



Left Bank, actions for a paradigm shift

ISOCARP - CITY OF ANTWERP - VROM
Young Planning Professionals' Programme
Antwerp, Belgium 2007
on the occasion of the 43rd ISOCARP Planning Congress



ISOCARP

International Society of City and Regional Planners
Association Internationale des Urbanistes
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ISOCARP YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS' WORKSHOP
14-19 September 2007, Antwerp (Belgium)

Left Bank, actions for a paradigm shift

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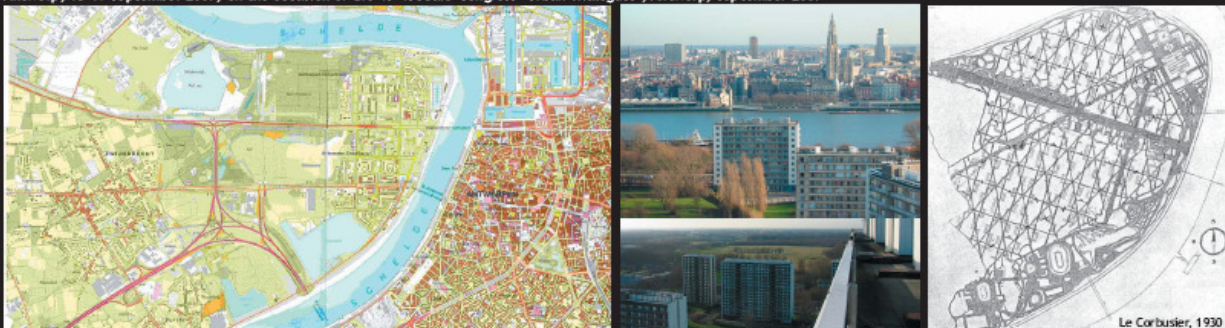
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Call for Participants

YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS' WORKSHOP

Antwerp, 15-19 September 2007, on the occasion of the 43rd ISOCARP congress 'Urban Dialogues', Antwerp, September 2007

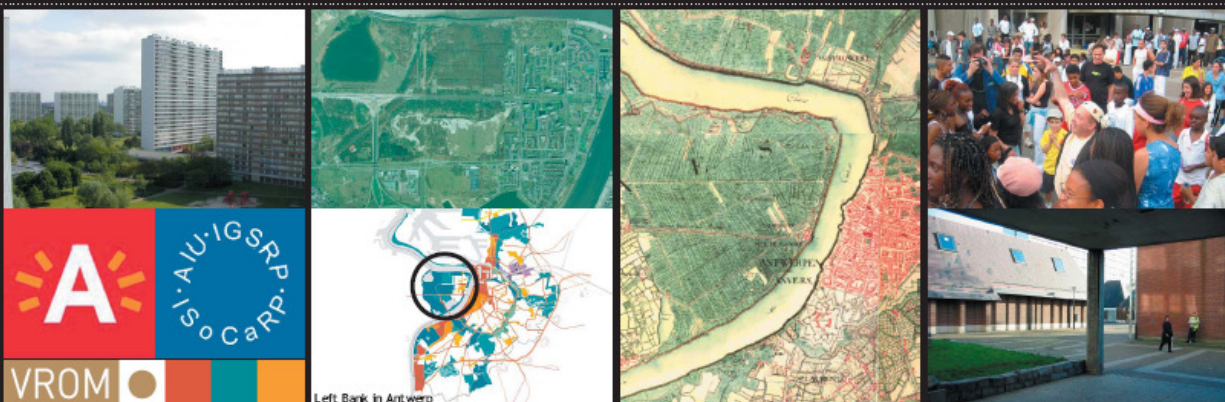


THE LOCATION: ANTWERP LEFT BANK
The Left Bank...
is a part of Antwerp which is developed, but not recognised as a real part of the city;
is positioned between the city-centre and the surrounding country-side and its villages;
was developed in a post-war period;
has a structure of which parts are filled;
does not have an appealing identity...

...but the left bank has the opportunity to become a strategic area with its own identity...

THE THEME: STRATEGY FOR IDENTITY
What position can the area take in the city of Antwerp?
What identity does the area itself need to become a real part of the city?
What strategic role can public space play in creating a new identity for the area?
Which other strategies can be used or should be implemented?

...for more information and the application form: check www.isocarp.org



Left Bank in Antwerp

1. Foreword

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Enlil

Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul / Faculty of Architecture

ISOCARP believes that the future of our profession rests with the younger generations of planning professionals. Therefore, a crucial component of ISOCARP's dedication to promote and enhance planning profession is the Young Planning Professionals (YPP) Programme. The objective of this Programme is to provide emerging professionals with an opportunity to work in a multi-cultural setting and share their experiences. Since 1991, ISOCARP has been organizing YPP Workshops, bringing together young planners from all parts of the world. These workshops are brief, but very intense, brainstorming planning and design exercises in which our young colleagues work on real-life planning problems in the host city in an area defined by local authorities or university departments. Over a concentrated period of three to four days, the YPPs work in closely-knit international teams, exchanging ideas and learning from each other. The workshops, thus, provide a synergetic platform where new ideas and creative solutions to complex and multidimensional urban issues are produced.

In 2007 the city of Antwerp hosted the 43rd Annual ISOCARP Congress with the theme “Urban Dialogues: Co-productive Ways to Relate Visioning and Strategic Urban Projects.” In relation to the overall theme of the Congress, the planners of Antwerp chose a strategic site for our YPPs to work on during the workshop: Left Bank or “Linkeroever” situated on the left bank of the river Scheldt, which had a curious place within the city. Located only a kilometre away from Antwerp's city centre just across the Scheldt, the area was so close to the centre and yet so far away from it. For many, it had a negative reputation as “the other side.” Its fragmented structure, its social housing built in the Corbusian manner and its immigrant population, which rested above the city's average contributed to this image of “otherness.” The task of our YPPs was to envision a new paradigm that would shift the historical trajectory of Linkeroever towards a different future.

The Antwerp YPP workshop included some novel elements:

First, our very fruitful cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) since 2003 has taken on a new form. Till the Antwerp Congress, VROM and ISOCARP cooperated in organizing YPP workshops, which, within the framework of the Congress theme, focused on Dutch cities and regions. It was in Antwerp that VROM has, for the first time, partnered with the LOC along with ISOCARP and sponsored a YPP workshop focused on the host city. The tripartite partnership marked a whole new approach to the organisational structure of our traditional workshops, which required the involvement of an increased number of coordinators. Although this new format required more steering, the team work of coordinators added to the scientific and professional content and gave younger colleagues more chances to interact and benefit from a larger group of senior planners.

Second novel element was the invitation of guest critics who at the same time voiced the views of different actors. We are grateful to Bart Jacobs, ALO (Action Group Left Bank); Peter van den Abeele, University of Gent; Peter Vermeulen, Architect/Urban Planner; Paul Blondeel, Studio Stadsonderzoek; Rozemie Claeyns, Housing Company for sparing their precious time and contributing to the initial phases in which the YPPs worked on definition of problems and the formulation of ideas.

Finally, in addition to the interaction and invaluable comments we always have from the floor, this year, we had a panel of experts responding to the work done by our YPPs. The panel further stimulated a good discussion and intergenerational interaction between the young and not-so young planners. We thank our panellists, Kristiaan Borret, City-Architect, City of Antwerp; Fernando Brandão Alves, ISOCARP; Jan Verhaert - City of Antwerp, Department of Spatial Development; Arjen van der Burg, VROM Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands, for their most illuminating comments and for triggering the further discussions.

I am grateful to everyone involved in this very successful Workshop in Antwerp. In particular, I would like to thank Dries Willems, City of Antwerp – Department of Urban Development and Hendrik Van Geel, Design Sciences Department of the University College of Antwerp – Higher Institute of Architectural Sciences, Henry van de Velde for their advice and support; Hardwin De Wever and Francis De Wolf of the LOC and City of Antwerp Planning Department who together with Elien Wierenga and Liese Vonk, VROM Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, put a lot of effort into the formulation of the theme and concept of the workshop. My thanks are also to the hard work of the coordinators, Janneke van Bergen, of the Dutch Government Architect Team; Marleen Goethals, of Henry van de Velde-institute; Filip Canfyn (Vooruitzicht, 2009: City of Kortrijk), Steve Salembier, Henry van de Velde-institute. I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of VROM without whose support the participation of some of our YPPs would have been impossible and to LOC for making this workshop possible. Last, but not the least, a special thank you note should go to our Young Planners, who are always a source of inspiration for our Society.

The tangible results of the Workshop are in the rest of this Report. The intangible ones, however, stay in the hearts and minds of the participant YPPs.

2. Goals and content of the workshop

2.1. AMBITION

This workshop can trigger a new impulse for the development of the Left Bank in Antwerp, and put it again on the political agenda: “Actions for a paradigm shift”. To make a vision for the Left Bank is the policy-makers’ ambition. This workshop can provide input for this vision, and be a trigger to start the actual development of it.

WORKSHOP SITE: ANTWERP’S LEFT BANK

Left Bank (“Linkeroever”) is just a kilometre away from the city centre of Antwerp, situated on the left bank of the Scheldt. The area would look completely different without the tunnels connecting it to the right bank. This strange combination of proximity and separation is an important reason behind the unusual development of Left Bank. While the centre of Antwerp was organically expanding on the right bank, Left Bank largely remained undeveloped. This was until the period after World War Two, when a modern functional plan was devised, splitting Left Bank into separate development areas.

WORKSHOP THEMES

To try to achieve a paradigm shift, we wanted to approach the Left Bank in Antwerp from different angles. We started off with the principles of sustainability: people – planet – profit. With the ‘planet’ in our minds, strategies for a sustainable paradigm shift for the Left Bank were developed.

Planet

- Landscape
- Climate change
- Sea level rise (the area is a river bank, the river has a tidal difference)
- Natural areas

People: “Quality of life in the Left Bank”

- Social and cultural infrastructure
- Quality of the living environment
- Housing
- Public areas

Profit: “Competitiveness of the city of Antwerp & the role of the Left Bank”

- Economical profile and sectors
- Attraction (public attraction areas)
- Network of infrastructure

WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENT

To present the strategies for paradigm change to the participants of the ISOCARP Congress 2007. A panel of experts was asked to react on the presentation and to start a discussion.

