each and every of the City Embassies is adapted to the local context, characterised by the local issues and resources at hand. The City Embassies have provided new local connections, strengthened the already existing relations and provoked the dialogue around city making. Together, these local networks form the basis for an expanding network of City Makers throughout the Netherlands and Europe, working together on a joint City Makers Agenda. ••

[stedenintransitie.nl](http://stedenintransitie.nl)

[prinsenkwartier.nl](http://prinsenkwartier.nl)

[blokhuispoort.frl](http://blokhuispoort.frl)

[coehoorncentraal.nl](http://coehoorncentraal.nl)

[maastrichtlab.nl](http://maastrichtlab.nl)

[fb.com/dekennismakerij](https://fb.com/dekennismakerij)

[deruimtemakers.nl](http://deruimtemakers.nl)

[dewolkenfabriek.com](http://dewolkenfabriek.com)

[thebigbuilding.com](http://thebigbuilding.com)



Quirine Winkler

project leader

Nieuw Nederland - steden in transitie

[stedenintransitie.nl](http://stedenintransitie.nl)



## AMSTERDAM

Pakhuis de Zwijger & Agora Europe

[dezwijger.nl](http://dezwijger.nl)

[agora-europa.nl](http://agora-europa.nl)

## ATHENS

Synathina

[synathina.gr](http://synathina.gr)

## BERLIN

Holzmarkt

[holzmarkt.com](http://holzmarkt.com)

## BRATISLAVA

Vnútroblok

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Sociale InnovatieFabriek

[socialeinnovatiefabriek.be](http://socialeinnovatiefabriek.be)

## BUCHAREST

Revista Zeppelin

[e-zeppelin.ro](http://e-zeppelin.ro)

## BUDAPEST

KÉK Contemporary Architecture

Centre

[kek.org.hu](http://kek.org.hu)

## COPENHAGEN

KPH-Projects

[kph-projects.dk](http://kph-projects.dk)

## DUBLIN

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[yhteismaa.fi](http://yhteismaa.fi)

## LISBON

Academia Cidades

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## LJUBLJANA

## LONDON

Locality

[locality.org.uk](http://locality.org.uk)

## LUXEMBOURG

## MADRID

## NICOSIA

Urban Gorillas

[urbangorillas.org](http://urbangorillas.org)

## PARIS

Cap ou pas Cap?

[capoupascap.paris](http://capoupascap.paris)

## PRAGUE

## RIGA

Free Riga

[freeriga.lv](http://freeriga.lv)

## ROME

Cittalia

[cittalia.it](http://cittalia.it)

## SOFIA

Studio dontDIY

[dontdiy.org](http://dontdiy.org)

## STOCKHOLM

Färgfabriken

[fargfabriken.se](http://fargfabriken.se)

## TALLINN

Linnalabor

[linnalabor.ee](http://linnalabor.ee)

## VALLETTA

## VIENNA

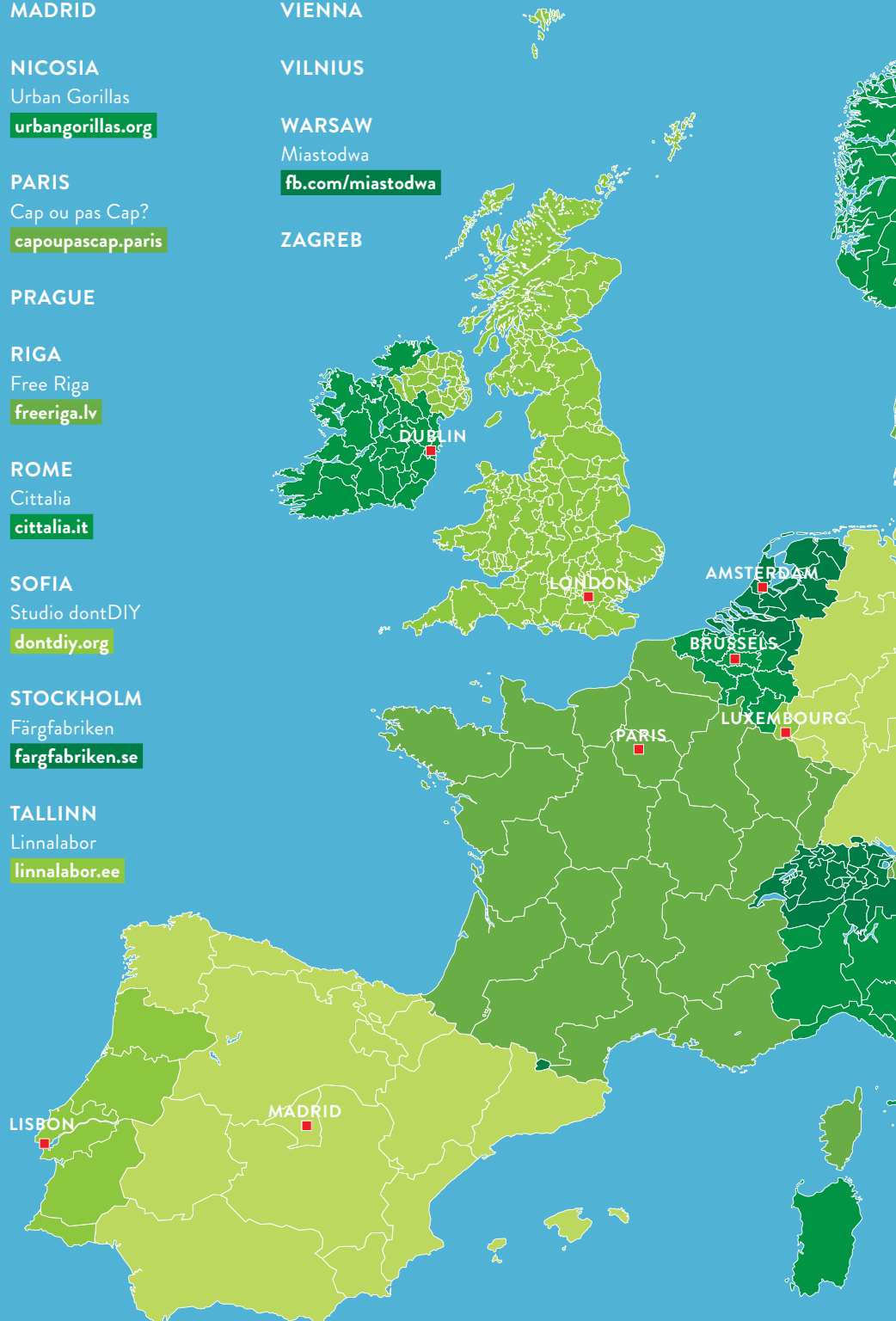
## VILNIUS

## WARSAW

Miastodwa

[fb.com/miastodwa](https://fb.com/miastodwa)

## ZAGREB







NEW EUROPE

City Embassies

HELSINKI

TALLINN

STOCKHOLM

RIGA

VILNIUS

COPENHAGEN

BERLIN

WARSAW

PRAGUE

BRATISLAVA

VIENNA

BUDAPEST

LJUBLJANA

ZAGREB

BUCHAREST

SOFIA

ROME

ATHENS

VALLETTA

NICOSIA

# NEW EUROPE

WATCH WHAT CITY  
MAKERS ARE DOING;  
THERE'S YOUR AGENDA!

All over Europe City Makers contribute to the urban challenges of our time. And now that the twenty-eight member states of the European Union are now developing an EU Urban Agenda to address these challenges, it is time to further improve the collaboration between governments and non-institutional actors. We are working on a City Makers Agenda, with City Embassies from cities across Europe, to show we are willing to help and are keen on expanding the (im)Pact of Amsterdam. >>

>> Klauzál square lies right in the heart of Budapest's nightlife district, which over the past years gained a reputation from the emergence of so-called ruin bars taking over the many crumbled buildings and vacant lots throughout the area. Every Sunday afternoon it fills up with two to three hundred underprivileged residents and homeless people, waiting in line for a hot meal. The healthy and hearty food is prepared by an enthusiastic group of volunteers, often with the help of professional chefs from the restaurants in the district. The food is being paid for by the people that flock the nightlife scene, through an ingeniously simple system of glass jars placed in bars throughout the area for donations. One minor setback: it is officially not allowed to distribute food or shelter to the poor and homeless in central Budapest. Fortunately, the district council gave informal approval and agreed not to confront the initiators (Heti betevő) with fines for trespassing the governmental restrictions, thus allowing them to operate within a grey zone.

This situation is exemplary for the current state of City Makers' initiatives within European cities. While providing often vital services within their communities, they are subjected to the whims of local policy and legislations. In Athens, former grassroots activist Amalia Zepou initiated synAthena, a community platform which maps the tremendous amount of citizen-driven initiatives emerging as a result of the crisis. She soon found that out of 350 initiatives providing indispensable services and enhancing the liveability in the city of Athens, only five were considered legal. Since her election as Vice Mayor for Civil Society in 2014, Zepou is working on changing legislation to ensure these initiatives are in line with government norms and civil servants are better equipped to cooperate with City Makers, enhancing institutional innovation.

## CITIES ARE BECOMING GLOBAL DRIVERS OF CHANGE

In the run-up to the present Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Dutch government worked on an EU Urban Agenda, designed to make the European Union more 'urban proof'. Traditionally the EU focused on common interests such as agricultural and infrastructural integration and the prevention of conflicts, but in recent years there has been growing awareness of the fact that challenges are accumulating in our cities. Fortunately, cities are more than just a container of socio-economical issues; they often provide the innovative, cost-effective and adequate solutions for these challenges. As the official statement of EU Urban Agenda reads: 'The EU Urban Agenda aims to promote cooperation between member states, the European Commission and cities in order to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe. It is a new working method to ensure maximum utilisation of the growth potential of cities and successfully tackle the social challenges.' A survey conducted among the twenty-eight member states of the European Union resulted in twelve priority themes for the agenda like urban poverty, affordable housing, inclusion of migrants and refugees, sustainable use of land, climate adaptation, the circular economy, innovation and responsible public procurement, to name just a few. In 2016, the EU Urban Agenda will formally yield the Pact of Amsterdam on May 30, a commitment by the member states and European Commission to put emphasis on urban development. >>





>> Over the past years, the networks of the New Netherlands and New Europe have shown how addressing the urban challenges is no longer - or perhaps never has been - the preoccupation of governmental institutions alone. Through a series of nine Metropolitan Field Trips to date, Pakhuis de Zwijger, Stipo, Inspiring Cities and Deltametropolis Association illuminated the changing dynamics in the capital cities of the European Union, where an emerging movement of City Makers, social innovators and public developers, and governmental actors are all seeking a new role. Since the 2008 economic crisis, governments all over the continent faced decreasing public budgets. Where Southern European countries were confronted with fierce austerity measures and economic reform imposed by the Troika, the relatively young democracies in Eastern Europe already suffered from a troubling low trust of citizens in their government. And in countries normally characterised by a strong welfare state, public services were being stripped and governmental programmes started to promote active citizenship and participation as an instrument for cutting expenses.

