

TIME SCHEDULE

13h15 pick-up bus STAM
-
14h00 start excursion (bridge Heusden)
-
16h00 meeting at 'De Nieuwe Admiraal' to discuss the work
-
17h00 pick-up bus
-
17h30 arrival city center

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Mobile Michiel Dehaene
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YOUR TEAMMATES

Maarten D., Jonas L.,
Tomasz S., Michael H.,
Lovisa B., Maarten S.,
Carl Anders S., David K.,
Michiel D., Emma B.

MEETING POINT 'DE NIEUWE ADMIRAAL'

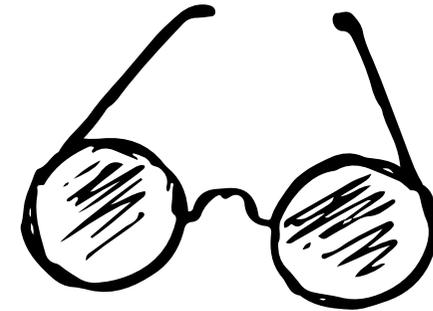
Dendermondse Steenweg 228, 9070 Destelbergen



EXCURSION PUBLIC PEDAGOGY & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

DE
STADS
ACADEMIE
.BE

GROUP 1



WHAT IS THE URBAN ACADEMY?

The urban academy wishes to be a collaboratory where students, professors, policy makers, entrepreneurs and civil society organizations share knowledge and explore the major social and ecological sustainability challenges the city of Ghent is facing. The core of the urban academy will be a master thesis atelier within which students from various fields will work on related topics guided by mixed teams of professors and members of the city administration. The agenda for this master thesis atelier is currently determined through a cocreative process in which various partners are exploring possible subjects in a number of round tables.

URBAN ACADEMY AND THE POST-URBAN FRINGE

Not all issues the urban academy will be working on are related to a specific area or place in the city, but during its first years of development the organizing members are pushing a territorial focus on the urban fringe of Ghent. The urban fringe physically embodies some of the transitions the urban academy wishes to think. The landscapes of the urban fringe present a post-suburban world that is increasingly inhabited against the grain. If until recently the suburban fringe was historically developed within a context of urban flight, today the older suburbs are being reclaimed (densified) by projects that try to accommodate the demographic growth and provide housing for people moving to the city. The historical densities are hard to justify from a normative sustainable urban development perspective. The highway, the road infrastructure, the car dealers, the ample parking space, etc all represent the hey days of the carbon city. At the same time these car dependent environments are already inhabited by people who use the bike to commute, and have stopped to see the car as the dominant mode of mobility. The existing car infrastructure is reframed as inadequate and unsafe for bikers. The area lost most of its farming activity over the past 20 years but today hosts several community supported agriculture initiatives. In short, the landscapes of the multiple meanings attributed to these landscapes less and less coincide by the meaning projected on these areas at the moment of they where first urbanized.

These post-suburban landscapes are today actively being reframed, often condemning the allegedly non sustainable lifestyles that they have accommodated and promoted and projecting new sustainability ambitions. This broad reframing, more often than not, fails to produce a concrete engagement with the existing conditions, let alone with the aspirations of the people living in these areas. The urban academy believes it can play a role in shaping a public agenda in such areas. Through the excursion we wish to explore the role place-based, immersive practices may play in building a new urban sustainability agenda or the transforming landscapes of the metropolitan fringe.

Excursion

The area we will visit has still large open areas. Historically the area is composed of wetlands for the river Scheldt. The presence of the highway E17 has kept sprawl out of the area. The long term perspective of the possible removal of the E17 creates the opening for a broad reflection on the future of the area.

Assignment group 1

Scan the area following some of the classical dogmas of sustainable urbanization. Select specific areas and elements that you encounter during the walk and that hold potential to accommodate such new sustainability ambitions. Make notes on the blank maps and make pictures. Select one picture which speaks about the sustainability transition the area is facing.

7 DOGMAS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE CITY

Every dogma gives you a specific perspective on the urbanized landscape. Use it to filter the complexity of the space and always hunt for the potential of spatial transformation!

1. The sustainable city is a compact and mixed city.

Examine the morphology between neighborhoods, and show the programmatic diversity in monofunctional and mixed areas.

2. The sustainable city is a car free city.

Which areas can we consider as car intensive vs car free? What are the existing (and planned) public transport, bike infrastructure and "mobility as a service" solutions.

3. The sustainable city is a climate resilient city.

Look at the watercourses and their valleys, permeable and nonpermeable soil conditions, heat islands and potential cooling zones.

4. The sustainable city is a healthy city.

Where is noise nuisance, (fine)dust and infrastructures with a certain health risk (high tension power lines, chimneys, 3G/4G antennas). Could there be possibly existing forms of innovative agriculture?

5. The sustainable city is a breeding ground for circular economy.

Can the existing economic activities become circular economies?

6. The sustainable city is a socially robust city.

Where are places and activities where people gather of all colors and sizes? Are they playing a key role in the resilience of the social tissue?

7. The sustainable city learns from its history.

Look at remnants of heritage of the past. Bring us the story of the transformation of the urbanized landscape.