How to reach the goal: observations/vision/strategy/actions

- Marketing/branding
- Development in phases and strategic projects
- Instruments/innovative tools
- Participation

2.2. THE ANTWERP LEFT BANK AREA

► A short history and description of the Left Bank in general

by Francis De Wolf & Koen Heyvaert. City of Antwerp

This is an excerpt of a text written within the context of the European Interreg IIIb project Image about the image improvement of high rise neighbourhoods

•*Short history of the development and the people of the area*

The Left Bank plays a particular role in the city development of Antwerp. Through history it has been the object of many planners' and visionaries' utopias. Still it remained largely undeveloped, while the centre of Antwerp was expanding on the right bank.

Only in 1933, with the opening of a pedestrian tunnel and a vehicle tunnel, things started moving. IMALSO (the organisation appointed for managing the development of the Left Bank) organised an international competition for a master plan for the Left Bank in 1932. There were 119 entries (including a lot of modernists like Le Corbusier). None of which was implemented afterwards. A less ambitious and more functional plan was made up and this way the foundations of the new city were laid out: large avenues crossed the sandy plain from east to west and from north to south.

After the war the Left Bank was cut up in building areas and for each of these areas a separate development plan would be made up. The first development plan already included an area for a high-rise neighbourhood called Europark. In the fifties it was especially IMALSO and SHM Huisvesting + ABC (the social housing companies that own most of the buildings) that shaped the development of the Left Bank. A real rush of (private) building lots, like it existed in the periphery of Antwerp on the right bank and in the rest of Flanders, never took place on the Left Bank. Various reasons for this can be given: expensive foundation works due to the bad quality of the building ground, low accessibility, unattractive sandy emptiness and a negative reputation as "the other side". Only big building companies dared to take the step to the other side.

From the sixties on these companies started to bring the modernistic idea of high-rise buildings in a green and open environment in practice. This is the context of the construction of the Europark neighbourhood (1967-1979).

The dwellings in the blocks are designed following the principles of the existenzminimum and therefore are very small. To ensure an economic construction the buildings are made up of identical typologies. On the other hand the architects were very generous in placing public buildings on the site, linking the different apartment blocks. Bringing all these public services together, Europark was planned as a centre for the Left Bank. Finally there wasn't enough money to realise all of these public buildings. The plans for a day-care for children, a second secondary school, an orientation school and a home for the elderly were left behind. The construction of the Europark created the weight needed to catalyse the development of the Left Bank. More private investors

found their way to the lots of the Left Bank. In short we could say that the construction of the Europark had a considerable impact on the Left Bank but it never became its centre.

• *Image / Stigma / Reputation of neighbourhood in the wider city*

Europark, on its turn, plays a special role within the context of the Left Bank. It is the only project of such scale that was developed in this area. It exists of 18 blocks (12 blocks of cv Huisvesting and 6 of ABC), containing approximately 2700 houses and families in total, which results in a total of approximately 5000 inhabitants. This is more than a third of the entire Left Bank population. The Europark dwellings are also the highest of the Left Bank and are visible from far away. That way they are an indispensable part of the Left Bank's skyline and image.

The image of the Europark neighbourhood has, however, not always been that positive. The statistics are clear: more than 15% of the population is unemployed, 90% of the dwellings is social housing, 20% of the population is not Belgian (For Antwerp in general this is 12%). These percentages consistently show higher concentrations than for the rest of the Left Bank and Antwerp. A lot of the inhabitants only stay in Europark for a short period of time, using it as a transit stop on the way to a more permanent residence. This phenomenon promotes anonymity and irresponsibility towards the houses and the public domain.

Still, taking into account these statistics, it must be said that part of the negative image of the Europark is fed by fear and fantasy and Europark is often used as an example of what is going wrong with the Left Bank and with Antwerp in general. The bad image depends strongly on perception. The inhabitants of the surrounding areas feel threatened by the social concentration of the Europark and spread a very negative image of Europark.

• *Strategic location – in relation to the city, esp. important is public transportation*

The Left Bank is just a small kilometre away from the city centre of Antwerp. Still the Left Bank would be nothing without the tunnels connecting it to the right bank. This strange combination of proximity and separation is probably the main reason of the abnormal development of the Left Bank. Through the years the two vehicle tunnels became traffic bottlenecks and all pedestrian and bicycle traffic goes through only one small tunnel. Therefore two new bridges (one footbridge and one vehicle bridge) are included in the long-term structure plan for Antwerp. There are bus lines and three tram lines going to the city centre.

• *Links to the rest of the city and surrounding areas*

On the West side the developments of the Left Bank are separated from a small village named Zwijndrecht by a large green and open area. This completes the Left Bank's isolation.

To go to other parts of Antwerp and its periphery by public transport the people of the Left Bank always have to pass through the centre of Antwerp.

The ring road around Antwerp will be closed in the future by adding a new part on the Left Bank. This will change the situation of the Left Bank drastically.

► **Description of the Left Bank according to the different workshop themes**

Public space and infrastructure:

While most of the urban space of Antwerp has known an organic growth, the urban development of the Left Bank was very much planned. The planning was done in the 20th century according to the principles of functionalism. This is still very visible in the current reality of the Left Bank because this neighbourhood is still very young and has known little changes since its original design.

The Left Bank is structured by different very wide north-south and east-west orientated lanes. These lanes divide the different traffic flows and are aligned by long rows of adult trees. The lanes divide the Left Bank into different islands that have all known a different development. Within the islands we often only find very local roads or culs-de-sac. This is the territory of the pedestrian. Although there is a lot of public and open space, there is, almost paradoxically, a lack of meeting space. A lot of people mention the lack of a centre or a heart for the Left Bank.

To the east and the south of the Left Bank we find very different neighbourhoods. To the west and the north the Left Bank there are still a lot of valuable open and green spaces. These landscapes are intensely used for different recreational purposes (hiking, biking, jogging, dog-walking, horse-riding,...) and not only by the people of the Left Bank. Also worth mentioning are the banks of the river Scheldt that are, contrary to the right bank, green and natural. A very important place on the banks of the Left Bank is the beach called Sint-Anna.

The Left Bank has the advantage of being close to the nature around the city but is at the same time very close to the centre of Antwerp, in distance. But the connection between the two banks consists only of two tunnels for cars, two tunnels for bicycles and pedestrians and one tunnel for the tram. And then there is also the psychological distance. In the heads of a lot of people the Left Bank is still 'the other side'. The closure of the ring with the new Oosterweel-connection will have a big effect on this perception and distance. The ring could in a way bind Antwerp together, including the Left Bank. A new tunnel for cars will be created.

Social and cultural cohesion:

The 15,000 inhabitants of the Left Bank have a strange relation to the rest of Antwerp. In a way they live on an island very near to the city centre. This perception is shared by the inhabitants of the Left Bank and the rest of the population of Antwerp as mentioned above. Some of the inhabitants of the Left Bank almost feel more related to Zwijndrecht and the rest of the area to the west of the Left Bank in the direction of the province of East Flanders (only in 1923 the Left Bank was cut off from Zwijndrecht and added to the city of Antwerp).

The Left Bank has all the advantages of this proximity of the city centre but at the same time succeeded in maintaining the peace, quietness and openness of a village or peripheral area. The lack of a centre and meeting space on the Left Bank is often mentioned by the inhabitants but at the same time there is a strong opposition against developments that could damage the rest. They have little interest in becoming a very lively city centre. For this they just go to the right bank. This way the inhabitants help cultivating this idea of the Left Bank as an island.

On the Left Bank there isn't too much community life. This is partly due to the lack of meeting spaces. The residents committee 'ALO' and the parish both play a very important role in binding the community together on

the Left Bank. The high rise social housing blocks that house more than one third of the population of the Left Bank are not really integrated in the social life. Just like in the rest of Left Bank we find a higher percentage of elderly people in the blocks but very different from the rest of the Left Bank they house also a high percentage of children and young people. This combination of elderly people and young families, often of foreign origins, can lead to social conflicts in the high rise neighbourhoods and on the Left Bank in general. A lot of the problems of the Left Bank are often believed to be caused by the high rise neighbourhoods. The Left Bank has a high percentage of social housing compared to the rest of the city.

Profiling the area economically:

The Left Bank only knows neighbourhood oriented commercial activities. In the Blancefloerlaan and on the Frederik van Eeden square we find some concentration of commercial activities but only with an attraction for the local level. There are also little bars and restaurants. Only around Sint-Anna we find a concentration linked to the recreational function of that area.

Compared to the rest of Antwerp there is little economical activity. Only the fourth sector is well represented. There are relatively many schools and also different services for the elderly. Due to the older population of the Left Bank there is a small active population. The employment rate of the active population is lower than that of the rest of the city but this is the same for the rest of the centre of Antwerp.

The new regatta project with offices and other activities and a newly planned industrial area, near to the existing one by the exit of the Kennedy tunnel, will thus have a big effect on the economical dynamics of the Left Bank. But it is clear that for now economical activity is not the main function of the Left Bank.

Quality of the living environment:

The Left Bank is in the first place a qualitative living neighbourhood. A lot of inhabitants (even the ones living in the social housing blocks) say they would like to always stay on the Left Bank. They point out the green character, the openness, the quietness, the presence of the Scheldt and the proximity of the city centre as some of the main qualities. The residents cherish a certain pride of their Left Bank.

There are almost no uninhabited dwellings on the Left Bank. This can partly be explained by the high percentage of apartments in this area compared to the rest of the city and even to the city centre. Another reason is probably the limited age of the built environment. The density of the built environment is also low compared to the other parts of the city at the same distance to the centre.

The main complaints of the residents deal with illegal dumping and safety. The first problem is again partly linked to the fact that there is a high percentage of apartments and especially the presence of small social apartments. Although this of course does not excuse any dumping. The second problem is a little bit more difficult to explain because the statistics in which the unsafeness is measured by the amount of reports of different crimes and other nuisances, do not show particularly high percentages for the Left Bank. Without minimizing some real problems we can say that there is a strong subjective feeling of unsafeness that sometimes extends beyond reality. This subjective feeling is often stronger near the social high rise blocks.

