

INTER- NATIONAL NEW TOWN INSTITUTE

INTI research programme 2010

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PART I – INTI AS A RESEARCH INSTITUTE

1. INTI as a knowledge institute

a. Knowledge institute with a pivotal role

The International New Town Institute (INTI) wants to be the place where people come for ideas, knowledge, advice and questions on every possible subject concerning New Towns. Its target audience is as wide as its interests: managers, administrators, architects, activists, authors, journalists, academics, entrepreneurs, artists and many other people. INTI is small, flexible and engages in substantive issues. For its involvement in research, education and public activities the institute cooperates with universities, boards, large institutions, architectural firms, independent researchers and designers in the Netherlands and abroad. In such collaborations INTI always adopts a substantive role, but does not hesitate to contribute to a project organizationally.

INTI has two ways of acquiring projects and establishing its agenda. First, the institute develops its own, autonomous programme with diverse activities in the sphere of research, education and public events. Several representatives of universities and institutions related to INTI serve as consultants. The programme is based on issues concerning New Towns that the institute itself has observed as relevant. Secondly, INTI accepts assignments, or rather answers questions posed by governments, entrepreneurs and other parties who need expertise, concepts, stories or presentations for 'their' New Town, either an existing one, or one they plan to realize. INTI is not an expert on purely technical, financial or governmental issues, but the institute is prepared to advise on any subject as long as it can somehow be connected to the New Town in question. Because of its business model of a small 'plug in' organization, INTI is able to answer any question. First we will try to understand and rephrase the request in cooperation with the client and then, at an early stage, delegate to one of its partners who has the expertise and/or the organizational capacities to carry out the assignment.

The choice to be open to such a wide range of assignments is not just based on economics, but is also a substantive choice. INTI does not intend to rule from an ivory tower of academic sagacity and determine what is important knowledge and what is not; INTI wants to be rooted in the social reality of contemporary New Towns. This way, the institute can continually engage in dialogue with the parties concerned. The choice to be small and flexible, with minimal overhead, a wide, substantive orientation and open to any question, makes INTI an interesting alternative to the many, over-expanded knowledge institutes that exist in the Netherlands.

b. Definition of New Towns

INTI engages in integrated, international and multi-disciplinary research on New Towns. Research is the main focus; all other activities, such as education, courses, workshops and public events are derived from that. The research aims at New Towns in the broadest sense, historically as well as geographically (from old town fortresses to future New Towns in Asia) and disciplinary (urban strategy, architecture, civil engineering, history, sociology, geography, economy and development studies).

INTI has defined some aspects that distinguish a New Town from other urban settlements. Firstly, a New Town is planned and built, based on a large scale, integral master plan, on a site where was no town before. This is what sets a New Town apart from 'normal', gradually developed towns. Secondly, the foundation of the New Town is grounded in a clear (political) decree. Connected to this is the characteristic that the new settlement will grow into a town in a short time span. Thirdly, the New Town will have a certain degree of political, governmental and/or economic autonomy. This is what discriminates a New Town from (large scale) town expansions that are not autonomous in any way, but have been attached to an existing town.



c. Urgency: restructuring and new New Towns

Two tendencies justify the work of INTI: the worldwide urbanization, leading to a boom of New Towns, and the restructuring of old New Towns, mainly in Western and Eastern Europe and the United States. Building and restructuring New Towns brings about large investments, radical social implications and interesting cultural changes.

The present INTI research programme mainly concentrates on New Towns that emerged after the Second World War in Western Europe, the United States, the former Eastern bloc and the Third World. Within the programme, large focus is on the genesis of the New Towns and the transformations that have appeared during the past decades in the social, economic and spatial sense. Understanding the genesis of New Towns is important for grasping their current situation and exploring future developments. Another important part of the programme is a critical comparison of the visions of the future represented by the various New Towns.

Many parallels and similarities exist between the manner in which old New Towns have been designed and built and the planning of the current and future generation of New Towns. However, people seldom exchange expertise and research results. Therefore, one of INTI's *raison d'être* is to provide know-how about building, developing and restructuring New Towns to professionals in those (existing and future) New Towns all over the world. In that way, INTI hopes to contribute to knowledge on the development of the newest generation of New Towns, mainly in Asia.

d. Fields of action: the world and Almere

During the twentieth century, the ideas on the development of New Towns have been expressed mainly in terms of a distinctly international discourse that started with Ebenezer Howard's Garden City theories. In view of the popularity of his widespread ideas, it is no surprise that New Towns are identifiable as a large family with many corresponding characteristics.

For that reason, it is obvious that the INTI research projects on urban development and social, cultural and economic aspects of New Towns should be performed in an international context. Therefore, INTI's field of action will be international, as will be the subjects the institute raises in research and education. Moreover, there will be a worldwide network of institutions, teachers and students, and the manifestations INTI organizes will be of an international nature.

Furthermore, INTI is housed by the city of Almere, a Dutch New Town. By way of its activity programme, the institute maintains strong ties with this town. One of the addressed issues is the so-called *Schaalsprong* (scale leap) and its many consequences for the new and existing city districts. INTI latches on to several topics current in Almere to initiate an international comparative research project in cooperation with other European New Towns.

e. Method: practical, academic, integrated

The research initiated by INTI is both academic and practical. The institute aims at providing knowledge on building New Towns. We focus not only on planning, design and construction of New Towns, but also on the social, economic and socio-cultural aspects and on the development of a new urban society. Experience with New Towns worldwide shows that the quality of the planning process and the design are not always a guarantee for the quality of the resulting town. Match or mismatch of the planned and lived town is one of the central issues in the research programme.

INTI also initiates independent academic research by specifying topics and organizing external funding. Moreover, INTI supports PhD-research with academic partners, as well as conferences, lecture series and master classes that address topics relevant to the restructuring of existing New Towns or the design of new ones.

The research programme combines historical, economic, sociological and socio-cultural research projects with design, environmental and planning studies. This is what distinguishes INTI's approach from planning as was common from the post-war period until recently; this was generally a technically and quantitatively motivated way of planning,



in which underlying urban ambitions were quickly outrun by a technocratic policy and implementation apparatus.

In a world where people, even today, talk about New Towns primarily in terms of figures, amounts and costs, it is INTI's task to turn the thought on New Towns into more integrated and comprehensive ideas and to engage other methods of thinking (from sociology, history, architecture and culture). During the past century of New Town planning, it has continually occurred that rational expectations of planners and designers did not correspond to the urban life that developed in the New Towns. Sometimes this led to disastrous situations, but in other cases the result was better or more interesting than the planner had ever imagined. There is not a 1:1 ratio of the quality of a design and the quality of the resulting town. Integrating soft and technical aspects is one of the interesting and innovative aspects that play a role in INTI's research programme.

