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In many respects, 2008 was an important year for the International New Town Institute. At the beginning of the year, the agreement on the Investment Program Flevoland Almere (IFA) was signed by the Province of Flevoland, the municipality of Almere, and the International New Town Institute, as a result of which the financing for the period of 2008-2010 was secured. In April the foundation of the International New Town Institute was completed, realised by delegates of the five partner institutions: Delft University of Technology, University of Amsterdam, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, the Lelystad Nieuw Land Heritage Centre and the public library of Almere. In spring we started recruiting of staff. In summer, the municipality of Almere made it possible to accommodate the institute by providing offices at Blekerstraat. In October, dr. Michelle Provoost was contracted as the academic director. November the first, the starting-up phase was officially completed and the institute was ready for take-off.
The International New Town Institute

The International New Town Institute is a research and knowledge institute which focuses on the history and regeneration of Western New Towns, with a commitment to improving the planning of present day New Towns worldwide. The research takes a wide angle approach, employing social sciences, history, design and planning as analytical and operational tools. The subjects of this research range from the informal cities in the developing world, to large scale planning in urban Asia, to the use of urban simulation in planning. INTI initiates studies, offers educational programs, and organizes public events and lectures.

1. Knowledge institute
INTI will be an independently working scholarly institute, with cooperating partners. In future there will be more partners added both from the Netherlands and abroad. As a knowledge institute INTI aims at several target groups: academic research workers, students and professionals from home and abroad.

2. International
INTI’s field of activity will be international, as will be the topics brought up in research and education, the network of organizations, teachers and students, and also the events that INTI will organize.

3. Integral approach
INTI will distinguish itself from other, somewhat similar institutes by approaching the well described and defined research scope of New Towns broadly and extensively as regards content. For the next years INTI will be a fledgling, small organization and that is why it is necessary to present itself with a profile which is very distinct in regards to content, and to obtain the position of the knowledge institute in the field of New Towns, not deviating too much towards the fields where many other institutes or commercial enterprises are active already.
In research, education and public activities INTI aims at an integral approach of the New Towns issue, linking historical, social and socio-cultural research to studies of design, environment and planning. In this INTI tries to be innovative and experimental.

4. In Almere
Almere is the place where INTI’s offices are established, and the municipality is one of the subsidizing institutions. The relations between Almere and INTI offer mutual benefits. The presence of a New Town internationally regarded as successful, gives INTI legitimacy and forms an inexhaustible topic of research.

5. Spider in the web
INTI is a knowledge centre in which several institutional partners participate. INTI functions as a linking element, as a platform for the associated partners. Furthermore, INTI wishes to increase the cooperation in order to broaden the scope of research fields, as well as to reach the international profile to which the institute aspires.
INTI is a school of research where PhD candidates from home and abroad can find each other. The number of PhD candidates involved in the institute will grow in the following years. The presence of foreign students and the availability of a documentation centre will make the institute a lively place.

6. Concretely: the basic facilities
From October 2008 INTI has been present and visible in Almere with an office in the city centre, containing studying space for students and PhD candidates, an audience for lectures and courses and an exposition, which will be visible partly on the glass façade and partly inside. Furthermore we are setting up a documentation centre which will consist of a library and an archive. The website will be expanded to be the main means of communication and knowledge exchange with professionals and scholars in the Netherlands and abroad.

These basic facilities will be used for doing research, applying and developing urban simulation models (New Towns Simulator), offering higher education, acting as a knowledge centre and organising public activities in Almere’s cultural life.
The director

Michelle Provoost is an architectural historian and partner in Crimson, Rotterdam. As a partner in Crimson, she was the director of the project WIMBY!, the great innovation project of Hoogvliet. She is the author of many publications, e.g. Asfalt, automobiliteit in de Rotterdamse stedebouw and her dissertation Hugh Maaskant, architect van de vooruitgang. Crimson Architectural Historians and the International New Town Institute work together on the project ‘The New Town’ a research program on New Towns in the cold war era.

Preceding INTI

In 2004 the municipality of Almere initiated the founding of a knowledge centre with international allure, focusing on new towns. It was intended to “do research, provide traineeships, provide research topics for PhD candidates, offer research assignments, organize lectures, symposiums and refresher courses, be a data bank, all on the level of higher professional education, university and PhD”.

