

An aerial photograph of a densely packed urban area, likely a slum or informal settlement, with numerous small, closely situated buildings. The image is overlaid with several semi-transparent orange rectangular shapes of varying sizes and orientations, creating a layered, abstract effect. The text is placed within these orange areas.

# PLANNING A SELF ORGANIZED CITY

Theory booklet

MASTER THESIS: TIM RUIJS

**THEORY PAPER**

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## PRELUDE



**KEVIN LYNCH:**  
HUMAN PERCEPTION, LEGIBILITY

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THE CITY IS A SEMI-LATTICE, NOT A TREE,  
COMPLEXITY AND URBANISM



# 5. THEORY PAPER

## 1.1 Positioning the chapter

The main conception for this thesis is self organization. Self organization in design, self organization in case study and self organization in Theory. This chapter will elaborate on what is defined in this thesis as self organizing development. The values and principles that formulate self organized development will be the bases of the design and organization of the development of Overamstel. This chapter also forms the background of the body of knowledge for the Theory of Urbanism review paper (AR3U012).

In order to explain the fundamentals of this movement an introduction to the background and upswing is given before the self organizing movement itself is defined. The conclusion will distinguish what values and principles are relevant for the defining of the self organizing movement. This conclusion will provide input in the design statement of chapter 8, the input for redeveloping Overamstel, Amsterdam. The conclusion will also provide an answer to the research question written down below.

### 1.1.1 Research question

Following sub research questions are important in this chapter.

1. What is self organizing development and are its leading values and design principles?
2. What significance has self organizing development

and what does it add to the current development methodology?

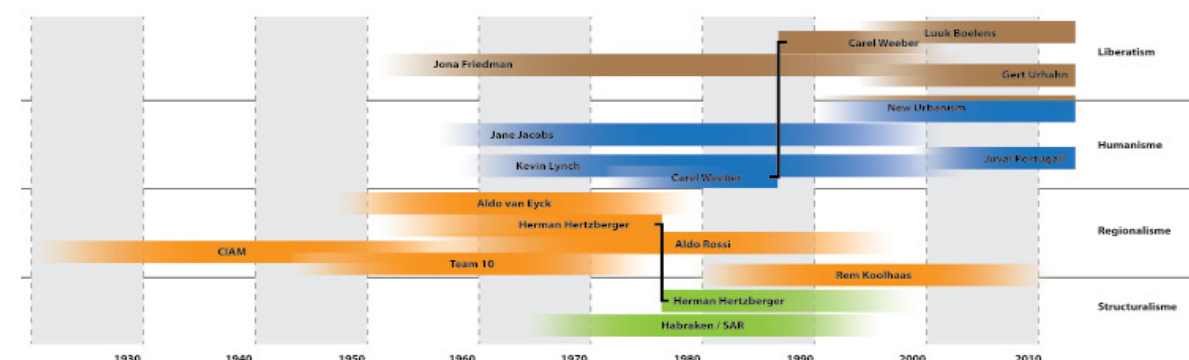
### 1.1.2 Delimitation

There are many theory who are of importance to the background and definition of self organised development. The theories that have been selected are the most relevant theories that can be analysed within the time of completion for this research. Theories of, for example Christopher Alexander – Pattern language would have been valuable for this research but it is simply too much work.

## 1.2 The prelude to self organisation

This chapter will elaborate on the theories that form set in motion the concept of self organizing development. The concept of self organisation gradually evolved from the strict planning methods of the CIAM's modernism. Only the most important writings and theories on the prelude to self organisation are summarized in this chapter. This chapter already starts collecting the values and principles important to self organising development. This will add even the most primitive ideas of free expression and self organisation to the final concept of self organisation in chapter 5.4.

The first chapter on CIAM will elaborates on the background of what is rejected by all of the other



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theories. This modernistic paternal and unilateral vision on planning set of a new direction in planning.

The second chapter will elaborate on this new direction. It set out by followers of CIAM who belived in a more humanistic vision on planning. This post-war planning was heavily influenced by artistic and theoretical vision on how humans should live. The progressive values of Team 10 and Aldo van Eyck's interpretation of the lucid city bring new ideas to the concept of urban planning.

The third chapter starts in the US, a journalist writes a book that impacts modern planning till this day. Jane Jacobs voices a feeling on how the modern city destroys community and other complex relations in the city. Many instantly becomes the face of protest on urban renewal.

The fourth chapter elaborates on Kevin Lynch, this theories on further develops the human perception and interpretation of the city. He tries to create a tangible system of maps and measurement on how a city becomes human friendly. He is the founder of socially engaged urbanism.

The fifth chapter of the importance of Herman Hertzberger will follow after the P2 presentation.

The sixed chapter will elaborate on the free spirit of Carl Weeber. Carl Weeber was a major follower of the liberal planning conception. The 'Wild Living' or Wilde Wonen was a revolutionary vision on a government free, self organised development method for the Netherlands.

## 1.2.1 The great evil: CIAM + Modernism

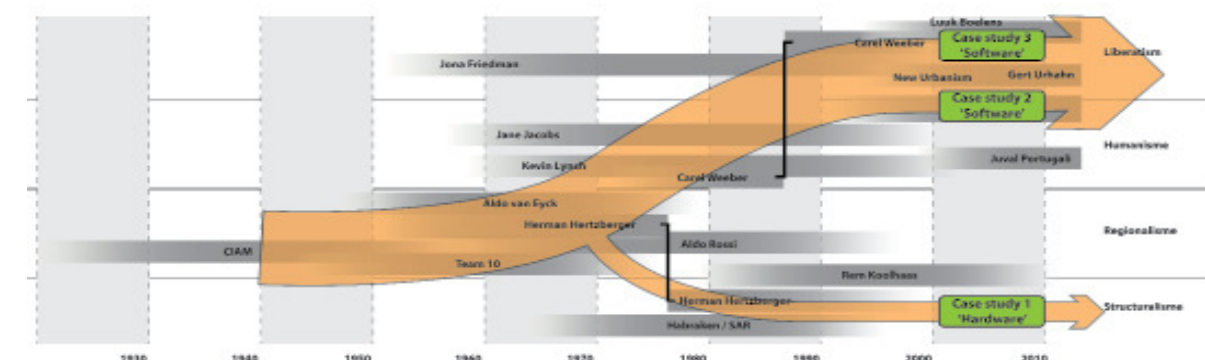
The Charter of Athens is the ideological manifesto of the CIAM movement. It is written by Le Corbusier himself and therefore seem to have almost mythical powers in the world of modernist planning and architecture. This charters summarizes all the aspect modernism is loved and hated for. When reading this, the reader should have the perspective of that time. Europe is poor and housing conditions are bad, most cities still rely on their medieval urban centre's. Industrialization has lead to unhealthy conditions pollution. This industrialization was named machinism by the CIAM an it was the source of almost all evil. The moment when CIAM came with the Charter of Athens, new, safe and clean alternative on current urban situation where in dire need.

The Charters 95 point on improving the city and its inhabitant was divided in the chapters: The City and Its Region, Habitation, Leisure, Work, Traffic, Heritage. The summary bellow is a mixture of all these element conclude along their hottest topics; Speculation and private interest, Human scale and activities, Deterministic regionalism.

'The soul of the city will be brought to life by the clarity of the plan'. (Le Corbusier, p. 86)

### 5.2.1.1 Speculation and private interest

Private initiatives are motivated by self-interest and inspired on the promise of profit, the root of all deplorable affairs, according to the CIAM. Authority



has not been conscious of the nature and influence of the machinist movement, everything multiplied in haste and individuality that leaves no room for plan or premeditation. Individual liberty and collective action are the two main concepts on which any undertaking should be calibrated.

‘Never has a return to the past been recorded, never has man retraced his own steps. To imitate the past slavishly is to condemn ourselves to delusion, to institute the “false” as a principle, since the working conditions of former times cannot be recreated and since the application of modern techniques to an outdated ideal can never lead to anything but a simulacrum devoid of all vitality’. (Corbusier, p. 70).

Legislation and strong administrative responsibility fail to save social solidarity under the pressure of private interest, ‘the development of our cities is conducted in utter disregard of the principles of contemporary urbanism which have been laid down by qualified technical specialists, therefore failing the protection of human wellbeing and dignity of life in western cities’. The view of Le Corbusier on these specialist that safeguard the principles of ‘contemporary urbanism is a technocratic one’. The two opposing realities this specialist are facing are a continues contradiction that define urbanism itself; public urgency versus the infinitely fragmented state of land ownership’. The ground should be open to mobilization whenever it is a matter of the public interest, not damaging individual liberties and rights.

CIAM makes a distinction between the difference in individual rights and (the vulgarity of; CIAM) private interests. Such interests, privileges reserved for a minority that forces the masses to a mediocre existence, require strict limitations. In every instance, private interests must be subordinated to the collective interest.

The absence of a good balance between individual liberty and collective action is the cause of the anarchy that prevails in the organization of cities and its industries according to the CIAM. Misunderstanding the rules have lead to empty fields, overcrowded cities and untamed industrial growth and concentration of dwellings have dilapidated to extensive slums.

‘Mechanized speeds condemn men to spend wearisome hours in all sorts of vehicles and, little by

little, to abandon the practice of the healthiest and most natural function of all walking’. (le Corbusier, p.81)

#### 1.2.1.2 Human scale and activities

CIAM finds its technical solutions in the ‘dimensions of human proportions, governing for all elements within the urban system’. The Vitruvian method of the natural measurements of man himself, as a basis for all scale of measurements applying to areas and distances, the human scale. This is also the right scale in relation to the context of the environment. Distances and time in perspective of human proportions and natural influences.

Four principle functions can be found in the urbanism of the Charter of Athens: inhabiting, working, recreation (in leisure time), and circulation.

**Inhabiting:** To assure mankind of qualitative and healthy accommodation, in the three essential condition of nature: open space, fresh air, and sunshine.

**Working:** Work will regain its character as a natural human activity. instead of being a painful subjugation.

**Recreation:** Facilities for productive and beneficial leisure time, relaxation and recuperation. cultivation of one’s body and mind, must not be neglected.

**Circulation:** Establishing links between these different organizations by means traffic networks and other communication networks. The main objective is to bring the other three into effective communication with one another.

Since the CIAM Congress in Athens, the four key functions of urbanism are offered the most favorable conditions to development its own activity, bring order and classification to the usual conditions of life, work, and culture. Each key function is effected by climate, topography, and local customs; modern techniques will be used in arranging and equipping them. The dwelling should be regarded as the very center of urbanistic concern and the focal point for every measure of distance. Urbanism is a three-dimensional, introducing the element of height will solve the problems of traffic and leisure by utilizing the open spaces thus created.

posed at the beginning of this chapter definition and relevance for needs to be provided. Thought the definition of self organization in an urban environment is not entirely complete the previous chapter should have provided the reader with a good concept of self organizing development. It is a free definition on flexible and little regulated growth. Some urbanist like to link the terms flexible, organic or unregulated to the subject. The author would define it as a flexible planning method. The relevance can be found in the chapter problem definition. The flexible planning attitude provides a good alternative to the current problems and crisis’s that plague the traditional development of the urban environment.

#### Ten main point of the author:

The following ten points of the author will provide direct input for the redevelopment of Overamstel.

##### 1. A clear defined framework (collective)

All collective processes need to be able to operate in an environment where individual initiatives of self organization take place. The framework should provide clarity, hierarchy and point of concentration. The framework should be neutral towards function and typology and allow as much possible so unforeseen developments can take place.

##### 2. Flexible infill of allotment (private)

The infill of the block inside of the framework should be as free as possible and user oriented. The plot size, architectural image, build form should enjoy an large amount of freedom. Only when a development causes unacceptable hinder for its environment regulation should be applied.

##### 3. Functional freedom

Do not plan with functions, only create the preconditions for a desired function would require. A flexible plan should allow a wide variety of functions on a much plots as possible. Functional planning should only be applies in key strategic locations that are guaranteed of success. The success of a neighbourhood should never rely in a single function.

##### 4. Flexible public space

As flexible and the plots and functions are the public space should be. The users should have a strong voice in the (re)development of their living environment. This creates actual usage, a local connection and the formation of communities.

##### 5. Public transport as carrier

Public transport should be an important instrument in the development of the plan. Reservation of space for future public transport initiatives is also part of this concept. The stops of public transport need to be embedded in the fibres the master plan.

##### 6. Historical and local context as guiding instrument (genius loci)

The existing context should be preserved where ever possible. Historical, social and landscape element can help to provide and mature identity in a new development. Localized influences should not be removed without appreciating their impact.

##### 7. High density

High densities provides a environment that allows efficiency in use and operation of public facilities and amenities. It should be a tool in creating a vibrant urban atmosphere. It provides a threshold value for many public and private activities and amenities.

##### 8. Compact urbanism

The creation of compact urban areas should allow the existence of local activities. The so called walkability and cyclability provides many positive influences for an living environment, it stimulates interaction and a possible crosspollination of urban processes.

##### 9. Stimulate diversity

A divers offer of functions, inhabitants, housing typologies, public space and transport modalities enlarges the liveability of a neighbourhood. Diversity should not me the goal but the means towards a goal.

##### 10. Create clear regulations.

In an environment where high concentrations of people and activities are taking place there is need for regulations. Only relevant regulations should find their way to the master plan. The regulations should be stimulate development instead of prohibit the image or functions of the development.



## Grid:

There are 11 values and principles that provide input on the structure or grid of an urban environment. Most of the input is on positive and negative effects transport lines. Public transport is presented as a good alternative for the car. Collective transport over individual mobility. Infrastructure bundle can split up neighbourhoods this effect should be minimized. Other aspects of the grid is routing, the interaction between the grid and the functions or destination make the grid relevant. A grid functions better when it has a small grain and compact network, this aims at having a generic grid that adapts to, and uses local influences.

1. **Value:** Neighbourhood shops, schools, and civic buildings should be within walking distance of one another
2. **Value:** Automobile infrastructure tends to divide cities, while rail transit corridors both spur development
3. **Value:** Flexible infill within a clear framework, adaptive infrastructure and clear routing

## Infill:

There are 9 values and principles that provide input on the infill of plots and allotments. Most of these values concern the image and position, grain and relation to its urban framework. These values vary from being very specific to very generic. Only the ones that relate to the Overamstel case can be used.

1. **Value:** All building types must foster a strong relationship between the inside and the outside
2. **Value:** Buildings should read as distinct and have individual character and relate to the genius loci
3. **Value:** Flexible infill in flexible framework, smart interaction between collective and private

## Public space:

There are 11 values and principles that provide specific input on public space. Safety seems to be an important issue in the subject of public space (Jacobs and New Urbanism). The general consensus is that the public space is a very influential factor in the success of the build form and urban grid. Aldo van Eyck linked other social and educational processes to public space.

1. **Value:** Small leftover space can be used educational and as social binder
2. **Value:** incorporate the seven qualities of the New Urbanism charter in the design of public space: Human presence, congeniality, protection,

visibility, order, connectivity, legibility

3. **Value:** Different types of green and gathering places should be distributed within neighbourhoods

## Regulations:

There are 18 values that specify the need for the regulation of processes that cannot be left completely free. Zoning rules and other instrument like density, growth boundaries and building codes that control the composition of the urban tissue. The codes are almost all aimed at encouraging variety while ensuring harmony, the used method and instruments for this are highly debatable. All these recommendations have a clear image of the city should be and use regulation as a tool to strive towards that image. Only the tools and regulations that are useful for the Overamstel case will be shown.

