The land-in-between

A spatial investigation on the future development of the urban fringe of the A4/Vlietzone, The Hague

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Msc4 Urbanism

mentors:
John Westrik
René van der Velde
THE URBAN FRINGE

Source: stadsrandenatlas, Lola Landscape Architects (2011)
The urban fringe

City

Countryside
THE URBAN FRINGE

Source: stadsrandenatlas, Lola landscape architects (2011)
Spatial fragmentation

Cluttering

Public space quality

Internal Connectivity
The land-in-between
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The case study of the A4 Vlietzone:
- Location
- Spatial claims

Design experiment / 3 models
Why working with three models?
- 3 scales
- design principles
- typological characterization

Findings of the Models
- Assessment of spatial claims
- A set of generic design principles
**Introduction of the Vlietzone**

**Strategic position:**
- Randstad
- Southwing

**Surface:** +/- 560 ha. large

**Governance:**
- Province of Zuidholland
- municipality of The hague, Voorburg, Rijswijk
Literally in-between: Vliet and A4
1. Recognize: The growth of the urban conglomerate

*Atelier Zuidvleugel

1700 1912 1962 2010
2. Dissolution of City & Countryside

Urban - Rural dichotomy

Diffuse territory
- Carpet of spatial programmatic elements

*Source: Neutelings - Tapijtmetropool (1989)
Complex Problematic for the A4 Vlietzone

Existing functions of the fringe

Conflicting Planning assignment

Provincial structure vision

RSP
(Regional structure vision)

Municipal structure vision(s)
- The Hague
- Voorburg Leidschendam
- Rijswijk

MIRT
Complex problematic for the a4 Vlietzone

Existing functions of the fringe
Conflicting Planning assignment

Thematic assignments for the metropolitan region

Climate concerns
Global energy shift
Foodcrisis?
Complex problematic for the a4 Vlietzone

Existing functions of the fringe

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Foodcrisis?
Aim

Provide set of design alternatives
Illustrate transformation potentials of the A4-Vlietzone
Recognize intrinsic characteristics range of spatial claims
Challenge current spatial organisation.
From meta level to micro level
3. Recognize the Basic forms of the Metropolis

As indicated by:

Velde & Wit (2009), Tummers (1997), Boeck (2002)

System of open spaces

Theory:

Boeck (2002)
Tummers (1997),

Urban conglomerate

Traditional discourse of urban planning & design

System of main arteries - Flowscapes

Theory:

Mossop (2009)
Shannon (2009)
> **Landscape** pulls transformation

> Isolation from **Regional and national roadnetwork.**

> Focus on **Waterway network**
Regional design - INT.ZONE

- Urban occupation pulls transformation
- Complete the International ring
- Public transport connections with the central zone
> **Infrastructure** pulls transformation

> **Parallel motorway** structure

> (reorganisation) **regional oriented** developments
3 MODELS > 3 SCENARIO’S TO SUPPORT THE SPATIAL MODELS

Vlietscape

*Mirt verkenning Haaglanden (2010)*

Int. Ringroad

A4 Parkway

Heinrichting bestaande infrastructuur

OWN-pakket: opwaarderen onderliggend wegennet

Optimaliseren parallelstructuur
3 MODELS > UTILIZING DESIGN TECHNIQUES

Technique of: Palimpsest:
Leading structure in the (re)organization of the zone:
- (open) Landscape

Technique of: Transformation
Leading structure in the (re)organization of the zone:
- urban occupation

Technique of: Montage:
Leading structure in the (re)organization of the zone:
- Infrastructure
MODEL 1:

Regional scale
Strategic positioning in network

VLIETSCAPE

Local
Typological elaboration

500m
**Vlietscape: Program**

Topical assignments

**The A4-Vlietzone as multifunctional landscape**

Programmatic synergy provided through contemporary production landscape.

- Educational function & information
- “Energy gardens” Producing Biomass
- Food production Processing
- Additional sources
- Storm Water storage: +- 200 ha.
Reference:

Former energy production landscapes

- Vinkeveense plassen*
- Reeuwijkse plassen
Int. zone: typological elaboration

Urban motorway: The hague, Segbroeklaan, dudok

Rotterdam, stadstuinen
Int. zone: typological elaboration - Vliet

Private garden

Public walk

Apartment blocks typology

Vlietweg 30 m

Inner street 15 m

Buffer 10 m

Low rise housing typology

Residential neighbourhoods: and relation to landscape - coulissen
Model 3:

Regional scale
Strategic positioning in network

A4

PARKWAY

Local
Typological elaboration
A4 Parkway: Typological Elaboration

Reference:

Superblocks
KNSM island
Amsterdam,

Sportscenter:

visible but accentuated by 'vegetationscreen'
Reflection

Disparity
- Accommodation of programmatic claims

Analogy
- Overlapping qualities
- Generic principles
- Challenge current spatial problematic
- Conservation through development:
  - Polder landscape

- Enclaves (Coulisse)
  Network of small routes

- Parkstrip
  Along the Vliet
  Around A4 zone

In reflection to:
Zuidvleugel
Groenstructuur, PZH
municipal development
programmatic intention:

- **Reduce**

In reflection to:
Structuurvisie, Den Haag (2006):

- **Intensify**

*requires:
large infrastructural investments

- **Adjust**

*requires:
large infrastructural investments

- 7,350 dwellings
- services and offices + 30 ha.
- Sports accomodation
- Large scale and (supra)regional facilities
ANALOGY: ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES: TOPOGRAPHICAL LEGIBILITY

Landscape grain - structure

Cultural historical identity - (organizing & activating the landscape structure)
Permeability & (internal) connectivity

Road - allotment relationship
regarding: public space quality & routing
**Generic design principles**

- **Local identity**
- **Landscape grain**
- **Permeability & internal connectivity**
- **Road-allotment relation: routing & public space**

> Integration of the flowscape & road typology

> Legibility
Challenge spatial problematics of the area

Spatial fragmentation

Sectoral developments

Cultural heritage context

Public space quality

Cluttering

Adressed by:

- Improve spatial integration
- Increase permeability
- Emphazise cultural historical identity
- Activate larger landscape grain
- Improve road - allotment relation

Source: Bosch & Slabberss
Potential for other cases

Recognition of morphological conditions:

A15 zone/ Rotterdam

Cultural heritage
Charloise lagedijk

Industrial heritage
Havenspoorpad

N200, Brettenzone/Amsterdam

Cultural heritage
Haarlemmerrekvaart

A44 zone/Rijnsburg

Cultural heritage
Old Rhine
Urban fringe defined from:
- **Configuration of city - countryside**
  > Infrastructure perceived as border.

Urban fringe defined from:
- **Flowscapes**
  > Infrastructure as binding element

*Source: Lola Landscape Architects (2011), own elaboration*
- Differentiation of the fringe along municipal (political) borders

Defined from Flowscape, need:
- Political agreement.
- Attuned, local municipal stakes.

*Source: LOLA Landscape Architects (2011), own elaboration*
Need of a mindshift

Rijk trekt zich terug uit ruimtelijke ordening

Schultz maalt om wegen, niet om snelwegpanorama’s

*source: Gallent (2006)*

*source: www.vk.nl 15 jun 2010*
Thank you!