In 2005 the municipality of Almere contacted for that purpose the universities of Amsterdam and Delft, the Hogeschool Amsterdam, the Lelystad Nieuw Land Heritage Centre and the public library of Almere. The six parties decided during a meeting in November 2005 to take over this initiative together in order to set up the foundation International New Town Institute founders (INTIo).

The years 2006, 2007 and 2008 were dedicated to the process of founding the institute. On April the first 2008 the INTI was founded. Formally speaking, this annual report 2008 consists of the reports of INTIo, 1 January – 20 April 2008 and the reports of INTI, 21 April – 31 December 2008. For the sake of convenience, in this report the institute will be referred to as INTI.
Research

For a knowledge centre as INTI, research is the core of all activities, and everything else is derived from it. The research is focused on new towns in the broadest sense of the word: chronological (from the oldest new towns in ancient history, via the restructured post-war new towns to the future towns in Asia) and disciplinary (architecture, town-planning, civil engineering, history, sociology, economy). The personal base for the research work is formed by the staff of the institute, and particularly by the PhD candidates.

In spite of its simple appearance, the topic of research, the New Town, is a very comprehensive one with many fascinating aspects. INTI distinguishes between four main lines of approach, that will be present in all projects, in varying combinations: history, design, construct and culture.

- **history**: realization and development of new towns, from ancient history to the present, in all its aspects;
- **design**: urban, planning and architectural concepts, determining the realization of New Towns;
- **construct**: all aspects necessary for the actual construction of the New Town; concepts in the field of administration, civil engineering, environmental science or water management, real estate, financial processes, land exploitation and landed property;
- **culture**: socio-cultural, political and economic processes: the development of an urban culture in the context of a new town; the interaction between the spatial form of a town (hardware) and the social developments (software).

One of the innovative aspects of INTI is the fact that it brings together these widely different lines of approach.

**PhD candidates**

INTI takes part in the three PhD researches in which new towns play the main role. By partially financing these research projects INTI realizes a content-related cooperation between INTI, PhD candidate and university. At the same time, INTI increases its archive with the research results.

**Agency 2.0: Towards Adaptive Environments for Human Habitats**, ir. Ekim Tan

PhD candidate Ekim Tan studies the questions whether and how theories of self-organization can be implemented in the process of design. The private commissioners in Almere serve as a case for this study.

**Study of New Towns in China and Western Europe**, ir. Jing Zhou

PhD candidate Jing Zhou studies the new cities which are being built on a large scale in China, often with the use of western planning theories and methods. She compares three Chinese and Western European cities, one of which is Almere, focusing on different aspects of design.

**Export and informality**, drs. Simone Rots

PhD candidate Simone Rots studies the question of how new towns in Latin America, parts of Caracas, Venezuela in particular, were built according the modernistic ideas with great idealism and belief in progress. She analyses the developments, planned and unplanned, and describes the transformation of the cities by internal and external influences.

The three PhD candidates combined forces and undertook to organise in 2009 an international conference on their joint research topics – different forms of self organisation and new towns. In order to prepare the conference each of them has organised a preparatory session (see under public activities):

- Jing Zhou: Seminar New Town Planning and Self-Organization, focusing on China
- Ekim Tan: Workshop The Responsive City
- Simone Rots: Masterclass The Informal City

**Han Lammers Chair**

In September 2005 at the University of Amsterdam (faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences) the Han Lammers Chair has been established, financed by Almere municipality and held by Prof. Ir. Arnold Reijndorp. Focusing on socio-economic and spatial developments of new urban areas, the program of this chair closely attunes to INTI’s. Therefore, Arnold Reijndorp and INTI intensively collaborate.

**Atlas of the New Towns of the Netherlands**

In cooperation with the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency Professor Arnold Reijndorp will start a research project in which a description and analysis will be made of six so-called ‘growth areas’ (‘groekernen’), come into existence as a result of the policy on centres of urban expansion in the sixties. The purpose of the research is to analyse and map the concepts of the urbanity aiming at in the growth areas. The result will be a publication with the working title “Atlas of the New Towns of the Netherlands”.