INTI's research crosses borders in many ways. The projects continually make connections, not just between disciplines, but also between New Towns in various historical periods and on various continents. They combine differing opinions about spatial design, development and modernization. They match all sorts of audiences, researchers, managers, critics, writers, filmmakers and, last but not least, citizens and governments of New Towns.

f. INTI as a physical place

INTI is also supposed to be an appealing place to visit: a laboratory where master and PhD-students like to come and meet each other in a special setting, a place that attracts both professionals and the general, interested public. Therefore the institute is setting up a documentation centre with a special collection of books on New Towns and related issues. This will also be the place where the INTI archive is located.



In the long run, the wish of the institute is to be a lively centre, at a good and visible location in Almere. It should be a meeting point for anyone who has an interest in New Towns—for a designer who wants to prepare for an assignment abroad, or for an academic who is studying an issue related to New Towns. People can come to INTI to gather information, either in person or virtually through the website.

Moreover, INTI intends to develop into *the* research centre for any theme related to New Towns. It should be the centre where new insights are acquired; with which authoritative teachers, architects and policy makers are involved; which publishes relevant work on New Town themes; where conferences and lecture series take place; a place that continuously houses a group of national and international PhD-students, thus attracting other students. In other words: it should be a place with a lively atmosphere, where many new ideas are conceived and shared.

2. What kind of phenomenon is a New Town?

INTI engages in research that is typically about New Towns and the issues those cities face. Research on more general urban topics is carried out in many reputable institutes over the world. When studying a New Town it is important to demarcate, and most social, urban issues are not typical for a New Town but occur anywhere: unemployment, attracting new activity, criminality, lack of cultural participation, decreasing social cohesion, youth, ageing, loneliness. Each town council wants to gain knowledge on these issues. But there are many institutions, both academic and commercial, that engage in the study of such typical metropolitan themes: they know much more about them than a new institute like INTI.

INTI's expertise is exclusively directed at the phenomenon of New Towns: cities that emerged in a short time span according to a plan. Referring to the question posed by Jane Jacobs at the end of *Death and Life of Great American Cities*: What kind of problem is the city?, the research INTI performs and supports is aimed at answering the question: What kind of problem is the New Town? Every research question should be approached with that question in mind: What is the connection between this specific problem and the phenomenon of a New Town?

This does not mean that a problem should be typical only for a New Town. Sometimes a problem is not new in itself, whereas it is new for the New Town. Or the problem occurs elsewhere as well but is of a different nature or scale for the New Town. Problems addressed by Dutch New Towns (the so-called 'groei-kernen' or centres of urban expansion) relate to several issues, such as social structure, crime, economic structure, culture, identity and the image of the town. Those problems are mostly explained in terms of the rapid growth, increased dimensions, people migration, lack of employment and services, and lack of history. Despite the many similarities, there are also many differences between New Towns when it comes to these issues.

There are four topics that make New Towns develop in a different manner from gradually growing towns:

- design
- size and rapid growth
- life cycle
- starting situation and concept

a. Design

The New Town is one of the most popular and one of the most theorized design assignments for architectures and urban developers. Each stage of architectural history is marked by idealized models for towns to be produced. Therefore, New Towns are always combinations of contextual factors, such as economy, climate, demography, policy and culture; they are based on theoretical, idealized models, produced by the design community for the town of the future. In such a way, a New Town always tells two stories: one about the nature of the country, the region and the people, and the other about the ideas of designers at that specific time about the ideal town.

For a designer, the task of building a New Town means making fundamental choices about the desired town planning typologies, the ideal ratio of buildings and public space, about which architectural style is best for expressing what needs to be expressed, about the best distribution of people and functions and about the size of the various zones in the town. Moreover, every generation needs to make decisions on what to keep and what not, choose between public responsibility and private constructs, between government and market. It is up to the designer to develop new forms of planning and ways of expression to deal with such choices.

Another important issue is the measure in which a New Town should be contextual: should the design answer to local traditions, taste, customs and symbols, or should it be a sign of modernity, globalization and cosmopolitanism?

Last of all, designing a New Town is always a case of trial and error: every New Town designer has hundreds, or even thousands of examples at his disposal of previous attempts to answer the same questions. It is, however, remarkable that designing a New Town is still considered to be an assignment that is completely determined by the demands of the

present and the future; studying results from the past is only regarded as of secondary importance. Moreover, it is even more remarkable that the solutions designers come up with are not fundamentally different from those that were invented in the previous century, even though those solutions did not always have the desired and imagined results. In certain cases they even led to some of the most tenacious problems of contemporary towns.

It is therefore advisable to deal with the New Town as a designing problem more fundamentally: the evaluation and analysis of the manner in which New Towns developed in the past should be of central concern. Both the history of designing and the present designing activities involving New Towns constitute a worldwide, rich library of ideas, experiences, images and knowledge that any architect and urban developer should use as a matter of course.

b. Size and rapid growth

It is generally believed that supposedly typical metropolitan problems are connected to the size of a town. A growing New Town is expected to be confronted with such issues too. The rapid growth, which is typical for a New Town, is assumed to be an amplifying factor. This explanation plays an important role in the Dutch discussion on the so-called Ortega municipalities. People believe that rapid growth (though at different periods) is what connects the 'regular' towns of Apeldoorn and Ede and the former 'groei-kernen' Almere, Haarlemmermeer and Zoetermeer. They argue that rapid growth involves the construction of many similar houses and living environments in a short time span. Fast production equals bulk, they say, which means that in a New Town, after some time all houses will simultaneously become old and outdated. As a result, far-reaching social changes will be needed for a large part of the housing stock.

However, this effect is not typical for New Towns either. It occurs anywhere where in a short period of time many of the same buildings have been constructed; obviously, this mostly happens in the lower market sector: in the post-war districts of all large and medium-sized Dutch towns, but also in the Plattenbau areas of the former Soviet Union and Eastern bloc, and in the banlieue (and Villes Nouvelles) of Paris. It is, however, questionable whether this simultaneous and massive ageing should automatically lead to an equally massive reconstruction operation. An important research question is therefore how to free a New Town from this recurrence, based on a systematic and wholesale interference.

c. Life cycle

A New Town's ageing is one of the aspects of its life cycle, a topic that is often disregarded. That is strange, because we have learned that the social changes occurring within pre-war working-class areas in the 1960s, also developed in post-war areas with much public housing during the 1980s and 1990s. This had everything to do with the ageing of those areas, the large amount of cheap houses, increasing prosperity and migration: citizens moving away and less affluent groups moving in. When new quarters emerge, the position of existing quarters on the housing market shifts. It is therefore not so difficult to predict that similar social changes will affect those younger areas in the near future.

Such developments are not typical for Dutch society. It is therefore a relevant research question how they will work out, especially since such areas in Western European countries are characterized by a much larger share of cheap private property and a typical urban structure. Moreover, the developments are not typical for New Towns, either. But given the relatively large amount of New Town districts built in the 1970s and 1980s, they will leave their mark on the transformation of New Towns.

