



UDLab proposal innovative co-operative NL-China urban planning

2012 October 19

Goal:

Exchange knowledge between “China” and “the Netherlands” about conceptual and co-operative urban planning

Motives:

1. Responding Chinese interest in the dutch tradition of “participative” planning.
2. Fine-tuning dutch academic education and business services to Chinese needs.
3. Cross pollination in the field of ecological infrastructure concepts

Explanation/Considerations:

Ad1: China and the Netherlands are both rethinking and aware of the need for fresh concepts about the role of the government as planning authority.

In the Netherlands it's a gradual process, going on since about 1980 due to the transformation of a post war growth driven top-down planning to a balanced co-operative planning.

The current planning issue in China is that of a balanced sustainable growth. There is a growing awareness of the importance of a multi-actor approach. The appropriate structure for the conceptional process and responsibilities are thought about and tested.

UDLab (UrbanDynamicsLab) has developed a vision how to cross-pollinate the dutch and chinese design and planning practice for this aim. The vision grew in a process of deliberation and consultation of colleague members of the IACP (International Association of Chinese Planning) and representatives of the Urban Planning colleges of Tongji CAUP Shanghai and SUD Wuhan.

Ad 2: Dutch design and planning academic institutes aim to respond to an increasing number of chinese students. And to provide for a curriculum that suits the demand of those students.

Meanwhile dutch urban design companies that are active in China, are looking for a fruitful context for their conceptual approach. Most chinese design situations are very competitive and driven by one commissioning company, following or even strengthening the top-down governmental regulations. Working with concepts in an open situation is in an embryonal phase in China, but is a “conditio sine qua non” to get the best out of the hired Dutch expertise.

Ad 3. China as incubator for western planning solutions.

As it comes to realisation the Dutch tradition in multi-disciplinial concept development for spatial planning is bogging down the last decades in a swamp or trench war of administrative competences and unclear allocation of responsibilities. Not something to be proud of. The chinese conditions on that part of the game are more fruitful. Its not hard to imagine that ideas that results from the dutch inventive conceptional attitude can be realised in China much earlier than in Holland. And once realised they can be a showcase for Dutch officials to become aware of the feasibility for their own spatial planning ambitions or aims. China as incubator for western planning solutions.

This will apply especially to innovative infrastructural solutions. The concept for a “triple-higway” may be one of those challenges. UDLab developed the concept, sponsored by Volker-Infra. Basically its a structure of flexible length, combining in three levels the need of the existing urban or rural ground level, a second level for mobility, topped by recreational walkway with possibilities for wind and solar energy.

Concise description of the programme and projects.

Based on the considerations above and conversations mentioned below an effective approach points out in setting up an infrastructure for transferring knowledge through three pillars.

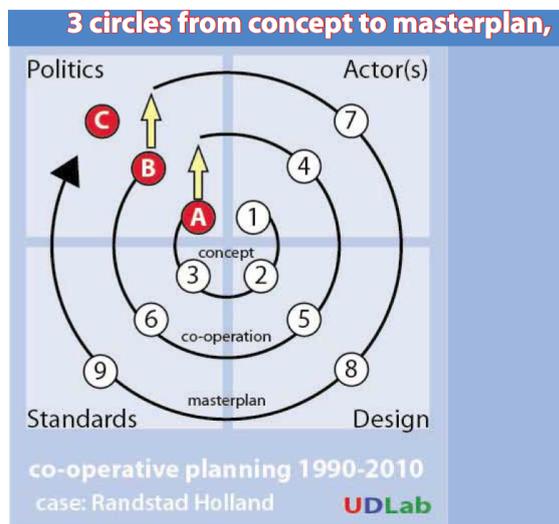
- A. (post) academic education and research
- B. innovation on “community planning”
- C. innovation on “greenway planning”

The three pillars together sustain a programme of projects that already becomes apparent but only can become effective when parties in each of the pillars know their place and role. Reaching that clarity and commitment is the aim of the now asked startsubsidy.

A. concerning (post) academic education and research:

Sharing and cumulation of knowledge by leading Chinese and Dutch universities in participative urban-and landuse planning. (Tongji Shanghai - Wuhan university - TU Delft - LU Wageningen). The chinese shift from central guided planning to co-operative planning can benefit from the dutch postwar experience and procesmanagement on that topic.