1. **Value:** Zoning should be liberal towards use and prescriptive to the way buildings address the street
2. **Value:** formulate collective guidelines in order to steer and direct private initiatives.
3. **Value:** Codes must achieve a balance of compatibility without inhibiting creativity.

## Reflection on theoretical chapter:

As mentioned in the beginning of the chapter conclusion the setup of the theoretical review was not completely successful. There is simply too much there available on subject related to self organization and a comprehensive approach therefore is not possible. The selection of theories and therefore the selection of values and principles is subjective and incomplete. Though the 137 values and principles provide a good insight in the subject-matter of self organization but it fails to provide an comprehensive image of the matter.

The review of the theories have also provided an unexpectedly large amount of values and principles, both very generic and very specific. By its sheer volume it makes it impossible to use all of the values and principles as input for the design, especially when the subject is self organization. Self organizing development does not benefit from large amount of theoretical input. The values 137 will provide indirect input for the design of Overamstel, while the 10 point of the author will provide direct input in the redevelopment of Overamstel.

## Answer to research question:

In order to provide an answer to the research questions

The core of urbanism is a cell for living, a dwelling, and it is insertion into a group forming a habitation unit of efficient and adequate size. The natural conditions and its extension outside to various communal facilities give the dwelling its value.

CIAM accuses the machinist era has introduced new techniques which are one of the causes of the disorder social balance within cities, it also claims that those very techniques are the solution to these problems. The solutions will be found in new structures will be not only of a scale, but also of a complexity unknown until now.

‘Certain people, more concerned for aestheticism than, militate for the preservation of certain picturesque old districts unmindful of the poverty, promiscuity, and diseases that these districts harbor (...) but under no circumstances should the cult of the picturesque and the historical take precedence over the healthfulness of the dwelling, upon which the well-being and the moral health of the individual so closely depend’ (Le Corbusier, p. 67).

### 1.2.1.3 Deterministic regionalism

The CIAM initial uprising against private enterprising gradually changes in the closing statement of the Charter of Athens. Intelligent forecasts will have sketched its future, described its character, foreseen the extent of its expansions and limited their excesses in advance. This ‘intelligent’ forecast is compared with studies enterprises do in order to determine their character, direction and overall plan. It is meant to provide a framework for the four key functions in relation to the needs on the scale of the region. The framework and its zoning tools prevents uncontrolled private interests and safeguard the collection action.

‘The city’s raison d’être must be sought and expressed in figures that will make it possible to forecast the stages of a plausible future development. Allocations, limitations, compensations can be determined, and these will provide each city, surrounded by its region, with its own character and destiny. This is a total urbanism, capable of bringing equilibrium to each province and to the country as a whole’. (Le Corbusier, p 84)

Intelligent forecast will replace chance and program will replace improvisation. ‘Every city should draw up its foreseen program and enact the laws that

will enable it to be carried out’. The program will be measured and allocated separately in order lay down a clear ‘land statute’. Each key function should be endowed with the means for its best self-expression, on the most favorable site, at the most useful distances from other functions available. The law must also make provisions for the protection of those areas that will be occupied in the future. It will have the right to authorize, prohibit and encourage carefully evaluated initiatives.

Next to the necessity of a new land ordinance and progressive construction principles, politics are of a great influence of the future development of cities. Political power should put to action the improvement of living conditions that have been worked out and set down on paper by a specialist. As the politicians should understand the population desires and demands, the specialists will translate these needs to physical projects.

‘The program must be based on rigorous analyses carried out by specialists. It must provide for its stages in time and in space. It must bring together in fruitful harmony the natural resources of the site, the overall topography, the economic facts, the sociological demands, and the spiritual values’. (Le Corbusier, p. 86)

The preconceived deterministic attitude of the CIAM becomes clear in their vision of ‘true biological creation’ comprising of clearly defined (urban) organs capable of fulfilling their vital functions to perfection. For example the soil conditions dictate the best suitable identify and function. Natural assets arrange the hierarchical order functions. These ‘inviolable rules’ will guarantee the right allocation and functioning of urban assets; inhabitants with good homes, comfortable working conditions, and the enjoyment of leisure. The quote written below shows the extent of deterministic thinking by CIAM.

‘It is architecture that takes charge of its creation or improvement, and it is architecture that must choose and allocate the different elements whose apt proportions will constitute a harmonious and lasting work. Architecture is the key to everything’. (Le Corbusier, p.92)

### 5.2.1.4 Conclusion

The Charter of Athens and the CIAM have had a great influence on modern urbanism and architecture. Their

visions on qualitative and modern living can still be seen in every city in the western world. Their attitude towards planning has been well received almost throughout the entire 20th century, but also received a lot of criticism. Modernism gradually began to lose touch with the people it was building for (Jacobs, 1961). The concrete abstract object and empty hard spaces sometimes correspond more with an elaborate academic exercise than a neighbourhood where people are supposed to live. Team 10 led by Jaap Bakema and Aldo van Eyck started this humanisation of the CIAM. The next chapter will elaborate on what would be the first step towards a self organising development, the (re)humanisation of urban planning.

## 1.2.2 Humanisation: Team 10 + Aldo van Eyck

The chapter will elaborate on the role of Team 10 and Aldo van Eyck. Team 10 started with the humanization of modernist architecture and urbanism, and it may even have led to the demise of CIAM. CIAM was at that time the embodiment of modernist thinking. A separatist chapter of CIAM changed its course to a more humane approach on constructing and designing. Using playgrounds as a test setup for new principles on urban development Team 10 and Aldo van Eyck changed the way we incorporate human needs and desires into design.



The chapter will start with an explanation on the formation of Team 10 which was led by Jaap Bakema. Later it will elaborate on the role of Van Eyck and how he was influenced in his design of playgrounds. The values and principles behind his thought on playground design will be used to establish a first input for the self organizing development movement. If these values can be operationalized they will be used in the regeneration of Overamstel, Amsterdam. This chapter will finalise with a conclusion on Team 10 and the role of Van Eyck towards self organizing development.

### The CIAM and Team 10

Aldo van Eyck was first brought to CIAM in 1947 by Jacob Berend Bakema. Bakema is known for his Rotterdam based architectural practice: Van den Broek and Bakema, a leading firm in the Dutch post-war reconstruction effort and known for the resolution on the housing shortage (team10online.org). Van den Broek and Bakema constructed icons of modern architecture like the Lijnbaan shopping mall, Rotterdam and the Faculty of Architecture of the Delft Technical University. The Amsterdam group 'de 8', made up the Dutch delegation of CIAM. This group gradually explored the humanistic side of urbanism within the boundaries of the CIAM. As Bakema puts it at CIAM 8, "the relations between things and among things are of greater importance than the things themselves." (Mumford, 2011) Bakema and Van Eyck were pioneering with combination of modernism and humanism.



Fig 10: Metamorphosis of "Urban Space" to "Urban place" source: Archined classics

### 1.4.1 Cataloging value and principles:

In order to discover clear recommendation on self organization and the design of Overamstel the 137 values and principles need to be ordained. The ordinance will result in more clear recommendations and provide the opportunity to operationalize these values and principles. In order to do so the 137 values have been arranged in the four main categories: process oriented value (17), design oriented value (81), financial oriented value (9) and social oriented value (27). Because of the high number of design values this category has been subjected to a second filter which distinguishes five new categories: grid, infill, public space, amenities, regulations. Each category will be summarized and the three most influential values per category will be mentioned as these values reflect the main statement of the theme. The ordinance will lead to a final filtering that will distil the ten most important lessons by the author. Ten key points that will provide design input for the redevelopment of Overamstel.

#### Financial conclusion:

Nine financial specific values can be found in the almost 140 values and principles that are derived from the theory. They predominantly have to do with the balance between the private and public realm. The most useful input came from Jane Jacobs, the spontaneous city and New urbanism. Most of the financial values have a strong political conviction and therefore some of the values are not easily related or irrelevant to the case of Overamstel.

1. **Value:** cross-fertilization works as a magnet for companies that are looking for a new place to establish.
2. **Value:** The term of planning needs to match the investment term, take small steps
3. **Value:** Flexible infill within a clear framework, flexible regulation and financial models

#### Process conclusion:

17 of the 140 values and principles are organizational or process management input. Since the general topic is self organization a lot of these values are related to privatisation and less interference governmental elements. The focus on working user oriented and with a smaller scale than is now customary is a trending topic. The most important input came from Aldo van Eyck and the spontaneous city theories.

1. **Value:** Managing assets in specialized private

organizations enlarge the self organizing capacity

2. **Value:** design, plan and organize in a small scale with a short planning horizon.
3. **Value:** Open source planning is a user generated collective visioning process (danger of NIMBY)

#### Social conclusion:

27 of the 140 values and principles are on the social side of self organization. The main focus is on the social importance of communities and the beneficial effects of concentration of people and activities. The social value warns us not to use diversity as a means for what has destroyed many communities. Gentrification can also become social regeneration. The societal input exclusively came from Jane Jacobs and the New Urbanism theory.

1. **Value:** Diversity of functions and activities can result in a crosspollination of new activities.
2. **Value:** Sidewalk contacts are the small change from which a city's wealth of public life may grow
3. **Value:** The neighbourhood is the basic building block of all residential districts

#### Design conclusion:

81 of the 140 values and principles that concern design specific input for self organization. In order to derive usable input for the case of Overamstel the design values have been catalogued further in the subcategories: Amenities, Grid, Infill, Public space and Regulation.

#### Amenities:

There are 11 values and principles that provide input on programming or functions. Almost all of these values emphasize the need for mixture of functions for its positive effects on liveliness and attractiveness of neighbourhoods. The pedestrian and the mixture of modalities are also important to individual functions in an urban area, the accessibility determines the success of the facility. There are two somewhat generic values that capture messages that are being put forward by Jane Jacobs and the New Urbanism theory in these 11 values.

1. **Value:** A mixture of functions and activities at all hours of the day provides vitality in the city
2. **Value:** Variation of function, user, type of real estate in residential areas is important
3. **Value:** Flexible infill within a clear framework, smart plot size and flexible functions

skills that took centuries to develop were tossed into the garbage, and we will not get them back easily. The culture of architecture was lost to Modernism and its dogmas'. (Calthorpe, 2011).

25) Civic buildings and public gathering places require important sites to reinforce community identity and the culture of democracy. They deserve distinctive form, because their role is different from that of other buildings and places that constitute the fabric of the city. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Civic buildings and public gathering places require important sites within the fabric of cities. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Civic buildings and public gathering places reinforce community identity. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Civic buildings and public gathering places deserve distinctive form. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Efficiency of administration (utilitarianism) often does not yield what is best for communities. (Duany et al., 2004)

26) All buildings should provide their inhabitants with a clear sense of location, weather and time. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Natural heating and cooling methods can be more efficient than mechanical systems. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** All building types must foster a strong relationship between the inside and the outside. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** All buildings should be designed so that people live and work with access to natural light and air. (Duany et al., 2004)

27) Preservation and renewal of historic buildings, districts, and landscapes affirm the continuity and evolution of urban society. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Be aware of the importance and honor the historic fabric of urban places.

#### 5.3.4.4 Conclusion

There is much written about new urbanism. It is a very influential initiative in the USA. In the Netherlands its values and principles of new urbanism are of less importance because we don't have the car oriented society in that extreme. The valuable lessons of new urbanism

are predominantly in the community building aspects. New urbanism prides themselves in the fact that they are involved with local actors and conditions. This is valuable for the emancipation of Dutch business owners and inhabitants in the development of their living environment. Together with the Actor Network Theory the organization of the value mentioned in this chapter can become very helpful tools and direction for a self organized development. The Values and principles of this chapter will be bundled in the design statement of chapter 8, there they will provide input for the redevelopment of Overamstel.

## 1.4 What is self organising development

This conclusion chapter will try to answer the research questions that were posed at the beginning of this chapter. By reviewing the theories that are described in the previous chapters we have discovered the leading values and principles and significance of the self organization.

The main focus of this conclusion chapter will be the answering of the posted research questions. In other words, what can we learn for these theories in contemporary design, to be specific, the redevelopment of the industrial site Overamstel in Amsterdam. The aim of this theoretical review was to discover values and principles that are timeless and survive trends and politics. These generic values and principles have been researched in old, new, liberal and conservative theories. But when the principles of these theories were to be combined a new definition of self organization should arise. A self organization that could withstand the hand of time and would incorporate the most important lessons of over 60 years of theory. Of course this approach is a bit naïve and somewhat tedious, but it has yielded a lot of usable input. The 137 values and principles that were found during the literature study will help empower the builder in Overamstel, it will help Overamstel to become a user oriented development. It will help the development of Overamstel to transcend the flaws of the traditional developing method and inspire a growth model that needs little regulation and planning. The development method should be so flexible it can survive even the toughest economical and political crisis.

The socialist movement that emerged after the II WO can be placed in between Communism and laissez-faire capitalism, the entire city was to be organized as a series of interlocking social circles, starting with the family home and extending up through the neighborhood to the city as a whole (Mumford, 2011). With two new members, 'de 8' became known as 'Team 10' and they began to develop a loosely linked set of positions rejecting the technocratic rationalism of the Athens Charter in favor of a primary emphasis on "human association" as the first principle of urbanism. Urban design was defined as the part of planning concerned with "the physical form of the city," adding that the urban designer "must first of all believe in cities, their importance and their value to human progress and culture (Mumford, 2011). Team 10 wanted to introduce more intangible social and cultural factors into CIAM, and attempted to create a new vocabulary and set of formal strategies toward this end. These strategies were mainly inspired by ATBAT-Afrique, away from "Western rationalistic bias" and toward a new "Charter of Habitat." Habitat stands for the entire pedestrian environment around a particular dwelling. Van Eyck's efforts to this 'habitat' are his "casbah-like" interlocking environments of open and closed spaces of "labyrinthine clarity." A focus on creating high-density urbanity using large, often prefabricated building systems which were intended to generate active pedestrian environments and where traditional architectural object-making was not the primary concern (Mumford, ??). Van Eyck's teachings at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture in the late



1950s, where he instilled the ideas of architecture as a "configurative discipline", a perfect breeding ground for the "Dutch structuralists" of the 1960s (Mumford, ??).

#### 1.2.2.1 Aldo van Eyck

Aldo van Eyck (1918 – 1999) graduated in Zürich on the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule where he met his wife and architect Hanne van Eyck. He taught at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture (1954 – 1959) and he was a professor at the Delft University of Technology (1966 – 1984). Van Eyck, Bakema and his student Herman Hertzberger were editors of the architecture magazine Forum (1959 – 1967). Aldo van Eyck was one of the founders of the humanism movement within modernist urbanism, and one of the most influential protagonists of the movement Structuralism.

Aldo van Eyck wrote on cities; "If they are not meant for children, they are not meant for citizens either. If they are not meant for citizens – ourselves – they are not cities." (Aldo van Eyck by Ken Worpole, 2002).

Van Eyck was heavily influenced by artists like Piet Mondriaan, Constant Nieuwenhuys (both from artist group "De Stijl") and members of the artist group "CoBrA". Important were the influences of the ideas of Johan Huizinga on Bakema and van Eyck. Huizinga's book; "Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play-Element in Culture" (1938) proclaims that it is necessary for people to have the ability to express themselves



Fig 11: Metamorphoses of "Urban Space" to "Urban place" source: Archined classics



freely through play in a modern industrial society. Van Eyck thought of the ideal city; as a labyrinth of small, intimate territories, or more poetically, a random constellation of stars (Liane Lefaivre et al., 2002). He was also influenced by the conception of ‘emptiness’ and ‘being’ of philosopher Jean-Paul Satre. Van Eyck’s interpretation of ‘place’ and ‘occasion’ where a reaction against the grotesque top-down authoritarian planning (Liane Lefaivre et al., 2002).

