Dear is durable

Liber Amicorum for Hans de Jonge
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Presented on 30 September 2016
at the farewell of Hans de Jonge as professor of
Real Estate Management and Development
at the Faculty of Architecture of the
Delft University of Technology

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Editorial preface

Theo van der Voordt and Monique Arkesteijn

In 1991 Hans de Jonge was appointed as the new professor in Real Estate Management and Development at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment of the Delft University of Technology. Trained as an architect and with many years of experience as a designer, project manager, consultant, and researcher of costs and quality, Hans brought much practice to academia. Together with his staff he started to design a new curriculum for students who wanted to become a developer, project manager, real estate manager or consultant, and modules for all other students to extend their knowledge on the real estate market, end user requirements, legislation and costs, and their skills in team collaboration and project management. Hans’ dream was to educate people with a background in design who chose to be in leading positions in the real estate industry later on. He wanted them to carry the message and change the supply driven blue industry with demand value driven red input. That is why the names and quotes of the contributors to this book are coloured red. We all joined Hans at some point in time in his dream and coloured the world a bit more red.

In the 25 years since his appointment Hans de Jonge and his staff where on a journey. Hans chaired the Department of Real Estate & Project management (currently: Management in the Built Environment) for 16 years. He shared his views and knowledge in thousands of lectures for students and professionals, and was a member of many working groups and committees, for instance to select new professors, to develop a new accommodation policy for the Delft University of Technology, and to advice the Dutch Government in how to cope with vacant offices. Furthermore he supervised circa 30 PhD candidates and took numerous initiatives to start research programs, to establish new knowledge centres, and to build national and international networks for collaboration in teaching and research.

To honour Hans and to say thanks for his huge efforts in teaching, research, management and consultancy, the department decided to offer him a Liber Amicorum: a book of friends to share the journey we were on together. Because we both know Hans for a very long time and feel to be not just his colleague but also his friend, we offered to do the job. I (Monique) met Hans in the early nineties during my study at the Faculty of Architecture, following the new curriculum. I was one of the first students who graduated in Real Estate and Project Management, guided by Hans at the Government Building Agency on new ways of working. Later on in 2003 after finishing my MBA and a world travel
I became a staff member in Hans’ section. I asked Hans to be my promotor of my doctoral research in 2010. We share many things, amongst others we are curious, share our love for education, want to add value and are very fond of India. And I (Theo) know Hans already from the early eighties. At that time I conducted a comparative floorplan analysis and Post-Occupancy Evaluations of Dutch health care centres, together with my colleagues Herman van Wegen and Herbert van Hoogdalem, whereas Hans was working on his research into costs and quality of prisons. Hans wanted to know more about our research methods. This was the first and only moment that I was his teacher instead of the other way around. A few years later Hans chaired a symposium with John Zeisel – an expert in Inquiry by Design – and my colleagues and I thought the same thought: this guy should be one of our professors! History has proved that we were right.

The making of LA

We invited our colleagues Hilde Remøy and Yawei Chen to join the editorial team and together we started to invite people to contribute to this Liber Amicorum (LA). We asked professionals and academics from outside our Faculty as well as professors, deans and other policy makers of our university and a number of former and current staff members to write a small, medium or long essay. Furthermore most of Hans’ former and current PhD candidates shared their experiences with Hans as their supervisor. We aimed to show the journey, the wide scope of Hans’ work field and the challenges we are facing as well as our words of praise! Hans’ proposition ‘dear is durable’ has become the title of this book. Therefore we asked all contributors to add a photo of an environment (place, building or space) that you love and has a special meaning to you.

Because Hans does not have the time or does not allow himself to make time to keep record of his many activities and output, we also collected data about his CV, his publications and his PhD candidates. Sometimes we felt like being Sherlock Holmes, because we had to dig in many files, progress reports, output lists etc. When we found new publications that we were not familiar with, we felt like someone who collects sugar hans or stamps: yeah, we found another one!

The result

The response of the contributors was overwhelming. In total 74 persons submitted an individual or a joint contribution. As such we are able to present 22 short essays of Hans’ PhD candidates and 50 contributions with a huge range of different interesting topics, including real estate management, urban development management, design and construction management, housing management and architecture, on different scale levels, with a focus on theory and empirical research or decision-making in practice. In Hans’ valedictory lecture he addressed his dream, the journey and the challenge. This book does so as well.

All contributors have their own style of writing and outline, their contributions range from very personal experiences to journal paper like contributions including references and end notes. Common in all contributions is the shared appreciation of Hans de Jonge as a person, coach, teacher, supervisor, colleague, manager and source of inspiration. To cite just a few of Hans characteristics that are mentioned in this book: smart, fast, powerful, full of energy, hard-working, critical, innovative, continuously taking new initiatives, a strong leader, humoristic, engaged in people, a very efficient and effective chair of meetings and symposia, an enthusing teacher and supervisor, a stimulating connector of practice and academia, and … no, let’s stop and not take the risk that he will become too big for his boots :)

We would like to thank all contributors for their time and effort to write their stories. We also thank Flavia Curvelo Magdaniel who was willing to design the book and to transform straight on contributions into a well-designed lay-out. Due to the enthusiastic responses the Liber Amicorum became what we intended to offer to Hans: a nice, interesting and inspiring collection of experiences, knowledge and personal anecdotes, all connected to one person: Hans de Jonge. There is no better way to thank Hans for all he did and, knowing him, will go on to do in the future. Hans: take care, and see you soon :)”

Delft, September 2016

Hans’ dream is to educate people with a background in design who have the ambition to change the ‘blue’ supply driven industry with ‘red’ demand driven input.