In the UK, this led to the Big Society programme, in the Netherlands to the so-called 'participation society'. In reality City Makers have been taking care of the liveability in their direct surroundings all along, but only now it was upon the government's request for shared responsibility. With this shared responsibility comes a new division of tasks and a quest for new strategies of all actors involved. Agora Europa and Pakhuis de Zwijger therefore invited representative organisations of the twenty-eight capital cities to work on a joint City Makers Agenda. We aim to show how the innovative strength of our cities comes from the accumulation and density of human resources and participating institutions, and how effectively tapping into the existing energy could notably enhance the social innovation in our cities. We notice how the changing dynamics between government and active citizens often results in an increasing sense of insecurity and distortions in the balance of responsibilities. In the worst case this can lead to paralysing restraints and growing distrust. >>

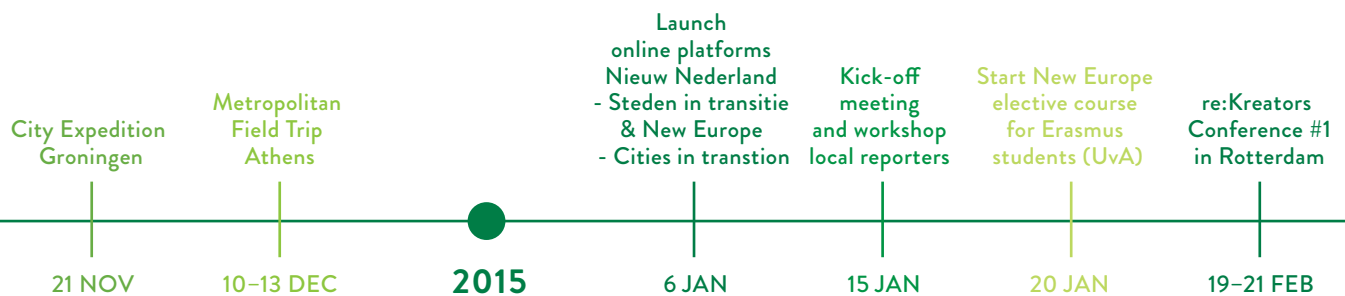




## CITY MAKERS ADD VALUE WHERE POLITICIANS FALL SHORT

>> The ambition to enhance citizen participation is often articulated in complex processes of citizen consultation, where for instance people are invited to provide input for the design of public space. After expressing their opinion, the actual work is then executed by professionals, who are confronted with the dispute responsibility to serve the interests of all co-discussants in the process. Inherently wrong in this train of thought is the assumption that participation is articulated in political processes alone, and active citizens all have the ambition to become pseudo-politicians who without any form of mandate whatsoever, feel a strong need to express policy recommendations. Don't get me wrong, some of us do, but most people would rather start great initiatives to offer their city, neighbourhood or street whatever they feel is simply not provided yet. And whoever pays close attention to all the pragmatic activities taken up by City Makers in our cities, has a magnificent overview of the priorities of citizens and where politicians fall short.

The City Makers Agenda makes visible what is practiced in the cities and how City Makers do what they do best: making the city a better place. There is a great surplus to be found in the many competences that are at hand, if you look at it from a network perspective. However, in order for the movement to flourish, some requirements have to be met, such as an adjustment of restrictive legislations and providing facilities for professionalisation. Because of declining public budgets, City Makers often face difficulty getting activities financed. Activities which add value to the community, such as providing health care or welfare services, the development or maintenance of public space or offering affordable housing. Public budgets are exhausted and it proves challenging to come up with a sustainable business model for communal services. >>

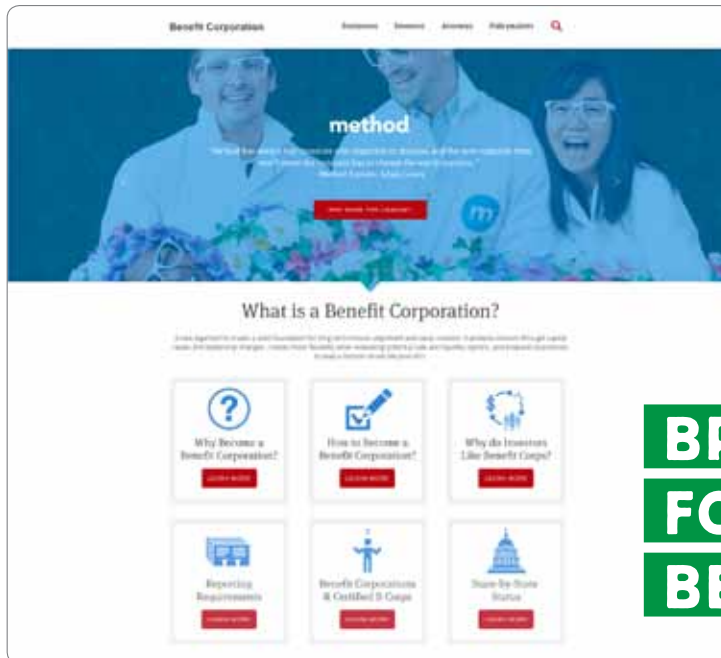




>> This emphasises the need of networks and third places facilitating the exchange of know-how and models for social entrepreneurship, alternative financing such as crowdfunding and instruments to measure impact and value creation, indispensable when trying to capitalise on an initiative. And since one of the priorities of the EU Urban Agenda is innovative and responsible public procurement, this may be a great opportunity to start talking about decentralising budgets and adjusting procurement contracts where public services are taken over by citizens, through so-called societal procurement.

One of the difficulties when handing over responsibilities from a welfare system to active citizens, is assumption that inclusiveness gets lost. Most City Makers initiatives serve the interest of a certain target group and therefore can't be held responsible for the protection of the common good. Tasks may be distributed differently, but it doesn't mean a greater participation of citizens necessarily replaces the representative democracy. It should still be up to the government, or another representative body, to provide a framework ensuring a balance of interests, and at the same time allowing for great freedom within. It is inaccurate to think that civic engagement is above all a good instrument in times of austerity. It takes a lot of investment in the innovation of processes we took for granted for so long, and a lot of 'creative bureaucrats' (as said by Jochen Sandig, creative director of Radialsystem V in Berlin) who are humble enough to take a facilitating role towards their electorate. All over Europe experiments emerge where traditional roles are redefined, where civil servants take the position as advisor or accelerator in bureaucratic processes or as mediator in legislative changes, as seen earlier in the case of Athens. >>





## BRINGING CHANGE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

It is often argued that true change doesn't happen in collaboration, but usually springs from an isolated attic somewhere in Silicon Valley. I believe this is also where excesses are created, such as Airbnb and Uber, which had a huge disruptive impact on malfunctioning structures but also brought about loads of unwanted side effects. The desire to control these side effects is often sensed among City Makers. How do you know you are still on track with all those societal ambitions you had when you first started? A possible juridical solution was seen recently, when Kickstarter decided to register as a Public Benefit Corporation. This means the societal values expressed when they were founded (in their case delivering a platform for alternative financing of independent music) are ingrained in their organisational structure. So no matter how much they grow or how many shareholders they attract, the company will not be able to shift away from these core values. In order to combine commercial and societal activities most initiatives now have to come up with complex models, in which responsibilities are separated between several legal entities, all accountable for certain parts of the same project.

[benefitcorp.net](http://benefitcorp.net)





## THE BEST PRACTICES THRIVE ON MOTIVATED AND PIONEERING INDIVIDUALS

- >> Apart from the recurrent discussion upon inclusiveness and democratic legitimacy, the collaboration between local institutions and City Makers often gets thwarted because of the different ways in which they are organised. Most initiatives work in a very integrated manner, adding a lot of complementary values on a relatively small scale. They (re-)create a couple of physical buildings, and some jobs along the way, whilst rethinking the use of resources, contributing to the disruption of the food production chain and creating a place of belonging for people in the neighbourhood. And all of that on some acres of neglected wasteland. From the perspective of any governmental department - social, environmental, spatial or economic - the tangible results may be limited, but the overall impact is larger than the sum of its parts. This shows the need for new value assessment systems, which are more tailored to everyday reality. Systems able to take into account the unique qualities of each and every initiative, without a constant focus on upscaling and replicating it elsewhere. The best practices often thrive on a collective of magnificently motivated and pioneering individuals. And copy-pasting wouldn't do justice to the intrinsic value. An integrated approach towards value assessment gives government officials a helpful toolset when prioritising citizen-driven initiatives over simply the highest bidder in a tender process.

Over the next months we keep collecting input for the City Makers Agenda, together with all our partners throughout Europe. This will be a matter of strengthening the network itself as well as an inventory of the assets and needs within the City Makers movement. We keep on sharing stories on our platform [citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu).

And with the pre-summit on 4 and 5 February and another Metropolitan Field Trip to Paris from 10 to 13 March coming up, we believe we will be well-prepared for the City Makers Summit from 27 to 30 May, parallel to the informal ministerial meeting about the EU Urban Agenda and the signing of the Pact of Amsterdam.

During a four-day programme we will demonstrate the best practices, present the outcomes of the City Makers Agenda and advance on the demands within the network with lots of workshops with know-how and practical tools in Amsterdam and in cities all over the Netherlands.

We invite everyone to ensure together we increase the (im)Pact of Amsterdam! ••

[citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu)

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[synathina.gr](http://synathina.gr)

[urbanagenda.nl](http://urbanagenda.nl)

[radialsystem.de](http://radialsystem.de)

[stedenintransitie.nl](http://stedenintransitie.nl)



**Charlot Schans**

project leader New Europe

[citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu)









# CROSSING EUROPE

## AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE

'What is it that unites us as Europeans?', Amsterdam-based photographer Poike Stomps questioned himself. Searching for an answer, he travelled throughout Europe and took pictures in each capital city of people crossing the street on busy intersections. 'I always liked watching crowds', Poike explains. 'Living around the corner of one of Amsterdam's busiest squares, it often cheers me up just to see life's always going on. In Amsterdam, people show an almost brash attitude, spontaneous and direct; sometimes ignoring the rules.' What will Europe's future be? Do we cherish what unites us or do we focus on what divides us? Globalisation

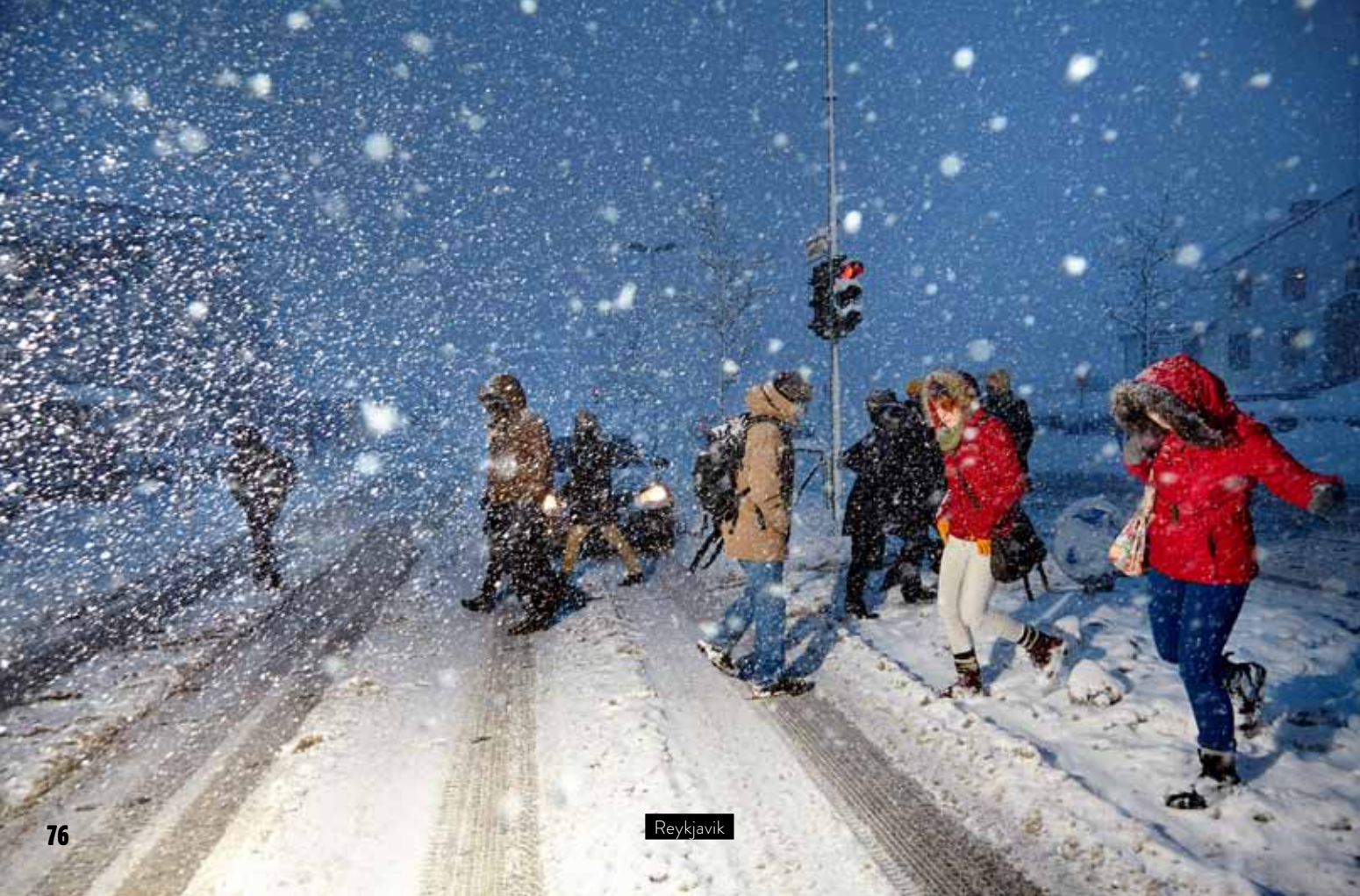
is everywhere. Cultural characteristics have faded and similarities are all around us. 'It made me wonder if I could translate this experiment to other situations, to other cities.' It resulted in a book, in which he portrays inhabitants of each of the 42 European capitals and captures the atmosphere, interactions and attitudes of the city. 'Crossing Europe I discovered that even by watching people traverse the street we may find that what makes us Europeans together is as much our similarities as our differences.'