Free expression:

At that time two completely different visions on city planning are becoming apparent; the first is the Algemeen Uitbreidingsplan (AUP) or General Expansion Plan of Van Eesteren, a top-down expansion plan with Dutch modernist principles (Het Nieuwe Bouwen) using light, air and space. The second is Van Eyck’s vision; playgrounds on every street corner was just a first step on the journey to the “lucid city”: the city of play. Though van Eesteren and Van Eyck had contrasting vision they shared ideas on the importance of children and their play activities (Ken Worpole, 2002). They worked together on the development of playgrounds trying to prevent mass production and safeguarding the genius loci.

Aldo van Eyck: “Whatever time and space mean, place and occasion mean more.”

### 1.2.2.2 The Lucid City

Between 1947 and 1978 Van Eyck designed over 700 playgrounds for the municipal department of public works in Amsterdam. The playgrounds were prepared with a semi-hierarchical, anarchic, highly participatory



Fig 12: Metamorfoses of “Urban Space” to “Urban place” source: Archined classics

process involving many people over a longer period of time. In the conception of Aldo van Eyck, Cor van Eesteren, Jacoba Mulder, Van Walraven and Van Heemskerck ‘playgrounds are shaped by the city and the city is shaped by its playgrounds’. (Liane Lefaivre et al., 2002).

The approach of Van Eyck, with playgrounds acting interconnected centers, derived its strength from the network or web of play it had become. A system playgrounds linked to time, event and circumstance. This network approach was a precursor of Kevin Lynch his “density of nodes” (BRON + VERWIJZING HOOFDSTUK # KEVIN LYNCH). Not only did Van Eyck inspire the next generation of urban thinkers he stirred up the authoritarian CIAM movement. He discovered new possibilities for places that would only have remained empty in the perception of most modernist. The CIAM movement even adopted his ground-up approach. It proved to be a valuable working method for the future generations urbanists.

**Value:** Small leftover space can be used very educational and prove quality to public space

**Value:** Network approach – linking every centre to time, event and circumstance

**Value:** Participation is a good tool to involve genius loci and variable disciplines

Metamorfoses of “Urban Space” to “Urban place”

Liane Lefaivre et al. FOTO ONDERSCHRIFT: voor en na situatie



18) A range of parks, from tot-lots and village greens to ball fields and community gardens, should be distributed within neighborhoods. Conservation areas and open lands should be used to define and connect different neighborhoods and districts. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Different types of green should be distributed within neighborhoods (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Conservation areas should define and connect neighborhoods and districts. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Vital neighborhoods offer three realms: home, workplace, and an informal gathering spot (park). (Duany et al., 2004)

### 1.3.4.3 The block, the street, and the building

*I remember, Charlie Moore was teaching at Yale at the time and he said something that really stuck with me. He said, “We’ve got to stop talking about space and start talking about place.” (Calthorpe, 2011).*

19) A primary task of all urban architecture and landscape design is the physical definition of streets and public spaces as places of shared use. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Exteriors of buildings create either welcoming or alienating public spaces. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** New Urbanist architecture is an Architecture of Place (Duany et al., 2004)

20) Individual architectural projects should be seamlessly linked to their surroundings. This issue transcends style. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** For architecture and urbanism to prosper as disciplines, they need the wisdom and guidance of enduring values, traditions, methods, and ideas. (Duany et al., 2004)

21) The revitalization of urban places depends on safety and security. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** The design of streets and buildings should reinforce safe environments, but not at the expense of accessibility and openness. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** The Charter discusses ‘Seven Qualities of Safe Spaces’:

1. Human presence. ‘Eyes on the street’ and from the surrounding building make people feel safe.

2. Congeniality. The dimensions and scale of the space should encourage interactions among people.

3. Humane protection. Mechanical devices should be invisible. Police presence should be personal.

4. Visibility, light and openness. Open views enable us to see other people, it provides natural supervision.

5. Order. Coherent landscapes and streetscapes make a clear statement that a space is well-managed and safe.

6. Connections. Spaces must be perceived as part of an interconnected network of streets and public space.

7. Legibility. The clarity with which each space connects to the rest of the city keeps us from feeling lost.

*‘Traditional building types and spaces offer more than architectural form; they also coincide with how our society works. If we follow traditional principles of public and private domain – front yard, back yard, correct design of streets to promote neighborliness and discourage through traffic – we will avoid trouble. In general, you will find opportunities for crime – or at least the perception of being unsafe – where these basic principles have been violated’. (Duany et al., 2004)*

22) In the contemporary metropolis, development must adequately accommodate automobiles. It should do so in ways that respect the pedestrian and the form of public space. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** The contemporary metropolis must adequately accommodate various modes of transport. (CNU, p2)

23) Streets and squares should be safe, comfortable, and interesting to the pedestrian. Properly configured, they encourage walking and enable neighbors to know each other and protect their communities. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Streets and squares should be safe, comfortable, and interesting to the pedestrian. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** People walk more when the streets connect destinations along logical routes. (Duany et al., 2004)

24) Architecture and landscape design should grow from local climate, topography, history, and building practice. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Architecture and landscape should be designed in local culture and the genius loci.

**Value:** Celebrates what is different about a place.

*‘We have lost so much culture in the sense of how to build things well. Bodies of knowledge and sets of*

can walk.

12) Many activities of daily living should occur within walking distance. Interconnected networks of streets should be designed to encourage walking, reduce the number and length of automobile trips, and conserve energy. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Creating independence from the car increases freedom, especially the elderly and the young (CNU, p2)

'A grid of streets, which offered multiple possible routes from point to point. In contrast, sprawl developments' streets follow a "pod and collector" model, where most residential streets are cul-de-sacs. The only way to go anyplace is to get on the large "collector," or the larger "arterial" road.' (CNU, p2)

13) Within neighborhoods, a broad range of housing types and price levels can bring people of diverse ages, races, and incomes into daily interaction, strengthening the personal and civic bonds essential to an authentic community. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** A District should include a mix of different house and apartment types (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** public housing should be designed as neighborhoods and towns (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Public housing coupled with programs that assist residents to become owners, can help the poor to integrated into middle-class society. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** The Charters dealing with neighborhoods that consist of 'Soviet-style' apartment blocks. (Duany et al., 2004)

1. Superblocks are divided into smaller blocks. High-rise buildings are demolished and replaced with townhomes and smaller apartment buildings.

2. Back and front yards belong to individual units, creating "defensible space."

3. Tenants are carefully screened, and rules are strictly enforced.

14) Transit corridors, when properly planned and coordinated, can help organize metropolitan structure and revitalize urban centers. In contrast, highway corridors should not displace investment from existing centers.

**Value:** Automobile infrastructure tends to divide cities, while rail transit corridors both spur development. (Duany et al., 2004)

15) Appropriate building densities and land uses should be within walking distance of transit stops, permitting public transit to become a viable alternative to the automobile. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) only works if the transit is rail, not by buses. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Appropriate building densities and land uses should be within walking distance of transit stops. (CNU, p2)

16) Concentrations of civic, institutional, and commercial activity should be embedded in neighborhoods and districts, not isolated in remote, single-use complexes. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Schools should be sized and located to enable children to walk or bicycle to them. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Some facilities function better locally than centralized facilities can offer. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Concentrations of inactivity are easy prey for thieves and vandals. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** 'eyes on the street' contribute to safety and security, Empty streets are dangerous streets. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Mixed-use zoning and better provision for pedestrians improves public safety. (Duany et al., 2004)

17) The economic health and harmonious evolution of neighborhoods, districts, and corridors can be improved through graphic urban design codes that serve as predictable guides for change. (CNU, p2)

*One underpinning of the New Urbanism is the compatibility of building types – or buildings with the same relative mass, height, and architectural styles, regardless of their uses, which may change over time.*

**Value:** The health and the harmony of districts can be improved through predictable design codes (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Codes should encourage variety while ensuring the harmony. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Codes must achieve a balance of compatibility without inhibiting creativity. (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Buildings should read as distinct and have individual character. (Duany et al., 2004)

The lucid design:

an Eyck designed modern, archetypal structures that enabled different perceptions and associations on the meaning of the object. Using primary shapes, Van Eyck tried to stimulate the imagination of the child. A bench is really because you can sit on it, but also you can imagine all sorts of things with. This often led to unexpected use of the playground objects. Different shapes and sizes were designed by Van Eck in order to allow children of all ages to play on the devices. The playgrounds were primarily intended for children aged 4 to 7, but the larger climbing objects were also a great hangout for teenagers.

Van Eyck used several techniques to create an optimal playground, he used diagonals in long narrow spaces to break the linear perspective. He also used the playground as a 'in between space', by placing objects in line with each other, a good example design approach can be seen in the playground in the Dijkstrastraat (INVOEGEN FOTO DIJKSTRAT VOOR - NA). He plays with colors, lines and objects, which he uses in a unique way to create a balanced playground (Liane Lefavre et al., 2002). Van Eyck never uses the axes of a site as an abstract principle, its design axes follow from the spatial experience and movement. There is little symmetry in his designs and objects seem to be placed rather randomly in the available space. (Liane Lefavre et al., 2002).

These simple design rules were gradually applied to all small, dilapidated places in Amsterdam in order to transform these places into squares, parks and playgrounds. Besides playgrounds, Van Eyck also

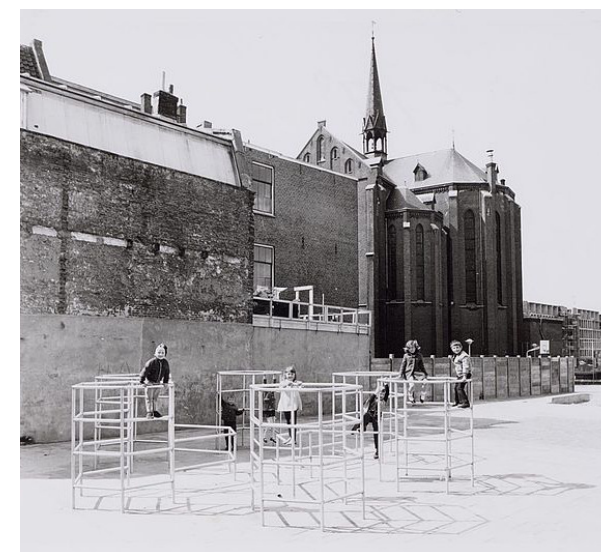


Fig 13: Typical playgrounds in Amsterdam of Aldo van Eyck source: Archined classics

designed play appliances and entire play areas. These were predominantly managed by private organizations, such as the Amsterdam's Playground Association.

**Value:** Primary shape can stimulate our imagination

**Value:** Shape and size of object differ per age group (or other group division)

**Value:** Diagonals in long, narrow spaces break linear perspective

**Value:** Irregular alignment breaks conception of existing space

**Value:** Determine axes by experience and movement

**Value:** Lack of symmetry can result in different perception of space

**Value:** Managing assets in specialized private organizations enlarge the self organizing capacity

The end of play:

The standard materials that Van Eyck used were; concrete, steel, wood and later (1954) aluminum. In his design work he applies these basic material to objects in elementary shapes. These material and shapes responded to the surroundings, when concrete became more popular in the construction of dwelling and high rise Van Eyck started use more wood (from local suppliers).

Due to the high demand in playgrounds, Van Eyck standardized elements in his designs. Other designers could not independently develop playgrounds with these elements, but they had to verify the quality of every playground with Van Eyck before realization could begin. This resulted in an immense production



(over 700) of playgrounds in Amsterdam. Gradually the standardized elements of Van Eyck were replaced by uniform 'catalog object' like the 'wipkip'. These object where not conform Van Eyck's vision on play and disregarded the genius loci Van Eyck tried to preserve.

### 1.2.2.3 Conclusion

CAIM has ended, humanism is introduced into modernism thinking. Structuralism is gaining influence, Van Eyck and his followers (like his student Herman Herzberger is taking modernism into a new chapter. The value and principles of the "Lucid City" conception provides valuable information on simple but effective design. The lessons are exemplary for more than just the design of playground, it was a step towards a new type of urbanism. The lessons learned from Team 10 and Van Eyck will establish a first input for the self organizing development movement. If these values can be operationalized they will be used in the regeneration of Overamstel, Amsterdam.

The next chapter will go a step further into the humanization of urbanism and architecture. A new and fierce criticism has awoken in the United States. Jane Jacobs instantly becomes famous and infamous with her writings on modern urban regeneration of that time.

## 1.2.3 Raw criticism: Jane Jacobs

This chapter will elaborate on the criticism Jane Jacobs had on modern planning by reviewing her first book: death an life of great American cities. This book contributed to the change of perception on how cities function and operate. It showed the downsides of almost 30 years of modernist planning in the United States. Her criticism can be seen as an extension of the humanisation that started with Team 10 and Aldo van Eyck. But Jane Jacobs introduced more than the theories and design of Team 10, she introduced public protest and demonstrations to the field urban renewal. Many people where inspired by Jacobs her writings and many (especially professional) disliked her criticism. Jane Jacobs, a journalist, would be one of the most influence figures in urbanism in the 20th century.

This subchapter will start with a short biography and positioning of Jane Jacobs. This is followed by an elaboration on her book: "Death an life of great American cities" and the impact that it had. This chapter will close with a summary on the lesson we should not forget.

### Biography:

Jane Jacobs (1916-2006) was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. After high school she moved to New York. She had a number of writing and editing jobs and became an associate editor for the Architectural Forum. Also she became increasingly sceptical of conventional planning beliefs. While writing about city rebuilding projects she noticed that these projects were not safe, interesting, lively, or economically beneficial for cities once they became operational. This was also the message of the speech she held at Harvard in 1956, which led to an article in Fortune magazine entitled "Downtown Is for People." In 1961, her first work appeared: "Death and life of great American cities". The book shocked the world of urban planning and Jacobs' name was immediately established (Hospers, 2006).. Her complete work consists of in total seven books and a number of notes varying from short magazine articles to send-in letters to newspapers. Jacobs' work can roughly be divided into three parts.

From the 1960s to the middle of the 1980s Jacobs mainly wrote about the problems of cities and their role in the economy and society. She developed her

regional economy that benefits people of all incomes. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Affordable housing should be distributed throughout the region to match job opportunities (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Avoid concentrations of poverty (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Create a broad range of housing types in close proximity, where market conditions allow (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** The benefits of community outweigh any imagined benefit of (racial and financial) "diversity."

*'Federal Highway Bill which began in 1956 with the interstate system, the largest public works system in the history of mankind. The second is the single-home mortgage deduction, a huge subsidy that moves people toward single-occupancy, single-family homes'.* (Calthorpe, 2011).

8) The physical organization of the region should be supported by a framework of transportation alternatives. while reducing dependence upon the automobile. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Transit, pedestrian, and bicycle systems should maximize access throughout the region (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Reduce dependency upon the automobile (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Privately operated streetcars, interurban and passenger trains function better in a free market than a governmental subsidized automobile infrastructure network (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Commuters with 'choice' prefer rail transit over public transport by bus (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Rail transit can reduce traffic congestion and spurs development (Duany et al., 2004)

9) Revenues and resources can be shared more cooperatively among the municipalities and centers within regions to avoid destructive competition for tax base and to promote rational coordination of transportation, recreation, public services, housing, and community institutions. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Turn tax money over to a regional government for equal distribution over the region (Duany et al., 2004)

### 1.3.4.2 The neighborhood, the district, and the corridor

This section also describes an ideal structure for towns and cities. As opposed to the destructive single-use zoning of most contemporary city plans, the New Urbanism proposes a structure of three fundamental elements neighborhoods, districts, and corridors. Viewing a community as the integration of mixed-use places rather than isolated land uses is a profound change. It provides a planning superstructure that respects human scale and community... (Calthorpe, 2011).