As we said before, the Left Bank is cut up into different islands by an orthogonal grid of very wide lanes. On the different islands we find different typologies of neighbourhoods and buildings. A villa neighbourhood can be

situated right next to a high rise area. This richness in typologies is an important asset of this city part. Many of the social high rise blocks are now 30 or more years old. This means that the oldest ones will be in need of a thorough renovation in the near future. A renovation of such a scale costs a lot of money, so before spending this, we should think about the long term future of these social high rise neighbourhoods. This need for renovation could be a good occasion for trying to do something about the liveability problems that exist in those neighbourhoods now.

► **Current planning context**

Of course the city already has a lot of plans for the Left Bank. Especially since the strategic structure plan for the city has been approved in 2007. But as the goal of the workshops was to look for a new paradigm for the Left Bank, it was decided that it would be better not to document most of these plans and projects for the Young Planning Professionals, as this could have a counter-productive effect. Still two very concrete projects were presented to them because these projects will be realized in the short term future and they will have a huge impact on the structure of the Left Bank. This impact is part of the reason why the city is looking for a new paradigm for the Left Bank.

Future projects on the Left Bank

- **Oosterweel-connection:** This project makes a new connection between the Left and the right bank of the Scheldt by means of a tunnel (under the Scheldt) combined with a bridge ('Lange Wapper', over a part of the harbour). This new connection closes the ring road around Antwerp in the North and is perfectly fit for trucks.

The connection is made with a tunnel under the river Scheldt, arriving on the Left Bank in the current green areas of Sint-Anna woods and Blokkesdijk. For the closure of the ring road new traffic infrastructure will be necessary on the Left Bank. Parallel to this and as a compensation, an integrated nature plan will be made up for the Left Bank that links the existing ecological zones together and combines them into one big park.

The construction of this connection will take place in two phases. The first phase runs from 2008 to 2012. The second phase from 2012 to 2014.

- **Regatta housing development:** On this site on the Left Bank, a new neighbourhood will be created. In the following 10 years 400 new single-family-houses with garden and 1000 new apartments will be built. To insure the urban character of the neighbourhood a certain density and a mix of different functions will be developed on the site (housing, public services and commercial spaces, offices, recreational facilities,...)

The initial implementation concepts of the new neighbourhood take the green character of the Left Bank into account. They try to preserve the connection between the green area in the middle of the Left Bank and the lake that borders on the Regatta project.

This private housing project is unique in Flanders due to its large scale. It will have an enormous effect on the development of the social and economical structure of the Left Bank with its 3,500 new inhabitants and 2,000 new job opportunities (the plan does not only contain housing but also offices and commercial activities).

2.4. PREPARATION

During the summer months preceding the workshop, the Young Planning Professionals received documentation on the Left Bank area. In order to familiarize themselves with the topic and as an introduction to all group members, they were given a homework assignment, to be carried out before arriving in Antwerp. The assignment was connected to the two themes: “Quality of life in the Left Bank” and “Competitiveness of the city of Antwerp & the role of the Left Bank”.

Their task was to give two examples of interesting ‘places’ in a city in their country which went through a meaningful shift in image or paradigm and started playing a role on the two different levels of scale:

- one example in terms of quality of life, at neighbourhood-level
- one example in terms of (inter)national image building, at city-level.

For each case they were asked to prepare a text answering the following questions:

- Is it a good or a bad place?
- What position does it have in the structure of the city?
- Which regeneration strategies were used?
- Which activities can take place there?

And a minimum of two images:

- one which shows the position of the place in the structure of the city (in for example an aerial picture or a map);
- and one photograph.

The homework assignments were presented on the first day of the workshop.

2.5. WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Friday, 14 September 2007

- 16.00 Registration and introduction at the Henry van de Velde Institute*
Welcome (Zeynep Enlil)
Introduction on the City of Antwerp and the Left Bank (Kristiaan Borret)
Short introduction on the workshop theme (Elien Wierenga/Hardwin de Wever)
- 20.00 Welcome Dinner at restaurant Amadeus

Saturday, 15 September 2007

ANALYSIS

What are the main problems and chances for the area in the different themes?
Product: SWOT – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats

Location: City of Antwerp Parks and Gardens department in Left Bank

- 09.00 Introduction on the themes by the team leaders/assignment to groups
- 10.00 First discussion in groups: relating the homework to the theme
- 11.00 Presentation on housing strategies and visit of the 'Europark' with view over the Left Bank – Rosemarie Claeys
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Walking excursion Left Bank – guided by ALO (Left Bank Action Group)
- 14.00 Presentation 'Regatta' (Filip Canfyn, Vooruitzicht, now City of Kortrijk)
- 14.30 Presentation 'Oosterweel connection' (Marleen Goethals)
- 16.30 Short presentations of the first conclusions by each group
- 21.00 Attendance at the yearly Mayor's Ball

Sunday, 16 September 2007

VISION

What could be a new identity for the area? Which tools are available?
Product: 2 maps: scale of the city and scale of Left Bank

Location: Henry van de Velde Institute*

- 09.00 Workshop (vision)
- 12.00 at café 'Lastig Portret'
- 13.00 Workshop (vision and design)
- 17.00 Presentation, discussion and questions

Monday, 17 September 2007

PROGRAMME & STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Zooming in, programme, interventions, strategic projects
Product: Spatial images of parts of the area, and 3D images

Location: Henry van de Velde Institute* * (changed name into Artesis University college of Antwerp)

- 09.00 Workshop (programme & strategic projects)
12.00 Lunch in cafeteria
13.00 Workshop
18.00 Intermediate presentation
Guest critics:

Bart Jacobs – ALO (Action Group Left Bank)
Peter vanden Abeele – University of Gent
Peter Vermeulen – Architect/Urban Planner
Paul Blondeel – Studio Stadsonderzoek
Rozemie Claeys – Housing company

Tuesday, 18 September 2007

STRATEGY

From specific to generic: how can the design lead to an overall strategy for urban renewal?

- 09.00 Workshop (strategy)
12.00 Lunch at cafeteria
13.00 Workshop (presentation + posters)
17.00 Presentation and discussion

Wednesday, 19 September 2007

PRESENTATION: presentation of results: identity, programme, main qualities and strategy

Location: Henry van de Velde Institute (*changed name into: Artesis University college of Antwerp*).

- 09.00 Finishing presentation
12.00 Lunch in cafeteria
13.00 Finishing presentation

Location: congress venue Elzenveld

- 14.00 Congress registration
14:30 Check presentation in congress hall
17.00 Joint final presentation

Panel discussion by:

Kristiaan Borret – City-Architect, City of Antwerp
Fernando Brandao Alves – ISOCARP
Jan Verhaert - City of Antwerp, Department of Spatial Development
Arjen van der Burg – VROM Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands

- 20.00 Congress welcome reception

3. Workshop results

3.1. Group 1: Theme 'people'

Tutor: Arch drs Marleen Goethals

Participants

Angelika Namdar – Suriname

Daniela Wullers – Germany

Hélène Roose – Belgium

Mehri Mohebbi – Iran

Stefan Netsch - Germany

3.1.1 Assignment: 'Quality of life in the Left Bank'

by Marleen Goethals

The 'people' theme in the realm of spatial planning covers many topics. In part 2.1. 'Ambition of the workshop' the focus of the theme is placed on the quality of life.

We chose to concentrate on the problems of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, more specifically on the problems of the poorest foreign group, dealing with high rates of unemployment and on the subjective feelings of fear of the inhabitants. A second focus is stressed on the role the Left Bank green area should play in the quality of life of the neighbourhood and the bigger Antwerp area.

The following questions were asked:

- How can spatial planning and design contribute to the enhancement of the social situation of the poor group and the relation between the foreigners and the autochthones on Left Bank?
- Which are the right activities to plan in a neighbourhood suffering of a high rate of unemployment?
- And how can the Left Bank green and built up area contribute to the quality of life of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and of the inhabitants of the whole city of Antwerp?

Answers to these questions, and indications on how the quality of the public space, or of the housing fabric should be redeveloped, should also come from the inhabitants and the users of Left Bank. Unfortunately involving the inhabitants in the process of planning during the short space of time of this workshop seemed not to be feasible.

Being aware that the perception of the members of the workshop can not replace the evaluation of the space of Left Bank by the inhabitants of both neighbourhood and the bigger city, the participants of the workshop were asked to analyse the spatial quality on Left Bank by answering following questions.

- which spatial elements (in both positive and negative sense) of the Left Bank landscape does strike you the most?
- which elements are responsible for the present spatial quality of the Left Bank?
- which elements are threatening for this quality, or which elements are responsible for lack of spatial quality?

- What is the importance of the existing social and cultural infrastructure in the quality of this perception?
- What is the importance of the existing nature and recreation area in the quality of this perception?
- What is the importance of public space in the quality of this perception? Can one enjoy the positive elements of the Left Bank landscape in this public space?
- What is the importance of the building typology, and the housing quality in the quality of this perception?

This analysis was finished with a scan of the available information of different administrations of the city and of the community group on **problems, qualities and visions** on problems, qualities and visions concerning spatial and socio-cultural issues.

With the results of the analysis the participants of the workshop should be prepared to formulate a vision and design spatial projects for the future spatial development of Left Bank doing its part in enhancing the quality of life of both the inhabitants of the neighbourhood and the inhabitants of the whole city of Antwerp.

3.1.2 Observations/vision/strategy/actions

by H el ene Roose

Introduction: Space for people

This report starts with a short overview of Left Bank. What follows is an analysis of the public spaces and use of Left Bank. Thereafter we formulate a vision and conclude with some design proposals.

The following description is an interpretation, based on first impressions and interviews. A people's theme needs more research and scientific accuracy.

Historically seen, Left Bank was developed much later than the main city on the right bank. A process similar to that in other European cities happened, a new part of the city was built for housing to release the pressure from the older part. This process gave Left Bank the image to be "on the other side".

Left Bank is the recreational heart of greater Antwerp. It attracts people both from the city and from surrounding municipalities such as Burcht and Zwijndrecht. Formal functions are localised in a very formal way on the north shore (from a public beach to a private tennis club and a restaurant alley). Large scale informal spaces cover the rest of the area. These green places are very attractive for outdoor sports and other recreational usages.

Left Bank has a potential in the amount and diversity of public spaces and nature areas - some of these are either not used or not clearly accessible. The spaces differ from the green lawns between the high rise housing blocks to the unplanned nature areas more to the west of Europark. All of these spaces have more or less in common that they are not used in a differentiated and intensive way.