[poike.nl/crossing-europe](http://poike.nl/crossing-europe)





Amsterdam



Reykjavik





Budapest



Bucharest



# CROSSING EUROPE

Photo Series by Poike Stomps



Dublin



Prague





Valletta



Oslo













# METROPOLITAN FIELD TRIP BERLIN

PRESERVING THE SUBCULTURAL IDENTITY  
WHILE RESTORING LOCAL ECONOMY



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Philipp Winter  
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New Europe's City Embassy and local partner Holzmarkt, Berlin's first cooperative area development project on the Spree, organised the Berlin edition of the Metropolitan Field Trip series. A diverse group of urban professionals and international City Makers was introduced to Berlin's own City Maker's scene, from creative entrepreneurs to active citizens as well as engaged policy makers. A unique element in addition to an already impressive programme: the first Players of Change conference, a platform for emerging urban visionaries. >>

## TEMPELHOFFER FELD

Upon closing the Tempelhof Airport in 2008, the city of Berlin planned to redevelop the 386-hectare open space and the central public buildings, some of the world's largest, into a residential area. Following protests and a referendum, plans were overturned and Berlin city officials announced that Tempelhof would become a public park. In a city falling prey to foreign investors, citizens had won: the area is now car-free and open to the public, and has a six-kilometre cycling, skating and jogging trail, picnic and BBQ areas and a dog-walking field. Urban nature is valued here: residents and neighbours grow vegetables in Stadtteigarten Schillerkiez.



[thf-berlin.de](http://thf-berlin.de)

[schillerkiez.blogspot.de](http://schillerkiez.blogspot.de)

>> 'More of this!', is how creative entrepreneur Jochen Sandig concluded the Players of Change Conference on October 10 at Holzmarkt. The artistic director of Radialsystem, a former pumping station turned cultural centre, perfectly summed up the general sentiment amongst participants, speakers and initiators: we need more of mutual inspiration, more exchange of knowledge, know-how and experience, and more meetings encouraging cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary dialogue within the urban domain in Berlin.

Exploring the potential of bottom-up urban development in Berlin, the organisers of the Players of Change conference sought to empower young City Makers and innovative urban projects with expertise, networks and inspiration. Along the lines of 'Let the City be our Playground', the Genossenschaft für urbane Kreativität (GuK, initiator of Holzmarkt) and the Mörchenpark e.V. (Holzmarkt's dynamic green heart) invited emerging urban visionaries from Berlin to present and discuss their ideas with experts and the public and find partners and supporters.

The city is in need of such meetings and connections because of its tremendous development over the past 25 years, a familiar story to most. From a war-torn city split in half for four decades and facing bankruptcy, de-industrialisation and soaring unemployment numbers after reunification, it has become one of the most dynamic and popular places to live, work and travel to. Its unique history and the international reputation as a party-Mecca and creative hotspot have spurred a

development and regeneration process impacting the lives of many Berliners.

But increasing popularity has its downsides as well. Berlin's long-standing, deep-rooted creative and alternative underground scene and sub-cultural character have not gone unnoticed and have convinced city officials and investors of the city's huge potential for economic recovery and rapid returns on real estate investment. Berlin's urban fabric is changing and it is changing fast. Empty lots from the city centre to the fringes are being redeveloped, old factory buildings transformed and brought to new usages and apartment blocks and whole quarters are regenerated.

Previously abandoned and derelict areas along the Spree are currently transformed as part of Mediaspree, one of the city's largest property investment projects to date. The developer's objectives are in line with the global trend of attracting a creative class to the city by establishing telecommunication and media companies, as well as regenerating parts of the surrounding area and conversion of vacant real estate. With subsidies of Berlin Senate, companies such as MTV and Universal were attracted. Critics fear displacement and cultural change as a result of gentrification, privatisation of public space and lessened accessibility of riverfront. The removal of a portion of the East Side Gallery, a 1,3 km section of the Berlin wall which serves as a historical monument and memorial for the Cold War is almost symbolic of the Mediaspree's disregard for the city's history and heritage. >>

>> Luckily, not only the initiators of Holzmarkt offer an alternative answer to Mediaspree. Just opposite the area, hidden behind the tall trees on the riverbank, Bau- und Wohngenossenschaft Spreefeld Berlin eG is developing alternative, affordable housing. Operating under complicating regulations, a cooperative of 90 shareholders constructed three eight-storey apartment blocks following principles of affordability, accessibility and diversity. A 20-minute walk from Baugruppe Spreefeld in the middle of Kreuzberg is Prinzesinnengarten, a former wasteland transformed into a green oasis as a result of a collective effort amongst friends, activists and neighbours. Private sector redevelopment plans were put to a halt through a collective open letter to the Senate and the 6,000 square metre garden currently still functions as a green, multi-cultural meeting place. Open green space is precious and valuable and fought over, as demonstrated by the former Tempelhof Airport and the struggle between government and citizens that followed after its closing in 2008. Redevelopment of the area for private sector residential uses was ultimately halted through a referendum, eventually leading to the opening of Berlin's largest public park Tempelhofer Feld.

Our four-day Metropolitan Field Trip to Berlin gave insights into the challenge the city is facing today: preserving its sub-cultural dynamic and inclusiveness while restoring the economy. Local government is struggling but learning to understand the unique and lasting value of citizen's initiatives in preserving Berlin's creative identity, rather than prioritising economic objectives. Within these conflicting interests and trajectories lie alternative answers to surging property values and gentrification threatening to take over the city. The Players of Change conference and many of the established citizen's initiatives demonstrate that in spite of the looming threat of capitalisation on Berlin's creative potential by the government and investors, citizen engagement, citizen-driven urban development, creative and social entrepreneurship are still flourishing and more acknowledgement of the government is all they need. ••

[holzmarkt.com](http://holzmarkt.com)

[fb.com/playersofchange](https://fb.com/playersofchange)

[moerchenpark.de](http://moerchenpark.de)

[prinzessinnengarten.net](http://prinzessinnengarten.net)

[citiesintransition.eu/fieldtrip](http://citiesintransition.eu/fieldtrip)

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## BAUGRUPPE SPREEFELD

The Bau- und Wohngenossenschaft Spreefeld Berlin eG is a unique experiment of cooperative self-organisation and direct citizens' participation, conveniently located by the Spree in Berlin's popular Kreuzberg. The cooperative built three mixed-use affordable apartment blocks of around 7,000 square meters in total, deviating from the three-room-kitchen-bathroom scheme. The area, deliberately open to the public, includes shared roof gardens, resident-managed services and space for cultural activities and social enterprises. The co-op has offices on site and meetings in the



rugged garden. Sub-groups of residents deal with different issues: the shared energy centre, managing the commercial units and renting out spare units to refugee families.

[spreefeld-berlin.de](http://spreefeld-berlin.de)





Campo de la Cebada - Madrid

# ACCOMMODATING INNOVATION

## TEMPORARY USE AND ACCESS TO VACANT URBAN PROPERTIES

**Temporary use is a learning process of accommodating innovation and adapting needs and capacities to available resources. It offers benefits to owners and users, in terms of security, maintenance, anchor tenants and social vibe on the one side, and affordable rents and spaces on the other. And it can help shaping new forms of cooperation between public administrations, private property owners and citizen initiatives.**

When Willemijn de Boer, founder of ANNA, began to rent the ex-Europol building from the Dutch government in 2010, she did not know that she would still be in the building five years later. The 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> complex, including a former school building adapted to the police organisation's needs, and a modern office wing attached to it later, is situated on the edge of The Hague's international

district. Located between highways, office buildings and a prosperous residential neighbourhood, the former police station is now more open to the neighbourhood than ever: its well-kept garden is accessible from the street, making passers-by wonder about the new function of the complex. The building is in temporary use: while waiting to be sold, it is rented to ANNA with a one-month moving out notice; the agency then gives the opportunity to about 50 people, organisations or companies to rent affordable offices, showcases or studios. The tenants are typically artists, musicians, designers, architects and cultural producers, flexible enough to pack and move to the next building when they have to. Taking risk paid out: selling the building proved to be more complicated than planned, and many of them have been enjoying the advantages of low rents for years, enabled to concentrate on their work. >>



6B's building - Paris

>> The building's public owner also benefits from the situation: while accommodating temporary users is much cheaper than hiring a security company to protect the building, ANNA keeps the building tempered and tidy, and the building contributes to the cultural vibe of the city. Several hundred kilometres to the southwest, 6B, an independent cultural centre, was born from a similar situation. Located in Saint-Denis, a northern suburb of Paris, the former Alstrom building which accommodates 6B is part of a large-scale urban development project. When Julien Beller, member of the architecture collective EXYZT began negotiating with the building's owner in 2009, the 7000 m<sup>2</sup> building was not attractive to larger companies: it was planned to be demolished two years later. Beller, together with a group of artists and architects, saw opportunities in the building. Taking the risk of moving in for a limited period of time, they mobilised their networks and quickly filled the entire building.

In a few years' time, 6B has become a major cultural venue in the Parisian agglomeration: renting 160 units to individuals, associations and enterprises adding up to about 300 people, with different activities and incomes, it feels more like a neighbourhood than an office building. Gradually turned into an asset in the developer's eye, and acting as a site of cultural exchange and social cohesion,

6B's building is no longer on the demolition list: it has been integrated in the area's development plans and the association managing the centre is now looking for ways to buy the complex.

## IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, WE HAVE TO INVENT NEW MODELS

Understanding the centre's importance in bringing cultural activities and creative jobs in a neighbourhood in transition, even the region of Ile-de-France rents offices in the building, thus keeping a foot in one of the most interesting urban experiments of the Grand Paris. Beller welcomes the public administration among the building's tenants: 'A cultural project can cost a hundred million euros, or zero. This one costs zero. In order to survive, to have places to create and work, we have to invent new models. Those models cannot be made by the administrations because they don't have the money anymore. We have to create them, by organising ourselves and then connecting with public policy.' >>

>> 6B and the ex-Europol building represent two distant cases of temporary use. They were both born in vacant buildings that lost their functions, using the time in between two regular uses, a period of often unpredictable length before selling or demolishing a building. They both offer benefits to owners and users, in terms of security, maintenance and anchor tenants on the one side, and affordable rents and spaces for cooperation on the other. And they both inspire a learning process for administrations, challenged to accommodate innovation from the civic society, and at communities, required to adapt their needs and capacities to available resources. There are also differences between them: the ex-Europol complex is publicly owned; 6B was born in a private property. The Hague project was conceived with a minimum perspective of one month, the Saint-Denis experiment with two years.

Despite their differences, they signal an emerging phenomenon all across Europe: the experimental reuse of vacant buildings. First explored in the transforming Berlin of the 1990s and 2000s, and later developed into a set of methodologies, temporary use has become an attractive and efficient tool to tackle the problem of vacant properties. In the years after the eruption of the 2007-2008 economic crisis, with many municipalities struggling to maintain their infrastructures, or forced by austerity policies to downscale and outsource their services, involving community energies in running services and spaces seems like a logical idea.

Referring to a wide range of activities, temporary use has been adopted in different contexts. While many European cities witnessed isolated experiments of temporary use, some local administrations have been seeking to structure these initiatives by creating frameworks to facilitate the process of reusing vacant properties.