10) The neighborhood, the district, and the corridor are the essential elements of development and redevelopment in the metropolis. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** identifiable areas encourage citizens to take responsibility for maintenance and evolution (CNU, p2)

**Value:** The neighborhood is the basic building block of all residential districts (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** A neighborhood should includes a mix of different house and apartment types (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Neighborhood shops, schools, and civic buildings should be within walking distance of one another (Duany et al., 2004)

11) Corridors are regional connectors of neighborhoods and districts; they range from boulevards and rail lines to rivers and parkways. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Neighborhoods should be compact, pedestrian friendly, and mixed-use (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Districts generally should emphasize a special single use (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Districts should follow the principles of neighborhood design (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Business districts should include residences as well as stores and offices (mixed-use zoning) (Duany et al., 2004)

An important feature of the mixed-use neighborhood is that it has a symbiotic relationship with public spaces. Mixed-use neighborhoods give people additional reasons to travel on or through public spaces by giving them interesting and useful destinations to which they



Fig 14: Typical playgrounds in Amsterdam of Aldo van Eyck source: Archined classics



one or more kids, while entire suburbs only have single family homes. The other 75% has little option. Each community should contain a range of housing types, for a variety of people. This should be supported by various types of workplaces and shops (Calthorpe, ??). We are committed to reestablishing the relationship between the art of building and the making of community, through citizen-based participatory planning and design (CNU, p1).

The last principle concerns public space. It needs to be safe, participatory and enjoyable (Weyrich, p.5). The public space is the ideal location to create the conditions for healthy communities that celebrate local history, climate, ecology, and building practice (CNU, p1).

*'Our cities are a jungle of freeways, parking lots, skyscrapers and strip malls. They seem designed more for motorists and consumers than inhabitants or citizens. And they are home to some of our most pressing social maladies, from crime and pollution to racial tensions and persistent poverty' (Calthorpe, ?).*

#### 5.3.4.1 The region: Metropolis, city, and town

The charter clearly distinguishes 27 principles. The first nine concern the metropolitan framework, its modern definition and its context. The values derived from the 27 principles come from the charter of new urbanism, the interview with Calthorpe, P. by London, C. and the comparison of the free congress foundation; Conservatives and the New Urbanism: Do We Have Some Things in Common? By Duany et al.

1) Metropolitan regions are finite places with geographic boundaries derived from topography, watersheds, coastlines, farmlands, regional parks, and river basins. The metropolis is made of multiple centers that are cities, towns, and villages, each with its own identifiable center and edges. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Some matters need to be dealt with at the regional level, through cooperation. But most are best handled locally. (Duany et al., 2004)

2) The metropolitan region is a fundamental economic unit of the contemporary world. Governmental cooperation, public policy, physical planning, and economic strategies must reflect this new reality. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Involve civic groups with both business or community leadership on regional scale (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Don't let political interests influences regional plans to much (Duany et al., 2004)

3) The metropolis has a necessary and fragile relationship to its agrarian hinterland and natural landscapes. The relationship is environmental, economic, and cultural. Farmland and nature are as important to the metropolis as the garden is to the house. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Create an urban growth boundary, a state-mandated limit to growth around the metropolitan area. (Calthorpe, 2011).

**Value:** People in cities also should have access to farm-fresh produce (Duany et al., 2004)

4) Development patterns should not blur or eradicate the edges of the metropolis. Metropolitan regions should develop strategies to encourage Urban regeneration over peripheral expansion. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Infill development within existing urban areas conserves environmental resources, economic investment, and social fabric, while reclaiming marginal and abandoned areas. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** sprawl needs to remain an option for those who want it. (Duany et al., 2004)

5) New development should be organized as neighborhoods and districts, and integrated with the existing urban pattern. Noncontiguous development should be organized as towns and villages with their own urban edges. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Always plan for a jobs/housing balance (CNU, p2)

6) The development and redevelopment of towns and cities should respect historical patterns, precedents, and boundaries. (CNU, p2)

**Value:** Community grows best where people can physically see their place as an entity (Duany et al., 2004)

**Value:** Desire historical continuity (Duany et al., 2004)

7) Cities and towns should bring into proximity a broad spectrum of public and private uses to support a

ideas on this in three books which each have the word "cities" in the title. Secondly, there is one book that stands separate from the others because of its focus on the Canadian province Quebec. Her interest, however, seems to have shifted since the 1990s to more social-philosophical issues, which also resulted in three books (Hospers, 2006).. In these books Jacobs dealt with the nature of fundamental cultural values and their social-economic meaning.

#### '60-'80

- The Death and Life of Great American Cities (1961)

- The Economy of Cities (1969)

- Cities and the Wealth of Nations (1984)

#### 1980

- The Question of Separatism (1980)

#### '90-'00

- In Systems of Survival (1992)

- The Nature of Economies (1998)

- Dark Age Ahead (2004)

#### 1.2.3.1 Where it all began

Robert Moses, at that time chief adviser of Mayor La Guardia of New York, funded policy for the development of projects like business centres (United Nations headquarters), expressways and other grand projects (World fair of 1939 and 1964). This would often lead to the destruction of lively, vibrant but also poorly maintained small scale New York neighbourhoods. Jacobs' own neighbourhood Greenwich Village was also threatened by Robert Moses' often megalomaniac attempt to modernise New York.

Jane Jacobs disliked the ideas of Moses and she started to write in opposition to his ideology. She suited the action to the word and under her supervision demonstrations and neighbourhood protests were held against what she calls the "Federal Bulldozer"-approach (Hospers, 2006). She is one of the first modern civil activist who voiced a growing concern on the rapidly modernising city. Her writings revealed a gap between the intension and reality of modern urban planning. Urban activism and civil awareness are a fact because of Jane Jacobs' rebellious writing and activities. Her activism inspired many people but she also received a lot of criticism, especially from the ruling planning elite. Jane Jacobs: "The city has something to offer to everyone, since it is created by everyone"

#### Positioning Jane Jacobs

Jane Jacobs was clearly not against planning, but against failed planning; not against government, but against badly organized governments; and not against new buildings, but against rushing monocultures of the new. She was for a deeper tactical understanding of how the "inherent regenerative force" of "self-diversification," as she termed it, can be put to work to provide more diversity of income and opportunity, as clearly has happened in cities throughout history. (Mehaffy, 2011)

Because of her strong and uncensored opinion Jane Jacobs received a lot of criticism. Especially Jacobs' praise of cities as the driving force behind prosperity and welfare seemed a little naive to many. Other critics focus on Jacobs' thoughts that mankind naturally has a passion for the vivacity of the city. With her plea for small-scaled cities, diversity, short building blocks, and high population density she emphasized in each case the structural working of the physical environment for city life. According to some, this goes too far and the danger of "physical determinism" is enormous: in other words, Jacobs wrongly suggested that the spatial design of the city determines the way people treat each other and organize their lives. (Mehaffy, 2011)

Jane Jacobs: *'Urban development could not be planned behind a drawing table, a city is not something abstract'.* (Mehaffy, 2011)

The impact of Jacob's First book:

Jane Jacobs her first book can be positioned perfectly in the time line of a gradually humanizing modernistic attitude. What team 10 and Aldo van Eyck have tried

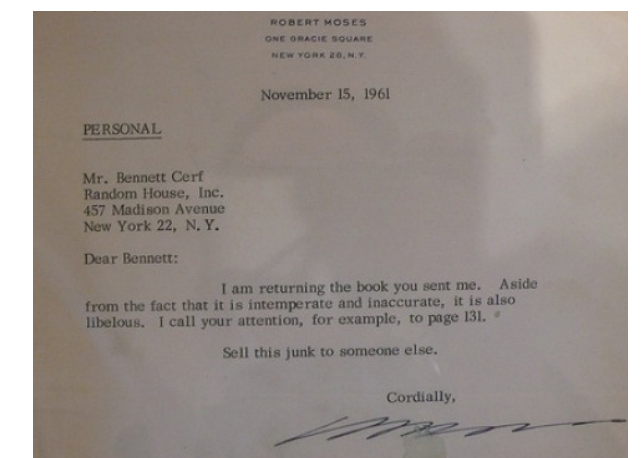


Fig 15: Critical letter of Robert Moses addressed to Jacobs Source: Hospers, 2006

to achieve by professional planning, Jane Jacobs achieved by just being rebellious. Her book 'The death and life of great American cities' stirs more than only the public opinion. The book is a full frontal attack on the modernist attitude that finds support in urban planning, politics and the financial sector. A book that changes the perspective on how a city should be developed. Jane Jacobs is a firm believer of self organizing and small scale development, her book rebelliously provokes others to think in the direction she addresses with her critique.

As written in the Financial Times obituary of 27 April 2006: 'She spent much of her career fighting for one deceptively simple principle: leave cities alone and let them develop by themselves'.

#### 1.2.3.2 The Death and life of great American cities

By using terms as death, life Jacobs refers to the city as a living entity; is born, grows, matures, decays and can revive. The elements that are part of this biological being; the people, streets, parks, neighbourhoods, the government, the economy are functioning as organs in a body. It is a biosphere of interconnected objects and processes, of coexistence. She was the first to apply a dawning new human understanding of the natural world to cities. (Mehaffy, 2011), (Jacobs, 1961)

The streets or arteries play an important role because this is the place where processes and objects meet each other. This public stage of daily life, or sidewalk ballet as Jacobs calls it, shapes the vitality, cohesion and attractiveness of the urban area. If this perspective on the vital cities is understood, simple activities like taking out the trash or walking your dog is not an expression of city life but the essence of it all. The interaction of self organized, and self transforming

Like a construction gang bulldozing a site clean of all habitations, she bulldozes out of existence every desirable innovation in urban planning during the last century and every competing idea, without even a pretense of critical evaluation. ..*The Death and Life of American Cities* is a mingling of sense and sensibility, of mature judgments and school girl howlers.

-- Lewis Mumford, from review of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, 1961

Fig 16: Critical review of Lewis Mumford addressed to Jacobs Source: Hospers, 2006

processes shape the vitality and perception of quality in cities. Jacobs uses the metaphor; 'The city streets have become the décor of the ballet of life expression' (Hospers, 2006). The physical conditions of streets and its immediate surrounding are the main focus of the Jacobs almost manifesto like proclamation on urban quality. Cities comprise of a complex system of self-organized processes. In order to influence and design within the cities, you need to have an understanding of 'organized complexity,' or 'the dynamic inter-relationships of systems, of processes, of self-organization' as she called it. This 'web way of thinking' is later elaborated in the influential theory of Christopher Alexander. It contradicts the ruling method of planning top-down. A dynamic inter-related system cannot be changed with simple formulas or templates applied from above, because a city is a diverse mix of people and processes, with its own self-organizing dynamic (Mehaffy, 2011). Every change works as a catalyst to a network of dynamic relationships. A brief elaboration on this 'web way of thinking' will follow in chapter 4, with the positioning of Christopher Alexander's paper: 'the cities is not a tree'.

We can exploit this dynamic with design, but it needs a different design approach than the traditional design method. Top-down interventions can certainly be part of a design process in public projects or as 'chess pieces' to trigger other changes (Jacobs, 1961), but it can never forget the complex relationship it has with the surrounding neighbourhood. Communal processes and objects are well managed top-down, but must be assisted with the right tools and conditions for other parties to participate. We have to plan with self-organization, in a way that exploits its inherent capacity to solve our problems. The rules, processes and standards of our modern "operating system," constrain and corrupt the intended outcomes. Not to say planning has failed the past 50 years but it has become institutionalised. Jane Jacobs was one of the first to mention the self organizing capacity of the city and 50 years later that movement is regaining momentum.

For a good performance of the urban play, the public domain needs to meet several physical conditions. The ten conditions written down below are Mehaffy's vision on Jane Jacobs most important lessons for the profession urbanism.

As written in the Financial Times obituary of 27 April

view how development can become spontaneous if had less rules regulations and more self organizing capacity. It is a message that is hard to disagree with.

The manifesto of this book contains four simple principles; Zoom in, organize flexible, create collective values and have a user oriented approach. These principles are clear and valuable to the design of Overamstel. The practical application of these principles are elaborated by the projects in the book but there is still some uncertainty on how to apply these principles in practice.

The resourcefulness of designer, users and financiers is much needed in order to create these 'spontaneous' projects. Allowing often parties to get involved in the development of the cityscape can lead to other solutions than we are used to. Flexibility is key, flexibility in actors, flexible financing, flexible planning and a flexible vision is the success behind most of the projects that are elaborated in the book. The book should be called the flexible city.

Thought the message of the book is good the projects that are used as reference often don't offer a perspective in the (re)development of large areas. Most projects offer solutions like 'urban gardening' or such other small interventions. Though bigger redevelopments like are still dependant on regular financing and development regulations, the ideas an lesson that Urhahn has for this scale will be very useful to the design statement for Overamstel, in chapter 8.

### 1.3.4 Charter of the New Urbanism

The New Urbanism is a Neo-traditionalistic ideology that has formulated a comprehensive design and planning philosophy aimed not only at curbing urban sprawl and reducing traffic congestion, but also creating more pedestrian-friendly and ecologically sound communities, environments that promote a sense of connectedness and place (Calthorpe, ??). The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) was founded in 1993 by a group of enthusiastic architects. Their annual gathering brings together over a 1000 people. Most of these people and their members are active in urban development in a broad sense; Planners, economists, government officials, educators, activists, students and many more join the discussion on sustainability, walkability, mixed-use neighborhoods. The new urbanism movement claims to have global impact since it has projects in US and other 20 countries (CNU.org). Their main visionary document; the Charter of New Urbanism, contains 27 principles that operationalize their Neo-traditionalistic ideas of three different scale levels; The region, the neighborhood and the city block. The following text will summarize these principles.

*'We dedicate ourselves to reclaiming our homes, blocks, streets, parks, neighborhoods, districts, towns, cities, regions, and environment'* (CNU, p1).

There are four primary principles of the charter of New Urbanism (Weyrich, p.5). The first concerns the compactness of and the framework of urban areas. All functions should be within a walkable distance from a dwelling. The charter claims it will restore social interaction and restore community life that was destroyed by modernism. The reduction of the daily urban system forces should make the car redundant and save the open landscape. We recognize that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework (CNU, p1). The second principle aims to diversify the modalities of transport towards more human and environmental friendly means like, cycling, walking and public transport. Private transportation like (electric) cars should have a minimal amount of designated space. The third principle is the monogamous compilation of the American housing stock. Only 25 % of America's population is made up out of married families with

which everything is possible, the user determines how the building functions. The amount of floorspace, the usage of the space, the amount of money that is paid for the space is all in the hand of the current users of the Solid blocks. All the dynamics that take place in a city can take place in the building. It adapts when it needs to do so. A café, pied a terre, communal housing program, bakery, office, everything is possible.

The building has been made in such a way that it becomes possible to self-organize the future developments of the building. A relative large floor spacing, thick concrete floors, sufficient cables, and spacious pipe shafts. The flexible interior is combined with a high qualitative exterior. A façade that is detailed and qualitative.