In return the direct link in China between universities and local spatial planning institutions can be learnfull for the dutch planning practice. For instance although the TU Delft faculty of architecture and urban planning lies in the heart of the The Hague/Rotterdam metropolitan area there is hardly any co-operation in setting up a research, design and trainee programme.



UDLab will work out the contours of a teaching module on “co-operative planning” that can become part of the curriculum at Tongji CAUP Shanghai, Wuhan University SUD, Wageningen University and TU Delft.

The key points are given by the UDLab lecture on this topic discussed at the IACP conference 2012 in Wuhan.

UDLab office Delft can be a workspace, related to the 4 universities, for 12 post doc chinese students a year, specialising on this topic, relied to real-time design and research questions of the dutch/european and chinese metropolitan planning. Embedded in the local governmental planning institutions.

Fig 01: UDLab co-operative planning scheme.

B. Concerning innovative “community planning”:

On the subject of community planning the Tongji lecture in June resulted to three points of interest:

- Urban renewal: pilot-project of truly co-operative community planning. Inhabitants as commissioning company. The pilot is about re-inventing future proof Shanghainese neighbourhoods, inspired by the li-long concept. Shanghai/Hongkong based architect Liu Yuyang will be facilitator, Tongji is interested from an academic point of view and UDLab brings in Rotterdam experience in inhabitants oriented urban renewal processing.
- Urban extension: re-thinking Jiading/Anting New Town. In co-operation with NEXTarchitects / Liu Yuyang architects. The mix of the old water towns in the Yangtze delta and the new satellite towns, now under construction, require an integrative and retro-active planning concept. Using and enriching the conditions of the existing landscape, cultural identity and local public energy and involvement.

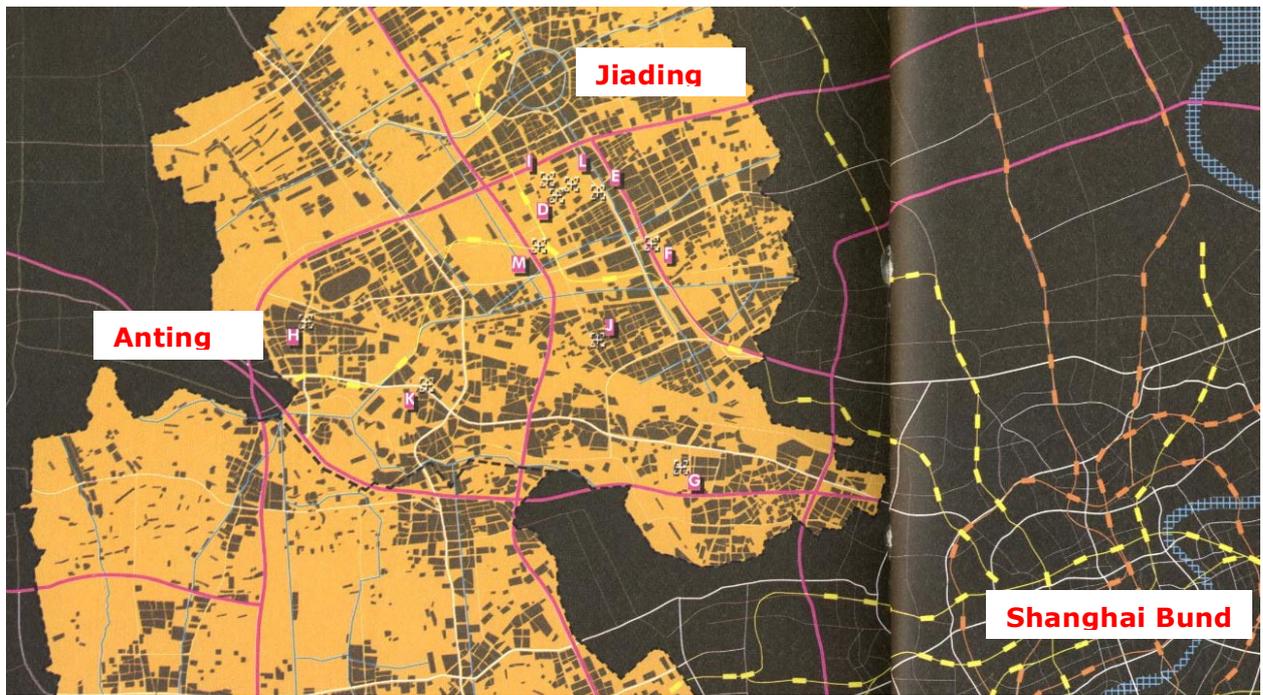


Fig 02: Jiading-Anting New Towns 2011 20 km northwest of Shanghai central district.