Left Bank and especially Europark, is perceived as a place where people live who have no choice of residence, due to their social and economical situation. Europark contains many elements of the image which was created in the late sixties of "modern living" in the way Le Corbusier described it. By now it is a melting pot of different

cultures and nationalities. This causes problems in different ways and it is not a very satisfying situation for the inhabitants, local activity groups and the local authority.

A main topic in the workshops was the question how and if Left Bank should undergo a shift. The area, which at present forms the “functional backside” of Antwerp, can be turned to take up a central position. Left Bank has a potential in the amount and diversity of public spaces and nature areas. If the large scale natural spaces are taken in account, they can form an opening towards the bigger region in the west. This so-called spinal turnaround can put Left Bank more in a central position in the Region of Antwerp.

For analysis of the open space please see the slides in the Powerpoint Presentation.

Types of open space

As noted in the introduction, Left Bank is characterized by a broad range of spaces. A rough subdivision into areas can be made: the more structured river shore; the open space within the residential area (between the blocks of Europark); and the natural open green areas (Middenvijver, Sint-Annabos, Galgenweel, Burchtse Weel, etc...)

Between the blocks of Europark are a few playgrounds and football fields but also a lot of leftover space. These leftover areas have no function, people do not use them. They can lead to unpleasant situations and a reduced usage of the space. Another typology consists of the streets and big avenues, enveloping the high rise of Europark. Those are mostly over-dimensioned compared to the activity that takes place.

Accessibility of the area

Accessibility is a main aspect in stimulating the use of open space. A main pedestrian and public transportation access to Left Bank is the F. Van Eeden square. It covers the city and Zwijndrecht/Burcht. Other entrances are the exit of the highway. parking places at the Sint-Anna beach and the Park and Ride at the metro line. On a lower level there are the entrances to the forest, the “recreational head” (Sint-Anna beach and so on) and the river shore.

Local versus sub local use of open space

Different users occupy the different open spaces on Left Bank. We notice few intermingling between local groups and supra local visitors. The locals are mostly using the open space within the residential area, like playgrounds, squares and streets. Secondly, people from the city of Antwerp, Zwijndrecht and Burcht visit the river shore, take their dogs to the Sint-Anna woodland, Middenvijver or spend the day at the Sint-Anna beach or Galgenweel. Finally there are people coming from the greater region Zwijndrecht/Burcht, especially in the weekend.

Friction zones

As mentioned above there is a strong delineation between zones used by locals and visitors. We chose the terminology "friction" to determine the borders between these areas. Different open spaces, functions and uses or people meet one another or not. F van Eeden square is an example. Local people go there for shopping, people from a supra-local level come by metro or bicycle to the recreational gate. Others use the square to park their cars and move the other way into

the city centre. F. van Eeden square is a node of public flows with few residential quality and permanent activity.

Places where people meet can be conflictual but can also integrate potentials.

Vision

The idea we worked on grew from the "friction zone" concept. The strong delineation in space of user groups should be stopped, by connecting the common space. We aim to connect different spaces, users, levels and cultures by strengthening the accessibility, local economy, (give) open/unused space to people, empower local people.

Therefore we propose the creation of a recreational/green path with a hard and a more quiet zone, for users from a local, supra local (Antwerp) and regional level. This path should enhance the connection between the more structured river shore, the open space within the residential area (between the blocks of Europark); and the natural open green area (Middenvijver, Sint-Annabos, Galgenweel, Burchtse Weel, etc...)

Within the vision we chose to further define and design 3 case studies.

F. van Eeden square

* Aims

Connecting the landscape of the shore with the urban centre by reorganizing the traffic situation

Creation of a centre for local people and a starting point for recreation for people from supra local level (→ definition of centre → it is not an urban centre, but a local centre and recreational centre with restaurants etc)

Take care → everything is connected in a system → square – park and ride – entrance to the tunnel

- stress entrance to the area
- connecting local - sub local
- connecting different cultures
- strengthen local economy
- starting point for recreational use

* Interventions:

global village filled in by residents → example Barcelona Mercado Santa Catarina

cut back and design square

cut back roadsrestaurant / kiosk / information point for recreation users

Europark

* Aims

combination physical / social / process

connecting open spaces

connecting local - sub local

give unused space to people

connecting different cultures

empower residents

* Interventions

community gardens built by residents
create green axis Charles de Costerlaan
seasonal exhibition
restaurant / viewing point Chicago block → relation with development Charles de Costerlaan and community gardens → how do you bring people to the Chicago block? → small restaurants at the ground floor
skate park

* Aims of the exhibition / project Charles de Costerlaan

encourage local inhabitants to take part in social activities
give the feeling of being a member of a society to the local inhabitants
revive main connection between Antwerp and Left Bank

* Community Gardens: creating community gardens together with the local people as opportunities for the local people to express themselves

the image of the place will become more neutral
designate underused open spaces as community gardens
the gardens should be appropriated by the local people
working together of government and local people on the planning, implementation and conservation of the gardens

* Design of the garden

starting point: the garden should be appropriated by the local people
character: based on the culture and traditions of the local people
design: open green spaces, with wooden cultural restaurants, which will be use for promoting the kitchen of the cultural diversity

* Activities to make the gardens lively

picnic, cultural activities (dance, theatre, cook-outs, sports)

Middenvijver

* Aims

make green space accessible
strengthen recreational function
connecting local - sub local

* Interventions

wooden gangways to Middenvijver
bird watch stands
picknick places
restaurants at Blancefloerlaan / Halewijnlaan* Aims wooden gangways
give identity to the natural resources
invite local inhabitants to the main green open space

3.1.3 Comments

► Closing remarks by the group's co-ordinator, Marleen Goethals

During a short space of time, a very intensive exchange of information and ideas took place.

A lot of attention was paid to the absence in the street scene of the mix of cultures living on the Left Bank. One can hardly see the foreign people on Left Bank. There are almost no ethnic restaurants or shops. Enhancing the legibility and the transparency of the uses of the different ethnic groups, like in the allotment gardens, in the ethnic market on the De Costerlaan, or in the skate park, will not only create a more attractive public space but it can also have positive effects on the mutual understanding of the different cultures. Moreover creating spaces with low costs of hire for local businesses can stimulate entrepreneurship within the foreign groups.

Another strong idea living in the group was to bring about a spinal turnaround by creating a green recreational heart that is attractive enough to become a centrality for the surrounding communities of the Waasland and Antwerp. Ideas for the defragmentation of the green areas of Left Bank, the attractiveness of the green areas and the entrances to the green heart from the Waasland, the Left Bank neighbourhood and the right bank were suggested but not elaborated in designs.

Other interesting ideas were the concept of creating points of friction between local and supra-local users and the concept of connecting the landscape with the urban centre by reorganizing the traffic situation on the Frederik Van Eedenplein.

It's a pity that there was not enough time for a further elaboration of these ideas....

► **Reactions of guest critics to the intermediate presentation**

by Elien Wierenga

Good elements in the plan are:

- Activating the green areas and giving the green areas potentials for use
- Participation of the inhabitants
- Analysis that the left-over spaces are negative for the feeling of safety.

Be more concrete in working out the ideas. How will the open spaces be developed? In what way will the design help in activating the areas, be used by the inhabitants and how will the inhabitants participate? What should the Frederik van Eeden square be? What kind of infrastructure is needed? What should happen in the Chicago building?

Friction between the different uses of the area: supra-local use at this moment only on the edges of the Left Bank, and local use in the area itself. The wish is to mix the different kinds of use, but the question is how to do that.

Users can be guided by accessibility, and so the use of the different places can be guided by changing accessibility and routes on the Left Bank.

What happens in the public space on the Left Bank? How is it used? How do the people on the Left Bank want to use the public space?

Organise friction, interaction. This is not necessarily in a positive way: do not immediately jump to cohesion.

Work in different levels of scale. What does the area need to become attractive? The supra-local attractions suggested are of small scale, not on the urban scale.

► **Comments of the congress panel on the final presentation**

by Elien Wierenga

Left Bank as a place of centrality in the city is interesting.

Are the interventions enough to create interaction between locals and supra-locals? Informal use of public space cannot be planned.

► **Young Planning Professionals' personal quotes on the workshop**

It was like being a student again. Intensive work, long nights with a lot of discussion, sketching and planning a better world while drinking a lot of coffee. A lot of confrontation because of different cultural and professional background of the group members but at the same time the possibility to expand my own (planning) horizon.

Daniëla Wullers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

3.2. Group 2: Theme 'planet'

Tutor: Arch drs Steve Salembier

Participants

Nicla Dattomo – Italy

Fiona Fullarton – Australia

Aleksey Kazarov – Russia

Norbert Mundl – Austria

Tom Broes – Belgium

Dong Li – China

3.2.1 Assignment

APPROACH

The Left Bank constitutes a platform for innovation within the field of urban ecology as it is a major green part within the city's urban structure. Its landscape offers a broad potential for the improvement of Antwerp's general viability. As for many European post war city areas, future planning strategies will inevitably need a strong focus on landscape aspects. In order to develop a specific approach to the Left Bank, the workshop will therefore exclusively focus on landscape & open space. In order to speed up the process of research by design, participants are immediately confronted with a hypothetical design assignment. This assignment is not meant to exclude other paths of research. It will only trigger directive thoughts or visions and will lead to a faster understanding of the area. The assignment is to rethink the entire existing landscape as an urban park system. In doing so different concepts will be explored in relation to scale, topography, accessibility, land use, hydrology and ecology. The goal is to explore the potentials of landscape as a regulatory criterion for 21st century urbanity.

Assignment I: analysis / mapping

How can we characterize landscape on the Left Bank?
map the area's different types of landscape and atmospheres
describe the major characteristics of these landscape types
make a judgement of the current situation of landscape

Which are characteristics that could be reinforced?

Which are potentials to be exploited?

Which are major issues which need to be altered?

Assignment II: 'urban park system'

- rethink the entire landscape as an urban park system
- delineation of the system's limits and spatial components

- delineation of public and private areas
- definition of a vegetative structure
- definition of a mineral structure
- definition of a network of paths (+ links with the environment and with the right bank)
- definition of a hydrologic structure
- delineation of zones for eventual further urbanisation
- definition of potential land uses/programmes
- suggestion of image qualities/atmospheres

Assignment III evaluation/meditation

What can be the role of landscape in order to improve the post war modernistic urban plan?