The original layout of El Alto, the upper city of La Paz is based on the United Nations development principle PNUD. It is a framework of lot 100 by 200m which are subdivided in lots of 1000m<sup>2</sup> and corner plots of 500m<sup>2</sup>. The strict planning framework can still be clearly distinguished despite the densification from agricultural lots to urban lots. The framework allows the lots to organically fill and transform themselves. When more people came to El Alto the lots adapted to this.

**Value:** Flexible infill within a clear framework, smart plot size and flexible functions

The societal elements; rules and regulations, financial and spatial are also integrated in the complex and maintained by its tenants. The solid complexes are the opposite of how we organized our urban planning and architecture.

**Value:** Flexible infill within a clear framework, smart solutions for dynamic use

### 1.3.3.5 Conclusion

The rich variety of projects illustrated in the book the spontaneous city portrays a frame of mind in which citizens are proactive entrepreneurs with ability to see the positive in every situation. It is an optimistic



De oorspronkelijke verkaveling bestond uit 16 percelen van 20m x 50m en 8 percelen van 20m x 25m op de hoeken

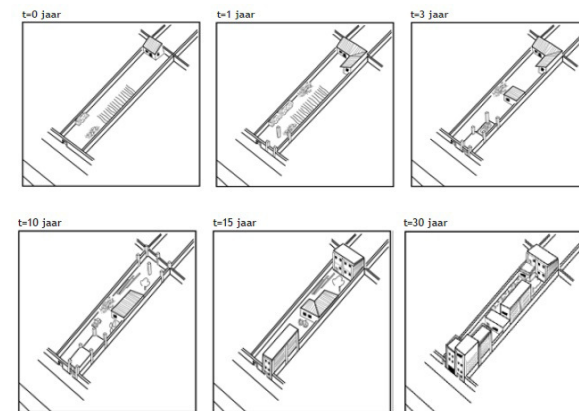


Fig 28: Schematics and growth patterns of El Alto, La Paz. source: Urhahn Design

2006: *'She spent much of her career fighting for one deceptively simple principle: leave cities alone and let them develop by themselves.'*

### 1. Continuity

The city needs to have a continuous walkable fabric that facilitates 'thoroughgoing city mobility and fluidity of use.' Cities are engines of mobility and unlocking this capacity of movement is key to promoting diversity. It does not guarantee diversity, but it is a prerequisite for it. Facilitating a walkable relationship between neighbourhoods and area will result in social and economical continuity. Disruptive uses and structures, such as freeways, large parks and the neighbourhoods based on the 'campus-model, need alternative solutions to restore the continuity of the urban fabric. (Jacobs, 1961), (Mehaffy, 2011). A clear grid or street structure is easy to understand and offers variation in routes people can take to their destination. This variation is believed to stimulate the urge to discover new things and it expands the scope and range of inhabitant. Having a choice stimulates people and expands the possibility of new cross-pollinations (Hospers, 2006).

**Value:** Continuity in walkable fabric (thoroughgoing city mobility and fluidity of use)

**Value:** Movement is key to promoting diversity

**Value:** Alternative solution for disruptive uses and structures

**Value:** Variation is believed to stimulate the urge to discovery

### 2. Isolated projects

In addition to the need for continuity the modernist approach that creates isolated projects can be interpreted as disruptive. Isolated projects like; large shopping centers, industrial sites, large parking

grounds, the Neighborhood Unit (model of inward-turning neighbourhood), superblocks (unchangeable monocultures), 'project land oozings' (no-man's landscaping), large hospitals, large campuses, large infrastructure bundles. (Jacobs, 1961), (Mehaffy, 2011). All of the above mentioned elements have turned their backs on the cities while integration into the urban fabric is mutually beneficial.

**Value:** Isolated projects are disruptive

**Value:** integration of isolated project can be beneficial to the urban fabric and the project itself

### 3. Gentrification

Gentrification has often meant; demolish old buildings and replacing them with build high rises, but gentrification should consider regeneration instead. Social cohesion should play an important role in urban regeneration, it is about 'social capital'. This is about interaction or being at home somewhere. In order to indicate these loose neighbourhood networks, Jacobs talked about 'social capital' to indicate how people get the feeling of belonging and a community feeling. Jacobs did not say don't do new buildings, but she said keep a mix and preserve not only object but also social networks. (Jacobs, 1961), (Mehaffy, 2011), (Hospers, 2006).

Gentrification should leave social structure intact as they often provide 'eyes on the street'. Having people close by at every moment provide a social control and interaction between people. she claimed by having eyes on the street, crime is not given a chance and the collective feeling of security increases. Not having eyes on the street is illustrated in many examples by Jacobs to have a negative effect on neighbourhoods.

### A city is not a tree

This metabolic effect is later elaborated by Christopher Alexander in his pattern language (1977) and the essay 'A city is not a tree' (1966). These theories explain the relationship between objects and processes as a semi-lattice instead of a tree. The 'tree model' is often used in modernist planning and it represents a simplified system of relationships. Every level, scale or object relates only to the one above or below itself. The Semi-lattice model in a complex model in which every relation can be made, regardless of the level, scale or object it is in. The tree-model is replaced by a model of combined patterns, a pattern language so to say. Christopher Alexander's theories changed how professionals of various disciplines thought about processes and relationships between objects.

The complexity and elaborate writings on these pattern languages are simply too much to take into account. For the definition of the self-organising development movement the notion of the concept of the semi-lattice or the metabolic relationship model is enough.



**Value:** Gentrification is also social regeneration

**Value:** Sense of community/belonging is also a tool in urban regeneration

#### 4. Image of the city

The city must not be treated as a work of art, or a sculpture gallery. Many designers have tried to invent the perfect city and thereby forcing inhabitant to behave in a certain way. Removing all existing context and replacing it by socially of design desired context has proven to be disastrous in many untested, and out of scale 'projects'. These projects often claim to be sustainable, but they rely on almost self produced evidence. As Jacobs said in her characteristically pithy tone, "the method fails."

**Value:** The city is not a work of art or a social laboratory

**Value:** Removing all existing context and replacing by new context has proven to be disastrous

#### 5. Zoning

Zoning is not inherently bad, but should be liberal with regard to use, and prescriptive with regard to the way buildings address the street (Mehaffy, 2011). In contrast to the modernist claim to separating functions, Jacobs states the exact opposite. She opposes separation and claims that the mixture of functions and activities on the streets at all hours of the day are the course of vitality in the city. This mix of functions often has a self reinforcing effect since the crosspollination add extra activities and people to a neighbourhood (Hospers, 2006).

**Value:** Zoning should be liberal towards use and prescriptive to the way buildings address the street

**Value:** A mixture of functions and activities at all hours of the day provides vitality in the city

**Value:** Diversity of functions and activities can result in a crosspollination of new activities.

#### 6. Density

Density is a valuable ingredient, but it's not an end in itself. Jacobs propagated a high degree of concentration of people in one place, but in a different fashion as was the trend at that time. We must be wary to singular solutions, like 'skyscraper cities.' What we should value is not the sheer aggregations of people massed together, or separated by 'open space', but the ordinary encounters between people, the sidewalk ballet. (Mehaffy, 2011) Communal facilities and businesses can be used more efficiently when enough

people have good access to these facilities. Every function and activity needs a critical mass of people / customers before it becomes socially and economically viable. When there is a high concentration of people this critical mass can easily be found and used to support a wide variety of functions and activities. This compactness and a walkable daily urban system, either in big cities or in smaller towns, is one of Jacobs focal points, and it continues to be a topicality till this day. New urbanism and other theories engaged in self organising development have walkable urbanism as their core value.

**Value:** Density is not an end to itself nor to 'skyscraper cities' or 'open space city'

**Value:** Density should facilitate the sidewalk ballet by providing critical mass for activities and functions

**Value:** Compact / walkable urbanism is associated with liveable and vibrant communities.

#### 7. knowledge synergy

Cities are engines of knowledge and they create economic prosperity. There is a physical web of relationships that starts at the pedestrian scale. 'Sidewalk contacts are the small change from which a city's wealth of public life may grow,' Jacobs said. This interaction between people creates interaction of knowledge and it forms an almost unlimited number of network that is called the city. The knowledge in these networks grows, interacts, improves and adapts in order to gain grip on the city and its networks. This network phenomenon is called the 'metabolic efficiency', a place of dense networks of connection within cities. (Mehaffy, 2011)



Fig 17: Jacobs vs. Moses with United nations in the back ground source: Sun Architecture

future. Will the urbanist be the matchmaker or more like a process monitor? Most of the projects share a similar tool, Luuk Boelens calls it the 'opportunity maps', but it has become clear that such visionary and imaging tools are of great importance in iterative communicative processes.

**Value:** Open source planning is a user generated collective visioning process (danger of NIMBY)

**Value:** Participation is about communication of; money, time, experience, advice, know-how

**Value:** Investing public money can stimulate private investments if done correctly

**Value:** Visualizing tools are of great importance in a communicative process.



The New York grid is famous for its orthogonal structure, an open structure with simple rules for zoning en typologies division. Het grid is layout by the Commissioner's Plan of 1811 with a pattern of avenues and numbered streets. This basic pattern shapes a two dimensional framework that has a clear distinction between public and private. The dimensions and infill of the lots within this framework is highly dynamic and self organizational. The 1916 zoning law determined the which function, the mixture of functions, densities and such where aloud within the framework. This law is legally binding but the law can be adjusted for special occasions.

The zoning manual explains what is allowed and what is not for every lot. The manual also makes statements on daylight admittance, setback and such. A interesting feature is that the manual also provides bonuses for element like plaza's.

**Value:** Flexible infill within a clear framework, good infrastructure and clear regulations

'It is difficult to say how the city looks over fifty years from now. We reached a point where technological and social changes are so rapidly succeeding each other it has becomes difficult to predict thing how the future might look.' (Ceverny, 2010)

#### 1.3.3.4 Versatile

This chapter deals with various projects and refers to flexible urban plans all over the world. The best examples and lessons from this chapter will be summarized below in order to analyze their values and principles.

#### Solids by Rogier Noyon

The first Solids concepts of Amsterdam have been completed at the start of 2011. Solids are building in



The favelas of Sao Paulo don't have rules and regulations. They are often build on terrain where official planning project don't want to develop because of is poor accessibility of dangerous terrain. There favelas do often not have the primary infrastructure like sewage, freshwater and streets. The collective construction experience is used to fabricate houses with simple products. It is a universal type of building that can adapt to every circumstance. These farvelas are often run by gangs and criminal organizations who determine the laws and rules, but also water and electricity.

**Value:** Flexible infill in flexible framework, simple materials and low regulations

We are looking for open-source-planning in which the content is inexplicably user generated. New project typologies and financial structures are needed. In realities it is feared that open-source-planning only strengthens the NIMBY sentiment. But how to shape a collective visioning process? It must be prevented that it become a pseudo-participatory process, by managing the participation to strict. This often happens in current participatory processes and therefore participation does not allow spontaneity. It voices the majority and not spontaneity and flexibility.

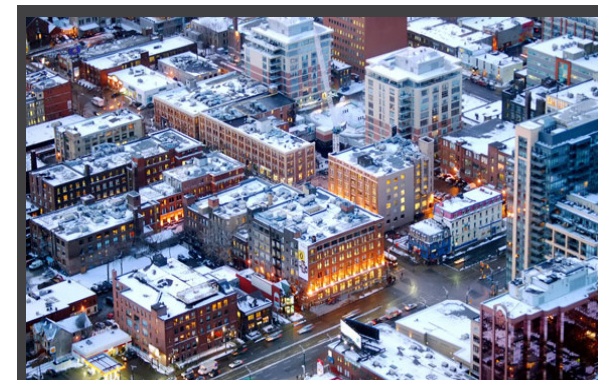
Project like community shares and the mass participation project in Ireland and England can be used as examples. The mass participation project formulated a collective ambition for Glasgow. It avoided statements on aesthetics and detailed guidelines and therefore maintained its flexibility. The community share project asks local residents to invest time and/or money in local project. Many local businesses and project have benefitted from this local aid. Mass participation is also used in Amsterdam for the formation of the structure vision 2040 (binnen30minuten.nl). The municipality collected digital input of its inhabitants and used the data in the formation of the structure plan. First where all the 'wishes' collected, these wishes were assessed and then the inhabitants could 'choose' for a number of that wishes to be transformed into real 'proposals'. More experiment on participative budgeting are often derived for the successful development of the Brazilian city Porto Alegre. This type of financial approach gained the opposite of the NIMBY effect, is improved local involvement. It laid the foundation for a permanent participatory involvement in that community.

Another good example of the participatory actions is done by the 'Neighborhood matching fund' of the Neighborhood department in the city of Seattle, United States. When civilians take the initiative to improve public or collective spaces the municipality provides additional money to their budgets, to do so. The program aims for easy to realize projects because success often relies on quick visible changes. The budgets on the municipal side are managed by and organization who has to answer both to the municipality and to the neighborhoods themselves. This Neighborhood matching fund has given 45 million dollar in subsidies and stimulated an additional 67 million (time and money) in civil investments in the city. 112 million dollars of investment since the program started in 1988.

In segregated neighborhoods or other deprived urban areas it is difficult to start local initiatives, because of the diversity of people, the lack of trust and the lack of experience. These kinds of neighborhood development projects are not likely to have an open source planning.

The actor-relational approach of Luuk Boelens uses several phases for an iterative actor-identification process. His is a process of mapping possibilities and forming coalition. His actor-relational approach had been elaborated in chapter 5.3.1. It is recognized as an important influence on the self organizing development movement.

All these examples of project show that communication will become a vital instrument for the urbanist of the



King Spadina in Toronto was a derelict industrial area that had true metamorphoses. The local government and market parties joined powers in order to improve this district. By providing freedom in transformation and stimulating small businesses and design related functions many initiatives were taken. Dynamic regulation made it possible to deal with the first initiatives with little restriction while the last (and commercial) initiatives had a lot of regulations. By doing this the initiatives with the high risks were rewarded and while the low risk initiatives paid for the extra quality. The district now is a place with a lot of mixed functions, old and new buildings and it has become one of the most desired housing locations of Toronto.

**Value:** Flexible infill within a clear framework, flexible regulation and financial models

**Value:** A physical web of relationships that starts at the pedestrian scale

**Value:** Sidewalk contacts are the small change from which a city's wealth of public life may grow

### 8. Diversity

Diversity does not by itself guarantee the avoidance of unilateral or dull neighbourhoods. But a lack of diversity guarantees dullness and monotony. Again, we should not be looking for single-variable solutions, but for an interplay of relationships. Variation in the residential area is important in order to have a lively neighbourhood. This can be achieved by having a high variety in building shapes, sizes and functions. These buildings will attract in different kinds of people of different ages with different activities and contribute to a varied and colourful city image (Hospers, 2006).

Most of Jane Jacobs' argument in the book *Death and Life of Great American Cities* are related to diversity and interaction. She concludes that spatial and social processes that support one another (Jacobs, 1961). People that live in a neighbourhood that are of a different age group, type of household or lifestyle (families, elderly, entrepreneurs, artists, migrants, students) will bring just a many different activities and products. Hereby creating a lively and diverse neighbourhood for every type of person to enjoy.

**Value:** Diversity does not by itself guarantee liveliness, but it is a good remedy to dullness

**Value:** Variation of function, user, type of real estate in residential areas is important

### 9. "It's the economics, stupid."

Economic diversity is just as important as social diversity. In an area of the city with different kinds of suppliers and buyers, entrepreneurs can share their facilities, such as office spaces and machines, and profit from a varied supply of knowledge and expertise. This cross-fertilization works as a magnet for companies that are looking for a new place to establish. A mix of new and old buildings in the neighbourhood gives every type of entrepreneur a chance. It then becomes possible that a modern stockbroker's office and a traditional furniture maker are neighbours. 'new ideas often need old buildings'. In this way an old city neighbourhood can grow into a valuable breeding ground of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. (Mehaffy, 2011).

