



AMSTERDAM
PLACEMAKING WEEK
OCT 10-14, 2017

City Expedition Delft The Heart of a New Town

11 October 2017



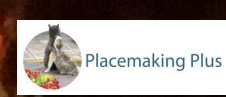
PAKHUIS
DE ZWIJGER*

Placemaking week opening City expeditions

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placemaking

AMSTERDAM
PLACEMAKING

Public space is located at the intersection of many global issues from health to sustainability, innovation to equity. Placemaking Week is all about leveraging this convergence.



1 DELFT SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE STUDY

List of participants

Michiel Boesveld
Kelly Reijnders
Ilse ter Horst-Rooijackers
Brandi Peacher
Summer Minnick
Lisa Crijns
Yuri Impens
Anne-Mercedes Langhorst
Rosemarie Maas
Madeleine Beart
Joe Clark
Paul Cunningham
Anuja Karve
Stephen Grossman
Shaghayegh Tavakoli
Axelle Valance
Jean-Charles Bossens
Dylan Meert
Luca Zampieron
Mirjam Kiewiet
Gijs Goesten
Daria Shorina
Peter Jonquire
John Damen
Philip Winn
Esther Yap

Who was present during the day

We had an international team from four different continents, Europe, America, Asia and Oceania. It was a diverse group of developers, architects, designers, sociologist, art consultants, ranging in age between 20 – 60. We also had people from Amsterdam and Delft itself, which gave an insightful touch to the whole day. Specifically, the presenters: Gido ten Dolle, Director Urban Development, Gemeente Delft; Philip Winn, Vice President at Project for Public Spaces.

Description of the atmosphere during the day

It was carefree, serious, informative and well – organized. Everybody was very engaged towards its environment, amazed about the Dutch way of handling things and very attentive towards the presentations and the speakers. The group was very social and a lot of people got to know each other very well. After identifying the six areas that need more attention, place-games were organized in which all participants were involved. The aim was to analyze the different areas to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

1 DELFT SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE STUDY

What kind of area

We studied the area around the tunnel built for the new railroad and the brand new train station in Delft. It was a newly formed area, which is different from the rest of the context, that splits the city in two. The area is situated between new and old Delft and is right on the transition point between modern buildings and historical heritage.

What goals were there for the day

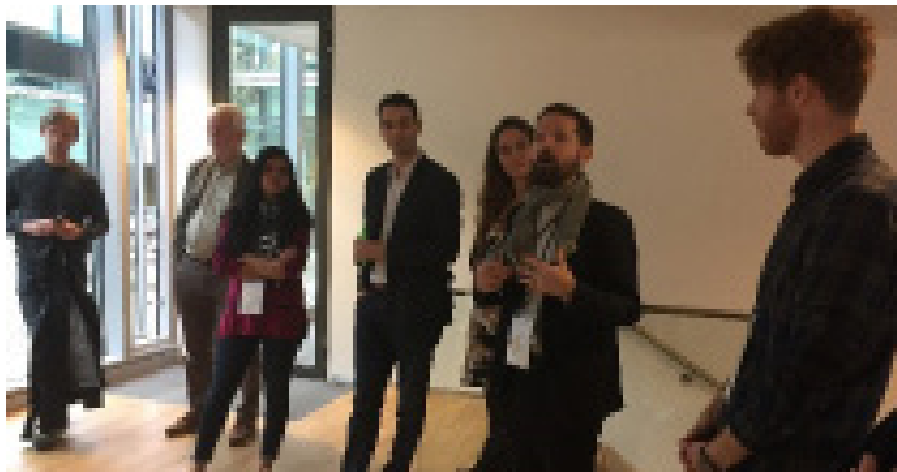
The challenge was about redeveloping the 'Urban Scar' so it would integrate well with the city as a whole. A project for everyone, not just for the inhabitants. It is important to cross the city from north to south so it is important a new connection. What is important is the human scale in the project as well. People tend to stay where there is a cosy environment and sit if there is a place to sit. How can we activate the surrounding environment to make it a lively transition point, where people feel at ease and enjoy their environment?