- Community basics: applying “Woonparken”: Based on the UDLab book “Woonparken” (a dutch brand for “car free neighbourhood”) The book compares care free neighbourhoods in England, Sweden, Austria and the Netherlands. It results in proces and design principles which guide today’s Rotterdam and Dutch urban design.
Tongji CAUP is interested in a pilot making it part of their design curriculum.

C. Concerning innovative "greenway-planning".

UDLab developed the concept for a “triple highway”, in co-operation with the dutch road building company Volker-Infra. The concept will be worked out joining the knowledge and skills of the Shanghai Construction Group.

The “triple highway” reconciles the opposition between urban traffic and ecologic greenway planning. According to Tongji experts it will also provide in a much needed better communication between the planners for traffic and urban design.

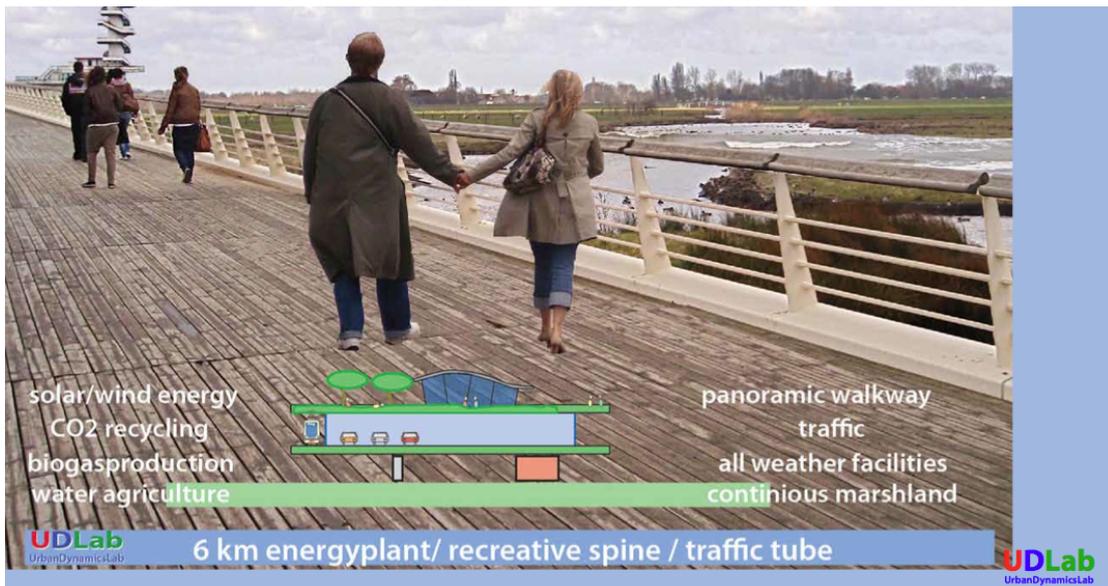


Fig 03: section and roofdeck impression UDLab concept for the “triple eco-highway”

Explanation/Considerations:

The proposal and considerations above are the result of 3 surveys of 14 days each of UDLab in China (Shanghai-Beijing-Wuhan):

- October 2010: Worldexpo Better Cities-Better lives, combined with meeting Shanghai planners, dutch design Office KOW-Shanghai and the dutch consul for economic affairs, Maurice Pourchez.
- June 2011: talks with Tongji University, Liu Yuyang architects Shanghai / Honkong, NEXTarchitects Beijing and attending the IACP conference 2011 in Beijing. (International Association of Chinese Planners). Received invitations to lecture at Tongji and the next IACP conference. Membership of IACP and VNC (Friendship Association Netherlands-China).
- June 2012: Lectures at IACP conference Wuhan and Tongji University about parallels between Randstad and Shanghai region planning. With special attention to the rise of co-operative planning. Establishing UDLab Shanghai seating at DutchDesignWorkspace building. Further talks with NEXT architects Beijing, KCAP Shanghai, Liu Yuyang and staff of Tongji College of Architecture and Urban Planning and Wuhan University School of Urban Design. Visit to the area of Jiading/Anting Old- and Newtown.