## TEMPORARY USE WAS SEEN AS AN ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY

The City of Bremen saw vacancy as an opportunity to address its demographic challenges. Eager to revitalise its economy and keep young graduates in town, the municipality began to regenerate its brownfields, turning industrial buildings into artist studios, incubators and

working spaces. In the late 2000s, the city of Bremen came up with the idea of a temporary use agency for the whole city as a pilot project of the *Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik*, a program of the Federal Ministry of Building. The impulse for a temporary use of agency in Bremen came from the Department of Economics, Labour and Ports in 2007. As Kai Stührenberg, head of the Department explained, temporary use was seen first of all as an economic regeneration strategy: 'Temporary use is very important because we have to deal with very small companies, freelancers, people who don't earn much money, mostly of their career, so it's very important to have low rents and to have very inspiring surroundings.'

Recognising the limits of the outreach to representatives of the creative industries, city officials decided to involve an agency that can connect owners and users, the administration and young entrepreneurs. Through an open call in 2009, the municipality selected a group of architects to run the agency baptised *ZwischenZeitZentrale*. Although all municipal departments and public companies support its activities, the agency's strength lies in its mediating capacities: 'We have many buildings owned by the administration, and the ZZZ makes the link between them and the potential users: they know the projects and the buildings, they act as translators between the administration's bureaucracy and people who have a different language.'

Other models of temporary use agencies were created outside of municipalities. Meanwhile Space, a London-based community interest company grew out of a nationwide initiative called the Meanwhile Project, aiming at boosting community uses of empty properties. The project, besides developing a series of temporary use toolkits, also set up networks of property owners, prospective users and local authorities interested in creating accessible spaces for entrepreneurs, social initiatives and community groups.

The work of Meanwhile Space has been facilitated by the Rating (Empty Property) Act adopted in 2007 by the national government. Increasing the empty property rate from 50% to 100% of the basic occupied business rate, and allowing for tax exemptions for properties that accommodate charities or non-profit organisations, the law encourages private owners to give community initiatives access to their properties. >>



### CREATING A WIN-WIN FOR PRIVATE OWNERS AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

>> Since its formation in 2009, Meanwhile Space gave access to vacant spaces to about 1100 people, helping owners to save over 600.000 pounds in property taxes. In projects like the Wembley-based 'Cottrell House' where they created an incubator space for over 40 local companies, Meanwhile Space works closely with local administrations. Emily Berwyn, the organisation's founder emphasises the importance of cooperation with municipalities: 'We work with them to help them understand how they could facilitate these kinds of projects, we held many interesting workshops with the different departments, we developed with them Action Plans, looking at how they could maximise the use of the space they have and will have in the coming months in the area, and how they can enable that as a regeneration tool to enhance economic activity.'

In contrast to the agency model developed in The Hague, Bremen or London, many cities experience unmediated initiatives to gain access to vacant properties and sites. In these cities without adequate frameworks for temporary use, administrations acting in response to citizen pressure each time have to reinvent the modalities of community access to and management of publicly owned spaces.

In Madrid, after the construction of a market hall and a sports centre in the La Latina neighbourhood was interrupted by the economic crisis, Campo de Cebada was abandoned until a festival installation created a temporary swimming pool and a concert venue at the halted construction site. The installation helped locals to discover their unused spatial asset, and when the installation was dismantled after the festival, the community reclaimed the square and began to project their ideas into the space. As a result of the reunions and assemblies gathering an increasing number of people, the community formed an association and gave a formal proposal to the municipality. Accepting the proposal, the municipality signed a temporary cession with the association that began managing the space in 2011, running it as a sports field, a meeting point and an event venue for concerts and film screenings.

In Rome, where austerity measures and the economic crisis brought about the closure or the privatisation of dozens of cinemas, theatres, schools, libraries and markets, the local administration has received an increasing pressure from citizen organisations demanding better services and access to public properties. In response to the occupation of numerous buildings in the past years, and in competition with each other, municipal departments developed a series of frameworks to give communities access to public properties and land. *Terre Pubbliche* is a competition for the assignment of abandoned public land to young cooperative of farmers, initiated after the occupation of Borghetto San Carlo. The *Delibera per spazi Verdi* of the Environment Department aims at allocating abandoned green land to neighbourhood associations to create playgrounds and gardens. The Real Estate Department promoted both the *Delibera Patrimonio di idee*, giving neighbourhood associations access to abandoned public properties to neighbourhood associations, and the call *Patrimonio Bene Comune*, offering residual spaces for innovative cultural or entrepreneurial uses.

The parallel, uncoordinated emergence of these initiatives is a sign of the difficulties of the Rome administration to create an inter-sectorial governance model; the URBACT project Temporary Use as a Tool for Urban Regeneration (TUTUR), initiated by the Planning Department, pursued a higher synergy amongst administrative actions. The TUTUR project's aim was to develop transformations where the administration could play an active role as a broker for socially engaged regeneration projects in the city. The municipality experimented with meanwhile uses on various locations, including a food market identified by the local district council as a valuable public infrastructure, potentially providing local services at neighbourhood level and fostering economic activities through the metropolitan food production.

The TUTUR project's legacy is manifold. On the one hand, the experience of opening publicly owned spaces for community use has fed into the municipality's efforts to develop new policies inspired by Bologna's Regulation of the Commons, defining the modalities of collaboration between the administration and citizens in using and managing public properties. On the other hand, the project contributed to a growing awareness among municipal officers and decision-makers of the need of mapping public assets and potential users. >>

## ACCOMMODATING INNOVATION



Cottrell House - London

- >> Rome is not alone with this recognition: as the Athens Municipality's Synathina map of social initiatives teaches us, in order to renew their practices, authorities need to learn from civic initiatives, recognise the values of bottom-up undertakings and adapt their regulations to support them. In order to maintain their leadership, municipalities need to help connecting supply with demand, by making visible unrecognised resources and enabling cooperation between different actors. To fulfil their public duties, local governments need to enable community organisations to develop neighbourhood services. To engage their citizens, administrations need to open the doors of their unused properties and accommodate innovation. ●●

[annavastgoedencultuur.nl](http://annavastgoedencultuur.nl)

[le6b.fr](http://le6b.fr)

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[urbact.eu](http://urbact.eu)



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# THE STATE OF THE CITY

**MAY 17**



FACTS  
AND  
FIGURES  
ABOUT  
AMSTER  
DAM



in co-production with  
**PAKHUIS DE ZWIJGER\***



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# IT'S NOT EASY BEING SCANDINAVIAN

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*Text Boxes*  
**Charlot Schans**  
project leader New Europe

## WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM COPENHAGEN-MALMÖ, STOCKHOLM AND OSLO?

'The Danes have the highest taxes in the world. In Norway speeding fines are income related, the record is 20,000 pounds. Neutral Sweden is one of the biggest arms manufacturers in the world. The Danes are regularly claimed to be the happiest people in the world.' There are certainly more 'useful' facts about the Nordic people. In his book *The almost nearly Perfect People*, UK author Michael Booth investigated the character traits of the Nordic people. One of his conclusions is that it is not easy being Scandinavian. >>

>> Last fall, I moderated a conference in Paris, organised by the International Trademark Organisation (INTA). The theme was 'giving the city back to its inhabitants'. I interviewed the chief planner of Malmö, one of the bigger cities in Sweden. He was remarkably honest about the urban challenges in his city and elsewhere in Sweden. His analysis: 'We, the Nordic countries, are quite well organised and that's a problem at the same time'. How to cope with a changing society: more citizen action, more refugees than ever and a welfare state that isn't capable of making people happy? This chief planner admitted that the Swedish urban planners have to re-invent planning, giving more trust, freedom and tools to society and participative approaches. His keyword was 'inclusiveness'. Sweden is absorbing more refugees than any other country in the European Union - just recently they admitted that they are not able to handle the huge influx they are now experiencing. Segregation is accompanying the influx, which goes against their values. How to integrate all these new inhabitants in the urban society?

Sure, there are differences between Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Sweden and Norway are more open to refugees than the Danish. Swedish planners seem to have a higher sensitiveness to the new urban assignments than the

Norwegians. But what they share is still that well-organised welfare state doing as much as it can for their inhabitants. And at the same time it is an obstacle in the process of giving cities back to its inhabitants. It's a problem because society is on the rise. Also in the Nordic countries. >>

## **THEIR BEST ASSET MIGHT BE THEIR BIGGEST PITFALL AT THE SAME TIME**



© Snabba Hus

## **JAGVILLHABOSTAD.NU**

Jagvillhabostad.nu started as a lobby organisation addressing the lack of affordable housing for youngsters in Sweden, raising awareness campaigns and distributing tips and tricks among students on how to find an apartment. Since discovering that 40 percent of Swedish youngsters between 18 and 30 don't own a house or have an official rental contract, Jagvillhabostad.nu is aiming to convince project developers to build more apartments specifically for this target group. After several rejections, arguing it simply wasn't possible in the current market in Stockholm, they decided to take matters into their own hands. First they gathered information from different cities in Europe, for example the shipping containers reused as student houses in Amsterdam and Utrecht. When they presented these results to a project developer, they were invited to further develop the concept of the Snabba Hus, an affordable prefabricated modular building tailored for temporary use on brownfields. The concrete framework and 45 square meters modules can be moved up to three times in 45 years. Over the next years, 1000 houses are being built in Västberga neighbourhood for 435 euros. Jagvillhabostad.nu is now developing a similar concept for modules to quickly adapt vacant offices into inhabitable space.

[jagvillhabostad.nu](http://jagvillhabostad.nu)

[snabbahus.nu](http://snabbahus.nu)

>> Getting a better view on city dynamics in Europe and meanwhile building a professional network of urbanists is our aim. More specific: we want to map the changing interaction landscape of urban actors. We went on a Metropolitan Field Trip to Copenhagen-Malmö in November 2014 and to Stockholm and Oslo last September, to get some more empirical insights in the way state and society, urban government and citizens are interacting, now society is taking growing responsibility over the urban domain.

These short visits are part of a project aiming at a Europe-wide picture of the way active citizenship takes place and how it interacts with the institutional ways of planning. And although there are differences between countries and cities in response to it - for instance between the Scandinavian and the post-socialist cities in the Eastern part of Europe, we also found a common denominator. It is the growing importance of citizen action in the public domain. It can be seen in all kinds of fields: housing, care, transport, ICT, amenities, etcetera. In one city this phenomenon is part of a tradition in urbanism, in another it's new. All the cities we visited share a growing relevance and visibility of bottom-up initiatives. There are a lot of factors responsible for this trend, but there are at least two important explanations. One is decreasing governmental activities (on a national as well as on a local level) and the other is the large-scale availability of digital technology. The way governments react to this trend is different. Sometimes responding in a positive way and seeking a new role. And sometimes they react in a way which can be best described as looking away.



© Lucas Hendricks

Amidst the impressive Fjord City developments of Oslo's waterfront, with its luxurious apartments and office buildings, the relocation of the city's cultural institutions and a new harbour, floats Hans Jørgen Hamre's Fjord Sauna. A four m<sup>2</sup> wooden lodge with a stone heater just like any other Finnish sauna, but built on pontoons and moored off in the fjord's docks. Due to limiting regulations, the sauna was threatened with removal by the local government until the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested to use the sauna during an ice swimming competition. Thanks to the extensive media coverage around the event, the Fjord Sauna became an icon of the waterfront development in Oslo. The initiative is secured for the time being, perhaps because it's floating on water, instead of taking up much desired and valuable vacant land.

[fb.com/sorengaBadstu](https://fb.com/sorengaBadstu)

## **CITIZEN ACTION IS ON THE RISE**

What did we see in Copenhagen-Malmö, Stockholm and Oslo? We saw one common denominator: citizen action is on the rise and city governments are having trouble responding to it. Let's keep in mind these capitals are part of relaxed and prosperous societies with a relatively high consensus, a high trust position on the stability index. We observed the degree of citizen action is lower here than in the capitals we visited in former Eastern Europe (where people have no choice and the government is weak and/or corrupt). And our assumption is that this lower degree of bottom-up initiatives can be explained by the way the welfare state is organised in the Nordic countries. >>



## >> Copenhagen-Malmö

Let's take a closer look at Copenhagen-Malmö. We took the larger scale in account, the so-called Öresund region. Most important achievement: a bridge between the two countries connecting Copenhagen with Malmö. Not a result of citizen's action, but highly popular in both cities and an icon for the region too. But after finishing the bridge there seems to be no other common interests on this scale. Copenhagen is developing new urban environments at a high speed, there is no housing crisis here. The credo seems to be: 'We know what citizens want and we take action'. We saw some citizen action in the field of city biking. There are several biking communities that are lobbying for new biking paths and routes. Copenhagen and Malmö are, comparatively speaking, very good places to live and people get a lot in return for the taxes paid. The inhabitants just have to get used to being more actively involved in the near future.