Which could be future concepts for the open space within European post war city areas?

How can landscape ecologically adapt or compensate urbanisation?

How can landscape formulate solutions for hydrologic issues related to climate change?

How can landscape define new public structures and introduce new forms of hierarchy?

How can landscape reshape the relationships between the public and the private?

What will be the performance of the area's landscape in relation to the general urban structure of Antwerp?

What will be the performance of landscape in relation to the area's urban structure?

What will be the performance of landscape in relation to the area's programme?

Assignment IV: comprehensive strategies

- development of a comprehensive landscape strategy starting from the acquired observations and visions.

3.2.2 Observations/vision/strategy/actions

by Tom Broes

1. Left Bank: Lost in transformation

The economic and strategic interest of the river Scheldt has always had a major attraction on people. Even the Romans considered this river already as the main port to what they called 'Brittania', even though the estuary and its tides were not yet under human control, and still contained many uncertainties and secrets. It may not be surprising that, with growing power of culture over nature, the strategic position of the river was soon fully exploited.

An outspoken cultural landscape, with polders, docks, quays and early urban settlements around the so-called 'ruien'¹ became a productive context in which the city of Antwerp would know a period of prosperous growth.

The presence of the river Scheldt was not only a premise for its origin, but also had a major impact on its structure.

The river being 500 meters wide at the city core, the incorporation of both banks was not an obvious act. As a consequence, a schism in the historic development of the city was inevitable: the Left Bank and the Right Bank. On a number of chronological maps, this duality can easily be detected.

On one side, the Right Bank has known a relative stable and continuous growth. Noteworthy is that the centre of gravity of the harbour activity migrated ever more to the North, leaving in the inner city voids of outdated infrastructure, such as The Quays, The Islet (Eilandje), Lobroek dock and so on... They are the physical evidence of the disentanglement of city, harbour and riverscape.

The left bank on the other hand has known a history of progressive fragmentation. Several regimes in successive periods provided the left bank with different plans and visions that were partly built, later abandoned, erased or rewritten. The contemporary landscape can be seen as a palimpsest of which the original primary layers itself have known many mutations through time. This makes the landscape rich and historically loaded, but at the same time it is very fragmented and hard to grasp. It seems to be a perpetual liminal landscape, drifting nowhere, never reaching its final state. Without pretending full comprehensiveness, a couple of periods and maps are discussed.

BASTION

In 1792 Antwerp was conquered by the French revolutionary armies. The Napoleonic wars restricted the trading activities, and the importance of water shifted to the defence of the city. Under Napoleon, Antwerp became a War Harbour, a "Gun pointed to England". The walls, ring of canals and fortresses were consequently completed on the Left Bank.

¹ The "ruien" are city canals which were covered with a vault in the 16th-17th century and which are at present below the street level. They can still be visited.

POLDER

The map of Ferraris clearly shows the landscape of the Left Bank being reclaimed from the waters of the river Scheldt. A dike following the curve of the river at that time, and Blokkerdike and Suikerdike between Zwijndrecht and the Left Bank, mark out a polder area, in which a sophisticated water system of little canals rendered the cultivation of the landscape possible. Two dominant landscape features are already present: two axes running East-West. These powerful elements give structure to the allotment of the Left Bank landscape as a whole. They still exist today, although they somehow lost their predominant position: the Charles Decosterlaan and the Blancefloerlaan.

MODERNISM AND THE SYNTHETIC SURFACE

Modernism would mark an era of unseen urban expansion. The polder system was eradicated, and a whole number of land fillings with sands out of the river Scheldt, prepared the Left Bank for the raging urbanisation to come. The surface of the Left Bank was no longer natural, but now became a kind of synthetic surface that could be transformed into a real life urban lab. A lot of plans were drawn, all of them in the spirit of pure modernism. Even Le Corbusier himself showed his interest to turn his dreams into reality on this almost virginal piece of land. In the end, plans were just partly built. Construction activity stopped, and it is only until recently that further development along the Blancefloerlaan emerged.

INFRASTRUCTURE

With the private car becoming an element of mass production, mobility gained ever more importance. In the urban discourse of the sixties, accessibility was considered an indispensable element for good city form. Without too much concern for the consequences, huge infrastructure arteries of regional importance were superposed on the landscape. Left Bank too, was ground for this radical way of 'traffic planning'. From now on, highways would radically cut the landscape into pieces.

RESULT=LEFTOeVER

LEFTOeVER is what we called the outcome of this exhausting history. As a result of a series of dramatic transitions, we considered the Left Bank as a collection of fragmented patches. A lack of legibility and recognizable functional accesses prevent the full exploitation of the Left Bank area and the appropriation by its inhabitants. The modernistic developments brought the well-known social problems, with an urban impasse as a consequence. The relationship with the river Scheldt remains unexploited; at some places the Left Bank even withdraws itself from the river in an autistic way. The former distinguished axes of the Charles Decosterlaan and the Blancefloerlaan have lost their relation to the broader landscape, and seem to suffocate in between the different patches.

Nevertheless –thanks to a rich heritage of history- all ingredients are actually latently present to turn the Left Bank into a successful regional park. But the site misses cohesion, a guiding framework that translates this puzzled landscape. Thus so far, the Left Bank has remained lost in its own transformation, and presents itself as a LEFTOeVER of the city of Antwerp.

The Oosterweel-project (the closing of the beltway around Antwerp) and the Sigmaplans (the heightening of the dike systems around the river Scheldt) will mark yet another phase in the development and mutation of the Left Bank. The group considered this massive infrastructure project and subsequent allocation of means as a big

opportunity to re-examine the position, meaning, use and interrelations of the LEFTOEVER patches: landscape, infrastructure and urbanism as one interdisciplinary profession.

2. Cohesion in differences

The artificial surface of the Left Bank is a perfect background –with the great artworks of infrastructure on their way- to radically transform the existing topography. Through fitting an external and internal water system into a new topography, we developed a methodology that we hoped could transform the current fragments of the Left Bank into one coherent whole.

Therefore we hark back to two dominant figures which these days have lost their visual and structural qualities. First we have the inner curve of the river Scheldt, with its softly sloping banks. Secondly, we have the ‘Middenvijver’ (literally translated as ‘central pond’) which is marked out by two alleys: Charles Decosterlaan and Blancefloerlaan.

By resurfacing these entities as a clear structure, and giving them new functions in the contemporary landscape, we hope to reinstall some cohesion in the different patches of the Left Bank. Through the implementation of an appropriated water structure, we also hope to add to the functionality, viability, sustainability, legibility, meaning but also mere beauty to the Left Bank. The interventions we planned are not to stand alone, but should come to a meaningful congruence with the layered structure of the existing landscape.

BELT

The Belt is a metaphor for the external water system of the Left Bank: the brackish waters of the river Scheldt. Withstanding increasing precipitation, the greater volume of water in rivers and the rising sea level calls for measures such as the raising and shifting of dikes and setting aside overflow polders.

According to the Sigmaplan, three such interventions are planned on the Left Bank. A first intervention is the conversion of the Burchtse Weel into a salt marsh land with reduced tide. This is a compensatory measure for the damage to the existing marshlands caused by the construction of the tunnel For the Oosterweel-project. A second intervention, as a consequence of the Oosterweel-Project as well, is the planning of a new marsh land and swamp woods. A third measure considers the heightening and enlarging of the existing dike between the Oosterweel tunnel and the Burchtse Weel.

The group considered these measures as highly valuable, but wanted to take them to another level. On the Left Bank, land was always reclaimed from the waters of the river Scheldt, but land must now be returned to the water. To place the dikes inland at some places, we would like to create bigger floodplains, that can provide the rising river more substantial buffer capacity.

That is why we connect the Burchtse Weel through the Laarbeek with Blokkersdijk and short-circuit the river Scheldt. In this way, the area between Zwijndrecht and Linkeroever can be subjected to controlled flooding, in both conditions of upstream (heavy stormy weather) as downstream (periods of long intense precipitation). The old dikes Blokkersdijk en Suikerdijk can partly be reinstalled in their former functions. The tidal differences could be used for the creation of green energy. This transitional landscape can have a powerful image and meaning in the new waterscape.

Also in the Sint-Annabos we shift the existing dikes. The new walls of the tunnel for the Oosterweel-project as well as a large part of the Charles Decosterlaan will be incorporated in the new dike system. Not only the northern part of Sint-Annabos can, in this way, flood, but in some exceptional circumstances, the whole plane can be used as buffering capacity for the waters of the river Scheldt. A precious ecological biotope will result. The Charles Decosterlaan, also an important landscape element from way back, gets a new functional meaning and becomes a place from which the new landscape is overlooked.

By increasing the buffer capacity, we hope that the remaining dike system will have to be raised as little as possible. In this way, the relationship of the Left Bank and the river Scheldt will not be further undermined. At some strategic spots, the river is brought closer to the city. The Frederik Van Eeden square, for instance, the heart of Left Bank, and a somehow “placeless” public space, with indifferent identity, could be transformed as an unforgettable space, along the mighty estuary of the river Scheldt.

These designed floodplains could turn into perfect settings for exclusive urbanisation, where the contact of the river as a living system complements the qualities of a spectacular scenic background. From a fragmented edge we would like to turn this belt in to a diversified shore, a hybridised artefact of civil artwork and nature. A viable economy of exclusive settlements can come up, and on the long term could attract a highly diversified public to come live in the Left Bank.

CENTRAL PARK

The central park is a metaphor for the internal water system of the left bank: collection, retention, infiltration, and the re-use of the fresh waters, captured on the roofs and infrastructures of the urbanized parts on the Left Bank.

The Middenvijver (literally translated: central pond) in between the two main park alleys on the Left Bank (Charles Decosterlaan and Blancefloerlaan) seemed to be the ideal context for this intervention. On the north side we give place to a big infiltration area, which is characterized by the existing topography. The Charles Decosterlaan, which we considered as being part of a dike system in the Belt Concept, fulfils the same function in the Central Park Concept.