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**Annual Report 2008**
A better understanding of the basis of the original project will contribute to the cultural-historical quality of the transformation to be realized. INTI contributes to this study, which will eventually lead to a publication, an exhibition and a conference. Crimson’s database, containing about 1,000 new towns, will be put together with INTI’s.

Quick Scan Financing New Towns, with an eye to Almere’s schaalsprong

In October the municipality of Almere requested that INTI carry out a comparative study about the new towns Milton Keynes (Great-Britain), Marne-la-Vallée (France) and Leidsche Rijn (the Netherlands) on behalf of Almere’s Schaalsprong. The central question in this study is: which investments are at the expense of the municipality and which of the national government? In the Netherlands, between the national government and the municipality there exists a fundamental separation of administrative and financial responsibilities. In France and England, on the contrary, the procedure is based on a pragmatic and result-oriented cooperation. The study will be finished in 2009.

Documentation centre

On behalf of the INTI documentation centre, the Public Library of Almere carried out an inventory concerning the building up of a collection, disclosure system, computerization system and accommodation. Twelve similar institutions were questioned and investigated for these aspects.

Mega-boring

The Han Lammers Chair and INTI, together with the municipalities of Spijkenisse, Nieuwegein and Capelle aan den IJssel, are making preparations for a conference in 2009 with the working title “Mega-boring”. These former centres of urban expansion are now faced with new tasks: improving the town, making the change from quantity to quality and making a switch from expansion to transformation. Questions about the identity of these ‘suburban’ towns, the changing socio-economic structure and the imperfect infrastructure also play a role in determining chances and points of special interest for these centres of urban expansion. The conference aims at exchanging knowledge, developing a strategic policy and setting up an agenda.

Delft University of Technology: GPS study Almere

Atelier Almere is an initiative of the department of Urban Planning, Delft University of Technology, the faculty of Architecture, the department of Landscape architecture of Wageningen University and the municipality of Almere. For three years students in different stages of their education worked on analyses and projects of the spatial development of Almere. The results will lead to the New Map of Almere. INTI contributed with additional research for the publication. This was in 2008 a GPS study which should give an insight in the spatial patterns in the daily functioning of the town. This study offers guidelines for the transformation which can be useful for the ‘Scale Leap’ (Schaalsprong).

The New Town in the Cold War Frontier

Crimson Architectural Historians in Rotterdam are working on a long term international comparative study of the development history of new towns founded on a modernistic basis in the period 1950 – 1970 in many parts of the world. The current tasks these new towns are faced with vary from shrinking to stabilisation and to further growth. In all cases the socio-economic changes involve more or less drastic spatial transformations.

New Town Simulator

Digital simulation models are considered a natural part of the research and education carried out by INTI; it is one of the ways to acquire knowledge about those aspects of New Towns INTI considers lying within its sphere of activity (history, design, construct, culture), because digital simulations can be employed as analytical means, they are an important means in cartographic research, and they can also contribute to new insights in the design, the planning or the policy concerning future new towns.

Work group New Town Simulator

In 2008 the Work group New Town Simulator was commissioned to write an advisory report about the role of simulation models in the program of INTI. The work group consisted of delegates of INTI’s partners and the municipality of Almere. They consider the New Town Simulator as an interface between policy questions of (international) commissioners and studies in the field of the (spatial) development of New Towns. In research and development, most emphasis is laid on the studying of medium and long term issues of Dutch and foreign New Towns by the methodology of state of the art modelling, simulation & gaming (MSG). INTI can make active contributions to the application and development of new MSG technology for the support of complex multi-actor situations of spatial policy and decision processes in New Towns.

In developing the New Town Simulator it should be considered that there are made large investments, both national and international, in the development of spatial models, simulations and gaming. The original idea, in which fifteen different models were to be available permanently within INTI, is not feasible in comparison with rival institutes. INTI has to enter into partnerships actively, and if necessary and possible, connect the commissioners, research and simulation technique to each other.

The complexity (e.g. self-organisation) as well as the cognitive approach of a town’s dynamics, are important issues for the New Town Simulator.