In the district of Nacka in Southeast Stockholm, Amanda Larsson developed Magiska Trädgården, a playground for all ages with treehouses, a café in the caretaker's house and daily activities for children in an enchanted, formerly unused forest. With the rapid expansion of the city of Stockholm and the consecutive building commission of 140,000 homes in the next fifteen years, the municipality decided to sell off the property soon. The future purpose remains unknown so far, but looking at the adjacent apartment blocks and warehouse redevelopment, it is apparent the district's priority is to create a dense urban climate with no specific interest in child-friendly green spaces. And with the immense building task lying ahead of Stockholm, the municipality doesn't require project developers to include the development of public space, playgrounds or welfare amenities in their zoning ordinance. Amanda has resigned to the fact that her magic garden was temporary, but she hopes that the growing awareness might lend the popularity of her initiative a more permanent impact.

[magiska.se](http://magiska.se)

## Stockholm

Let's go to Stockholm. Here we saw more citizen action. Sometimes as an isolated action in a market-driven development of luxury condo's with a lack of response by the formal planners. Meanwhile, Färgfabriken - an art centre situated in an old paint factory - is contributing to the quest for a 'new school of urban planning'. With the exhibition *Experiment Stockholm*, artists, designers, hipsters and researchers are showing new ways of observing, thinking and acting in the public domain. And this manifestation got a lot of attention from the city government institutions. In Stockholm - like in Malmö - planners feel they ought to change their habits. Participative planning asks for a different approach if you want to convince inhabitants of the need for densification of certain parts of the city. It doesn't work showing them photoshopped high-rise in their living environment. Elsewhere in the city, we saw new approaches being practiced in a better balance between bringing in public interests and local expertise and creativity. Planners don't have an easy job in Stockholm. They see the new influx of refugees and know the inclusion of new inhabitants is a big challenge. As is the exploding growth of the Stockholm region, which asks for speeding up planning schemes. We left Stockholm with a picture of a rapid changing society where planners are fully aware of the new assignments and ready to take up more cooperative approaches with the urban society.

## Oslo

What about Oslo? Sensitive to 'the new and the different', we saw new entrepreneurs facilitating biking in the city and artists and hipsters turning unused land into >>

>> productive urban farming. But the picture is dominated by old school planning in the public sector: top-down, money-driven and with strong controls. The waterfront development is astonishing, but sterile at the same time. Following the opera (stunning architecture by the way) new XXL plans are in the making: a new national museum and a national library. Everything is steered by huge public investments. City government doesn't seem to be in the need of 'help' from the public. The public is a consumer walking in a highly commercialised public domain. Small and interesting 'inclusive' initiatives like the Flatbread Society (urban farming on the roof of an outgoing car tunnel) aren't officially acknowledged. And this is exactly what is missing in this 'shiny' environment. At the same time, you have to be careful with bottom-up initiatives. Sometimes you're looking at the work of hip entrepreneurs changing authentic urban areas in semi-gated communities for the local upper middle class and the well-to-do tourists (Vulkan/Mathallen).

On the other hand, Norway has an open attitude towards foreigners. Facilities for those who come to Oslo/Norway are excellent, but there seems to be an uneasy feeling towards refugees who are on the streets of the city. They are ignored by the citizens and the newcomers behave as if they're strangers in a strange land, two different worlds. On the whole, Oslo is a friendly and open city, with 'people like us', easy to get in contact with, behaving civilised, outgoing and enjoying themselves in cosy and crowded meeting places. But like in Sweden, we couldn't escape the impression that the old ways of urbanist acting are quickly eroding in a fast-changing



## HAUSMANIA

Occupied by squatters back in 1999 in a then less attractive neighbourhood of Oslo, Hausmania brought the city throughout the years an alternative place for theatre performances, music studios, exhibition spaces, a vegan restaurant, an indoor skate park and much more. As a result of the advent of new consumer spaces such as the Mathallen, clubs and restaurants and considerable real estate investments, the area faced rejuvenation and the space has become more contested recently. Hausmania developed a plan to redevelop the entire block into a sustainable neighbourhood, through principles of organic and collaborative development. Even though their elaborate plan was approved by the city council, the parcel had already been sold by the municipality, a result of the booming privatisation of the public domain which is currently taking place in Oslo. Hausmania's cultural activities will be housed in one of the buildings and the redevelopment will be partly funded by the government, as an acknowledgement of the value they've created in the neighbourhood now thriving on its creative and slightly edgy image.

[hausmania.org](http://hausmania.org)


society with citizens who want to have more 'initiative space' and newcomers who bring their own culture. Adapting to this new situation seems to be difficult. The urgency we observed in Sweden is still absent in Oslo.

Scandinavia is still a paradise in Europe, although sometimes it is not easy being Scandinavian. Like everywhere in Europe, the urban domain is changing and the big question is how to adapt to it and find new arrangements in the interaction between city and citizens. ••

[fargfabriken.se](http://fargfabriken.se)

[flatbreadociety.net](http://flatbreadociety.net)

[vulkanoslo.no](http://vulkanoslo.no)



REFUGEES WELCOME

Say it loud, say it clear

REFUGEES

WELCOME

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SAY IT LOUD, SAY IT CLEAR

The world has not seen a number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) this high since World War II, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Their figures don't lie: in 2014, there were more than 43 million refugees and IDPs worldwide because of conflict and 13 million refugees were under their watch. The number has all but decreased. Refugees have been dying on their way to, and now within Europe, in a political crisis that lays bare Europe's inability to provide the means and regulations to ensure human rights and human dignity for people in need of safety.

The Netherlands too is struggling, providing the necessary help that is so desperately needed. Refugees are waiting months to start their procedure and the lack of housing spaces and fear of greater inflow has led the government to consider letting those that are healthy sleep on the streets, to discourage refugees still on their way - with winter well underway. In the unfolding and continuing crisis, many citizens feel that they should act now and are frustrated by the rather slow reaction from the state. Thus, some are taking matters in their own hands. In Amsterdam, it has led Pakhuis de Zwijger to host an evening called *De Vluchtroute* - 'The Fleeing Route' - in which different initiatives connected and voiced their needs during the first edition. >>





Rebecca Streng  
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>> The necessity of strengthening civil initiatives is clear. As a city, Amsterdam indeed needs to start thinking outside of the box as a city that proclaims to be hospitable and open-minded. Refugees are welcome indeed, but how do we go from there? What is done already and what could we learn from each other and other cities?

## AS A CITY, WE CLAIM TO BE HOSPITABLE AND OPEN-MINDED

Housing refugees in Amsterdam is a challenge. With a long-known shortage of housing space and the prospect of an extra 3500 refugees to be housed the coming two years, the city needs alternative plans. Moreover, the space is there. There are about 1,3 million square meters of vacant office spaces that could be transformed, but this means real estate bankers will have to take their social responsibility. Alderman Laurens Ivens has called for a comeback of the *hospita*, a situation in which the refugee rents a room in someone's house for little money. Also, the municipality is experimenting with projects in which different people mingle. For example in June 2016, 500 container houses will host 250 refugees and 250 students in Startblok Riekerhaven, a project by housing corporation De Key. And in the old GAK-building in Amsterdam-West, 26 refugees are already living along with students and starters. In Eindhoven, the Youthhouse houses a mix of students and refugees. OndertussenOnderweg is a collective that argues for giving more space to refugees to show their qualities instead of only helping them and keeping them passive. Refugees and cities could interact more, they believe. Therefore, in collaboration with artists, they are doing a pilot in the new asylum seekers centre opening in 2017 in the Houthavens in Amsterdam.

All in all, all projects want to provide an environment in which refugees can connect with Dutch citizens. It is clear that housing refugees together, only will isolate them and



Several art projects raise awareness and offer a platform and safe place to start a sometimes uncomfortable public discussion on this sensitive topic. As from last fall, miniature refugees roamed the streets of Amsterdam and The Hague as part of the guerrilla street art project Moving People by artistic collective Power of Art House. On park benches, at stations and bus stops, on road signs, at traffic lights, in windowsills, in malls, in office areas; the mini-refugees pop up everywhere. Finders are encouraged to share pictures of the miniature dolls and their stories on social media. The art collective wants to give the people and their stories a human face. By telling their stories and opening eyes. Making connections and showing people a different way of looking at refugees.

[movingpeople.nu](http://movingpeople.nu)

stands in the way of their integration. Thus, sharing space and living together is most logical. Especially in Austria and Germany one can see it working. The Magdas Hotel in Vienna is a social enterprise and hotel where tourists and refugees share a hotel and experiences. Most of the staff are refugees too, which shows that solutions can be found in not only giving refugees a house, but also giving them a place in society. A similar hotel with the same mission is Grandhotel Cosmopolis in Augsburg and in Berlin, Hotel Utopia will open its doors at the beginning of 2017. >>

>> People have also started opening up their house - which also happened first in Austria and Germany - with the *Flüchtlingen Willkommen* (Refugees Welcome) initiative, in which citizens with a spare room were linked to refugees looking for one. Both parties have found new friendship ties and learned a lot about each other. In Rotterdam, Refugee Hero has been set up, a similar organisation. Slowly, this idea has even been picked up by some political parties such as D66, who want to possibly house 'vulnerable' groups together, such as students, refugees, elderly or ex-inmates. In Amsterdam, students can live rent-free together with refugees in a small-scale project, doing community service in return. There is, however, still a long way to go and the development will have to go faster.

## FLÜCHTELINGEN WILKOMMEN



This originally German online platform matches citizens with a spare room with refugees that need one, creating homes, new friendships and a solution for the housing issue. Rent is paid through crowdfunding. Flüchtlings Willkommen wants refugees to be welcomed and has made over 200 matches since it was launched in November 2014. They believe that refugees deserve a warmer welcome than they get at the moment and that citizens can help do that. 'Mass housing for refugees will only stigmatise them further', the initiators say. 'Working together to welcome refugees more humanely can create a culture where everyone can be welcomed with open arms.'

[fluechtlinge-willkommen.de](http://fluechtlinge-willkommen.de)

Throughout Europe, large demonstrations have welcomed refugees loudly. Streets have become a stage for signs saying 'Welcome refugees' and 'When you have more than you need, build a larger table, not a higher fence'. So it goes in Holland. But integration seems to be a challenge, today more than ever. According to Alderperson and Deputy mayor of Amsterdam Kajsja Ollongren, refugees should be able to work right away, which is better for the economy and their integration. According to her, municipalities should help in this process - regardless of the refugee's status - for one third of the refugees coming in is highly educated, one-third is well educated, and only one-third has little education. This is out of the box, as refugees without a refugee status are not allowed to work under current law. 'But,' Ollongren says, 'the best thing for integration is if people can become independent quickly, which means that they need to work as soon as possible. Let's be more creative, let's try new things.'

New things are happening, though not quite at governmental level. VluchtelingenWerk Nederland connects volunteers to new citizens to help them integrate in Dutch society's ways. However, integrating means more than some know-how. And with many newcomers, social integration has become a process which needs mutual engagement. So far, Dutch organisations like VluchtelingenWerk have been quick to make an overview of all volunteering opportunities for citizens and Het Wereldhuis, a safe haven for undocumented refugees over the years, providing information, counseling, education and cultural activities, also connects refugees to 'buddies', citizens that can listen and get involved with the initiative. But especially grassroots initiatives have been popping up. *Ik wil iets doen voor een Vluchteling* connects citizens to local initiatives and *Vluchtelingen Welkom*, the Dutch equivalent of Flüchtlings Willkommen, shows that housing and integration can be solved together: the host learns about his new roommates' culture and helps a person in a difficult situation. Not to mention the fact that he or she plays a critical role in helping the refugee contribute to his or her new community. >>

## NO ONE LEAVES HOME, UNLESS HOME IS THE MOUTH OF A SHARK



© Verena Brüning

## CUCULA

In Berlin, furniture and other designs are made by and for refugees, using materials of the Lampedusa boat wrecks that brought them to Europe. CUCULA is a pilot project helping refugees build their professional future by providing a workshop as well as an educational programme. CUCULA, originating from the Hausa language in West-Central Africa, means 'to do something together' and 'to take care of each other'. Indeed, they live up to that as they give refugees the opportunity to learn and experiment collectively, opening up perspective for them. Refugees also get language classes, legal advice and the money raised by selling the furniture is invested in their scholarships.