In addition, two gigantic water basins are implemented. One that penetrates the existing modernistic fabric and another that gives structure to the current and future urban expansions of the Regatta-project and the ecological business parks Katwilgweg and ‘t Zand, adjacent to the Blancefloerlaan. These outspoken man-made formal landscape interventions have several functions. Not only are they reserves for ecological re-use for household water needs, they can also serve as reserve basins for fire protection (e.g. for the business parks). With their scenic qualities they can bring some enlightenment and unexpected visual quality when radically confronted with typical modernistic urbanity and public space. Finally we strongly believe that they have the potencies to turn Middenvijver into a high-value recreational area of regional interest. The adjacency of two main alleys makes this spot easily accessible and legible for locals and supra-locals, whether they come by car, bike or on foot. Bringing joy, adding to the viability and offering a range of opportunities for behavioural fit, an economy of recreation can set in and, on the long term provide some interesting profit margins.

The concept of the central park readdresses the Blancefloerlaan and the Charles Decosterlaan. They form the main elements from which the central park is read, understood, sensed and they become the starting points for further exploration of the landscape that we created on the Left Bank. From ‘two lines in-between landscape patches’ we transformed them into ‘two lines inherent to the designed waterscape’.

3. Paradigm Shift: the Renaissance of the Urban River Landscape

The approach is about revealing, reactivating and reintroducing historic and new found structures of water in a natural and urban landscape combining this with specific actual needs of urban river landscapes.

We believe that incorporating the water into the landscape of urban areas boosts quality of life and brings very practical usages of this element along with it. For example: Covering household water needs with collected and naturally processed rain water or providing decentralised hydro power on a local scale can contribute to a rather sustainable redevelopment of the quarter.

This strategy does not only apply on the Left Bank, but can be a strong starting point for visioning and planning for urban settlements along riverbanks. That is why we put the Left Bank in a broader perspective: the regional estuary of the river Scheldt. Again, without pretending full historical coverage, a short overview is given which reveals some tendencies.

Overview-Map (Area)

This more or less beautiful patchwork of Google maps gives an overview of the area we are dealing with in a regional context.

As this map is a patchwork, also the area of Left Bank is a fragmented area of landscape elements. It happened especially in our planning area, that the determinant condition of being an urban river landscape had been displaced or even eliminated.

Overview-Map (Scheldt)

There is of course one continuous element with the potential of connecting urban river landscapes. It is water – especially the waters of the river Scheldt.

River Scheldt with own ideas

There was a time; the river formed a continuous landscape working as an interacting entity.

Scheldt trenching

Human colonisation and cultivation made it of course necessary to tame the river and its tides. The river Scheldt was more and more forced into a trench, mainly blocking it from the natural and also the urban area. The intimate interaction of river, harbour and urbanisation, that had characterised the early urban fabric of Antwerp, soon disappeared.

A paradigm emerged: the river was considered more as a barrier, as a threat, rather than as a connection, an interaction, or an opportunity after all.

The consequences of that paradigm left a kind of gap in the former continuous landscape. Only scattered elements of somehow functioning river landscapes remained.

In the city just the artificial harbour structures are incorporating the river into the landscape to some extent. But they are often sealed off from the tide and are more or less non corresponding water landscape elements. Nevertheless they have become major elements in the contemporary urban landscape.

The incorporation of water into human structures had been a determinant continuity throughout the whole area of river Scheldt. During several processes of transformation this continuity was interrupted by nearly completely eradicating Left Bank's interaction with the element of water and especially river Scheldt.

PARADIGM SHIFT

The major idea is to change this current paradigm, where the interaction of the city and the water is more or less a shielding and crossing the river, to a state where this incredible and also traditional element of water can be reincorporated into the urban fabric. It will enhance life quality, urbanity, the quality of the landscape and will also bring sustainability to the shores of the River Scheldt. The tradition and paradigm of living **with** instead of **beside** the element of water shall be brought back.

With this paradigm shift, the left bank gets a whole new position: a key point and exemplary spot in the Scheldt river landscape. Landscape features will be incorporated as structuring elements for future urban development. In this new system, the Left Bank claims a central position. It will no longer remain a LEFTOeVER of the city of Antwerp. In this way, of the traditional subordinate way of looking at the Left Bank, nothing will be left...

► **Reactions of guest critics to the intermediate presentation**

by Elien Wierenga

Bringing the water into the Left Bank will use a lot of open space. This is a conflict with the People-group. Keep a good balance between more water en the need for public space.

The scale of the landscape is larger than the interventions suggested. The canals and ponds in the urban area, do they have the effects you are looking for? Is this not the same as it is now: small interventions, more left-over areas? Try to introduce the water on the larger level of scale: the scale of the buildings and the landscape. There is enough space on the Left Bank to use water in an impressive way.

Take the river into account, this is also part of the water-landscape on the Left Bank.

Make a re-interpretation of the structuring elements of the Left Bank. Which will you strengthen with the water?

Make the difference between the natural system and the regulated system.

► **Comments of the congress panel on the final presentation**

by Elien Wierenga

Interesting to pull the landscape into the urban area by using the water.

Is the water that will be introduced only beautiful, or will it also have a function?

► **Young Planning Professionals' personal quotes on the workshop**

The YPP Workshop was a once in a lifetime experience to work with intelligent and friendly people from a variety of countries and cultural backgrounds. The topic was very interesting and the group work provided a great opportunity for learning and sharing ideas about a very special area.

Fiona Fullarton, Australia

3.3. Group 3: Theme 'profit'

Tutor: Janneke van Bergen, architect (Dutch Government Architect Team)

Participants

Kaveh Fattahi – Iran/Japan
Steven Geeraert – Belgium
Sara Occhipinti – Italy
Anton Shubin – Russia
Mira Milakovic- Serbia
Annika Fritz – Trinidad-Tobago

3.3.1 Assignment : Competitiveness of the City of Antwerp and the role of the Left

ISSUES

- Profiling the area economically (attraction, what does the area have, and what should it attract to complement and give a boost to (the economy of) Antwerp, including cultural and business functions
- Public space and infrastructure: use of public space, type of public space, position of public space in the network of infrastructure and other networks, infrastructure as public space used by people, position of the left bank in the infrastructural network of Antwerp.

Day 1: ANALYSIS - what are the main problems and chances for the area? + projection: how can the international knowledge of the group be applied to this area?

Day 2: VISION - what could be an new identity for the area? Which tools are available?

Day 3: PROGRAM - which programs could be applied or intensified in the area? what could be intervention points or catalysts for these programs? + visualisation of these qualities.

Day 4: STRATEGY - from specific to generic: how can the design lead to an overall strategy for urban renewal? specification of tools, process and methods. Do's and Don'ts.

Day 5: PRESENTATION: presentation of results: identity, program, main qualities and strategy

Questions are answered on the perspective of profit: urban renewal from an economical point of view. Aspects such as city branding, strategic development and investment are part of this theme.

Underlying theme is the role of infrastructure and networks.

3.3.2 Observations/vision/strategy/actions

PROFIT FOR THE PEOPLE

The profit group first embarked upon defining exactly how profit would be interpreted in the context of the assigned task. It was unanimously decided that it should not only deal with the economic aspect of development, but with environmental and social issues which the study area faces. It was felt that the development policy adopted had to lie upon the foundation of sustainable development and must seek to address the needs of the residents of the Left Bank. As such, the term “PROFIT FOR THE PEOPLE” was the slogan adopted for the profit group.

After the direct and indirect investigation of the Left Bank (exploration of the Europark social housing project and of the surrounding parts and an analysis of the socio-economic data), the profit group’s planning approach entailed the implementation of a SWOT analysis. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified both on the city and neighbourhood scales. For the Europark housing project in particular, the implications of the social threats were analysed and interpreted within a spatial context. In addition to observing and noting a number of weaknesses and threats to the area, the group sought to focus upon the strengths, opportunities or the potentials which lay within the Left Bank. This was the backbone of the long term redevelopment and regeneration policy which was developed.

Five main development strategies, both micro and macro in nature were identified for the study area. The aim of both macro and micro strategies was to activate the potentials which were unseen within the study area. The profit for the people group was determined not to inject external sources of development into the area. The macro and micro strategies focused upon waterfront, commercial pole, axis, neighbourhood and green. Hereafter, we will deepen and explain only two strategies, one representative of the macro, and the other for the micro scale.

MACRO STRATEGY: TO ACTIVATE THE WATERFRONT

The Left Bank is the green and quiet complement and counterpart of the mineral, more intensively used right side of the river. Today its waterfront presents itself as a fragmented collection of functions and is clearly lacking an overall identity. Working on both the supra local and a local scale the project of the strip unifies the different fragments that characterize the waterfront today. As such, composing one unique identity on the city as well as on the neighbourhood scale; giving back the riverbank to the inhabitants/people of the Left Bank; creating the right conditions to attract new people and activities which are indispensable for the regeneration of the area both in the short and long term. What follows, is a possible strip scenario for the Left Bank.

Short term

The 2007 waterfront is an amalgam of units, each of them composed out of points, lines and surfaces. Points, lines and surfaces are the common layers for the whole Left Bank. They are the starting points for the future development of the strip.

It is suggested that the public administration starts immediately with the realisation of a boardwalk as a unifying line all along the riverbank on one hand and the elaboration of the surface of Frederic van Eeden square on the other. At the same time steps have to be taken to avoid the Regatta project from becoming an exclusive fragment, disconnected to the other areas within the Left Bank, because by enlarging the foreseen park, it offers the unique opportunity of being able to link the Galgenweel and Regatta to the strip and as such to the river. Later the excavation works for the Oosterweel connection will offer similar opportunities for the development of the urban park. The public administration must ensure that it remains attentive to the needs of the residents of the Left Bank. Within five years, by 2012, it is proposed that the first changes would be visible, thereby convincing private partners to consider investing in the area. This will act as a catalyst for its further development.

Long term

By 2020 a wide range of transformations are imagined as shown in the Powerpoint Presentation.

The strip: unification of different fragments

MICRO STRATEGY: TO ACTIVATE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The negative issues which plague Europark did not emerge overnight, but were formed over a number of years. Therefore, it is understood that a constant and enduring planning process has to be invested in, in order for a meaningful change to occur. The establishment of a successful micro strategy will entail the implementation of some planning tools such as the participatory process and the co-productive approach, with public education being of primary importance.

Short term

The short term aim is to change the character and the negative perception which both its residents and other persons in Antwerp generally have of the area. Towards this end, some strategic projects and strategies have been suggested which can be implemented between 2007 and 2012. They are divided into two different categories, which are of a spatial and social nature. It has to be underscored that the programs and projects identified below, where feasible, ought to take place simultaneously; it is only for the ease of reference that they are suggested individually.

