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Introduction

With the subsidy of the literature, this essay defines the relationship between university and city. First, through a general point of view in the European context between 1200 and the 21st century and then more specifically in the context of Delft over the last seventy years.

The relationship between the academic community and the city is analyzed on different levels. It is possible to remark that this relationship works well on the level of the municipality for economic purpose but it does not work in the same way on the social level between the different actors of the city. The University and the city of Delft seems to be two separate worlds through the eyes of residents and students. The aim of this essay is then to try to find a proposal to tackle this disconnection between the two. Can the university give something back to the city and try to fix this rupture?

The relationship City-University in Europe

In Europe, the relationship between Universities and Cities has changed dramatically between the thirteenth century and today. During the first 600 years the university was physically related to the town since it was located in the inner part of it but these two entities were still completely independent of each other. There were no connections between the different fields of the various faculties and the universities used to be self-governing corporations of masters or students upon which the city did not have any power. After 1800 this relationship changed and the town became more and more dependent on the university and vice-versa. Professors start having functions in the city too and it was no longer possible to make a clear distinction between who was part of the university environment and who was not. The Humboldtian model for instance (which saw its development at the beginning of 1800) had as its main idea the cooperation between research and studies and it saw the university as an institution of knowledge creation as well as teaching. The age of technology saw finally a better collaboration between all the parties of the city. Local business and industry asked the universities for expert advice and university experts looked for funding for research and practical applications from the city. Looking at the Netherlands, the development of the relationship between the city of Delft and its university has some similarities

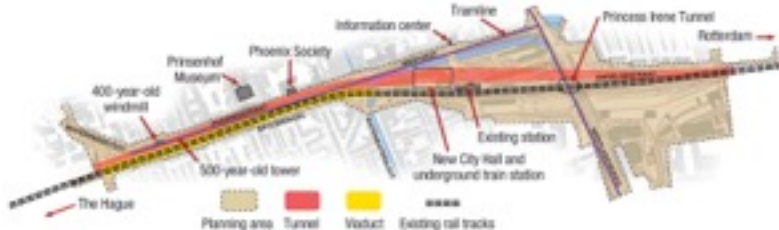
The Creation of the Knowledge City

The economy of Delft till the second half of the 20th century has always been related to its industrial activity, to its touristic sector and to the University and research institutes which have always been present in the fabric of the town. In the past the university was in fact located within the city centre but around 1970 the faculties have been moved outside creating two distinct and separated areas of the town. Delft society and the University of Technology stopped sharing the same context and the

contacts between the two became limited. In the seventies the city of Delft faced a crises in the employment sector which reached its high point in 1983 and in 1995 the local government understood the potential of investing to turn Delft from industrial city into a knowledge city which sees the collaborations between university, research, local business and the local government itself. One positive aspect of this period was that the relations between (local) business and universities intensified, partly as a result of their mutual interest in the exchange of information, reactivating the economic situation of the town. Universities found themselves forced as a result of government policy to carry out more contract research: the university as business enterprise. (Geenhuizen, M. van, 1997). It is possible to remark for instance that the presence of the campus has attracted several companies based on technology in the city of Delft recently.

As M. Kraaijenstein claims in his essay "Delft: from industrial city to knowledge city" (DATE) the objective of the campus is to become "a university of the twenty-first century based on a multidisciplinary approach, or 'integrated engineering', which takes into consideration the increasing convergence of technology, innovation, education, research and their social applications...".

At the same time the two urban development projects "Delft Spoorzone" and "Tu Delft Campus" are taking place. These urban projects are exemplary and a precondition for the "knowledge city" Delft wants to become. The Spoorzone consists of a mixed-use urban regeneration of the railway station area of Delft. It is located in a well-connected part of the city with the potential to provide living and working space for knowledge workers in the near future. The TU Delft Campus project is a redevelopment of the university's territory with high profile real estate to accommodate an institutional and a business need to innovate. As a result, both urban projects are potentially complementary in strengthening Delft's knowledge base. (Erwin Heurkens, Tom Daamen and Alexandra den Heijer, 2015)



Delft Spoorzone

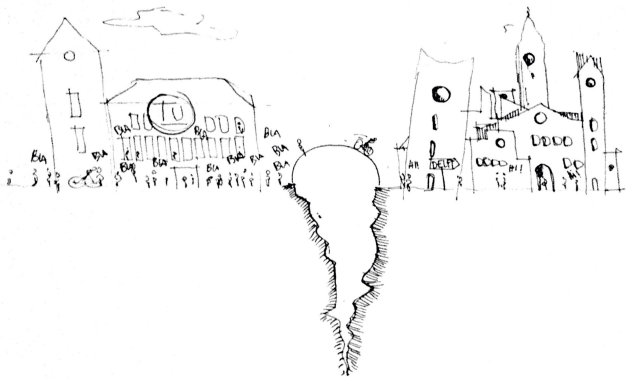


Development of the campus

Lack of knowledge sharing on a public level

Even though the creation of the Knowledge City seems to be the main goal of the municipality, and therefore the interdisciplinary exchange and the collaboration between city and university, as a student and as a resident it is still quite hard to perceive this cooperative aspect.