[cucula.org](http://cucula.org)

>> In Germany, the online Kiron University next year starts giving free education to all refugees, regardless of their status or lack of documents. 'Every individual on earth is capable of doing good for society when given the opportunity and the adequate tools to do so', founders Vincent Zimmer and Markus Kressler say. Also CUCULA, a social enterprise that makes furniture, shows that partaking in society right away is the best way of integrating and picking up their life. Coding school Refugees on Rails is asking people to donate their laptops, so they can help refugees become software developers and changing the perception of refugees as a problem into the perception of enrichment for Europe's economy and culture, since many of them are highly educated. In Frankfurt, two students were awarded the Frankfurt Citizens' Prize for their idea to connect these refugees with German students in their field.

There is much to learn from our eastern neighbours and still much to discover when it comes to new ways of integrating refugees in our own city. These new inhabitants are our future neighbours, friends, colleagues,

lovers, teachers, students, doctors, mechanics and many other things, if only we can welcome them and give them the chance to contribute and integrate. In times where governments fail to react adequately and timely, we, the people, will need to set an example. As a city, Amsterdam too could fulfill that role, if the municipality dares to think more outside of the box and if it can connect with and support citizens that take their social responsibility. ••

[jongerenhuiseindhoven.nl](http://jongerenhuiseindhoven.nl)

[ondertussenonderweg.nl](http://ondertussenonderweg.nl)

[magdas-hotel.at](http://magdas-hotel.at)

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[vluchtelingenwerk.nl](http://vluchtelingenwerk.nl)

[wereldhuis.org](http://wereldhuis.org)

[ikwilietsdoenvooreenvluchteling.nl](http://ikwilietsdoenvooreenvluchteling.nl)

[kiron.university](http://kiron.university)

[refugeesonrails.org](http://refugeesonrails.org)



# RE:KREATORS

## NEW PLAYERS, DIFFERENT GAME

The natural role of local governments in urban development is undergoing drastic change. Responsible for the civic space and quality of its entire city, but no longer naturally in the lead to generate or keep pace with change. The traditional role of making the city is now being picked up by a new group with new ideas. This process has been taking place for some time now and was accelerated by the 2008 real estate crisis, but has deeper lying and more structural factors. >>

© E. Gabily/1024 Architecture



>> There is a shift in philosophy from 'making city' to 'being city'. European cities have increased in size tenfold since the World War II, through a focus mostly on greenfield development. But now, with the demographic make-up and economy slowing down, the need for newly built areas is slowing down too. While at the same time a vast reserve of existing areas in need of constant reinventing is becoming the defining feature of the emergent modern city. The changing roles - in other words - are not a crisis phenomenon, but are caused by more structural changes in our cities, at least in the European context.

Re-creating the existing city is a new profession. It requires new professionals with different skills. They must be interdisciplinary (social, cultural, economic and physical development intertwined), networked (working with thousands of residents, many owners and networks of initiators) and organic (as opposed to the linear planning of plan-build-maintain, this group works with direct actions and strategic long-term thinking happening all at once). Even more fundamentally however, the shift from making to being city creates new roles. With so many actors, the local government is no longer naturally in the lead. But then, who is taking responsibility?

Throughout European cities, we see a new type of role, the re:Kreator. Re:Kreators are civic enterprises, or public developers, driven by passion. They believe in a way of living in the city that is interesting, affordable and just. They create thoughtful places with care. They create value for citizens through their spaces and ways of re-imagining the city. These outcomes can be seen in the spheres of health and welfare, social connectedness, artistic and economic growth of a particular area. Re:Kreators generate diverse ownership - mentally, emotionally and legally - and therefore diverse groups feel at home and responsible over the area. They create places that lift everyone's spirits and drive people beyond what they would normally come across. Their places are open and inclusive. They look for true change and are not interested in just 'pop-up', but permanent investment in people and places. They further expand upon existing energy, resources and structures and ensure a smooth transition through re-creation. They take a step beyond bottom-up or top-down: they build partnerships between these worlds.



One such example is the cluster of former military barracks on the Garonne riverfront in Bordeaux, that today houses Darwin, l'écosystème de la Caserne Niel. In 2009, a group of creative entrepreneurs by the name Evolution Group was able to buy the first 10,000 square meters building that was in a derelict state at the time. With a community of stakeholders, they transformed it into a vibrant place that created 140 new companies, social enterprises, a restaurant, an alternative skate park, event spaces and reused modules that are available as guest rooms, situated in an urban garden. The Darwin Ecosystem today attracts large crowds to the other side of the river that was completely neglected before. The name 'Darwin' is a reference to the ambition of the initiators: to create a true ecosystem based on principles of ecological transition, economic cooperation and urban creativity. Through more commercial events and entrepreneurial activities, they are able to develop the area for public interest, creating a place for all residents of Bordeaux to experience and engage in. The barracks were redeveloped with sustainable principles that ensure low-energy use and contain equipment for the collection of rainwater for a more circular use of resources. In the meantime, Darwin Ecosystem has grown into a major attraction for Bordeaux. >>



## IF WE'D BEEN REASONABLE, WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT

>> Ownership is a recurrent issue among most initiators that engage in forms of cooperative area development. In Copenhagen, the consortium of PB43 had transformed a forgotten AkzoNobel factory into a lively hub for events and working places used daily by 150 small companies, artists and musicians, in a series of buildings connected to an urban garden. However in early 2014 the property was sold to a project developer that bought the lot to demolish the buildings, and planned to build a box storage instead. PB43 had to move out. Luckily, their community was strong enough. In the meantime they gladly found a new property to occupy and revive.

For many pioneers this is an often experienced reality. They put a lot of energy and enthusiasm in the rejuvenation of challenged areas. Most of it is done on an agreement for temporary use with the property owner. In exchange the property is often offered for a price below the estimated market value, or even for free, which may be just the fair deal for those who are eager to find an affordable space in the first place. Even though a temporary contract prevents making large financial investments in the space itself, they nevertheless create a lot of value along the way. Immaterial value that lies in the attractiveness, creativity and a perspective on new opportunities for a spot that was hardly recognised before. Value that is therefore difficult to measure, but eventually reflects in the market value of the property and the whole locale. Important considerations to the question who eventually reaps the benefits of the success of the re:Kreators projects, arise from this pattern of public amenity being retracted once private profit can be made. Recognition of non-financial investments made, all the loving care and hours put into creating such a great place, are not currently enshrined in law and make it hard for the groups to contribute to their cities in the long term. >>

## OTWARTY JAZDÓW

A stone's throw away from the opulent embassy district, stands a cluster of prefabricated wooden houses in a lavish green park in central Warsaw. Remnants of what once was the neighbourhood of Jazdów, a post-war community meant to house the construction workers that were rebuilding the city after it was almost entirely bombed during the war. In 1945, many similar districts emerged, forcibly financed by the defeated Finnish government. Ever since the post-war reconstruction has been finished, Jazdów's houses were used for social housing. Until recently, the government started to demolish the neighbourhood. A group of urban activists created the initiative

Otwarty Jazdów, to prevent the total demolition of the community. They were able to save 27 houses, which they consider an important monument of post-war history. Their ideal is to re-create Jazdów into an a

rea for the common interest, with a mix of retaining existing tenants and redeveloping derelict houses for the use of community organisations and grassroots initiatives.

[fb.com/jazdow](https://fb.com/jazdow)





## LARGO RESIDÊNCIAS

Largo Residências is a former tile factory on Largo do Intendente in central Lisbon that has been transformed into a platform for creative performance and activity for the residents of the neighbourhood. Situated in a community with residents from 52 nationalities, all of their activities evolve around cross-cultural exchange and participation. Only a few years ago the square was considered one of the most precarious areas of the city, with drug trafficking and prostitution all around. Opening a coffee bar and restaurant on the ground floor notably improved the image of the square, and the guest rooms brought tourists and artists-in-residence into the community. The funds and profits from the café and hotel are invested into the neighbourhood. Largo Residências produces art exhibitions and theatre and music performances for and with the community, and finances the restoration of rundown property throughout the neighbourhood.

[largoresidencias.com](http://largoresidencias.com)







## MEET THE RE:KREATORS

re:Kreators is a membership association focusing on the exchange of practices and know-how of people behind the collaborative development of previously malfunctioning areas in European cities. The current first members of re:Kreators are Shuffle Festival (London), KÉK Contemporary Architecture Centre and Lakatlan (Budapest), the Darwin Ecosystem (Bordeaux), ZOHO and Stipo (Rotterdam), PB43 (Copenhagen), Open Jazdów (Warsaw), Stealth (Belgrade), Mörchenpark and Genossenschaft für Urbane Kreativität for Holzmarkt (Berlin), Ateliernob and Largo Residências (Lisbon), Make a Point (Bucharest) and Pakhuis de Zwijger (Amsterdam). What brought the re:Kreators together is the idea that the dynamics in European cities aren't all that different. But the way these pioneers develop strategies adapted to the local context illuminates important assets and competences. By peer-to-peer learning on an international scale, the members strengthen their local projects and articulate a common perspective on the European Urban Agenda. The network will be expanded in the re:Kreators Association of which all re:Kreators in Europe can become a member.

### JOIN US!

We call on all re:Kreators to become a member. We aim to expand and strengthen the network from the current ten partners to a European-wide membership of many members to actively learn from each other, set up joint investment and funding calls and strengthen the interests of re:Kreators locally, nationally and on the European agenda. For candidate membership, send a mail with your project to [rekreators@stipo.nl](mailto:rekreators@stipo.nl).

[fb.com/rekreators](https://fb.com/rekreators)

>> Therefore the initiators of the ZOHO project in Rotterdam's Zomerhofkwartier are now considering the purchase of one of the buildings they managed to revive over the past years. In 2013, they took on the challenge as a partner to housing corporation Havensteder to redevelop 12,500 square meters of some of the least attractive 1960s office buildings into a desirable makers quarter. Every inch of the area is now in use: office spaces or studios for creatives and social entrepreneurs, one of the best-known music venues of the city, a hostel and even an old train that is transformed into Gare du Nord, a gastronomic vegan restaurant. A cooperative of current tenants is now exploring the possibilities to buy one of the buildings, but due to the success of the rejuvenation process it has also fallen to the attention of commercial developers. Had they bought the place years ago, or even measured the market value then, their negotiation position towards the owner had perhaps been simpler now.

Still, ownership isn't the only way to secure the social, sustainable, participative and creative investments made and consecutive value created. The initiators of the Holzmarkt project in Berlin are creating an impressive urban village of 18,000 square meters with an investment of over three million euros, generated in a cooperative of private investors that bought into the project with shares of 25,000 euros each. Considerable investments which are secured, because they have the guarantee of a 75-year lease of the brownfield, that was obtained by the Swiss pension fund Stiftung Abendrot. This allows them the window of time necessary to make investments of such a scale and invest the return in a solid business model. A full-blown business organised in a way their core value of creating a Utopian community for the city of Berlin remains untouched.

What drives re:Kreators is the ambition to change neglected brownfields, empty offices, shops or derelict factories into places that contribute to a more loveable city. Places that go beyond serving their own interest as the ones that redevelop the area, but are tailored to a diverse public interest, reflected in mixed use areas and vibrant public space. The element of collaborative development is key, through engaging a wide range of stakeholders, and often a combination of commercial, non-profit activities and housing. In short - it matters who

is involved in making the place and how it is done. This mix of different functions and users on a relatively small scale moreover assures that these places are fit to current needs, but also flexible enough to adapt elements to the ever changing dynamics of urban life. These new players, emerging all over Europe, experiment with changing the game of blueprint planning from previous eras and are experimenting with models for more organic and sustainable development.