A good start of the New Town Simulator could be the development of a ‘proof of concept’ (POC) for topical tasks in Almere, making use of existing data, models and simulations and with an interdisciplinary team of students and PhD candidates.

INTI has to provide visible products soon, in order to extend its reputation and recognition. For this purpose, a close collaboration with the municipality of Almere is essential. The municipality of Almere can serve as an experimental garden, since all data are available.

By the end of 2008, the work group has been disbanded.

Co-makership IIE – INTI – Municipality of Almere

INTI has initiated a co-makership for two students of the Institute for Information Engineering in Almere. The assignment of the students was to map the simulation models used by the Municipality of Almere and to provide insight into the data flows. They were stationed with the team leader Research and Statistics of the municipality of Almere.

They captured the results of their study in a convenient scheme depicting the most used simulation models, users and data flows.

Publications

In 2008 the manuscript ‘New Town Simulation’ was made ready for its publication in 2009. This work reacts on the earlier organized conference on the application of digital simulation models in the planning of new towns. With the appointment of the director in 2008, a plan was made for initiating the so-called INTI series, of which this publication will be part.
**Education**

In 2008-2009, the setting up of an educational program which is both specialized and varied has the highest priority, in order that the courses, tutorials and lectures can start in the academic year 2009-2010. The education will be set up in consultation with the partner institutions and it follows the themes and lines of approach of the INTI research program: history, design, construct, culture.

**Work group education**

The work group education, established in 2008 and consisting of various representatives of the academic partners, was faced with the task of studying the various curriculums of the partner institutions which lead to the start of the educational program of INTI.

**Coordinator Education**

In order to organize and embed the educational modules into the programs of the partners’ institutes, drs. Frank Braakhuis was appointed in November 2008 as educational coordinator. He is in charge of making up graduation labs, workshops, series of lectures, excursions, work placements and courses for a broad public, all in cooperation with the partners of INTI and with other educational institutes in the Netherlands and abroad.

**Masterstudio IJmeer**

In the course of 2008 preparations were made for the establishment of an interuniversity graduation lab around the theme of the current issues about the IJmeer. The IJmeer, with its 8,000 hectare being the interurban space between Amsterdam and Almere, will undergo great changes for the coming years. Considering the urban development of IJburg and the rapid growth of Almere, this space can acquire the character of a metropolitan recreational area, but also of an area where nature values are increased, since IJmeer has been declared a nature reserve by the EU. New Town Almere is, with its ‘Schalsprong’, expanding in the direction of the IJmeer and is thus confronted with both aspects of this problem. Participating institutes and supervisors are: University of Amsterdam, faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences; Wageningen University, landscape architecture; Delft University of Technology, faculty of Architecture, department of Urbanism; Delft University of Technology, faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Climate Adaptation Lab.

In September INTI organised an open day for 60 interested students. The program included lectures about the IJmeer and an exploration by boat. The masterstudio IJmeer will start in 2009.

**Atelier Urban Innovation**

The Atelier Urban Innovation is a research, advise and design bureau of third and fourth-year students of the Hogeschool van Amsterdam. The Atelier was founded as part of the Lectureship Direction Urban Innovation. For six months 15 to 25 students of different technical disciplines of the HvA are working for the minor Urban Innovation in the Atelier in Almere, an independently operating bureau that investigates Urban Innovation and works for real life clients. INTI supervised two groups of students, each studying a number of new towns, respectively centres of urban growth (groeikernen), which resulted in contributions to INTI’s database.

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**Public activities**

INTI caters for a number of widely divergent target groups.

- designers: architects, urban developers etc.
- academics: historians, architectural historians, sociologists, cultural historians etc.
- higher education students and PhD candidates
- administrators, politicians, policymakers
- professionals from Almere
- interested residents of Almere

In the preparatory period of the institute in 2008, INTI already reached several of these target groups.