With regard to other metropolitan issues, such as criminality, it is also relevant to discuss whether the size of a town, its rapid growth or its life cycle is the decisive factor. If size is the source of trouble, it is not a typical New Town issue. But it is, if the problems are related to the rapid growth or the life cycle. The named examples (social changes in areas of a specific generation and the rise of criminality) are mainly connected to life cycle. Although the problems occur in other towns and areas as well, they are new for a New Town. In a New Town there is no knowledge or corporate culture yet to deal with the issues, expertise that old towns have already acquired. Rapid growth might be a factor, but

we can also assume that this rapid growth has focussed the government's attention on the continuously emerging new problems. Moreover, we should not overestimate the issue: the bigger the town, the (relatively) slower the growth.

d. Starting situation and concept

In a design proposal there is often no explanation of the starting situation of a New Town: the spatial, socio-economic and socio-cultural targets and the way in which these have been addressed. This is exactly where the problem of the New Town lies. It is significant how a New Town has been destined from the start, both by political goals and by the history of its creation. Two important factors determine this: the economic conjecture and the 'disciplinary logic' (as it is called in French research on the Villes Nouvelles: the logic of urban development and architecture, of sociology and geography, of economy and of thinking about mobility). In economic geography this is called 'path dependence'. This is not only of great influence on the development of economic structure and employment within the town, but it also shapes the social and cultural character of a town in general.

Thus viewed, the New Town *does* have a history, even though it is short. This short history determines to a great extent the image of the town, which for its part influences the status of the living environment and the reputation of its citizens. The starting situation develops quickly into a certain 'identity' of the New Town in social, economic and cultural terms. The New Town gets a reputation that will influence its further development either favourably or negatively. Once determined, it appears difficult to change the character and image of the New Town. Such a change requires an exploratory expedition in past and present, in time and space, for traces of other ambitions and developments: the ambition of a pioneer against conformism, of an entrepreneur against the attitude of the welfare state.

3. Angles in studying the New Town

Four angles can be distinguished in INTI's research programme: history, design, construct and culture. All of those appear in various combinations in our research projects.

- **History:** The development and progress of New Towns in the past, from antiquity to the twentieth century, in all its aspects. This angle can be represented by case studies of a specific New Town or of a thematic approach.
- **Design:** Concepts of urban development, planning and architecture that determined or will determine the design and development of New Towns. What models of urbanization controlled the professional debate and which models influenced policy making with regard to New Towns at certain governmental levels?
- **Construct:** All aspects that are necessary for the realization of the New Town: economic, civil engineering, environmental or water management concepts, real estate, financial processes, exploitation and land ownership. What programmes were executed for housing, industry and services?
- **Culture:** Socio-cultural and political processes, issues of image, identity and reputation; the development of urban culture within the contours of the New Town; the exchange between the spatial form of a town (the hardware) and the social development (software). Into what kind of socio-economic and socio-cultural town have the New Towns developed? What factors shape identity and image, and how can these aspects be manipulated?

PART II - RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. New Towns on the Web

INTI intends to become *the* centre of knowledge on New Towns worldwide. One important objective is to host a database with data about a growing number of New Towns. Anyone working on or studying New Towns can consult this database through another project, our website.

a. Database. Initiated and financed by INTI, 2006 – ongoing

We have started to make a worldwide inventory of New Towns; this is accessible through the INTI website. The cartographic interface makes the database suitable for a large audience and enables the visitor to consult it in various ways. Linked to the world map, it is user-friendly, which makes it one of the most important and most intriguing parts of the website. It is frequented by many visitors. We will augment the user-friendliness of the database by developing an application that enables people to consult it worldwide with their mobile phone.

The inventory needs to be expanded in the future. The knowledge, retrieved from many places, should be selected, edited and made presentable in a way that enables visitors of the website to compare New Towns and exchange information. Possibly, this work can be done in cooperation with universities (internships). As regards the New Towns in the Arabic and Muslim world, it might be useful to seek alliance with the Aga Kahn Foundation website, which is maintained from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge (US).

b. Website

For students and professionals abroad, the website will be the most important means of acquiring information from INTI, of exchanging ideas and maintaining a professional network. The website is thus professionally constructed, so that it can function as the gateway to INTI. This means, obviously, that the information will be updated regularly, that the documentation centre will be accessible and that the book collection and the archives will be digitally available. This will all be offered in the near future.

Apart from a practical way of supplying information worldwide, the website is also a project in itself. It not only has its own structure, style and editorial formula, but also its own agenda: 'humanizing' the planning of New Towns by studying them and presenting them as places that produce their own culture, with music, film and literature. A growing amount of clips can be viewed of films and documentaries on New Towns, information films, commercials and movies that were shot in a New Town. Moreover, there is a collection of bands that were inspired by New Towns in their lyrics dealing with (life in) a New Town.

In connection with the 'regular' website, INTI plans to develop apps for iPhone and iPad, and to engage in social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn. This way, the website will become a place in its own.



2. New Towns in the Twentieth Century

New towns have been designed for thousands of years. The history of these towns is part of INTI's field of activity. However, for the upcoming years the research agenda will be defined by the era in which many New Towns emerged: the second half of the twentieth century. Some of the (far advanced) research projects of INTI are about the towns from this period. The studies are not only about their genesis, but particularly about their current state. To do so, INTI uses the studies of history, film and literature.



a. New Towns on the Cold War Frontier

Publication, exhibition and conference, 2004-2012. Supported by INTI

In cooperation with Crimson Architectural Historians a worldwide study has been put up on the post-war period. Next to twenty case studies, scholars will write a few analytical essays. Within the project, researchers will intersect ideas on the concepts and urban strategy of New Towns with the political and cultural developments in the period concerned. This way they will be able to shed light on the relation between planning on the one hand and the unplanned, organic development of the towns on the other. The result will be published under the (working) title: 'What were they thinking... New Towns in the Cold War Era'.

The book is built around a series of case studies of New Towns, telling the stories of their initial idea, the planning and realization and its appropriation by the local situation. The towns are clustered into five thematic chapters, which relate the urban development concepts and principals, debates and movements and how they spread over the world by political and economic dynamics. In each chapter the question is posed how we can learn from such experiences as to live in a designed, idealistic environment. These chapters form the background for the true stories of the New Towns. Moreover, the ideas in the chapter give the opportunity to comment, articulate a synthesis and maybe even relay suggestions and new principals.

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- Chapter 2: Exporting ideas to underdeveloped nations. Urban development as a Cold War weapon
- Chapter 3: Vernacular Spectacular. Critique from the inside on the structure of New Towns
- Epilogue: How to survive the twentieth century? The decay of the old New Town and the rise of a new generation; the quest for context.

b. Kafue New Town, from planned ideal to informal reality

One year research by postgraduate student, in cooperation with the University of Amsterdam. Supervisor: Ton Dietz (Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies), 2010-2011. Initiated by INTI

During the period of decolonization, many new cities were built in the new nation states of Africa. Usually they were part of an economic development policy and served as industrial centres that would help to bring prosperity to newly independent countries like Ghana, Tanzania or Zambia. While the discipline of architecture and planning was hardly existent among local professionals, the design and organization of these New Towns was in most cases conducted by foreign specialists, who used modernist principles of town planning.