**Value:** The economic systems is a feedback mechanism for the values we seek

**Value:** There is danger in money floods as in money droughts.

**Value:** Cross-fertilization works as a magnet for companies that are looking for a new place to establish

**Value:** New ideas often need old buildings

### 10. "Bottom-up"

The capacity to solve our problems rests with the informal web of creative and regulatory relationships we have in cities and not only with specialized 'experts'. Relying too much on experts, who often have preconceived ideologies, reinforces their stature of director of the city. Certainly this does not mean that there is no role for experts, or for governments to be involved in the development of our cities. It does mean that this role must be more catalytic, 'more bottom-up, more with the grain of culture, than against it' as Jacobs said. (Mehaffy, 2011), (Jacobs, 1961)

**Value:** Relying on experts is surrendering the city to uncertain conception of city life.

**Value:** Experts and governments should be involved in urban development but learn for bottom-up lessons

### 1.2.3.3 Conclusion

Jane Jacobs' message was a hopeful one. We deliberately broke our cities, we broke our built environment, but we will fix it. The kind of problem a city has, can only be solved if we understand it, and learn from it (Jacobs, 1961). Jacobs called for planners to abandon their abstract formulas and 'become much more socially astute' in observing the complexity of



Fig 18: Jacobs in protest to another expressway of Robert Moses Source: Sun Architecture

existing cities. Many great thinkers and urbanist such as Kevin Lynch, Donald Appleyard and Christopher Alexander examined the way the built landscape is understood by its inhabitants. This new way of visualising and observing took Jane Jacobs her criticism

The aim of this thesis is to abstract value and principles of important theories that contributed or constitute to self organised development. The lessons of Jane Jacobs are of great importance to the self organising development movement, the values derived from the writing will be used as input for the design of overamstel. The mapping of overamstel will try to map the value and operationalize the message of Jane Jacobs. The next chapter will elaborate on the perception of cities. How do inhabitants perceive where they live, go and work. A fundamental change in urbanism and another step towards self organising development.

not build for their inhabitants, but check the quality of what inhabitant themselves build. For Jan Heeling, professor emeritus urbanism at the TU Delft, only private and public existed. The problem arises when the collective domain replaces the public domain. It is not the responsibility of government to create collectivity.

**Value:** The scale of collectiveness should be kept as small as possible

**Value:** Collectiveness should be a private initiative

**Value:** The municipality construct but be responsible for the build quality

#### 1.3.3.3 Flexibility

The flexibility chapter is a collection of essays on flexibility on development. The essays and its values will be summarized below.

#### Do-it-yourself garden city by Tess broekman

This essay deals with the plan for Amsterdam New-West post war area. Urhahn Design developed a strategy towards a generic approach in these post war redevelopment assignments. Tess Broekman formulated three items values in this redevelopment process.

1. As cities is more than brick and concrete, it inhabitant are more important. Create space for initiatives for current inhabitant and new one will follow.
2. A lively city needs economic strengthen, mix of functions and entrepreneurship
3. Regeneration happens per lot and not per neighborhood, differentiation should be found on the scale of the street.

The current inhabitant of these garden city neighborhood have not been involved in the urban renewal process. Policy maker often only think about the mess and uncertainty and not on interaction and new concepts when talking about private initiatives. Organisation 'Open Stad Noord' or open city north subleases lots, raises new funds and invests in their areas. Profits are reinvested in collective facilities and sometime paid as dividend to its stakeholders. Collective ownership and smart management become a source of income.

**Value:** integrate businesslike organisation model to manage collective processes

#### A GPS city tour by Ken Greenberg

Ken Greenberg has written on 'Synthetic Tools', a shift towards the strength of combination instead of separation. The CIAM foundation of separating function is gradually shifting towards the need to mix functions and neighbourhoods. Zoning is a tools, inspired on CIAM thinking, that was a strategy to protect property ownership, now we have different interests and new instruments are important. The synergy between functions has become important, this synergy requires a new planning, organising and design tool. This synergy require a certain compactness in order to have this amount of people and activities close to each other. It is about connections instead of loose categories, but also about more than prescribing how these connections should be made.

Development should be focussed on simple instruments that refer to the important thing like; scale, connection to the street and sidewalk, planning a pedestrian network. Thereby guiding the local stakeholders create their own redevelopment.

The aims of building for the neighbourhood is can be recorded in the first stage by the municipality for the inhabitants. During the process this input needs to be continuously update in order remain actual. This relation then becomes dynamic. This team effort should be done with people of different professions with different backgrounds; artists, ecologists, economists, sociologists. With clear goals and target but with flexibility and space for interpretation.

**Value:** zoning prohibits and leaves little opportunity to flexibility

**Value:** City life improves by the synergy of processes

*'Good governance is shaped by the confrontation of assignment, stakeholders and location which in their term give meaning to politics and the formulation of laws and policies'.* (Ovink, 2010)

#### The changing collective domain by Joost Beunderman

There is a refreshed acknowledgment of the need for a new type of collective initiative typology. In order to give the spontaneous city its power, it need to have efficient spatial and planning framework. What rules need to be applied to provide mutual trust in a development without a clear end goal? How can we stimulate collective action into a We-City? Can this We-City be combined with the Spontaneous city?



### Leef Land, a project of Urhahn Design

'Leef land' is a project where the flexibility and the adaptability of the build object stands central. The user can choose how to live and work in this project. The plan is based on two fixed elements: A green belt around the project and a gridded structure. A first investment in the public domain, the green belt, should attract the first private investments. The second layer is the grid. Where the grid and the park meet is place for special functions, public program and meeting places. Within this grid future users can choose from a wide range of possibilities, the choices concern; place, type of living environment, lot type, building type, level of detail, moment of construction, budget. Everything is offered at the same time, this makes it possible to grow for all directions in the plan. This creates a city without urban growth rings with a healthy mix of old and new. Invoegen afbeeldingen Leef land

**Value:** Collective main structure with flexible private infill creates adaptability

**Value:** Creating a catalogue creates a certain amount of freedom within a manageable framework

*'Collective values in an area is that what maintains its value over a long period of time for everybody.'* (Urhahn, 2010)



Fig 27: Spontaneous growth, Leefland Almere Hout, source: Urhahn Design

### Between individual and collective: and interview met Arnold Reijndorp

In the Netherlands urban development always has been cooperative, top-down and focused on the emancipation of certain groups within the population. The public housing program was interwoven into all aspects of society like; education, sport clubs and health organizations. This collectiveness killed entrepreneurship and small businesses according to Reijndorp. He calls collectiveness anti-urban because of its strict planned aspect and it therefore killed the chaotic city. This collective urbanism can only exist because of large scale developments of entire neighborhoods.

There is much interest in communal living environments in the Netherlands, IJburg Amsterdam is a good example for this. Active parents created a communal housing for their disabled children. The complex lies within the normal structure of IJburg and offers communal services to the disabled children. The collective city can be part of the Spontaneous city.

The housing corporation system we have in the Netherlands started like this but the corporations have grown too large. That collective thinking is persistent. Many things need to change in order to have a spontaneous city. The role of the municipality should

## 1.2.6 Private commissioning: Carl Weber - Het wilde wonen

This chapter will elaborate on the influence architect Carel Weeber has with his concept of 'wild living'. His work initiated many private commissioned developments throughout the Netherlands. Weeber had a dubious reputation within the architectural community but his vision on the emancipation of the civilian inspired many others to start the creation of their own living environment. His work pioneered with private and self-organized development in such a way that it has become part of many municipal development strategies.

The chapter will briefly elaborate on Carel Weeber himself before explaining the concept of wild living. Because his work provoked a lot of reaction, the criticism on Weeber will be disguised before a final conclusion is made.

### Biography Carel Weeber

Carel Weeber is a Dutch architect born in 1937 in Nijmegen. He is known for his opposition to what he called the 'nieuw truttigheid', a phrase that is best translated as paternal, boring and dull. In the beginning of his career he designed huge neorationalist - structuralist social housing blocks, like the (in)famous Zwarte Madonna (The Hague, 1985) and the Peperklip (Rotterdam, 1982). These colossal housing blocks were often criticized for 'monotonous' and 'heartless' stacking of poor quality dwellings (kunstbus.nl). Though this kind of architecture was accepted in that time Weeber designed a few iconic ones. Later in his career



Fig 19: Social housing block 'De zwarte Madonna' (demolished in 2007) Source: Panoramio.nl

he flirted with classism before he finally introduced the 'wilde wonen', a liberal and civil emancipating planning attitude without governmental interference. Though he has produced many iconic buildings, published two books and many articles and won many prizes, he is not forgiven his capricious attitude towards architecture and planning (kunstbus.nl). Weeber's most famous international work is the Dutch pavilion at the World Fair of Osaka (with Jaap Bakema, 1979). Carel Weeber is now retired and he received the Prix de Rome for his life work.

### 1.2.6.1 The concept 'wilde wonen' or 'wilde living'

The 'wilde living' concept is a radical concept Weeber introduced in 1997. It was a reaction to (this term is introduced by Weeber himself) the Netherlands' 'state architecture', in which every citizen lived in identical houses in identical neighborhoods (kooijman, 2004). With state architecture Weeber refers to the Dutch tradition of social housing development and the architecture of the VINEX neighborhoods. VINEX is a large urban expansion enactment that started in 1993 and it envisioned a total of 635,000 new dwellings in the Netherlands till 2015 (woonhelpdesk.nl). These VINEX neighborhoods are notorious for their diverse but standardized architecture. The former director of the Dutch Institute of Architecture and alderman of Almere Adri Duivensteijn called VINEX architecture; 'wallpapering' (moviq.nl). 'This tendency of living in the same type of house needs to be changed' Weeber claims. People should be able to build their own living environment without being hindered by the many legislative hurdles of the Dutch building code; 'het bouwbesluit'. Duivensteijn, who is a firm believer of self-development and the wild living claims the Dutch building code is terrorizing the planning and building



Fig 20: Social housing block 'De Peperklip'. Source: Rotterdam70.nl

process (architectenweb.nl).

The concept Weeber introduces with his wild living is linked to freedom, leisure and relaxation (1998, p. 9). Where recreation is pleasant, living is pleasant he claims. Recreational locations become Weeber' location of choice for this vision of mobile homes, caravans and permanent occupation of open land. It is a reaction to the so called 'mediocre quality' of Vinex.

The wild living concept goes all the way back to the Dutch architectural debates before WO II, between the traditional architecture (Delftseschool) and the modern architecture of CIAM (van den Broek). The wild living has a large traditional component because of its individualistic and rural attitude (kooijman, 2004). Simultaneously it distinguishes itself of modern and tradition debate because of its combination of leisure and living. The wild living concept happens in low densities in the countryside. Weeber opposes high-rise in the same fashion he opposes living in the city, it all has mediocre quality. Parallel to the concepts of the wild living is 'the wild planning' by co-author Van Stiphout. 'Just like the wild living allows individuals to determine how they project their vision of living, the wild planning allow societal collective to determine how they project urbanity (Weeber en Van Stiphout, 1998, p. 91). An important feature of the wild living is its dichotomous language, here is little place for grey nuances. Weeber places a holiday home versus a VINEX single family home, the compact city versus lush

outdoor living, it is black or white.

The execution of the wild living is in essence very simple. The government sells plots of land on which minimal regulations allow the owner to construct 'welstand vrij' or 'without the interference of the commission for architectural integration'. In Weeber's vision people can go to a specialized warehouse for housing component where you can compose your own dwelling. In these warehouses you can find a wide variety of prefabricated elements in every shape and size you desire. Upon delivery these components will be assembled into a sort of catalogue-dwelling (Weeber en Van Stiphout, 1998, p. 86).

A beautiful phrase

The phrase written below describes the sentiment Weeber has towards modern architecture.

'De haast waarmede men moet bouwen en de zuinigheid die daarbij betracht wordt hebben tot gevolg dat zowel de woningen als de buurt, en zomede ook de architectuur, vaak dermate eenentoonig gelijkvormig, benepen en schraal zijn dat men moet vrezen dat op den duur humeur en welbevinden der bewoners hieronder zou kunnen gaan leiden, met alle gevolgen voor de samenleving' (Niegeman, 1958a, p. 30).

'The haste and frugality that is typical for the dwelling, the neighborhood and its architecture, often so monotonous, timid and poor, is feared to



Fig 21: Expo 'Gewild Wonen' water villas - Almere, Netherlands. Source: aedesign.com

stakeholders must learn how to handle uncertainty since the outcome of a project is no longer precisely defined. It is a change in professional culture, a shift towards gradual planning and many short steps towards an interchangeable end goal.

'planning towards a blueprint doesn't work anymore, the economic and political reality is often too turbulent for a masterplan to be up-to-date after only five years. Modern planning is about developing a common language that provides direction and organizes investments from within the user group itself (Laven and Joustra, 2010).

Project development is history, process development has the future according to Joustra. The masterplan should be a process instrument, not a goal. It should represent a collective perspective not a development image. Stakeholders should be triggered to participate, joining the development effort must have added value to them. The saying: 'The more the merrier' can be applied for the number of stakeholders in area development, according to Laven.

The Schieblok in Rotterdam is independently developed by ZUS architecture with great success. The collective values in this development where creativity and opportunity create exchange within this complex. ZUS architecture shows how easily the transition of design bureau to real estate developer is. Everybody should reassess its own position in order to see opportunities like the Schieblok.

**Value:** The term of planning needs to match the investment term, take small steps

**Value:** Stakeholders must be triggered in seeing added value to their cause

**Value:** The masterplan should be a process document not a development image.

**Doing business in spontaneity in Amsterdam: an interview met Jaap Draaisma**

A good concept doesn't start with a businessplan but

Doing business in spontaneity in Amsterdam: an interview met Jaap Draaisma

A good concept doesn't start with a businessplan but with a wild plan or a mission. Especially industrial areas have this ruggedness, industrial look, cheap grounds and often excellent accessibility. These factors create the right atmosphere, it is about the right mix of program and having a critical mass to activate this. There is a high demand for space for artists and starting businesses in Amsterdam but only little supply. There is no ruggedness anymore only neatly organized businessparks. The biggest problem is the government with all its rules and regulations and large corporations who are solely focused on their investments instead of quality.

with a wild plan or a mission. Especially industrial areas have this ruggedness, industrial look, cheap grounds and often excellent accessibility. These factors create the right atmosphere, it is about the right mix of program and having a critical mass to activate this. There is a high demand for space for artists and starting businesses in Amsterdam but only little supply. There is no ruggedness anymore only neatly organized businessparks. The biggest problem is the government with all its rules and regulations and large corporations who are solely focused on their investments instead of quality.