**Work group Public Activities**

Early in 2008 a work group Public Activities was formed, faced with the task of writing a cultural program for INTI. The working group participated in a general brainstorm about the new town as a theme in Almere’s (Flevoland’s) cultural life. In this brainstorm the idea came up of carrying out cultural activities collectively. Result of the meetings of the working group is a program of activities INTI 2009 – 2013, consisting of exhibitions, lectures, excursions and courses for a broad public. After this, the working group was disbanded in September.
Activities 2008

27 May PhD meeting
Every year INTI organizes an international meeting for PhD candidates to stimulate the mutual contact and bring together at INTI all knowledge of new towns. In 2008 the first PhD meeting took place 27 May in Almere. The network of researchers working on new towns consisted in 2008 of 50 PhD students and young researchers, 22 of which were present. In Museum De Paviljoens each participant gave, in an informal atmosphere, a short presentation, followed by a moment of reflection. Chairman of the day was Michelle Provoost. After lunch there was an excursion in Almere by bike, followed by dinner and the evening lecture ‘New Towns Abroad, Dutch Urban Design in China’. The initiative was highly appreciated, judging by the many enthusiastic reactions.

mr. dipl-ing. Peter Götsch, PhD TU Karlsruhe (G)
Neo-towns in the 21st Century. Innovations and Challenges of 21st century’s privately driven developments, exemplified along a comparative study of the three New Towns: Bumi Serpong Dama (Jakarta, Indonesia), Navi Mumbai (Mumbai, India) and Alphaville (Sao Paolo, Brazil)

mrs. Cheng Fangfang, PhD ITC, Enschede (NL)
China, Shenzhen

mr. Peter Sailer, Researcher FAR (Ch)
Challenges and opportunities of new Chinese cities

mr. dipl-ing. Sebastian Seelig, PhD TU Berlin (G)
Project Young Cities Iran

mr. Guillermo Delgado, researcher Berlage Institute (NL)
New cities in Asia specifically in South Korea

mrs. Caroline Motta, PhD University of Paris – Sorbonne (F)
Townscapes & New Towns

mrs. ir. Ekim Tan, PhD TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture (NL)
Agency 2.0: Towards Adaptive Environments for human Habitats

mr. dr. Ahmedzab Khan Mahsud, researcher KU Leuven (B)
Doxiadis’ figure and his projects around the world during 1950-60s

mrs. drs. Simone Rots, PhD Crimson / TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture (NL)
The New Town, new towns after WOII in Latin America

mr. dipl-ing. Ali Saad PhD / researcher TU Berlin (G)
New Towns in India

mrs. drs. Brenda Madrazo, PhD Universiteit Utrecht (NL)
‘Social change and spatial re-division: understanding China’s new urban fragmentations’

mrs. ir. Jing Zhou, PhD TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture (NL)
Planning the New City for People: The New Town Cases in Beijing, Shanghai, Almere and Milton Keynes
During this public evening lecture titled 'New Towns abroad, Dutch Urban Design in Asia', held in Almere's theatre, five Dutch bureaus presented amid great interest their plans for a new town in Asia.

- OMA (Adam Frampton) Waterfront City & Rak Jebel Aljass, United Arab Emirates
- MAXWAN (Rients Dijkstra) Project A101, Russia
- Venhoeven CS (Ton Venhoeven) Chungcheongnam, Korea
- DHV (Dick Kevelam) Caofeidian Eco-city, China
- Atelier Dutch (Rob van der Velden, moderator) Gaoqiao Holland Village, China.

After the presentations there was a concluding debate about the question whether spatial and social ideals are a factor in building a new town. Do utopias play a part or is the new town a kind of marketing instrument? Ton Venhoeven: 'I wouldn't like to associate Dutch designers with marketing. It should not be about spectacular buildings, but about designing everyday life'.

'Ah well', said Rients Dijkstra: 'you do your best to design something nice, then you make an effort to get it realized, and only years after you can say whether it's really functioning. And then you can learn from it for your next plan'.

Evening lecture New Towns abroad
International New Town Institute

Both self organization and planning are in China not yet established as a topic of debate. During the seminar the speakers discussed this subject from different points of view: analysis of Chinese new towns, urban policy and culture, master planning for western designers, reference projects and assignments of urban innovation, Urban Villages, participation projects in house building.

Workshop The Responsive City
29 September – 3 October part I Almere Haven
27 October – 31 October part II Istanbul / Gulensu

The double workshop ‘The Responsive City’ was led by PhD candidate Ekim Tan. This workshop, too, is part of the preparation for the international conference ‘New Towns for the 21st Century, the Planned vs the Unplanned City’, to be held 4 and 5 June 2009.