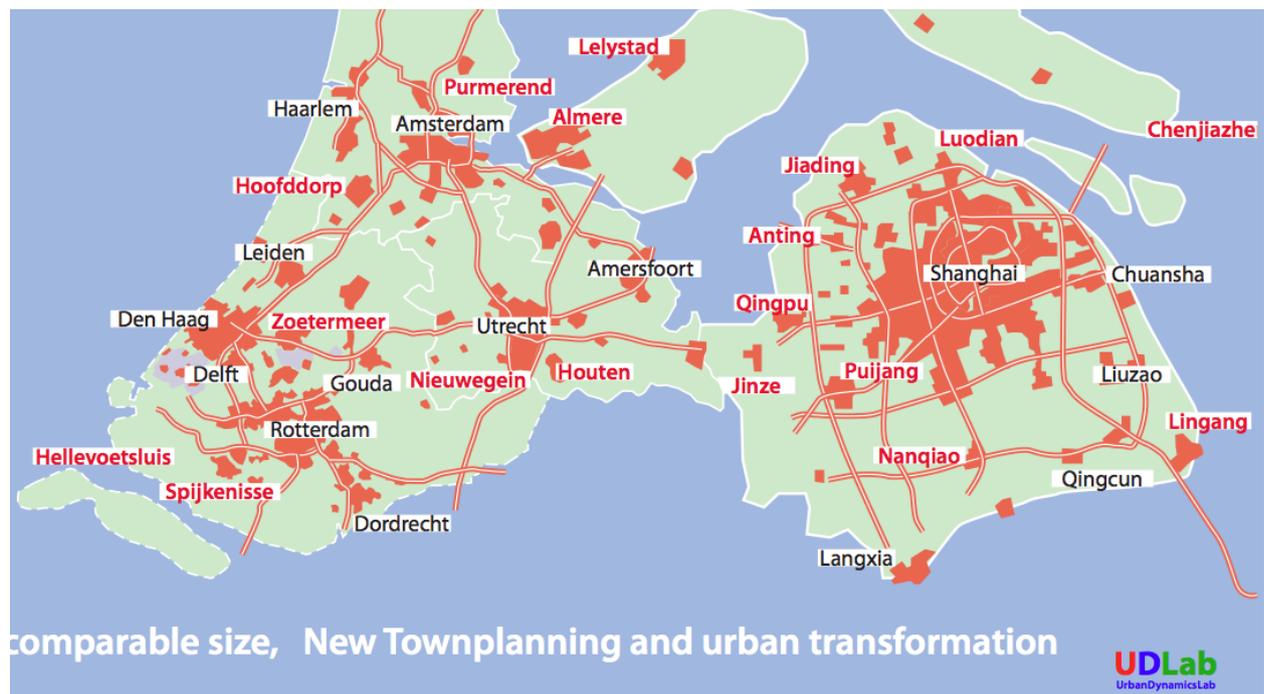


Fig 04: Randstad and Shanghai region, compared and connected.

Sparring partners

During this start up project the content will grow directed by UDLab in conference and feedback with:

- China based Dutch urban design companies like NEXT (John vd Water) and KCAP (Ruurd Gietema) and the incubator-office of DutchDesignWorkspace (Giel Groothuis)
- Prof Liu Yuyang, architect in Shanghai + Hongkong, Curator/Author of the HongKong&Shenzen biennale 2011-2012 publication: "Edge of Public, contemporary architecture in Shanghai's Qingpu and Jiading New Towns"
- The four involved universities: Tongji CAUP (prof Huang Yi/ass prof Wei Zhu), Wuhan SUD (prof Qingming Zhan), TU Delft (the new Berlage postgraduate department), LU Wageningen (prof Jan Fongers, prof Adriaan Geuze)
- Volker Infra (Dutch Road construction company) and Shanghai Construction Group
-

Annexes:

1. businesscards of project relevant experts

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国际注册建筑师 registered architect

2. impression of mail responses of relevant experts

Wei Zhu, Tongji university CAUP (College of Architecture and Urban Planning)

Thank you, Wim.