One of the examples of this phenomenon is the New Town Kafue in Zambia, designed by the world famous Greek planner Constantinos Doxiadis in 1967. Zambia had become independent in 1963 and its economy was looking bright with an average growth rate between 1964 and 1966 of 17% per year. Kafue would be an industrial city with a population of 100,000 in the year 2000. It was designed with a rational, geometric plan, based on communities with their own facilities (schools, shops) and it projected an optimistic, idealistic image of Kafue's future.

But after the price of copper dropped dramatically in the 1970s, Zambia became mostly dependent on foreign aid. The city suffered from pollution, unemployment and economic



decline and the optimistic image evaporated. Young people that came to the city with high expectations to improve their living conditions were disappointed and had to find other means to survive. City life rapidly informalized. Though Kafue was designed as a European modernist city, it was soon taken over by informal African habits and local culture. How has Kafue developed from planned to informal city? How has the local population dealt with the new circumstances? How has the government dealt with feelings of anger and frustration amongst the inhabitants? What bottom up initiatives emerged to improve the local situation? In short: how has this city developed in spatial-economic and socio-cultural aspects and how have policies and governance dealt with these developments?

c. New Towns in Film

One year research by postgraduate student, in cooperation with the University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, Hilversum, 2010-2011. Initiated by INTI

In the post-war period many countries in Western Europe (mainly the UK, France, Sweden and the Netherlands) supported the building of New Towns, completely new cities built from blue prints to ease the pressure on existing historic cities, to spread the population or to provide the workers' masses with social housing. These cities were not immediately popular with their future inhabitants and the governments who were responsible for these urban New Town policies often used the medium of film to popularize the idea of moving to a New Town and to explain the advantages of it. Today, these films offer the opportunity to study the representation of New Towns and the changing economic, demographic and economic policies they were the product of from the forties up to the seventies.

However, New Towns are also the décor in many fictional motion pictures, often painting a rather grim and negative image of those cities. The ideal image depicted in government commissioned films contrasted sharply with the inherent critique that is visible in movies by independent filmmakers. What was the representation of New Towns in these films and movies? Which cultural discourse can be distilled from the depiction of New Towns? There is already a first inventory of movies present at the archive of Sound and Vision in Hilversum.



d. New Towns in Writing

Series of articles in the Dutch magazine Hollands Diep and a book by the Dutch author Joris van Casteren, 2009-2010. Sponsored and advised by INTI

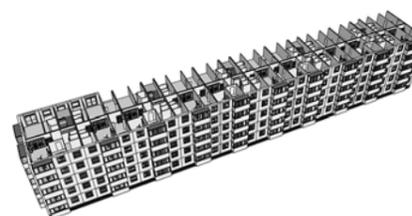
Joris van Casteren has carried out a literary study on daily life in seven Western New Towns in a welfare state. This project shows in an intriguing way how people live in new cities and districts that have been designed to enforce a certain way of life. The reports paint a picture of day-to-day reality in such invented towns and quarters. Spending at least a week with the inhabitants and local authorities (from local politicians and entrepreneurs, to social workers and policemen on the beat), talking with them, taking part in their activities, Van Casteren shows in a compelling way how the urban strategic and architectural intentions have worked out. The lively reports are complemented by historical passages which describe the initial ideals and (often) problematic growing process of the town.

The first three articles, on Cumbernauld, Toulouse le Mirail and Gropiusstadt, have already been published in Hollands Diep magazine.

e. Dmitrov, Mikrorayon of the Future

Design project and exhibition, initiated and financed by INTI. January - June 2010

Although Dmitrov is a historic city of over 855 years old, it nonetheless includes a significant number of post-war apartment blocks from the sixties and seventies. These prefabricated panel blocks are in need of renewal. They are inadequate for present-day urban living in several respects. The apartments are small, and the floor plans usually inadequate. The public spaces in the building (staircases, elevators, hallways) and the outer shell are in a dilapidated state. The installations are inefficient, and there are problems with heating. The surrounding public space is in need of re-design, taking into account the contemporary needs of traffic, parking space, pedestrians and leisure space. Since many cities in the former Soviet Union that were planned as completely new cities, usually consist of prefabricated panel blocks mainly, INTI is interested in participating in the



renewal of housing in Dmitrov. After all, any solution to housing problems and to the renewal of the Mikrorayon in Dmitrov can in the future be made profitable for other Russian cities. It has been estimated that approximately 50,000,000 apartments exist in prefabricated panel blocks in the former Soviet countries.

INTI has asked the architects office SVESMI to study the possibilities for the renewal of the Mikrorayon and to design various solutions to the problems of the housing areas. The designs will deal with the different housing standards, from the apartment floor plan to the collective facilities, to the public space surrounding the blocks and the urban layout of the Mikrorayon. The designs will be presented in the form of a short animation movie, which will allow us to address a wider audience within and outside Dmitrov.

This movie will be shown and discussed in a small round table conference on the Moscow Architecture Biennale (26th of May-10th of June).

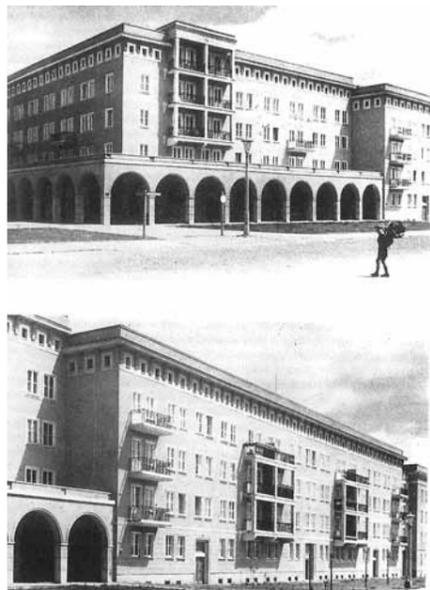
f. Building upon an ideal. Speculations on the Future of European Modern Suburbs from the sixties up until the seventies. A project of Studio Ljub in Rotterdam, 2010-2012 supported with respect to content by INTI

'Building upon an ideal' is a project that aims at enriching the debate about the heritage of Modernistic house-construction. Themes that will be addressed by this project are: improving the living environment, offering better opportunities to underprivileged citizens, stimulating civil participation and redefining the relation between public and private space. Two different, complementing realities will offer inspiration for the project: the Dutch *prachtwijken* (lit: 'wonderful quarters', an ironic term for problematic neighbourhoods) cared for by social housing corporations, and the Bulgarian Plattenbau suburbs, that have been overrun by wild capitalism.

g. German New Towns of the Twentieth Century, between Utopia and Reality Publication 2010. Study by Saskia Hulskes, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, intern at INTI

German New Towns were not only planned for the provision of houses and employment. An objective was to create an entirely new community that was strongly connected to the socio-cultural ideals of the political leader. The anarchist planner, the National Socialist leader, the democratic government and the Communist state, they all had a vision of what the ideal city or town should look like.