■ Spatial:

- Introduction of a market place in the city centre, i.e. Frederik van Eeden square.

- Planning of the undifferentiated green open spaces: planning for specific purposes, functions and activities which are designed to address the issues of security and homogeneity of public spaces. The green areas are to act as meeting points with the introduction of sporting and leisure activities.

- Renovation of the two lower levels of the blocks along the access routes of the Charles De Costerlaan and the Blancefloerlaan: in order to locate commercial stores that provide not only a means of self employment for the residents, but also meeting places.
 - A change in the housing policy which will facilitate the long term vision of varying the housing typology and changing the present social composition of the area. As residents naturally move out of the blocks, for instance because of their family growth, the vacated apartments are to be reserved for the purposes of renewal. This can only be made a reality with the cooperation of the Housing Authority. It will be essential that no new residents be admitted to live in the blocks until this process has been completed.
 - The neighbourhood scale: a housing policy change.
- **Social:**
- Programs geared towards providing the residents with entrepreneurial skills and the acquisition of the Dutch language via the introduction of language courses in the currently under-utilized existing activity centres in the middle of the blocks, combined with the introduction of education on cultures which can be found in Antwerp; promotion of a symbiotic relationship between the Europark residents and the nearby businesses (e.g. industrial area and other business owners).

Long term

The long term vision deals with the shift of the Europark identity from a dormitory quarter to a multifunctional and more complex area; the change of the present fragmented social composition into a “multiplex city” in which different ethnic groups and social classes can live and work together; economic and social integration of Europark with the rest of the Left Bank; attraction and activation of private investments to act as a catalyst for the development of the area; reduction of the present dependence on the right bank.

In the second phase (2012-2020) the spatial and social strategic projects and strategies to be suggested are:

- Redevelopment of Europark in terms of a new housing policy: providing the introduction of different housing typologies (single family residential areas, town houses, condominiums and the renewal and preservation of some of the present towers) in order to integrate the different social classes and groups which live on the Left Bank. Moreover this is an attractive requirement for the marketing and branding demand of external investors and owners of businesses. The activation of a language program has to go together with this development strategy, because the removal of communication barriers makes the residents more and more “employable”.
- Creation of a multipurpose commercial centre² and localization of some social services³: the integration of places for living, working and socializing and entertaining is necessary in order to create Left Bank as a

² including professional offices, recreational centre in which squash, badminton, aerobics, ballet, dancing and music lessons spaces are located

³ like day care for children, and buildings, such as –if needed- a secondary school, an elderly home, etc...

multifunctional area and to reduce its remarkable present dependency on the right bank. The inhabitants have to enjoy the benefits of all the services they need within close proximity to their homes.

In summary, the proposed activities which will be localized in the Left Bank will be: residential use, supported by small-scale commercial activity (such as shops, repair shops, professional offices...); the multipurpose centre including recreation activities, indoor sporting activities, institutional activities and services (spawned by the building of a day care centre for children); collective buildings; recreational activities for the community life in the green areas which will be both private and public in nature. This strategy was chosen to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. In the absence of the facilities, shops, meeting places a community cannot be developed.

The entire strategy for the area, not being static and providing different phases, ought to be embarked upon simultaneously. The participatory process and the co-planning approach have to be applied in the form of a Planning Conference with the residents, the Mayor and all the stakeholders who affect or have the potential to affect the planning process for the community (e.g. developers, members of associations, companies, investors etc.).

In addition, to increase the efficacy of some policies, such as the housing policy change, it is necessary to involve the Europark residents in the entire process even though the initiative is to be public (City of Antwerp). In this perspective this strategy needs the express assignment of a team of planners assisted by some social workers, for bridging the communication gap existent between planners and inhabitants. The role of some leaders for each of the major ethnic communities living in the blocks is crucial in order to:

- identify the skills of the residents for an employment that has to be forested through a partnership with public-private owners;
- create a database that includes some social indicators (age groups, nationalities, income levels, education degree, family sizes of the residents...);
- organize and schedule the use of the commercial spaces provided after the renovation of the two bottom floors of blocks, located along the access routes of the Charles De Costerlaan and the Blancefloerlaan;
- encourage people within their cultural groups to attend not only the classes of the language course programmed, but also to be volunteer as tutors in teaching the participants the Dutch language.

The education role: a language program to integrate different ethnic groups.

► **Reactions of guest critics to the intermediate presentation**

by Elien Wierenga

If you want to earn money on the Left Bank, stronger proposals are needed. Make a strong centre for the Left Bank. What spaces at the water will be used?

The mix of functions and housing types has to be initiated by the inhabitants: small enterprises, making a 'living career' within Left Bank. This has resemblances with the programme 'Labour for Neighbour'. Watch out that it is not done in an bureaucratic way, the people have to do it themselves. But it is hard to mobilize the inhabitants.

It is very good to use the potentials of the inhabitants. They are often high-educated, and need to be activated. Bottom up is for them the good approach. It should not be done by the government. The government can facilitate: money and space (renovating buildings).

Within the plan, the group shows the difference between BOTTOM UP: small scale economic activities for and by the inhabitants of Left Bank and TOP DOWN: making money for the city, making the Left Bank attractive for people outside Left Bank.

► **Comments of the congress panel on the final presentation**

by Elien Wierenga

First participation, then new people from outside Left Bank, or the other way around?

The answer: first try to create a new, positive image of the Left Bank and Europark within Left Bank, and with this new image, new inhabitants are attracted to the area.

► **Young Planning Professionals' personal quotes on the workshop**

I found the workshop to be an excellent idea. I learnt a lot from the experience. I particularly enjoyed working on the project along with the seven other planners from the globe. We were able to feed off one another's enthusiasm and as such, the task was not overwhelming. Understanding the way that planning works in other jurisdictions and having insight into the ways in which obstacles are faced by other nations, has been a very eye-opening, encouraging and developmental experience for me.

Annika Fritz (Trinidad and Tobago)

I was quite honoured to have participated in the YPP workshop and ISOCARP Congress in 2007. It was a very useful experience and a very well organized event. As I found the Antwerp Left Bank a very interesting theme, I wish we had had more time to develop our ideas. Nevertheless, meeting different people and learning from them, as well as the brainstorming, methods and the outcome of the workshop became helpful for further work in my country.

Mira Milaković (Serbia)

The experience of working in the group of open minded specialists in various disciplines, involved into spatial planning, was interesting and valuable for me. This is a way to cultivate the ability to define and feel problems in wide spectre, to see challenges I have not seen before.

Anton Shubin (Russia)

The Young Planning Professionals' Workshop was an extraordinary chance to experience a cooperative and creative working process, to understand planning approaches in different parts of the world, to work comparing and respecting the diversity of the cultural backgrounds and, finally, to start friendly relationships with people who share the same professional career or scientific research.

Sara Occhipinti (Italy)

The YPP workshop made me realize once more the importance of an open mind, open to different approaches out of different disciplines; the importance of questioning yourself and your ideas from time to time; the importance of meeting people who, because of their backgrounds, make you look beyond the things you know; the importance of making good friends.

Steven Geeraert (Belgium)

General remarks by the congress panel on the joint final presentation

All three groups want to activate the green areas and make the river bank more interesting, which is a good idea.

Two presentations are more modest, and one is more daring, using the water for creative transformation of the Left Bank.

Interesting elements in all three presentations: unrealistic ones but also useable elements which can be implemented on the short term.

What is missing is the link between the river bank and the other green areas, and an idea about the Regatta project which is blocking this connection.

How can the Frederik van Eeden square be used in a better way? The groups are not concrete enough in their proposals. Answer: The idea for a global village like the Santa Catharina Market (Miralles, Barcelona) for different cultures, designed by a famous architect, is a concrete project which will give a new attraction to the square.

Planners always give a solution to a problem. It is structured, reasoned and imaginable.

What is the future value of the quality of living in the Left Bank? Are fundamental changes necessary? Compare it to the Bijlmer in Amsterdam. The area is transformed in a fundamental way to make the area viable for now and in the future.

The large harbour of Antwerp is close to the Left Bank. Is it thinkable that Left Bank is used for harbour activities in the future?

4. Evaluation of the conclusions

VROM – Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

by Elien Wierenga and Liese Vonk

After the hard work and positive atmosphere during the workshop, we as organizers are very happy with the results presented on the 19th of September in Antwerp and the reactions of the panel and the public.

For the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, it is interesting to bring the results of the workshop to a strategic level. This is for example connecting different levels of scale in the plan, connecting the plan to a higher level of scale and give recommendations to comparable areas of redevelopment from the research and design done for the Left Bank in Antwerp. The results of the workshop give a very good start to this, but there was not enough time within the workshop to bring the results to this higher level. In this reaction, we would like to give a kick-off for this per group, and give recommendations for a possible follow-up.

PEOPLE

Recommendations to comparable areas

- Use meeting as a central theme for public space in the area: make it possible for different cultures and groups to meet each other in the public spaces of the location. This will give an interesting level to the environment and public space of the location, and can also help integration.
- Develop different types of public space. For example by giving an accent to the area by designing for specific groups (on Left bank it would be interesting to make specific designs for young people).

Connecting different levels of scale

- For connecting the different types of public space, between each other and to areas outside the location, it is important to design the routing with different kinds of transport (foot, bicycle, car, public transport). This can also attract groups from outside the location (the City of Antwerp and further) and bring new groups into the area.

PLANET

Recommendations to comparable areas

- Use water as a structuring element, to give the area a new lay-out and give the area an identity as a whole.
- Use large interventions to change paradigm.
- Make a relation with the existing and historical situation

Connecting different levels of scale

- Connect the area in a clear way to the river Scheldt, to give the area a position in the city of Antwerp and surrounding areas.

PROFIT

Recommendations to comparable areas

- Make a difference between micro and macro profit (micro – bottom-up, macro – top down)
- Use these together in the strategy for the area

Connecting different levels of scale

- How can the top down investments in Left Bank contribute to the position of Antwerp and the position of Left Bank within Antwerp? What kind of interventions are needed?
- Keep the top down investments and the local scale of the inhabitants connected. How do they influence each other in a positive way?

Possible follow-up

Work out the connection between the different levels of scale: what do you want the impact to be on the higher level of scale, what are the consequences on the lower level of scale, and the other way round.