This requires an appropriate government response. Cities will need all the creativity they can get from their local re:Kreators and it is in their cities' interest to become a partner and try to recognise, help scale up and multiply upcoming initiatives. What does it take for a city to have a thriving scene of re:Kreators in their own cities? First of all, local governments have to acknowledge the direct and indirect values that re:Kreators create. Second, re:Kreators need local governments as partners by their sides. This can involve being quick with approving activities that require permits; co-investing into the quality of public space; helping generate exchange and learning between re:Kreators; creating investment models based on social return and indirect values and so on. ••

[darwin-ecosysteme.fr](http://darwin-ecosysteme.fr)

[pb43.dk](http://pb43.dk)

[zohorotterdam.nl](http://zohorotterdam.nl)

[holzmarkt.com](http://holzmarkt.com)



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& co-founder re:Kreators  
[citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu)



**Hans Karssenberg**  
partner at Stipo &  
co-founder re:Kreators  
[stipo.nl](http://stipo.nl)







# FROM NICHE TO MAINSTREAM

## HOW TO DEVELOP THE CITY IN A COOPERATIVE WAY

Cooperative area development is growing, together with the need to grasp the significance of this movement and the desire to professionalise it. This is why last year, Pakhuis de Zwijger explored new ways of urban development, with a community of closely involved City Makers. Valuable lessons were learned. >>



© Stichting NDSM-werf

>> The exploration, in collaboration with Arnold Joost (Deloitte Real Estate Advisory) and Stichting NDSM-werf, involved bringing together scientists, City Makers, developers, artists, officials and other stakeholders. During three events they discussed possible experiments, with their collective knowledge and skills on cooperative area development.

## WHAT IS NEEDED FOR SUCCESSFUL COOPERATIVE AREA DEVELOPMENT?

Cooperative area development differs from other kinds of development in the way its stakeholders relate to each other. It is not about strategic behaviour or negotiating skills, but about collaboration based on equality without hierarchy. The defining social-communicative competences are working together, involvement, persuasive powers, being aware of the need for organisation, networking, customer focus and communicative skills.

The discussions led to interesting insights - the most apparent of which is the realisation that there are no blueprints or fixed definitions. For a long time, area development has been dominated by like-minded professionals, working with contracts and planning for profit. Collaboration between the municipality and real estate market players was driven by reducing risks and securing profits. Cooperative area development starts from a societal ambition, from which the process develops. Handling these initiatives professionally does not call for tough negotiations but for a motivational and supportive approach. What is needed is sincere commitment and an imaginative act of empathy, putting yourself in someone else's shoes. >>



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**LESSON 1:****There is no beginning and no ending**

The collective does not necessarily have a clear discernible beginning or ending neither clear and defined objectives. The participants determine form and content. This doesn't really fit in well with a project based approach. However, it suits the city and the way its urban areas are functioning. Continuity will be warranted through both flexibility and a robust identity.

**LESSON 2:****Lose control, but guide and maintain by motivation and support**

Freedom of action has to be commonplace. It's the moment that counts. It's of no use for the collective to fall back on earlier agreements or refer to future plans to get things done. Control based on formal and detailed elaboration of said agreements and plans will only lead to frustration and structural constraints in the process. The collective should assume local ownership and take responsibility. Directing the process is about motivating, stimulating and supporting.

**LESSON 3:****Money is not a goal, it's a means**

Don't expect to get rich quick on this one - although making money should not be ruled out. Cooperative area development should focus on a higher purpose and money is not a goal, but a means to achieve that purpose, as well as human resources and capital assets (like land and real estate). It's not unusual to search for ways to exchange business and services without interference of money, which will also stimulate local, multiple value creation.

**LESSON 4:****Learning is at the core of cooperation**

Collaboration based on equality without hierarchy demands an open and adaptive attitude and will to learn - how to work and organise in a professional way. This attitude can overcome a lack of necessary professional knowledge and experience. It enables experiments and stimulates involvement and critical reflection.

**LESSON 5:****Communication is the key success factor**

Precise communication is essential within a self-organised collective, where a lot is uncertain, in terms of organisation, participants, culture and ambitions. Not all participants may have the same image of the collective. It is key to make sure you understand other parties' motivation, to be sincere and legitimate and to always work from factual information.

## IT ALL STARTS FROM A SOCIETAL AMBITION

**LESSON 6:****It is personal**

The capacity to learn and communicate is, like creativity, something personal, but can be stimulated. It is important all parties are aware that convictions and assumptions affect both the will to learn and the way you communicate. Keep asking and answering and make sure you act from a sincere, personal motivation.

**LESSON 7:****To facilitate is to empower**

When it comes to facilitating and letting go, administrations are prone to a noncommittal approach. They just hand over all responsibility, but this is not a successful way to go about self-organised initiatives. Local governments should empower and enable both collectives and the civil servant involved to shape their respective ambitions and tasks in a relatively autonomous way. By delegating authority civil servants can be more entrepreneurial in actually motivating and supporting the collective. Administrations have to learn to deal with uncertainties and loss of control.

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# Nuon Laad- oplossingen

Overal uw  
elektrische auto  
eenvoudig laden

[nuon.nl/ev](https://nuon.nl/ev)



## Nuon Laadoplossingen

Nuon plaatst sinds 2008 in heel Nederland oplaadpunten bij mensen thuis, bij bedrijven en in de openbare ruimte. In Amsterdam zijn er inmiddels al meer dan 1000 oplaadpunten van Nuon in gebruik.

## Oplaadpunten bij bedrijven

Met een oplaadpunt bij uw bedrijf kunt u:

- Elektrisch rijden stimuleren
- Uw bedrijf verduurzamen
- Extra dienst leveren aan uw medewerkers en bezoekers

## Meer informatie?

Kijk op [nuon.nl/ev](https://nuon.nl/ev).

>>

### LESSON 8:

#### Slow down so you can speed up

Cooperative area development is about creating a communal starting point, contrary to the area development old style which moves towards a specific dot on the horizon. A communal starting point implies broad based principles and will rule out endless negotiations and conflicts. Nevertheless, it is important to take the time to reflect on these principles and the chosen directions on a regular basis.

### LESSON 9:

#### A valuable addition

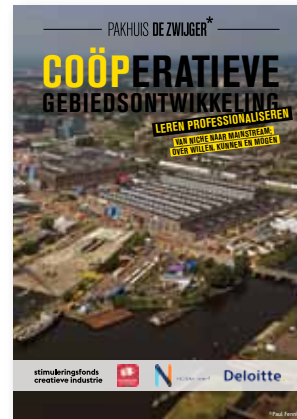
Cooperative can not replace other, more profit-driven approaches of area development. It might have seemed that way because it sprung from the crisis, when traditional development came to a halt. Cooperative area development is a valuable addition, suitable for self-organised initiatives. Now the crisis seems to be under control, we have to make sure it is not displaced by the traditional and alternative approaches, but adds to the repertoire.

### LESSON 10:

#### An important part of a broader transition

Cooperative area development is part of a much broader societal transition towards a more sustainable economy. Self-organisation is finding its way in health care, food and energy production and other areas where local involvement is key to solutions. In cooperative area development both vertical and horizontal chains are integrated and self-organised initiatives all come together. Networks are replacing the traditional chains, and government and industry changing their roles: from enforcer and producer to co-creator.

Want to know more about cooperative area development and the insights gained from these meetups? You can find the publication *Coöperatieve Gebiedsontwikkeling - leren professionaliseren* (in Dutch) online. ●●



[bit.ly/Cooperatieve-Gebiedsontwikkeling](http://bit.ly/Cooperatieve-Gebiedsontwikkeling)



**Gert-Joost Peek**

professor Urban Area Development  
& Transition Management  
Rotterdam University



**Khashayar Ghiabi**

programme maker  
Urban Development  
Pakhuis de Zwijger





## TOKYO TOTEM

**MONNIK / FLICK STUDIO**

Behind the Tokyo's neon glare lies a steady, rhythmic and miraculous everyday world that can be yours if you want it to be. Throughout this guidebook, flaneurs, artists, designers, anthropologists, architects, bathhouse connoisseurs and many other urban explorers will invite you to look, read, experience and connect to Tokyo differently.

[tokyototem.jp](http://tokyototem.jp)



## BUILD THE CITY

**KRYTYKA POLITYCZNA & ECF**

This free publication presents a range of texts, studies, interviews and cultural examples of what we see happening in our cities and their wider regions across Europe: a powerful bottom-up movement led by citizens themselves, developing new participatory democratic practices that shape our cities and empower us to govern them in a different, collaborative way.

[culturalfoundation.eu](http://culturalfoundation.eu)



## ANYTHING OUT OF NOTHING

**THIJS HESLENFELD & RINKE VERKERK**

Two journalists collected stories told by Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. These are touching examples of the power of human resilience. To create a sense of disorientation, characteristic to a refugee's life, the book has been put together back-to-front. Of every sold copy 5 euro goes to a refugee family in Jordanian camp al Za'atari.

[anythingoutofnothing.com](http://anythingoutofnothing.com)

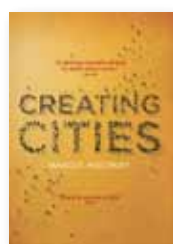


## SHENZHEN

**LINDA VLASSENROOD**

The former fishing village Shenzhen became a New Town in 1980 with the status of Special Economic Zone. Soon it became a metropolis and a prototype for both economic and urban reform within China. Now the time has come for Shenzhen to explore its own identity anew and define the next phase of development. What will be the next step?

[newtowninstitute.org](http://newtowninstitute.org)

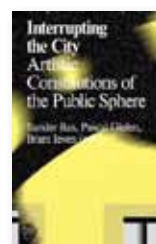


## CREATING CITIES

**MARCUS WESTBURY**

Westbury argues that most towns and cities are wasting their most obvious opportunities: the talent, imagination and passion of the people that live there. The author weaves a local story of how identifying and fixing small scale failures in Newcastle into a larger set of ideas and 'why-to' strategy with potential applications in cities and towns around the world.

[creatingcities.net](http://creatingcities.net)

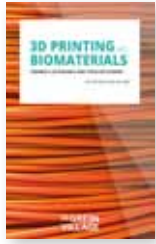


## INTERRUPTING THE CITY

**BAX, GIELEN, IEVEN A.O**

Interrupting the City explores the ways in which artistic practices and interventions constitute the public sphere. This book attempts to chart the conditions under which one is able to develop a voice in the public sphere, and to ask in what way these conditions could be altered by means of artistic interventions.

[valiz.nl](http://valiz.nl)



### 3D PRINTING WITH BIOMATERIALS

**AD VAN WIJK & IRIS VAN WIJK**

Metals, ceramics, sand, living cells, it's printable! The production of plastics however, is still based on fossil fuels. Can it also be based on biomaterials as feedstock? The authors explore the promises of 3D printing with biomaterials towards a sustainable and circular economy. Free download!

[thegreenvillage.org](http://thegreenvillage.org)



### TRANSITION ENTERPRISE HANDBOOK

**RECONOMY**

This guide is part of a series 'how to guides' for transition initiatives in the UK (but others might find useful ideas!) and is designed to inspire entrepreneurs and give an overview of the process of setting up a business, or help an existing enterprise which is planning a period of change or development.

[reconomy.org](http://reconomy.org)

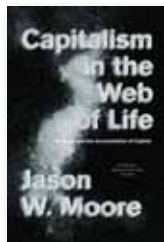


### SELF-SUFFICIENT CITY

**VICENTE GUALLART**

*The Self-sufficient City* outlines a blueprint for the world to come, a world built around cities and their renewed capabilities to become productive again. This book relies on ideas and projects for transforming the urban habitat, based on the principles of local self-sufficiency and global connectivity.

[guallart.com](http://guallart.com)



### CAPITALISM IN THE WEB OF LIFE

**JASON W. MOORE**

Finance. Climate. Food. Work. How are the crises of the 21st century connected? Moore shows how the critique of capitalism-in-nature, rather than capitalism and nature, is key to understanding the crisis today, and to pursuing the politics of liberation in the century ahead.

[jasonwmoore.com](http://jasonwmoore.com)



### BARBA

**THE WHY FACTORY**

How could nanotechnology change buildings and cities in the future and our everyday routines? This story forms the point of departure for a series of interactive experiments, installations, and proposals towards the development of new, body-based and fully adaptive architectures.