2 DELFT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA

Stadhuisplein

Strengths	Opportunities
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Location, connectivity and preservation of heritage.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Possibility of making a city landmark2. Playground for innovation3. Welcoming area for newcomers
Weaknesses	Threats
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wind tunnel effect, barren open ground and feels unsafe2. Area divided into two parts	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Poor access for bikes and pedestrians2. Too much paving3. Criminality and bleakness





PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

3DELFT PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Long term

1. Build a shelter over the bus station so it feels more warm and welcoming
2. Wind mitigation sails and canopy
3. Arches, tourist information and food trucks

Short term

1. Gentle surfaces and seating
2. Improve signage
3. Invite performers to activate space

The most important next step to take in Delft is to raise awareness first among all the departments and people working on the Spoorzone within the municipality that to create an area that is appreciated and alive, all departments should work together in taking the next steps to make places. It is important to convince the municipality, but also the other parties that are involved in the physical development of the Spoorzone of the importance of including placemaking in realizing the new projects in the Spoorzone. What has proved to work in Delft and many other places internationally is to include the future users of the places to find out what exactly they want in the place. This improves personal connection and ownership over the places. It is not only about physical wishes, but also about activities. A festival or other activities could even be a way of finding the wishes of the users of the place, as well as bringing life to the area even before the final projects have been realized.

What partners do you need to take things to the next level (and how can they help?)

Gemeente Delft and the TU Delft – students and innovative solutions, it's a creative hub which can improve the city environment drastically.

4 DELFT CONCLUSIONS

It was a very insightful day, we developed our placemaking skills and found the gemeente very attentive towards our ideas and insight. An overall success!

Before the placegame started, three bike tours were organized by the municipality for all the participants of the excursion. These biking tours – through the old centre, the university campus and the suburbs – showed the city and examples of placemaking that have been carried out before in Delft. The main themes of these projects were very much in line with the way how Delft presented itself throughout the day: a city where the historic roots and the innovative character of the knowledge driven city come together. Delft is already using placemaking in some spots to show this particular identity of the city. Besides this, the biking tour also showed examples of participatory placemaking in which spaces were turned into places of meaning and appreciation for the users of those places. By listening to what the real Delftenaar wants in their everyday space, and what makes their daily environment meaningful, better places were created.

The spoorzone has a lot of potential to become a place of meaning for all the users of the area: the inhabitants of the spaces and Delft in general, tourists, travelers, etc. However, it also has the risk of becoming a collection of spaces that nobody feels a connection with or an ownership over. Taking into consideration the qualities of Delft described above, there are however many opportunities of using the Delft style of placemaking to make great places in the Spoorzone. This location has all what it needs to show Delft's character: a new urban area in the middle of the old center. The opportunities here are to show the connection to the rich history of the city, while also making a connection with the innovation that the city has within its borders. Good examples given throughout the day was to find a place for the oldest clock-work in The Netherlands, as well as using big umbrellas of local company SENZ° as weather protection at the bus station. However, these examples are focused only on physical improvements. To make the spaces in the Spoorzone really come alive and meaningful, people will have to be involved to make coalitions and to find mental ownership over the places. The new inhabitants of the different houses and apartments in the area are good focus groups, as well as current and new entrepreneurs in the area. However, the area should become a part of Delft celebrated by all the people of Delft and tourists.



DE STAD OP OOGHOOGTE IN NEDERLAND

Samengesteld door Jeroen Laven, Sander van der Ham, Siënna Veelders & Hans Karssenber

blauwdruk

You can read more stories on
the city at eye level and placemaking in the Netherlands in our
new book

“The City at Eye Level
in the Netherlands”

More info on

www.thecityateyelevel.com



City Expedition Delft The Heart of a New Town

Report by: Dylan Meert, Luca Zampieron, Yuri Impens
More info about Placemaking Week Amsterdam 2017
Contact info: STIPO jeroen.laven@stipo.nl



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