'Designer must no longer provide answers and ideas just as a service but start with confrontational design work. Only then design can become political again'(Ovink, 2010)

**Drawing as a tool for bonding by Northon Flores Troche:**

There is a global tendency towards more local planning and management of the living environment. Participation in the planning process can contribute all sorts of things like, safety, prosperity, sustainability and the satisfaction of living somewhere. The rules must be understood and approved by the participants of the game. Communication is key in letting the various participants realize their project. Architects, planners and urbanists must be able to 'translate' these dreams and realities. The drawing is the ultimate tool to speak this common language. Instead of having one design, the drawing can be a feedback system or klankbord that reflects the results of stakeholders meetings. Urhahn design created multiple scenarios for the redevelopment of the neighbourhood centre of Poelenburg Zaanstad. The input of stakeholders gradually changed the plan while maintaining the shared vision and language between the stakeholders. Invoegen scan afbeeldingen wijk centrum

**Value:** the drawing can be used to communicate in the same language

**Value:** scenario drawings can help guide development



### 6000m2 vacant terrain)

cause: Low market pressure, spacious, many Young families, low rent, reasonably large housing units

Structure: Urban block with lots of open spaces

Infill: Containers and sheds for gardening, playground, biergarten, info centre, Kiosk. Cultivation green directly into bags/pots/milk cartons to ensure maximum flexibility, cost effectiveness and temporariness on available asphalt spaces

### Practical example Brussel (inner-city industry, molenbeek)

Structure: historic growth lead to great variation parcels, variety of industry and workers cottages

Intervention: Metro station, new housing, mix scale of shops, shop clustering (Furniture), mix retail, creative and housing, fashion attracts other culture events, new bicycle lanes, atmosphere industry gives identity

### Practical example Kathmandu (new and old)

characteristics: trade, individual freedom, simple materials, little regulations

Infill: building height maximum 8-9 levels because of technical restrictions, courtyards in urban block only accessible trough shop or gate, typology 'shop house', narrow but deep parcels, building regulations only on boarder private - public



Fig 26: Spontaneous city? Burningman festival, source: Buamai.com

### Practical example Ho Chi min city ('tube house' as standard for urban block)

situation: Little building regulations, financial yields determine height and size of building, narrow deep plots (tubes), taxation on façade width, no planning

infill: always shop + public functions on street, commercial function result in great use of street, vibrant street life + image, double use ground space (shop + house)

### Practical example Toronto (inner-city industry, spadina ave)

cause: adaptation flexible regulations: function change, commercially attractive building heights

Structure: Good functioning grid structure already in place

Infill: Empty plots filled with apartments and condominiums, warehouses become lofts, as popularity of area rises: regulations became stricter again.

### Practical example Noorderveld Amsterdam (Vrijstaat Amsterdam)

Management: Collective ground ownership with profits

Structure: Lot for lot transformation of existing buildings. Densification + mixing housing and facilities, social facilities, horeca, education, bridge over the IJ, event terrain.

Plots: Rent plots for ten years + individual freedom.

*'Goods governance is responsible social and political involvement, Not top-down, not bottom-up but adaptive.'* (Ovink, 2010)

New ideals in area redevelopment by Denise Vrolijk: There is a discrepancy between the term of return on investment and the time urban redevelopment takes. Investment term do not match the planning and building time of a redevelopment project. Instead of working towards an final project image, we must treat the development as an ongoing process. Therefore

transpire to the mood and wellness of its inhabitant, with consequences for society in general' (Niegeman, 1958a, p. 30).

### 1.2.6.2 A lot of criticism

The catalogue dwelling Weeber suggests is not as free as he intends it to be. The loose selection of compartment in a warehouse was never realised and the prearranged catalogue dwelling didn't offer as much choices to the client as Weeber intended. Many home owners didn't use the possibility of the catalogue dwelling, one of the suggested reason is that the catalogue dwelling has a lower real estate value than its non catalogue counterpart (kooijman, 2004). This argument seemed to have a lot of impact on the desirability of catalogue houses. Real estate is not a consumption article like other thing are, the housing market does not seem to be as free as Weeber hoped.

The wild living concept embraced standardisation by using prefabricated element to compose a house. This would only lead to more of the same instead of the uniqueness Weeber was looking for. The wild living suggests the existence of absolute individual freedom without nosy governments and 'well willing' professionals, but indirect is it still dependant on architects, contractors and other professionals. These professionals a still needed to design and build to a house in the that reflects leisure and liberty like the caravan and houseboat (architectenweb.nl).

Weeber has a great paradox in this work as architect. He initiated the wild living concept but was also the designers of the anti-liberal social housing block de Zwarte Madonna and de Peperklip. Strictly organised



Fig 22: Wild living or (ge)wild women in Almere (2001) Source: jdpv.nl

social housing in high densities, commissioned and financed by the government, you could say 'state architecture'. In additions to this he claimed in 1994 that; 'layman has no sense for architecture and it should therefore be left to the professionals' (kooijman, 2004). This is the exact opposite of his wild living concept when there is no governments involved and the layman can decide their own architecture.

### 1.2.6.3 The result

Weeber has been a great influence in the segment of private commissioning. He has brought the concept of self organization to the broad public (architectenweb.nl). Weeber saw the VINEX housing projects as an unnecessary limitation of freedom towards the self arrangement of the living environment that does not fit in an ever more liberalizing society. He claim that 'de welstands commissie' or 'commission for architectural integration' needlessly limits the architectural freedom and creates boring and dull architecture (kooijman, 2004). Some claim that the concept of the wild living has failed. Weeber claims he has a lot of followers. The answer lies somewhere in the middle, the wild living concept is not successful but the discussion on private commissioning is a lively one. Many internet fora, public lectures and municipal development programs are involved in private commissioning. Adri Duyvensteijn, the alderman of Almere and a firm believer of private commissioning dedicates almost one-third (300-350 dwellings) of Almere' total annual production to private commissioning (Nirov.nl). Amsterdam has two large locations in IJburg for private initiatives and it recently added a thousand new private development plot within the city limits (Plan Amsterdam, vol.06).



Fig 23: Wild living or (ge)wild women in Almere (2001) Source: jdpv.nl



# THEORY | VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

**LUUK BOELENS:**

ORGANIZE AND ENROL ACTORS



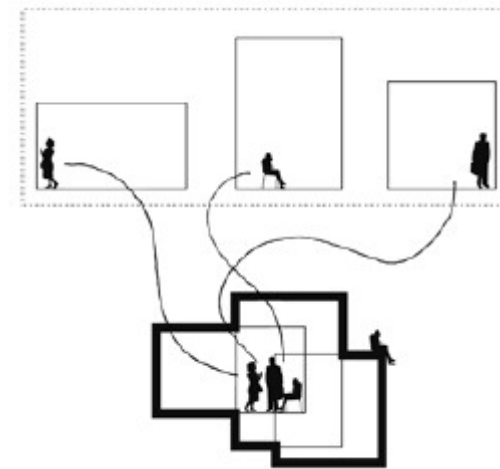
**PETER CALTHORPE:**

WALKABILITY AND COMPACT URBANISM

### 3. Create collective values

Defining collective ambitions is essential in urbanism. Collective ambitions and values make it possible to dream about the future. It creates identity, atmosphere, cohesion and possibly trust. These collective values such as the collective utilities, water quality, heritage, legacy, accessibility are of strategic importance in order to unite a variety of stakeholder.

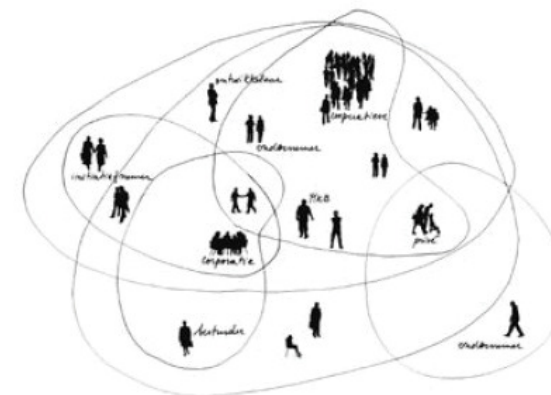
**Value:** create collective values in order to create target and dreams



### 4. Work user oriented

Stimulate internal investment of time, money, ideas and use by the stakeholders themselves. These stakeholder; inhabitant, companies, cooperations and other associations deserve to have input in their own city. Urbanism should be custom-made design work done from the perspective of the user.

**Value:** Work user oriented



### What does it mean?

The spontaneous city is a balance between matter that are important to everyone and having individual freedom: collective values vs. individuality. The urbanist should not act as director, but like a manager who formulates the basic rules and structure but not the rest. It has become important to mobilize money and stakeholder on a small scale. Small investments of a large scale, rather than large investments on a small scale. This spreads the risks' and enhances flexibility.

Binckhorst, The Hague, The Netherlands  
rhahn Design want to transform the Binckhorst organically, with a bottom-up approach. This is an attempt of ensure maximal freedom for the involved entrepreneurs and stakeholders. The main structures of the Binckhorst (boulevard, park, public quay) strengthen the spatial conditions in which initiatives can be taken. A guideline map or richtlijnenkaart is an important instrument to visualize the collective ambition of the redevelopment of Binckhorst. The guidelines structure the plan allotment and program in such a way that it provides direction and support for private initiatives. These guidelines are also based on local concepts and ideas. A plan for the people, by the people.

**Value:** formulate collective guidelines in order to steer and direct private initiatives.

### 1.3.3.2 Resourcefulness

The chapter resourcefulness is a collection of realised projects and articles of professional urbanist. In order to learn for these projects, they are summarized below. The articles in this chapter a summarised in order to extrude the values and principles that together create the Spontaneous city.

#### Practical example Liverpool (capital of culture 2008)

- Structure: Beter accessibility Strategic location, development of several urban squares
- Infill: small scale housing on top of shops increase number of shops by improving vacant sites. Historic warehouses + new structures give area character. Temporary use of vacant lots for: culture, music a.s.

#### Practical example Berlin (agriculture on the street,

the collective people, but as a place for less regulated process of development where there is place for self organizing development. Self being anything but a governmental organization.

This chapter, just like the book, is divided in five parts; entrepreneurship, flexibility, open, versatile and dynamic. All the important essay and project will be used to formulate the values and principles behind this concept of the spontaneous city.

### 1.3.3.1 Entrepreneurship

The spontaneous city is dependent on the entrepreneurial spirit of its inhabitants. People need to be eager to participate in the development of their living environment in order to have unexpected and unforeseen development. This chapter elaborates on various project and concepts where a great amount of self organised or spontaneous processes transformed the cityscape for the better.

#### Manifesto

Urhahn design wants to put the principles of the spontaneous city at the starting point of twenty-first century urbanism. The spontaneous city should be seen as a marketplace where supply and demand shape the urban character. The city develops itself in different speeds along different paths. The spontaneous city is shape by its users in an never ending process of change, growth and adaptation. Individuals and groups, inhabitant and entrepreneurs build, reuse and reorganize dwellings, workplaces, parks and streets or even entire neighborhoods and business parks. Professionals in urban planning works closely with the initiators of these projects.

Urhahn Design: On the contrary, one after the other "instant city" was realized, ready-made places, only usable forms a particular purpose and unable to change (p. 12)

The spontaneous city breaks trend, in which the production of the cities is organized in an ever increasing scale and with increasingly large stakeholders. The spontaneous city as a reaction in the 'instant city', a place where everything is standardized, monofunctional and inflexible. In This type of urban development the role of the user can never be more than a buyer of a generic product.

At the start of the twentieth century almost all urban

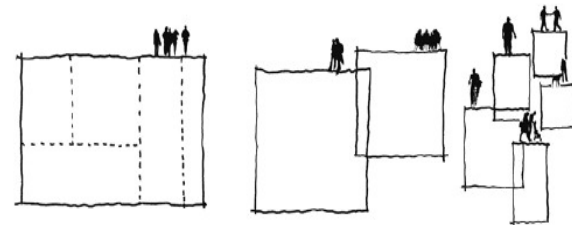
development was managed by structure visions, neighborhood visions, zoning plans and social housing programs. There is no place for coincidence in the dutch planning mentality. Urhahn Design believes than it is these coincidental elements that create a vital and sustainable city. There are four main principles that form the manifesto of the spontaneous city:

#### 1. Zoom in:

Organise as much on a small scale. In this scale you can find many initiators, the local needs and demands and the relevant players. Zoom in; also relates to the factor time, never plan to far ahead and take small steps in planning.

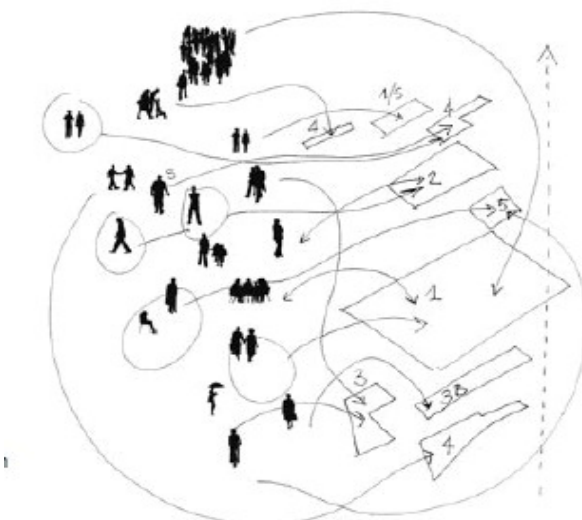
**Value:** design, plan and organize in an small scale with a short horizon.

#### 2. Organize flexible



Organize the development a flexible way, use an opportunity map instead of making a blueprint. Things like function, architectural style, densities and lifestyles change constantly, anticipate on this fact. The non-linear developments of cities provide liveliness.

**Value:** organize flexible



## GERT URHAHN:

IS THERE A PLANNING MODEL THAT CREATES FREEDOM INSTEAD OF RESTRICTING IT?



## JUVAL PORTUGALI:

THE INTER-REPRESENTATION NETWORK CITY



## 1.3 Self organising development

This chapter will elaborate on the theories that form the bases for self organizing development. The prelude of chapter you have just read (CIAM, Team 10, Jane Jacobs, Lynch and Weeber) all cumulate to this point. The theories described in this chapter all have similarities to how they organise urban development or regeneration. Bundling their values and design principles can lead to a strong development method that is useful for the self development of urban areas in the Netherland.

The first theory is aimed on managing and developing the network of participants and actors who will participate in the development process. Allowing actors to organize their own city needs a good management strategy to be successful.

This Second chapter (Juval Portugali) will be written after the P2 presentations.

The third part of the self organizing development is build up from various articles, projects and studies done by Urhahn design in the Spontaneous city. The values and principles from the vision on spontaneous development resemble self organizing development.

The forth part of this chapter is on the charter and other writings of New Urbanism. A movement which promotes the involvement of civil parties in the organization of the cityscape. It is an influential movement with a manifesto on the emancipation of the ordinary civilian in urban development. A principles highly valued in the self organizing development movement.

### 1.3.1 Actor Network theory (ANT)

This chapter will elaborate on a theory which enables the research and analyses of the social context of self organizing development projects; The Actor Network Theory (ANT). According to the ANT, actors and the structure of their network have a must be analyzed in order to understand why and how it has become affectivity (Boelens & De Jong, 2006, pp. 88-89). The ANT provide a good theoretical framework that will the structuring the actors and network involved in the self organizing development design that concludes this thesis.

The beginning of this chapter will elaborate on the positioning and defining of the ANT. This is followed by the explanation of 'the process of translation', which is key in understanding the functioning of the ANT. In a gradual process it will be made clear how actor together form networks and make things (im)possible. The chapter will be finalized with criticism on ANT and how the ANT can be operationalized in this thesis.

Assumptions of the Actor Network Theory (ANT)  
The Actor Network Theory (ANT) or 'the sociology of translation' finds its heritage in the sociology of the early '80's, with important authors like, John Law (defining ANT), Michel Callon (experiment) and Bruno Latour (defining ANT). The ANT can clarify how certain developments are influence by the relationship between actors in their respective networks (Boelens & De Jong, 2006, pp. 88-89).