[thewhyfactory.com](http://thewhyfactory.com)



### CITIES IN TRANSITION

**DING, GRAAFLAND & WU**

Half of the world's population lives in cities. Extreme wealth and extreme poverty occur alongside each other, but cities remain magnets that attract huge masses of people. With contributions of thirty experts, this book investigates the recent urban and political-economic developments in North America, South America, Europe, South Africa and China.

[naibooksellers.nl](http://naibooksellers.nl)

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PAKHUIS DE ZWIJGER\*

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PRESENTS



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**DE HALLEN AMSTERDAM**

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Hannie Dankbaar Passage, Amsterdam-West



## AMSTERDAM BOOKS



### DE WOLLEF EN DE SEVE GEITJES

**SASHA SERANO &  
MAARTEN DE RU**

Amsterdam-based graphic design studio Yazoka rewrote this famous short fable written by the Grimm brothers. They completely adjusted it to the slang spoken in Amsterdam in the 17th century which was used by criminals, tramps and traveling salesmen as a secret code.

[dewollef.nl](http://dewollef.nl)



### HOW TO AVOID THE OTHER TOURISTS

**NINA VAN DER WEIDEN**

Although Amsterdam might often remind you of Disneyland in terms of its crowds, do not be fooled by the rental bikes in bright green, yellow or red colours and the winter caps with 'Amsterdam' written on them. This guide shows you where Amsterdammers shop, drink, eat or relax rather than treating it as an amusement park.

[howtoavoidtheothertourists.com](http://howtoavoidtheothertourists.com)



### AMSTERDAM COLOURING BOOK

**LISET 'T HART  
& EDU CALICHER**

Colouring is cool! Not just for kids: nowadays grown ups everywhere can be seen handling their pencils and felt tips. Two Rotterdam creatives decided every great city should have a colouring book. They started with Rotterdam and now they published the Amsterdam Colouring Book.



### HET AMSTERDAMSE BEESTENBOEK

**DAALDER, BLOKKER,  
BROUWER & TIMMERMANS**

Amsterdam is packed with animals, but you have to know how and where to find them. Four urban ecologists show you the way through the city jungle. Watch out for screw-shaped turds (fox alert!) and when it gets warm, beware of the exotic grass snake and red eared slider.

[lubberhuizen.nl](http://lubberhuizen.nl)



### THE AMSTERDAM GOURMET

**JONAH FREUD  
& CIJN PRINS**

If you love good food you will enjoy this mother-and-daughter guide through contemporary culinary Amsterdam. Inside tips on the best cheese, authentic Amsterdam pickles, the most beautiful Spanish ham, the tastiest shrimp croquettes, surprising festival food, dining on the water and Amsterdam farmers. Delicious!

[goodcook.nl](http://goodcook.nl)



### DE BOSATLAS VAN AMSTERDAM

**NOORDHOFF UITGEVERS**

Based on hundreds of maps and graphs, this atlas takes you on a spectacular journey through our capital. Numerous topics are discussed, such as the city and its inhabitants, administration and education, ferries and trams, old and new beliefs, buildings and gardens and so on. In short, Amsterdam in all its facets.

[bosatlas.nl](http://bosatlas.nl)

## AMSTERDAM LOCAL GOODS



### 4530

Helping the ones in need, 4530 donates a T-shirt to a Dutch man in need for every product sold. By doing this, they try to fight poverty in Holland, while providing their customers with high-quality products both in terms of materials used and production.

[45-30.com](http://45-30.com)



### AFRIEK

Craftsmanship, culture and design. Bringing together Dutch design with authentic African printed fabrics and honest craftsmanship. True believers in being aware of what you wear and where it comes from, with the love for custom-made clothes shining through every piece.

[afriek.com](http://afriek.com)



### MONSAK

Designing and crafting unique leather bags - it's what Margriet Meijer loves and does best. With a distaste for mass production, the Monsak bags are hand-made and often in consultation with the customer. You can even choose your own leather and colors, which makes for personal and unique pieces.

[monsak.nl](http://monsak.nl)



### IMKERIJ HORTENSIVUS

As a seven-year-old kid, beekeeper Hortensius was always mesmerised by bees. Getting caught stealing honeycomb, he was given the choice: to the police or learn the trade. He chose the last. Hortensius is a fighter for the conservation of quality, biodiversity and a fair market.

[imkerijhortensius.nl](http://imkerijhortensius.nl)



### EAU D'AMSTERDAM

The Elm trees have defined Amsterdam's city centre for centuries, and it's the way they spread their seeds every spring which inspired art duo Saskia Hoogendoorn en Lieuwe Martijn Wijnands to create this first ever green perfume from the historical centre of Amsterdam.

[eaudamsterdam.com](http://eaudamsterdam.com)



### STADSPLANK

In each Stadsplank the exact origin and species name of the specific tree out of which the board was made is engraved. Via a QR code on the label you can find more info about the tree and even track its former location. Every tree used to live in Amsterdam.

[stadsplank.nl](http://stadsplank.nl)

## AMSTERDAM LOCAL GOODS



### 8BOXES

A fully recycled bicycle. Kurdish-Syrian brothers Shahin (artist) and Bengin (architect) were surprised by the amount of bicycle parts that were thrown away in Amsterdam and started working on the idea of putting those parts together. The result? Sporty, rugged and one of a kind bicycles.



### CYCLE CRATE

Made from sustainable materials and heavily inspired by the bicycle culture of their hometown Amsterdam, these crates serve the purpose to make life easier. The idea was to make a highly functional yet unobtrusive product. This all stems from their believe that even the smallest problems matter.

[cyclecrate.com](http://cyclecrate.com)



### DUMPPIES

Dumpies is the brainchild of Debby Nijpjes, a graphic designer with a love for textiles. Debby works mainly with recycled, high-quality fabrics such as wool and tweed, which she sources from the 'dump' piles of fabrics at flea markets and thrift shops.

[dumpies.nl](http://dumpies.nl)



### DIY MUSHROOM FARM KIT

A do-it-yourself mushroom kit. In ten days time, you can have your own grown mushrooms, ready to be eaten or used to meet your own mushroom needs. The kit is packaged in a handy and ready-to-go box, which makes it a perfect (and environment-friendly) gift.

[gro-holland.com/in-ontwikkeling](http://gro-holland.com/in-ontwikkeling)



### HAMERS OP MAAT

Bag designer Marie-Jose Hamers creates her colorful and exceptional bags from all kinds of materials and with different techniques. Her inspiration originates from the streets of Amsterdam, its markets and its people. She creates bags from unusual material like rubber, floor-parts, industrial vilt, plastic bags and foil.

[hameropmaat.nl](http://hameropmaat.nl)



### NO TOYS

Toys for both parents and children. By giving a unique twist to everyday items, these toys are fun to play with for kids, but still look great in your home. The toys are made from sustainable materials and are never produced outside of Europe, keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

[notoys.nl](http://notoys.nl)





# Lijfblad voor kritische geesten

**DE GROENE  
AMSTERDAMMER**

**PROBEER DE AANBIEDING  
[WWW.GROENE.NL/DEZWIJGER](http://WWW.GROENE.NL/DEZWIJGER)**

## APPS & WEBSITES



### SOUNDTRACKCITY

Download the app and take a 60-minute walk through your favourite city! Stories, city sounds, music and the voice of the artist who curated your route will keep you company and guide you along the way. Soundtrackcity is available in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Istanbul.

[soundtrackcity.nl](http://soundtrackcity.nl)



### THE CITY GAME

Doing good for the environment and society should be fun and social. So why not make it a game? Choose your mission, challenge your friends and collect points every time you do something. Good vibes are rewarded, how about a cool new bike to stop you polluting with your car?

[thecitygame.com](http://thecitygame.com)



### CITIZENLAB

This civic engagement online platform offers a much-needed addition to existing off-line channels in every city! With CitizenLab, citizens co-create their city by posting ideas and sharing their experiences and opinions. It offers governments an intermediary instrument for more democratic, transparent and collaborative decision-making.

[citizenlab.co](http://citizenlab.co)



### SOCIAL CITY

Social City is a virtual city based on your dreams and desires, which you can express by filling in the quiz. It is an exercise in individuality and explores how countless identities can make up a diverse whole. This makes for a city that understands changing global culture, a city without borders, rules or top-down planning.

[socialcities.org](http://socialcities.org)



### UNDERGRONDS AMSTERDAM

Undergronds literally goes underground to create more interaction in public space. Through an online platform, the project links participants to remarkable seniors who are eager to share their interesting life stories. These conversations between strangers take place on a moving metro, under the surface of Amsterdam.

[undergronds.org](http://undergronds.org)



### ROADS TO ROME

Do all roads really lead to Rome? Yes, they do! Roads to Rome is a digital navigation quest, a documentation of every route from all across the continent to Rome based on OpenStreetMap data. The outcome is somewhere between information visualisation and data art, unveiling mobility at a very large scale.

[roadstorome.moovellab.com](http://roadstorome.moovellab.com)

## New Amsterdam #8

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This magazine is an in-depth extension of the online  
platforms [stedenintransitie.nl](http://stedenintransitie.nl) and [citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu),  
where we gather and connect people that make the city.  
We call them City Makers, which is an honorary title. They  
are the heart of the stories about new initiatives, testing  
grounds, city labs and creative breeding grounds in the cities  
and in the programmes of Pakhuis de Zwijger in Amsterdam.

[stedenintransitie.nl](http://stedenintransitie.nl)

[citiesintransition.eu](http://citiesintransition.eu)

# NIEUW AMSTERDAM #9

## / NEW EUROPE #1

### SPRING 2016

#### WITH:

LOCAL INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT EUROPE

EU URBAN AGENDA

METROPOLITAN FIELD TRIP PARIS

THE RESILIENCE OF ATHENS:

INTERVIEW WITH MAYOR GIORGOS KAMINIS

AND DEPUTY MAYOR AMALIA ZEPOU

EU2016 MAYORS CONFERENCE

THE STATE OF THE CITY 2016:

AMSTERDAM VS OTHER EU-CAPITAL CITIES

HOW SECOND CITIES FACE URBAN CHALLENGES:

BARCELONA, MARSEILLE, THESSALONIKI

AND ROTTERDAM

NEW EUROPE CITY MAKERS SUMMIT:

CONNECTING ACTIVE CITIZENS THROUGH

CITY EMBASSIES

THE (IM)PACT OF AMSTERDAM

EU2016 ARTS & DESIGN PROGRAMME

EUROPE BY PEOPLE

THE FUTURE OF EVERYDAY LIVING:

FABCITY: CAMPUS FOR URBAN INNOVATORS

THE WALL: VISUALISE TODAY,

IMAGINE TOMORROW

NEW EUROPEANS: TESTZONE

FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

ON STAGE: TELLING STORIES

ON EMERGING ISSUES

BRUSSELS: CELEBRATING DUTCH CULTURE



# CHALLENGE STAD VAN DE TOEKOMST

Deze 10 finalisten werken aan de Stad van de Toekomst:



BlueCity010



Stadslab Buiksloterham



DakAkkers



Drijvende afvalwaterrotonde



gewildgroeit



Hemel(s)water



Hotspot Hutspot



LOFT2GO



Mobiele Dijken



The Salt Project

Check de website voor meer informatie en de laatste ontwikkelingen van de Challenge Stad van de Toekomst. Volg zo de 10 finalisten op weg naar de finale tijdens de Innovation Expo op 14 april 2016:

**WWW.CHALLENGESTAD.NL**

Initiatiefnemers van de Challenge

**Agenda  
Stad**



INNOVATION EXPO  
Sustainable Urban Delta

In samenwerking met

PAKHUIS DE ZWIJGER\*



Kennisland



Rijksoverheid

01.01 – 30.06.2016

AMSTERDAM

# EUROPE BY PEOPLE

FOODIE



HUSBAND &  
WIFE



VISIONAIR



SURVIVOR



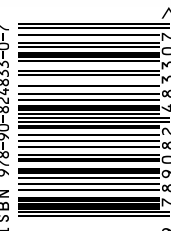
PLAYER



LONER



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PROGRAMME → THE FUTURE  
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