I think the content about newtown extension and neighborhood planning will fit the lecture topic very well. I will suggest several points you might want to incorporate into your talk:
(1) What are the important aspects Dutch planners usually think when they make plans for newtowns and design communities. What do they want to achieve by the planning and design? And how do they solve the problems?

(2) The evolution of Dutch planners' focus, if there is, will be interesting. Why does it happen that way?

Wei

Yuyan Liu, architect in Shanghai en prof in Hongkong+Shanghai

----- Oorspronkelijk bericht -----

Van: "Yuyang Liu 刘宇" <yuyang@alya.cn>
Aan: "W.E. van de Poll" <vdpoll@euronet.nl>
Verzonden: Vrijdag 15 juni 2012 14:58:53
Onderwerp: Re: Return Shanghai vdpoll

dear Wim, thank you for the email, and apology on the late reply as my office and i have been on a office trip to the southern provence of fujian to see the historical tulou buildings. would you like to visit my new office near the Bund in huangpu district on 21 of 22? we can catch lunch or coffee.
yuyang

Mr Ben Bot, former Dutch minister of foreign affairs, now chairman of VNC (Dutch Chinese Friendship Association)

Bernard Bot <BernardBot@meinespartners.nl>
donderdag, 24 mei 2012 16:00
"W.E. van de Poll" vdpoll@euronet.nl
Re: N.a.v. Reactie op china artikel

Deze materie wordt steeds belangrijker en ik verheug me er. Op uw bijdrage tzt te mogen lezen. Veel succes e met vriendelijke groet. Bernard Bot

Sent from my iPhone

Giel Groothuis, director DutchDesignWorkspace, Shanghai

Van: "Giel Groothuis-DDWS" <giel@dutchdesignworkspace.com>
> Aan: vdpoll@euronet.nl
> Verzonden: Woensdag 20 juni 2012 12:07:17

Zodra je jouw plannen wat verder hebt uitgekristaliseerd en me jouw basis uitgangspunten voor een businessplan kan mailen spreek ik uiteraard graag met je verder per Skype of telefoon over een mogelijk vervolg. Jouw enthousiasme om te starten in China werkt aanstekelijk en ik denk graag mee hoe ik je daarbij kan helpen.

Hou me op de hoogte van de ontwikkelingen,

met hartelijke groeten,

Giel

Harry den Hartog, Shanghai, auteur van boek Shanghai New Towns.

From: Harry den Hartog <harry.den.hartog@urbanlanguage.org>
Date: Mon, 9 Apr 2012 17:34:11 +0200
To: Wim van de Poll <vdpoll@euronet.nl>
Subject: Re: Shanghai/Randstad artikel

Beste Wim,

Interessant artikel, dat sluit inhoudelijk goed aan bij waar hier nog een lacune aan kennis over is, zowel in de praktijk als ook binnen opleidingsinstituten.

Ik neem aan dat Wei Zu wel een voorstel zal doen over een datum of mogelijkheid.

Ja, ik ben inderdaad zijdelings betrokken bij enkele activiteiten hier aan Tongji.

Laat me weten als je hier in Shanghai bent. Groet,

Harry

John van de Water, NEXTarchitects Beijing

Van: "John van de Water" <water@nextarchitects.com>
>> Aan: "<vdpoll@euronet.nl> <vdpoll@euronet.nl>" <vdpoll@euronet.nl>
>> Verzonden: Zondag 17 juni 2012 21:54:35
>> Onderwerp: Re: schema vdpoll
>>
>> Dag Wim - ik denk dat vrijdag in Shanghai afspreken moet lukken -
>> Heb jij bepaalde tijden die uitkomen?
>> Dan probeer ik m'n schema erop aan te passen --
>> Succes hier - groet, John

Dag Wim, dank!

Ik kijk er na en laat je weten - ook over de kansen voor samenwerking!

Groet, John