Basically, the urban plan and the architecture had to be different from the existing German cities that were built based on another political conviction. With a new way of planning, a new architectural form and different housing types, the leaders showed that a new period had begun. The planning of New Towns on uncultivated land gave these leaders total freedom to exhibit their ideas about urban design and architecture without dealing with existing buildings and inhabitants—something that was not possible in the 'old' towns. Architects played a big role in realizing these ideal towns for the ideal society: they had to put the utopian dreams into practice.



3. Future New Towns

There are two aspects to the future of New Towns: building new cities and restructuring 'old' New Towns. The former happens mostly outside Europe, in countries such as China, India and Korea, the latter is more common in Europe. INTI will contribute to both fields of work by collecting, developing and supplying knowledge and experiences.

a. Shanghai Satellites - Romantic Eclecticism in China's Cosmopolis Publication by Harry den Hartog (ed.), 2008-2010. Sponsored by INTI

The main goal of this publication is to report the results of the 'One City, Nine Towns' project for the international specialist world. It entails both the architectonic aspects and the urban strategy of the plan.

In order to be able to cope with urban growth, we need new models. Shanghai wants to be a model city and the city council has promised to show how the city of the future should be shaped spatially, economically and socially. The ambitious 'One City, Nine Towns' project takes as its starting point a shift from the 'central town model' to a poly-nuclear model. It has never happened before that such a large and comprehensive urban development plan has been realized in such a short time span (less than ten years). Moreover, it is unique that those New Towns, analogous to Ebenezer Howard's Garden City theory, shall be self-supporting. They are intended to be able to function independently from the mother town. This is what makes the project move beyond its European examples.

The project focuses on the ten thematic New Towns in the region of Shanghai and intends to show in an orderly and objective manner the constitution, background and meaning of these new settlements. Thus it will present an important learning experience for the international professional community. At the same time, the publication will be a manual for the many architectural tourists that will go to Shanghai for the Expo 2010 and visit the new satellite towns. The book offers new ideas on urban development presented by this important metropolis and the meaning of this 'new' urban development model. The book *Shanghai Satellites* will be presented in May 2010 at the Dutch Pavilion of the World Expo in Shanghai.



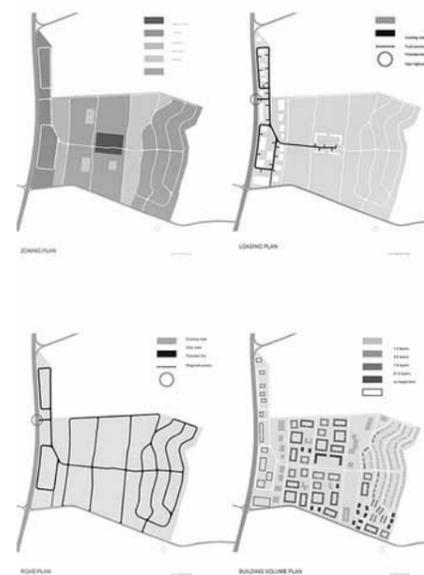
b. Postcards from Babylon. New Towns in Asia after 1990 Research and publication by Rachel Keeton et al, 2009-2011. Initiated and financed by INTI

In Asia, currently, there is a boom in New Towns. New Towns in Asia present a reflection of trends throughout the continent in the context of an urbanizing world. They are mirrors of national and regional economic status, population growth, and political stability. By examining the conception, design and subsequent growth of these cities, we learn about cultural and sociological factors as diverse as they are interwoven due to globalization. The most fascinating aspect of the current generation of Asian New Towns, is that this single moment in history provides a complete cross-section of the trends that have spanned the various New Town movements since their conception. Some—especially those from the early 1990s—are efficient housing machines, plagued by unemployment and wrought with social problems such as depression and crime. Some are cities designed to provide an escape from the outside world, often interpreted as resort cities, or playgrounds for the rich. In this generation we also see ecologically conscious cities that define themselves by their carbon emissions levels. Closely linked to this are the technologically advanced cities that hope to provide a better "machine for living" by mechanizing every aspect of that life. And then there are the cities that boast lenient tax laws and seduce investors with promises of cheap labor and growing markets. All of these themes will be discussed in the final publication, a combination of an atlas showing 18 case studies and some analytical texts.

Rachel Keeton is researcher at INTI and head of the research team 'New Towns in Asia after 1990'. With collaboration of Tom Kolnaar, Daniel Zhang, Tom Bokkers, and many others.

Casestudies

- Eco-Cities
- Zira Island



- Tianjin Eco-City
- Gwanggyo Power Centre
- Masdar City
- Dongtan
- Hi-Tech Cities
 - New Songdo City
 - Unjeong New Town / U-City
 - Weihai Science and Technology New Town
 - Hyderabad HiTEC City
 - Cyberjaya
 - Hao Lac HTP
- Resort Cities
 - Saadiyat Island
 - CamKo World City
 - Al Madina A'Zarqa
 - BSD City—Bumi Serpong Dumai
- Economic Cities
 - King Abdullah Economic City
 - Prince Abdul-Aziz Bin Moussaed Economic City
 - Knowledge Economic City
- Political Cities
 - Putrajaya
 - Astana
 - Naypyidaw

c. The New Town of the Future

Research aimed at designing, in cooperation with national and international educational institutes, such as Technical University Delft, The Why Factory, Bauhaus, University of Berkeley, Rice University and Tsinghua University, 2010-2011. Initiated by INTI

This project will entail a design studio, intended for students in the fields of architecture and urban development, designing a New Town in the twenty-first century. What urban and spatial concepts are imaginable at the moment for building an entirely new city? What can we learn from existing New Towns? What concepts do contemporary designers use in developing New Towns? Next to a few brief, introductory classes and some study of literature, the students will design (part of) a New Town under the supervision of a teacher with practical designer's experience.

4. The Planned and the Unplanned New Town

Currently, there is much critique on the way in which New Towns were planned during the twentieth century: with a large degree of control over all the aspects of urban society. The worldwide urbanization that mainly takes place in development countries, often do not turn out as a New Town, but rather as unplanned cities, slums, favelas or self-organized towns. This relation between planning and self-organization was the topic of a conference organized by INTI some time ago: *New Towns for the 21st century. The Planned vs the Unplanned City*. During the summer of 2010 there will be a summer school, *Organic City*. This will be the first time to study ideas about extensive urban development, based on government planning and apply them to the city of Almere.