A clean slate  
In order to research society the ANT treats everything independently without any presumptions. Every human is equal. There should be no distinction made between an CEO of a large international bank and a homeless person (Law, 1992, p. 380). The Actor Network Theory suggest reality should be seen as a social construction, this construction is shaped by the interaction of humans. This controversial statement is refuted by Bruno Latour (1994, p. 802) 'Yes, society exists for real, but no, it is not socially constructed. Even in this, the most primitive concept of all social theory, nonhumans proliferate rendering it impossible to recognize a 'pure' society.' By stating this Latour clarifies the position of ANT: non-human entities also form society.

### 1.3.3 Urhahn Design De spontane stad

The book written by Urhahn design is a collection of projects and essay that portray an ideal city; the spontaneous city. Experts and project all over the world have been used to give the reader an clearer image on what this spontaneity can be. It is a collection of ways how to manage projects without al end goal or fixed final image. The essay elaborate on the origination of projects, the financial side of such projects but also in the position of the urbanist in this new development 'strategy'.

The spontaneous city seems to arise from the same problems as the self organizing development movement. The spontaneous city has been given momentum by, the financial crisis, inflexible financial and organizational processes and a government who is retreating itself as a real estate developer. The vision of Urhahn Design is also not so different from that of the self organizing development movement; exchange between design and use as a consequence of a process of trial and error and a conflict between history and future.

Positioning: Artificial spontaneity by Joop de Boer and Jeroen Beekmans

Something must be wrong when the spatial planners or spatial ordering specialist (in Dutch) are trying to apply disorder and spontaneity in their designs and tools. It is their job to create order which inherently is linked to a civilized society. It even the planners yearn for spontaneity we can conclude there are simply too much rules and compliances to follow. With this in

mind it is interesting to look into the manufacturability of spontaneity.

Can you force spontaneity by manipulating the spatial context? We assume that spontaneity generates positive effect like sociable interaction, cross pollinations of ideas and such. There are also

Many other notions linked to spontaneity which have nothing to do with the actual meaning of the word. It is associated with coziness, cluttering, dissoluteness, sharing things with others. But spontaneity has a number of feature which are almost the opposite of the feature planning has. Spontaneity is unplanned and therefore it has never received a lot of thought. No consultation or participation is allowed, which can form a problem in a democratic country. Spontaneity cannot be forced in the definition of the word. Therefore spontaneity is a conception that is not available for urban planners. It happens or it doesn't, unexpected and unannounced.

The book often refers to the public domain, which is weird because spontaneity often happens in the private atmosphere. If we would filter all the public areas and only look at private spaces the city would be spontaneous. In different words, there is an operational system in which the grid of spontaneity is shaped.

#### Personal position

The definition of spontaneous development I support comes from the process of city building in which civilians have a say in the development of their own city. A city that looks spontaneous also had a lot plans, ideas, cooperative projects and civil initiatives. I define the spontaneous city not as a place where the government solely act as the representative of



Fig 25: 'O Morro' Santa Marta, Rio de Janeiro, 2010 Source: Haas & Hahn



climate, the existing cultural heritage, and the available budget do not actually sit at the negotiating planning tables or on the planning forum itself. (...) Proactively (...) they can scarcely be regarded as leading actors, only as mediated factors of importance (Boelens, 2009, pp. 192-193).'

This citation of Boelens clarifies the point; Objects don't participate in the planning process, but representative participate on behalf of objects. These representative value the objects and by doing so they themselves act proactively for the object. If the if no one that values the object there will be onone representing it, and therefor it will have no position in the planning process.

We can never start with a clean slate.

Another point of criticism is the presumption of 'a clean slate' before starting the research. Muroch (1997, p.328) states that the social parameters are unpredictable and unstructured. Because it cannot be predicted with social relations actors have between one another they should not be taken into account at the beginning of the network forming process. Institutional analyst criticize this attitude because there are various factors that structure interaction between actors (Boelens & Wissink, 2006, p. 159). Firstly, There are organized patterns in how humans act and functioning. Secondly there are general pattern in human behavior every human actors shares (Zucker, 1987, p. 444). Thing like administrative routines, culture and tradition al all element that could be taken into account instead of starting with a clean slate.

Application of ANT in this thesis

This chapter has analyzed and researched the Actor Network Theory. This chapter explained what presumption the theory makes, how it can be applied through the process of translation and what the critical element in the theory are. There is much more the define, research and criticize on the ANT, but for this thesis the above mentioned will be enough is structurize the planning process of a Self Organized Development. The case studies of chapter seven will be used as a example for the actors in the case of Overamstel. The design statement, chapter eight, will elaborate on the chosen actor and association that will actually be used in the final design.

To conclude this positioning of the Actor network theories it must be clear that all humans are considered equal, but all non-humans entities are also equal to humans. This analytical approach does not aim to threat people like machines (Law, 1992, p. 383), but it aims clears all preconceived opinions and arguments. The ANT states that all living things and objects in society are equal; humans, animals, buildings, books, everything.

This broad definition of what forms society means, that both living thing and objects can be an actor. This is done so we don't have the preconceived notion that people control things, or vice versa (Law, 1992, p. 383). All interaction is interfered by things and therefore it influences the behavior of humans. Communication is done by means of; newspaper, letter or television. Letters, send by mail are handled by a chain of humans and things that ensure its delivery (Law, 1992, p. 382).

This example clarifies the Network conception of the ANT. The ANT state that a social network is more than a communication between human and human entities, but by the interaction between humans and an endless list of other things. ANT therfor defines society as; 'a network of heterogeneous materials' in which this 'a network of heterogeneous materials' is translated as humans and objects (Law, 1992, pp. 381-382).

Society: 'a network of heterogeneous materials'

To clarify the vision of ANT on society a comparison is made with the example of a television set. If the television functions properly the materials that allow the functioning of the device are not visible. The network of materials and element are considered as a whole; a television set. If one of the television materials fails, we come to realize that the television set is build of hundreds of different materials (Law, 1992, p. 382). This is the same for society; it is a collective term for the network of people and objects. When something start to dysfunction, the network will adapt or rearrange in order to cope will effect. In a good functioning network all part, human and object, are arranged in the right way (Law, 1992, p. 381).

The definition of actor

The term actor is interpreted by Callon and Latour as followed; 'any element which bends space around itself, makes other elements dependent upon itself and translates their will into a language of its own (Callon & Latour, 1981, p. 286)'. In other words, a

rearrangement of actors, human and object, must take place in order to have a development of change in the current situation. This is possible when and an actor can convince another actor to behave in consent with its own vision on the matter. This process it called 'the process of translation'(Boelens & De Jong, 2006, p. 89; Law, 1992, p. 381).

#### 1.3.1.1 Process of translation

'The process of translation' is the ordering of the actors into a social structure or social order. This chapter will explain that translation is an endless process of rearranging and restructuring. After this, the famous case study of Michel Callon will clarify how the Actor Network Theory enables us to structure and analyze real actor and networks.

Translation is as a continual process

According to the ANT, society does not exist, because absolute time and space do not exist (Murdoch, 2006, p. 73). Society only exists in a specific time-space configuration, that is determined by the relations in the network at that specific moment (Boelens, 2009, p. 191). This configuration of time and space is made by actors in 'a process of network-building in which entities of various kinds are assembled in ways that allow networks to undertake certain functions (Boelens, 2009, p. 191)'. This refers to the process of translation. The emphasis lies on the process instead of the social structure. Social structure are seem as unpredictable parameter because the association between actors in time-space are never permanent (Murdoch, 1997, p. 328). The association is defined as social connection between actors (De Jong & Wissink, 2008, p. 9).

This denial of absolute time and space makes translation a continuous process, and it therefore implies a social structure is never 'complete' (Callon, 1986, p. 19). Translation is a continuous process in which an actor tries to operate on behalf of another actor (Law, 1992, p. 386; Murdoch,1997, p. 327). The Actor who mobilizes the other actors, is referred to as the 'focal' or 'leading' (Boelens, 2009, p. 188; De Jong & Wissink, 2008, p. 9). By engaging and associating with other actors the focal actor become more influential and powerfull (Thrift, 1996, p. 25). The associations can both be human as objects; 'action can come from humans and nonhumans alike, it all depends on the links within the networks (Murdoch, 1997, p. 334).'

With the ANT the origination of the network and how actor function within this network can be analyzed and manipulated. An actor is continuously in the process of translation in order to manipulate the formation of the network to its own benefits. A focal actor tries to focus all the actors into a communal or its own position in order to keep the network intact. When a stable network is operational under the supervision of a focal actor the combination is called; 'agency'. At that moment in the time-space configuration the focal actor is most powerful, this means continuously adaptations need to be made in order to retain the power balance within the network (Thrift, 1996, p. 23).

### 1.3.1.2 The experiment of Callon: 'Four moments of translation'

As an example of what is written above the famous Callon case study will further describe this concept. In his article; 'Domestication of the Scallops and the Fishermen of St. Brieuc Bay' he shows how a focal actor tries to achieve its goals by seducing other actor in cooperation. In order to elaborate on the 'four moments of translation' an short summary of the data of this study will first be provided. For the complete

The story of the case study begins with a Group of scientists who want to research the habitat and population status of certain scallops. There is virtually no information available on the behaviors of the animal, but the population in the French St. Brieuc is who is threatened by overfishing, is shrinking. The scientist want to apply new techniques in order to create a habitat where the scallops can safely reproduce. The scientist can generate knowledge on the critters while simultaneously the population grows. The scientist cannot realize these developments without the cooperation of other parties or actors. The following four steps of translation elaborate on the scientist attempt to establish this cooperation.

#### 1. Problematization

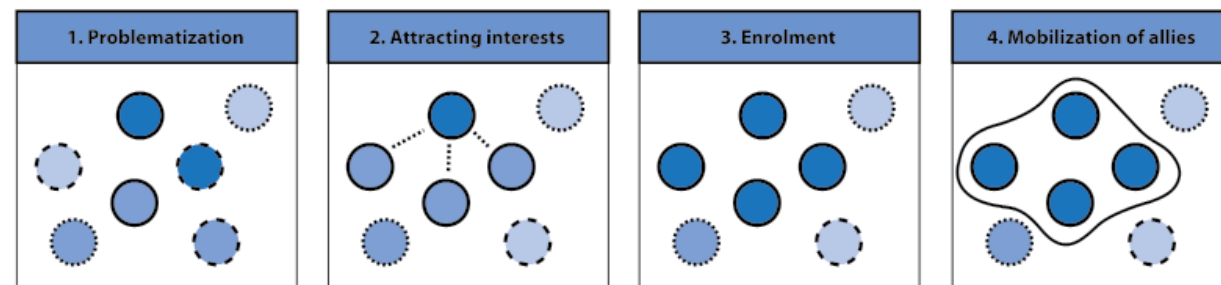


Fig 24: Steps of 'translation' of the ANT. Source: self

The first step the scientist take is the formulation of a problem statement and a possible solution; Stop the shrinking population of scallops by creating an experimental habitat where they can reproduce. The scientist identify the other actors that can contribute to the solution. The scientist (the focal actor) try to convince other actor by proving that their contribution is beneficial to all the actors who are involved. Even better, achieving the individual goals of the other actors is only possible when the suggested (of the focal actor) is implemented. The focal actor makes sure it becomes indispensable to the cause (De Jong & Wissink, 2008, p. 9).

The first actors who are identified are the fishers of St. Brieuc. The fishers are making large profits, but won't have anything to fish for left in the long term if they continue to fish in this way. The second group of actors are the scallops, who will secure their survival if they will accept the new habitat.

#### 2. Attracting interests

In the next phase the scientists have determined interests the scallops and fisherman have in this process. In this phase the scientists try to persuade the scallops and fisherman in acknowledging that they indeed have this interest the scientist say they have. The scallops and fisherman needs to be persuaded into believing that they will benefit from this (Boelens, 2009, p. 191). If the scientist succeed in doing this the mutual association can turn into active involvement. The validity of the solution it tested in this phase. This the scientist get the support of the scallops and fisherman it means that they have assessed the problem correctly and made good judgment of balance of their alliance.

The focal actor has several possibilities to organize its actors in the network, for this example the scientist negotiated with the representatives of the fisherman, a professional organization. By means of articles,

conversations and presentation the scientist have explained why the extinction of the scallop needs to be stopped. The new habitat is assumed to be suitable on behalf of the actors, the scallops.

#### 3. Enrolment

If the previous phase is successful the process of translation reaches the point of commitment. It is the second phase of the translation. This means that the scallops accept their new habitat and the fisherman let their numbers grow in their habitat. In this process the scientist try evoke statement of how to do this. Actions in this process can be; 'negotiation, interpretation, transaction, propagation, manipulation, persuasion and use of violence (De Jong & Wissink, 2008, p. 9).'

#### 4. Mobilization of allies

A crucial matter in the success of this project for the scientists it to asses if the involved actors really represent their follower. In the phases 'attracting interest' and 'enrolment' only a few individuals have been involved. The scallops represent all the scallops in sea bed and the representatives of the fisherman's speak on the behalf of the fisherman of St. Brieuc. The masses (individual fisherman and the scallops) need their representatives in order to follow the developments. Not only have the actor accepted their interests but they have assembled all of their followers. It network has transformed into an agency that is stabilised and controlled by the scientists (Murdoch, 1997, p. 330). 'The focal actor can now act on behalf over every translated element (De Jong & Wissink, 2008, p. 9).'

In the true version of the case study the scientist have not been able to mobilise the its allies. The cause for this can be found by the representatives of both actor groups, they didn't accept their identity. The scallops did not use the habitat and therefore their numbers did not grow and the fisherman of St. Brieuc kept fishing to much in order to allow the growth in the scallop population. In other word there was not enough support for the solution that was suggested (Boelens, 2009, p. 191). The process of these four steps is visualised in the image below.

The case study clarifies how the Actor Network Theory can structure and analyse the functioning of a network. By making no assumption on the researchable elements the perspective on reality is changed. The refusal of usage of the habitat by the scallops greatly

influenced the research. This underlines the influence and importance of considering human and non-human element as actor.

### 1.3.1.3 Criticism on Actor Network Theory

The previous chapters have positioned and defined the ANT and elaborated on how the ANT can be operationalised. The next paragraph will elaborate on the criticism of ANT's functioning, with notion that know weaknesses about ANT and the mistakes that are made in the case study cannot reoccur when applied on the situation of Overamstel, Amsterdam. The criticism is divided in two segment: the first being the way actor is defined, and the second is the lack of formal and informal structures in which actors operate.

Objects cannot decide for themselves.

Firstly one of the founding principles of the ANT is that objects are not only the result of interaction, but also the cause (De Jong & Wissink, 2008, p. 8). Secondly, Callon and Latour (1981, p. 286) define an actor as something or someone that influences space around itself, can make other actor dependant on itself and can exercise power over other actors.

This is plausible, as long as it is not suggested that objects have a proactive attitude to do the above mentioned. There is no real association between human and non-humans, people dominate the material world (Harvey, 1996, p. 220). There is no real symmetry between objects and humans, like some ANT theoretics claim. Harvey (1996, p.221) claims that object need to be valuable for humans in order to have influence on their behavior. The more value an object has the bigger the influence within Actor Network. To summarise this, things cannot act proactively, humans can.

Objects participate by representation.

In addition to the previous critical statement, Boelens claims that objects can participate in association between actors, but only via representation. 'Of course, the climate or environment, the landscape and specific planning concepts are significant (f)actors of importance and so are housing, cars, stations, the available budget, materials, instruments etc. And it is proper that they should be involved in spatial actor-network associations at a far earlier stage. But in actual negotiations or the proactive formation of specific associations, they tend to be involved in a mediated form, via their representatives. The environment or the