Connecting the different themes: look for elements that are comparable between the different themes, make alternatives of integral strategic designs for development of the Left Bank with strategic projects (like the boulevard along the river Scheldt, which was an important element in all three themes).

Vooruitzicht: An evaluation of the conclusions by an experienced professional developer

by Filip Canfyn

Having only a few days to analyse an existing urban texture in a complex context, to integrate scientific methods in a dynamic situation and to formulate strategic alternatives in a sensible environment, it must have been a hell of a job to participate in this workshop and to correctly respond to the different interesting questions about people, planet and profit.

That results in the first difference between the young planning professionals (YPPs) and the experienced project developer (EPD): the EPD has had much more time to do the job! The YPP can use the lack of time as an excuse for an eventual lack of content depth, the EPD can't. It is only fair in these circumstances that the EPD's work should have more roots and fundamentals.

However, this possible difference by the use of time doesn't lead to different analysis conclusions, to a different diagnosis, to a different way of dissecting the main problems and opportunities. These problems and opportunities are apparently so clear, transparent and determining anyone can track them, recognize them, even feel them.

Indeed, the Left Bank inhabitants (the left overs on the left 'oevers', with thanks to the creator of this marvellous neologism) do miss an own identity and a self esteem. Indeed, the Left Bank as an urban entity and as a human space demands a character, a punctual definition of its qualities and its contribution to daily life. Indeed, the Left Bank is the multicultural photograph of our globalised society, living in a rather green, semi-rural nowhere in the proximity of the city centre.

So far so good.

The evaluation of the proposed tools to create the asked development impulse and the new Left Bank image do make clear the thought differences between YPP and EPD. I explain.

Two main solutions are worked out by the YPP.

(1) The expansion of the recreation and leisure facilities (integration of Middenvijver, reshaping of van Eeden square, renaissance of urban river landscape, ...), together with a pioneer ecological engagement (water mastering canalisation, linear park structure, ...), has to change the Left Bank into a vital, necessary and well known component of the Antwerp city. When Antwerp needs the Left Bank, the Left Bank can automatically claim an identity, its identity.

(2) The general living conditions have to be looked at. The creation of employment and participation and the regeneration of the social housing and the public spaces must lift the quality of life in this neighbourhood. The multicultural heartbeat has to be positively used as a common factor and as a natural base for community gardens, where all the colours and cultures meet, having a picnic, a dance evening or a sports session.

Of course, these two solutions are outstanding but they do not reflect the causes of the problems, which will also obstruct the success degree of the formulated measures. Even with a consensus about these measures (a doubtful statement?) and a strong political engagement it must be feared that the financial needs and operational limits of bigger cities as Antwerp (which caused the problems and obstruct the solutions) make a quick and radical rebirth of the Left Bank highly implausible.

The internationally and successfully implemented solution, inspired by the EPD next to liberal and social-democratic political think tanks, is the introduction of large scale middle class housing programs and projects. These new neighbourhood members generate the supplementary tax income of the city, facilitate the identity gaining process of their direct environment and stimulate the existing habitants to raise their ambition level.

With the new financial means and supported by the wave of 'positive'ness and belief in the future the recreation activation and the social politics (possession means position!) can be introduced as a supporting (and not as primary) method and can intensify the effects on self esteem and self realization.

In other words, houses and the acquisition of these houses are in EPD's eyes the (economical) engine of the results, which the YPP tries to produce by his/her (strategical and rather theoretical) measures. The middle class injection will be the basis of the privatisation of the existing housing and the motivation for an even more performing public transport system. This efficient public transport will emphasize the urban and regional quality and value of the Left Bank. The psychological distance between the city now and the Left Bank will disappear in a short time and the Left Bank as an attractive centre of open space with well organized leisure and recreation facilities will be within reach of uncountable families. The dream of a YPP, to create a 'Central Park' in the Middenvijver sector, could be a meaningful reality in a few years.

5. List of annexes

Annex 1: Antwerp Strategic Structure Plan

Annex 2: Background information on the Left Bank

Annex 3: Maps

general

1. street pattern
2. aerial picture

infrastructure and functions

3. indication and categorisation of the roads and streets
4. indication and categorisation of the main bicycle routes
5. indication and categorisation of the lines of public transport lines
6. outline and categorisation of public property
7. outline and categorisation of the public functions, buildings and areas (not commercial or private)

green and open space

8. outline and categorisation of the green and open space
9. outline of the empty plots and an indication of their availability for development

baseline information

10. indication of the statistical sectors

history

11. Ferraris map 1775

The following link of the national geographical institute provides different historical maps of the Left Bank which can be easily compared to each other:

http://www.ngi.be/expo/viewer_n.htm

On the following website a lot of extra geographical and environmental information about the Left Bank and about the rest of Flanders can be found:

<http://www.agiv.be/gis/diensten/geo-vlaanderen/>

Annex 4: Statistical Maps 2006

1. population density
2. 0-11 year olds
3. 12-17 year olds
4. 65+ year olds
5. 'aliens'
6. 'foreigners' non EU
7. 'foreigners' Morocco and Turkey
8. average family size
9. single parent families
10. singles

Annex 5:

Statistical document: Profile 'Left Bank'

This document is an English summary of a document in Dutch with statistical information on demography, employment and economy, education, housing and living environment.

It is important to note that this information is based on information per statistical sector. The geographical outline of these statistical sectors doesn't necessarily correspond to the boundaries of specific neighbourhoods. Parts of the sector can consist of high rise buildings or villas with gardens while another part of the sector can be completely devoid of housing. This is especially the case on the Left Bank (B791-B824-B13).

6. Additional information and links

Main stakeholders divided by theme

Public space and infrastructure:

- **The District of Antwerp:** The city of Antwerp is divided into different districts. The Left bank is part of the central Antwerp district. One of the responsibilities of the districts is the development of public space.
- **BAM (Beheersmaatschappij Antwerpen Mobiel):** In order to improve mobility, traffic safety and quality of life in and around Antwerp, the Flemish Government developed the Masterplan Mobility Antwerp. It was approved by the Flemish Government on 15 December 2000.
For the completion of the Masterplan and the coordination of the various projects the Flemish Government set up the public limited company Beheersmaatschappij Antwerpen Mobiel (hereinafter referred to as "BAM"). BAM was set up for an indefinite period and became operational on 15 September 2003.
BAM now owns the three main existing nature parks on the Left Bank: Het Rot, Sint-Annabos and Vlietbos.
(<http://www.bamnv.be/content/bam/site/?id=1&taal=en&CFID=5926134&CFTOKEN=67916237>)
- **tv SAM:** is a temporary collaboration between different study offices to guide, and coordinate the studies, implementation and prospects of the Masterplan Antwerpen. (<http://www.tvsam.be/>)
- **The Galgenweel pond:** ... and its many users. The Galgenweel pond can be found in the southern area of the Left bank. It is a big pond that is used for different water related activities, sailing, surfing, fishing, swimming,...
- **The Royal Yacht club Belgium:** Founded in 1851. They have a yacht harbour in the northern part of the Left bank, next to the Sint-Anna beach. They also use the Galgenweel for sailing.
(<http://www.rycb.be/index.php>)
- **Natuurpunt-Wal:** is an organisation that lobbies for the preservation of the nature parks on the Left bank and other nature parks in the surrounding communities.
(<http://www.natuurpuntwal.be/index.htm>)

Social and cultural cohesion:

- **Alo** (actiecomité LinkerOever): is a non-political organisation founded in 1988. They work around themes that are important to a majority of the residents of Left Bank. They are looking to stimulate projects that can be supported by a majority of inhabitants and that bring added value to Left Bank without losing the identity of this neighbourhood. (<http://users.skynet.be/alo/index.html>)
- **Parish Sint-Anna-ten-drieën:** This parish plays an important part in the cohesion of a big community on Left Bank. (<http://www.sint-anna-ten-drieen.be/>)
- **Sint-Annastrand:** Around the beach of Sint-Anna we find a cluster of restaurants, bars and other tourism and recreation related functions. This place is very important for Left Bank. A lot of Antwerp people still call the Left bank 'Sint-Anneke'. (<http://www.sint-annastrand.be/insite/index.htm>)

Profiling the area economically:

- **Voka:** is a network of companies in Flanders. It represents 17,500 companies and thus 60% of the profit in Flanders and 60% of the private employment. In total they deal with over 900.000 people. They focus on opinion making and advocacy. The Flemish organisation is divided into working groups per province. So they have a clear view on the developing perspectives of the city of Antwerp from their point of view. (<http://www.voka.be/startpagina/pages/default.aspx>)
- **Bedrijventerrein Katwilgweg – 't Zand:** This is the main industrial area of the Left bank where most of the biggest companies are located. There are about 19 **companies**. The area will be restructured, densified and extended towards Zwijndrecht with the site called 't Zand.

Quality of the living environment:

- **Cvba Huisvesting Antwerpen:** This is the biggest social housing company of Antwerp. They have a few neighbourhoods around the city with a high concentration of social housing. The biggest part of the Europark, 12 of the 18 blocks and also a big cluster around the Blancefloerlaan. In total they rent out over 2000 apartments on the Left bank. On a total of about 8,000 houses on the Left bank this is a lot.
- **Cvba ABC:** The housing company that owns the other 6 blocks of the Europark to the north of the Charles De Costerlaan. In total about 800 apartments.
- **Vooruitzicht:** This is the developig company behind the Regatta development. The scale of the Regatta development is unique in Flanders and so it will have an enormous effect on the structure of the Left bank. (<http://www.vooruitzicht.be/>)

Useful links

<http://www.agiv.be/gis/diensten/geo-vlaanderen/>

http://www.ngi.be/expo/viewer_n.htm

<http://www.antwerpen.be/>

<http://www.antwerpen.be/eCache/BTH/32/590.cmVjPTIzMTk0.html>

<http://earth.google.com/>

<http://maps.live.com/>

<http://www.bamnv.be/content/bam/site/?id=1&taal=en&CFID=5926134&CFTOKEN=67916237>

<http://www.tvsam.be/>

<http://www.rycb.be/index.php>

<http://www.natuurpuntwal.be/index.htm>

<http://users.skynet.be/alo/index.html>

<http://www.sint-anna-ten-drieen.be/>

<http://www.sint-annastrand.be/insite/index.htm>

<http://www.voka.be/startpagina/pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.vooruitzicht.be/>