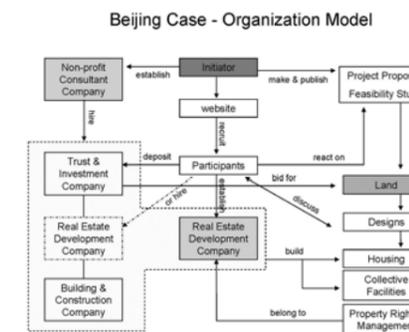
a. Spatial design and social planning

PhD project by Jing Zhou, Technical University Delft, co-financed by INTI, 2008-2011

Jing Zhou's Ph.D. research project is aimed at exploring the spatial and non-spatial conditions that facilitate social, cultural and economic vitality in planned new cities. She will base this on a comparative study of recent Chinese and European cases. The primary cases are Almere and Tongzhou near Beijing. Milton Keynes (London) and Songjiang (Shanghai) will serve as secondary cases.

The project is an interdisciplinary study of spatial design and social planning. Urban vitality is studied through the angles of daily activity patterns of local people, self-initiated small businesses and activities, as well as public participation in social and cultural affairs. A morphological analysis will be made of the spatial composition and the design of various scales; subsequently, this will be combined with social and empirical data.

The main hypothesis is that three important factors, i.e. Place-Program-People, constitute the essence of urban vitality. This project wants to develop a balanced relation of these three elements. The built environment provides a framework for human activities. The top-down organized events play a positive role, but more importantly, the local people themselves can take initiatives to appropriate space over time. In other words, a new city not only needs planned socio-spatial diversity but also a degree of self-developed complexity to animate real urbanity.



b. The unplanned town. In search of an alternative design system

PhD project by Ekim Tan, Technical University Delft, co-financed by INTI, 2008-2011

Ekim Tan's research project is about the unplanned town. She will study the friction between top-down focus of design and the responses to that by the inhabitants. The goal of her research is to propose an alternative design system that responds to the evolving needs of users over time. For this purpose she has been working on a method where players design in real-time real-place responsive 'design game' environments. The critical point of such games is the definition of simple rules and constraints which eventually help the designer to simulate parameters of a given design question. For extracting such rules so that they can be simulated in design games, Ekim uses case studies of informal, formal and hybrid settlements from Turkey (Istanbul), the Netherlands (Almere) and Portugal (Evora).



c. The Squatted New Town

PhD project by Simone Rots, Technical University Delft, co-financed by INTI, 2009-2012

Simone Rots has started a study on planned New Towns in Latin America and focuses on the interaction between the concepts of planners and the local culture of inhabitants. In her research, 'The Squatted New Town', she analyzes the way urban informality has interfered with modernistic planning on the basis of two Venezuelan New Towns, 23 de Enero in Caracas and Ciudad Guayana. The case studies are different representatives of the generation of modernistic New Towns. In her research project, Rots will trace the original plan and the urban additions after fifty or sixty years of inhabitation. The present situation shows the way the original plan of the professionals has been received and transformed by the local culture. Within the context of urban design this can be explained by researching the meeting points of the planned city of the professionals and the unplanned city of the non-professionals.

5. New Towns in the Netherlands: the 'groei-kernen'



Apart from the polder towns of Emmeloord, Lelystad and Almere, there are no New Towns in the Netherlands that have been designed and built from scratch. But there is a generation of cities that resulted from the second Nota Ruimtelijke Ordening (Memorandum of Environmental Planning), which are called 'groei-kernen', or centres of urban expansion. These sixteen (small) centres or villages were marked out by the government to solve the increase in population according to a model of "clustered deconcentration". During their forty years of existence, they have grown into rather large suburban areas (Haarlemmermeer and Zoetermeer even have over 100,000 inhabitants). By now, these towns have aged to such an extent that part of the housing stock needs renovation. Because of regional developments, the relation with the 'mother town' has often changed. There are many infrastructural and transportation problems, the composition of the population is one-sided and there are not enough public facilities or services (esp. education and culture). In short: even though these 'groei-kernen' are quite diverse, being of the same generation they share many of the same issues.

In order to exchange knowledge, experience and information, from 2009 onwards INTI has been planning a series of 'diners pensants' in cooperation with project management agency APPM, at which the directors of the Centres of Environmental Development are present.¹

In 2009 INTI organized a conference in cooperation with the municipalities of Capelle a/d IJssel, Nieuwegein and Spijkenisse, with the title 'From dormitory town to dream town' (*Van slaapstad naar droomstad*). At the conference several academic and political lecturers discussed a few questions from municipalities. The proceedings of the conference were published by INTI, with essays of Arnold Reijndorp and Klaas Mulder and pictures by Paulien van Oltheten and Sander Foederer.²

A few of those studies, carried out under the supervision of Arnold Reijndorp, focus on the sociological aspects of the 'groei-kernen', and analyze the typical kind of (suburban) urbanization in those towns.

a. Lower middle-class in a spot

University of Amsterdam, Han Lammers Chair (Arnold Reijndorp, Stefan Metaal, Yannick Sonne), in cooperation with Onderzoek en Statistiek (Research and Statistics) of the city of Almere (Gerhard Dekker, Marian Huisman).

Preliminary study 1st of March – 1st of July, 2010. Actual study starts 1st of September, 2010 in Almere, as part of 'Healthy City'. Possibilities for expanding the study to other Dutch New Towns will be explored.

As in many 'groei-kernen' (centres of urban expansion) in the Netherlands, large part of Almere's population is formed by the lower middle class. Many of the issues recorded in for example the Social Agenda of *Schaalsprong* Almere, such as lagging education, depths, traffic jams, relate to this group. The success of right wing parties like Geert Wilders' PVV testifies to that. People also associate lower middle class with the image of 'mediocrity', which is often attached to New Towns. Up until today, hardly any research has been carried out focusing on this group.

The study on lower middle class builds upon this proposition about the social character and image of the New Town as mediocre. An interesting aspect of the project will be to compare Dutch 'groei-kernen' to other European, post-war New Towns. The British New Town policy, for example, was part of a much broader, regional industrial policy, mainly directed at attracting well-skilled workers to places of newly created employment. The French Villes Nouvelles, on the other hand, seem to be more directed at housing a new middle class, looking for a suburban living environment—a movement that threatened to choke the periphery of Paris and other large towns.

Questions that will be asked are: whom was the New Town intended for initially? Did this group settle there or did other groups come to the town, and for what reasons (changes in policy, changes in demands, development of supply at other places)? What were the effects on the subsequent development of the New Town (attracting businesses, social and cultural facilities, shops, catering industry)? What does this mean in the light of successive development and transformation of the New Town?



¹ Meetings have been held since 2009, with introductory notes by Michelle Provoost, Arnold Reijndorp, Bert van Meggelen and Kees Schuyt.
² *Vernieuwing van de nieuwe stad. Groeikernen van slaapstad naar droomstad*, INTI 2009



b. The second generation

Research in Almere and Zoetermeer. University of Amsterdam, 2009-2010, external financing. Research project in Almere: Frans Meijer in cooperation with Onderzoek en Statistiek (Research and Statistics) of the city of Almere, supervised by Arnold Reijndorp. Research project in Zoetermeer: Iris Huis, Saskia Naafs, Stefan Metaal, Arnold Reijndorp in cooperation with Onderzoek en Statistiek (Research and Statistics) of the city of Zoetermeer. Publication: *Geboren en getogen in de nieuwe stad (Born and bred in the New Town)*, autumn 2010.