In ‘The Responsive City’, a group of international students compared the planned Almere Haven with the town Gulensu, which had grown in an informal way, without an aforethought plan. The towns make a good comparison: both are situated at similar distance to the ‘mother town’, Amsterdam and Istanbul respectively, and both areas have been developed during the seventies. Through street interviews and simulation programs, among other things, the group studied the effect on both cities of resident initiatives like starting economic activity or extending houses. In September the group of students descended on the campsite in Almere Haven. During the last week of October there was, in collaboration with Istanbul Bilgi University and Istanbul Mimar Sinan University, a similar workshop in Gulensu, opened by Martine Visser, chairman of Almere municipality.

28 May Seminar New Town Planning and Self-Organization, focusing on China

The Seminar New Town Planning and Self-Organization, focusing on China was led by PhD candidate Jing Zhou. This seminar is part of a series of three preparatory sessions for the international conference ‘New Towns for the 21st Century, the Planned vs the Unplanned City’, to be held 4 and 5 June 2009.

Neville Mars, Dynamic City Foundation (CN)
Shock and Awe

Dr. Shenjing He, Cardiff University (GB)
The formation of urban villages as self-organizations and its implications for urban governance in China

Giel Groothuis, PAR Architecture Center Shanghai (CN)
Challenges for New Town development in China: bottom-up urban planning strategies

Dr. Lei Qu, Delft University of Technology (NL)
Urban Renewal and Self Organization in Beijing inner city: from Housing to Urban Vitality

Viktor Oldiges, architect (DE)
New spaces for Chinese New Cities

ir. Daan Zandbelt, Zandbelt & van den Berg architecture and urban design (NL)
Trial and Error: comparison of European and Chinese new towns

ir. Hein de Haan, Delft University of Technology (NL)
Participation in neighbourhood planning in Almere

Masterstudio IJmeer: In September INTI organised an open day for 60 interested students. The program included lectures about the IJmeer and an exploration by boat. The masterstudio IJmeer will start in 2009.
Annual survey

January
Presentation, Bouwsociëteit Almere.
Signing project agreement by Province of Flevoland and Municipality of Almere.
Investment program for INTI.

February
Start assignment Atelier Urban Innovation, Hogeschool van Amsterdam.

March
Participation sLIM course ‘The Self Organizing Town’, in six parts.

April
Participation expert meeting Almere Principles.
Review PhD candidates Ekim Tan and Jing Zhou.
Establishment foundation INTI.

May
PhD meeting.
Evening of lectures ‘New Towns Abroad, Dutch Urban Design in Asia’.
Workshop Self-organisation in China.

June
Participation Symposium Atelier Urban Innovation HVA.

July
Interviews for several positions within INTI.
Completion advisory report documentation center.

August
Acceptation of INTI as follower CAO (collective labour agreement) Dutch Universities.
VNSU.

September
Participation jury contest ‘C U there’, about the use of public space in Almere, Houten and Haarlemmermeer.
Open day interuniversity masterstudio IJmeer.
Start co-makership students Institute for Information Engineering.
Completion report working group Public activities.
Workshop ‘The Responsive City’, part I Almere Haven.

October
Commencement of employment first employee, Sheela van der Borgt-Sharma, office manager.
Move and furnish location Blekerstraat.
Workshop ‘The Responsive City’, part II Istanbul, opening by Martine Visser, alderman municipality Almere in Istanbul (Turkey).
Participation annual congress ENTP in Vantaa (Finland) and Hässelby-Vällingby (Sweden).
Assignment Municipality of Almere: study Quick Scan Financing New Towns.
Participation presentation Almere 2030.
Decision appointment director Michelle Provoost.

November
Participation Symposium India, Arcam.
Chairman of the day, debate ‘Almere’s DNA’.

December
Start assignment Atelier Urban Innovation, HVA.
Completion reports working groups New Town Simulator and Education.
Financial account

For the period 2008-2010 INTI received a subsidy from the Investment Program Flevoland Almere (IFA). In 2008, the amount of € 542,130,- was spent according budget.