Asking to random people in Delft (tourists, residents, students) to draw a map of their perception of Delft what came out of it is that for student the city it is the campus itself and for residents the university of Delft is resumable in a road sign oriented to the outside of the city. The two entities still seems far away to be related in a common sharing process. Or better, the process seems have already started but the main actors of the city such as students and locals are not aware of it because they are not involved directly. It sounds to me therefore that this great treasure it is just accessible by few and that in this way the real connection will hardly be possible. Considering just the campus itself, for instance, it shows in my opinion a similar problem. Various faculties belonging to different disciplines are located in the same ground but rarely there are interchange between the various fields. There are some programs which allow students to take electives from other faculties but people do not even know about it. This convergence of fields seems to be there but not promoted enough. The city of Delft hosts one of the most recognized University of Technology of the country but all the expertise produced seems to be kept inside the boundaries of the campus without being shared and offered to the public. If on one hand the municipality is trying to invest on a city based on its knowledges and on the collaboration of parties on the other hand people who live in Delft are not aware about it. In other words, it could be said then that the lack of interaction is more present on the level of public users, while on the level represented by the municipality, companies and academic researches the collaboration it is rather active moved mostly by an economic purpose.



Map of Delft drawn by a student



Map of Delft drawn by a tourist

Sharing knowledges

Would it be possible to switch the focus from an economical purpose to a social one, to allow the public engaging with the knowledges belonging to the academic realm ?

Looking at the University of Technology in Delft what is missing in my opinion is the sharing process of the knowledge produced regularly inside the campus. In many other countries the results of the university process are valorized and offered to the city to create an exchange of knowledge. In the University of Westminster in London

for example over the summer the school of architecture sets up an exhibition of student's work opened to the public to promote new ideas and to make easier the process of employment for both students and employers. The society of London comes together during this university event which opens its doors to different users creating a connection between the university and the city.

If one considers the university in Delft as an evolving archive of material and immaterial collections of expertise then sharing the "objects" or outputs of this expertise acquires a new meaning since those mutual collections are usually forgotten or not even shared. The final outputs of the university could become therefore the bridge between the different users of the town and a means to create an interchange of knowledge within the most public level of the society.

On one hand what is needed in my opinion to make this process of collaboration accessible to everyone is a public and open space that forms social gathering points, where students, researchers, residents and why not tourists interact both socially and intellectually by sharing knowledge in the broadest sense without being forced to engage with any specific activity. What it is important to me is to create an environment which enables the exchange of ideas and which makes possible the crossovers between the various disciplines. In other words it is an area of the building which offers spaces to work, spaces for resting and restoration as well as just rooms to be in, opened to everyone which would allow the natural and spontaneous connections between different users.

On the other hand the building should become an urban institution representing the results and knowledges of the university. All the different faculties of TU Delft have in common the production of outputs. They produce regularly publications, student's work, new inventions, result of the research, all relative to diverse disciplines. The common actors of the city never have access to these knowledge and sharing these expertise could allow the engagement of the residents of Delft and the tourist with the academic world. It can give something back to the city about what happens just few minutes farther from the town centre and at the same time external people can actually take part and engage with it. From having a coffee reading the publications about different topics belonging to the big umbrella of technology, to go and visit the summer show as an employer to employ new young talents or attend a seminar about new invention by the research institutions. All the parties from students, to professors, common residents, researchers and local business could find benefits from a space in which knowledge are shared and therefore created.

The urban institution as a collection of expertise

What is the role of objects in this process of sharing knowledge?. *"If we consider archives not just as institutional forms but also as processes, archives are no ordinary depositories of empirical evidence about absent subjects and objects, but rather they are sites that serve to constitute forms of memory"* (Vyjayanthi Rao, 2009).

The act of collecting relative to universities, often associated to didactic purpose, becomes in many cases around the world the meeting point between the academic community and the city. Archives, museums becomes attractions and a "window" through which outsiders can have a look inside the university world. At the same time I believe that the act of collecting it is really personal and linked to its collector. Looking for example at the John Soane Museum, conceived and offered to the city of

London for educational purpose, the collections appear intrinsically related to its collector and to the building in which they are situated. They have been conceived to be in that specific place and the collection grew up together with the building itself.

When I think about the collections already existing in the campus of TU Delft, which have so many different characters, collectors and stories behind, I struggle to believe therefore that creating a new place for them in the city centre of Delft would add them a new meaning. Rather I prefer considering the university as a mutual archive of knowledge and try to give to those expertise, often forgotten, a new opportunity to be shared.

In this case the building proposed would become an urban institution representing the university in the city centre. On one hand giving the opportunity to the different faculties to share their knowledge and offer their result back to the city and on the other hand giving the chance to the residents and the public to engage and find benefit from it.

Conclusion

Considering the actual relationship between the University of Technology and the city of Delft, on all its levels, I strongly believe that the different faculties which are part of the campus have a responsibility in terms of what they give back to the city. At the moment the focus is much about the economical support while the social aspect is put aside. The University of Tu Delft is well known for its important research institutes, for being the largest university of Technology of the country and for being such an international environment recognized all around the world. I believe that the knowledge which comes out of the learning process should be valorized more to live up to the expectations linked to its "name". It is an archive of really rich knowledge which has to be shared and offered to the public to acquire a new value. The urban institution becomes then a place where the ultimate outputs of the expertise of the university are shared and where people belonging to different users categories can interact and create new natural and unexpected connections.

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