Apart from many newcomers, a new generation of people that were born and bred in a New Town have started living on their own. Sociologically this is a unique phenomenon: for the first time we will be able to identify a generation of adult citizens whose life histories are in its entirety related to the development of a New Town. Who are they? How do they see the town? What social networks exist within this group? Are they devoted to the town of their youth? What is this group's meaning for the town's social capital? How do they see the future and the ensuing development of the town? The study has already been carried out and the results were surprising. The expected difference between people who left and who stayed proved not to exist. Many of the people who had left for education or a first job, returned married and had children. They have a connection with the city in which they grew up. They have friends and relatives, they know the town's qualities. Previously, the research institute Motivaction concluded that the younger generation's orientation of value is more dynamic and open than that of the population as a whole. By expanding this study in Almere to other 'groei-kernen', we will create a complete image of this first generation of born and bred New Town civilians.



c. Modernity and suburbanisation

PhD project by Ivan Nio, University of Amsterdam (Han Lammers Chair), co-financed by INTI, 2010-2011

In the Netherlands, living areas surrounding towns mainly consist of single-family dwellings with garden. It is questionable whether these vast areas can be marshalled as generic suburban landscape, since there are differences between suburbanization and suburban cultures in the Netherlands and other countries. In the Netherlands, the process of suburbanization always was of a distinctively planned nature. The suburban areas around towns are always of a higher density than in other countries. Moreover, there are collective ideals. As a result, typically Dutch outskirts and suburban culture surfaced. However, there is little understanding of the distinctive characteristics of Dutch suburbanization or the various ways in which the Dutch suburban landscape was shaped. Up until today, social, cultural and spatial studies had remarkably little attention for the post-war suburbanization and suburban culture. The current PhD-project focuses on the post-war history of suburban culture in the Netherlands against the background of modernity. This concept may be the key to understanding the contradictory marks of planning and design of suburbs, as well as suburban culture. Exercising the concept of modernity, suburbanization will be framed within a broad cultural context.

The researcher will study in what way post-war suburbanization has been appreciated as a surging spatial and socio-cultural force, and what its effect was on two separate domains of modernity: planning and design of suburbs on the one hand and daily life and experience on the other.

The study will be a quest for the peculiarity of post-war suburban living culture in the Netherlands. It will try to establish to what extent the suburban areas have emerged from a certain attitude towards modernity and suburban culture. Moreover, it will discuss how the suburban areas have generated a form of modern experience themselves that disagrees with the urban public sphere. Another research question is whether daily life in the suburban areas is exemplary for the modern conditions of changeability, diversity, detachment, mobility and as an expression of the promise of progression.

town of the Netherlands will have its own powerful economy, which the inhabitants will contribute to as well as profit from. But it should also change Almere into an economic centre in the region. What means does the government have to put this job machine in motion and what role can urban development in general and *Schaalsprong* specifically play? This is one of three questions for the Implementation Agenda, drawn by INTI in cooperation with the Urban Development Service. In order to mark the difference between the past and the new spirit of the future, the question will not be 'how do we plan employment in Almere', but 'how do we put Almere's economy in motion in such a way that there will be jobs?' Furthermore, we will not ask how to create employment for the citizens of Almere, but 'how do we relate to the "mother town" (Amsterdam) and Almere's northern and eastern neighbours with regard to economy, mobility and employment?'

To do so, we need new and different opinions on the role of the government. Instead of planning and securing, the government should aim at putting Almere's economy in motion. She can do that by taking away obstacles of rules and zoning. But entrepreneurship can also be mobilized by providing an infrastructure, physically and organizationally. Moreover, it is important to think on every level: from multinational to freelancer.

INTI will search for best practices in urban regions in the Netherlands and abroad, where innovative application and adjustment of government instruments have mobilized the economic and entrepreneurial potential, resulting in sustainable employment and an innovative local economy. These examples will be listed and compared to the reality of Almere's local context, so that they can be tested for relevance. This will result in an advisory report consisting of a series of ideas and interventions at various time and scale levels, assembled into a comprehensive perspective on creating employment parallel to the *Schaalsprong*.

(ii) Rapid growth

Ambition: Almere wants to grow quickly into an appealing town, with a vivid body of services and a concerned population. Question: What influence can we expect from rapid growth on an existing town? What experiences have been acquired in other rapidly growing (new) towns?

It is generally accepted that a gradually developing town develops well. Gradual growth means cohesion, continuity and an opportunity for the people to grow with their town and vice versa. For Almere this is not possible: the town has been created from scratch and was built in large fractions, in order to provide its new inhabitants every time with a useable, complete quarter. With the *Schaalsprong*, Almere has chosen to build on this paradigm, entailing a different strategy for service, urban planning and housing stock than other towns as large or important as Almere may use.

Does this 'strategy of the big leap' continually need an integrated approach, directed from above? Or is it possible, even with such rapid growth, to leave filling the outlines to the citizens and entrepreneurs of the town? Should not a town that grows with thousands of houses at a time take care of the right level of services, attractiveness of the new quarters and a right measure of housing supply? But what does this mean for Almere's ambition to have the town develop in an organic way? And what does it mean for the wish to give Almere its own, authentic identity with which citizens will be able to identify?

The effect of growth in big leaps on the existing town is highly underestimated. What does it mean for the city centre of Almere or for the position of residential areas if they are suddenly bordered by new attractions or new residential areas? Will they be overwhelmed by the influx of passers-by and customers, or will they be drained by the new, nice, attractive supply of services? What happens to the quality of modernity and novelty, so much working to Almere's advantage, if parts of the town will, after one decade, already be considered the 'older' parts of town. How can we design an infrastructure and public space that is sufficiently elastic and flexible to make a town understandable and coherent despite its extensive growth?

In other words, the rapidly growing town needs different answers and tactics than the layered, historical town. It is therefore much needed to make a study for best practices, examples and instruments from towns that go through the same development or did so

in the past. These are not only New Towns. Often they are older towns that suddenly experience rapid development. We should study such towns for aspects that are often disregarded: what was in Dubai the effect of the spectacular developments of the past decade on its older part? How have they succeeded in Madrid to give coherence to the fast developing new quarters with the existing town and its distinctive culture of the use of public space. How have the French Villes Nouvelles succeeded in distinguishing themselves permanently from the amorphous suburbs they were added to? What instruments did they develop from the start in order to face the problem of a one-sided age structure—a problem which most new quarters have, and which has disastrous consequences for the level of services fifteen or twenty years after the first arrival of inhabitants.

(iii) Healthy systems

Ambition: Almere wants to become a sustainable town. Question: How can Almere become a testing site for the sustainability industry? How can Almere grow beyond the level of the many small experiments and aim at large scale, integrated innovation of water, waste and energy systems?

The time has passed that ecologically warranted systems for water, energy and waste can be considered a separate, purely technical issue. Firstly, if we chose isolated and merely problem solving interventions, many opportunities for really saving raw materials would be missed. Secondly, we will lose the opportunity to achieve positive effects in other areas, using the improvement for sustainability as a lever.

Almere would like to use waste as a commodity, collect and reuse water, generate energy in a clean way and use it economically. As a town Almere wants to be carbon neutral. Combining such ambitions will yield more than each on its own. Almere considers the town as an organism, as a dynamic system and an ecology unto itself.

INTI wants to search internationally for examples of strategies that take the ecological health of a town as a whole as their starting point and even use it as guideline for urban development. That does not mean achieving environmental goals by a mass of separate measures, but developing an integrated strategy, evolving in time and space, in which various systems interact as well as strengthen, feed and complement each other. Are there towns or regions that employ such integrated, ecologically grounded development strategies? What is their range of action, and what is their effect?

However ecologically perfect a system of energy, waste and water is set, a town cannot be reduced to such a system, however small the town's ecological footprint is. A carbon neutral town is not necessarily an appealing, livable or viable city. Therefore, ecological sustainability should go hand in hand with economic and social sustainability. The ecological system improvements should also lead to economic improvements, and with that to social innovation. Investing heavily in ecologically healthy systems can give Almere a wholly new economic zeal, attracting new industries and employment. Educational institutions should respond to that with specialized courses, conferences and knowledge institutes. If Almere is able to become a High-Tech campus for ecological urban development, this will have an important effect in the long run on the image and social structure of Almere.

It is easy to think of the positive effects for the town as a whole of choosing sustainability by using one healthy system. However, for the development and step-by-step execution of such a programme we need an orientation and inventory of experiences and projects abroad. These will often be partial references, but they can become part of an integrated project in which Almere may be a forerunner on international level.

(iv) Other issues

At a later stage, INTI also intends to study the following aspects (also derived from the practice of planning and development of Almere, and applicable to other New Towns in Europe):

- **Education:** What relation exists between the progressive experiments in the educational system of the New Town during the pioneering stage and the current

(bad) state of education. To what extent is this connected to the composition of the population (which is different than expected)? To what extent are the educational developments in Almere and Lelystad symptomatic for other New Towns in the Netherlands and abroad?

- **Culture:** How can we raise an audience in a New Town for cultural activities? How do people use the planned cultural facilities? How does the 'hardware' relate to the 'software', in other words: to what extent can we stimulate and govern the development of an urban cultural life? What policies have been outlined by various towns and what are the results?
- **Criminality and safety:** What trends can we observe in the emergence of criminality in connection to the New Towns' life cycles? Which aspects of safety are related to the design of the towns? Are there similar trends in other New Towns and how do these cities deal with those?
- **Public parks:** Almost all post-war New Towns have a large amount of green space. On the one hand this is appreciated, but on the other hand it also signifies problems of management and maintenance. In other towns, people have done trials with various kinds of management and other forms of usage. Which are successful and can serve as an example?
- **The organic town:** New Towns are entirely planned towns in an era in which the government no longer has or wants to have the authority of all aspects of the spatial, social and economic development if a town. How can other parties gain influence in this development? How can we employ participation and self-organization? How can communal services appreciate a new mentality and mode of operation?

7. Computer Simulation Models



1 *Rapport New Town Simulator*, by order of INTI, carried out by dr. Igor Mayer, dr. ir. Arthur van Bilsen and ir. Egbert Stolk (TU Delft), 2008.

2 *Model Town. Using Urban Simulation in New Town Planning*, SUN 2009

The use of GIS, Virtual Reality, Serious Gaming and urban simulation models are recent ways of studying (New) Towns. There are many fields in which such computer simulation models are usable: for analytical research, for drawing models and visions of the future, for providing an insight into complex situations and as a help in decision making. In 2006 researchers from the Technical University Delft initiated a first exploration of the relevance of this field of action for the planning and study of New Towns. The study entailed an inventory of various models and institutions working in this field.¹ At a conference in 2007, organized by INTI, many international lecturers spoke about the development and application of state-of-the-art simulation models. As a follow up of the conference, a book was published in 2009, *Model Town. Using Urban Simulation in New Town Planning*.²

a. Using computer modelling in urban planning

Two day seminar in cooperation with U-Lab, Technical University Delft, 2010

This seminar is directed at professionals working in urban development and planning. It is based on the idea that computer modelling has a productive surplus value for designers, planners and policy makers in urban development. During the seminar, the participants get to know five relevant simulation models, which are presented, demonstrated and discussed. The (im)possibilities and applications of the models are shown by way of real-life locations and realistic assignments.

Another important subject of the seminar is that simulation models can only be of use when the user is aware of their limitations and deficiencies. Simulation models are not suitable for taking over the design, but they are a new instrument, a new tool for the design and planning world. If computer modelling is considered an autonomous field of action, we will run the risk of a technocratic take-over. Moreover, because of the persuasiveness and attraction of visualizations there is a seductive power of software magic that can lead to a situation in which results and product of modelling will be accepted without critique. The aim of the seminar is therefore not only to transmit information and research, but also to empower designers in a complex technical world.

b. Modelling and Morphology

Conference in cooperation with Technical University Delft, 2010

At this academic conference lecturers are invited to speak about the question how simulation models can advance morphological research. Many existing tools have shortcomings when it comes to a possible spatial form and a type of urban environment, since they do not go beyond quantities and zoning. Often the makers of such models are engineers with economic know-how, who are forerunners to designers with regard to analytical and algorithmic creativity. However, the three-dimensional and morphological aspects of the urban environment receive less attention. Most of the time, for makers as well as users, an information gap appears when using the model: what spatial environment and qualities should be represented? The theme of the conference will be to look for applicable research models and connecting them to the spatial characteristics of a town. Ultimately, the goal is to make a new step in morphological research by way of urban simulation.

c. Almere Model

In cooperation with the city of Almere, 2011

Municipal services in Almere have detailed information on many urban aspects: from the town's genesis onwards, spatial-physical, socio-economic and socio-cultural data have been collected and saved. The goal of *Almere Model* is to develop a database, based on GIS, in which many kinds of data can be correlated. People can consult the database for (academic) research. Furthermore, it can serve as a basis for designers and planners and as a source of information for the (construction) industry.

Following Almere, the model of the database can also be applied to other towns in the Netherlands (the 'groeikernen', or centres of urban expansion) and abroad. The information should be organized and connected to other databases, so that it will continue to be up-to-date. This is one of the ways in which INTI can create a distinct profile for itself as *the* centre of knowledge and information on New Towns.



The research programme of the International New Town Institute has been drawn up by:

Dr. Michelle Provoost, director INTI

Prof. Dr. Arnold Reijndorp, Han Lammers Chair, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam



Prof. Dr. Wouter Vanstiphout, Chair of Design and Politics, Faculty of Architecture, Technical University Delft

INTI, 2010



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Gemeente Almere



NUMBER-
WANTONWALL
NEW TOWN
INSTANTPUTTING