

LEARNING CITIES PLATFORM

Managing Urban Change in Places of Connection



EVENT 2012
27 - 29 JUNE
UTRECHT

STATION AREA UTRECHT (NL)
HAFENCITY HAMBURG (D)
PLACES OF CONNEXION BORDEAUX (F)

www.LearningCitiesPlatform.eu

THE ACADEMY
OF URBANISM

International Urban
Development Association
Association Internationale
du Développement Urbain
INTA



1 LEARNING CITIES PLATFORM *DRAFT*

MANAGING URBAN CHANGE IN PLACES OF CONNECTION

An activity of the Academy of Urbanism and INTA's Community of Competence on Workspace Urbanism

Background

Over the last forty years, a common phenomenon of many European cities has been the restructuring of Inner-city land in order to improve places of connection for different modes of transport and to enhance the value of the uses. In some cases this has been triggered by the relocation of logistical functions to peripheral sites, to improve functionality and accessibility, or in other cases to increase the value of the land by redevelopment, while maintaining the connecting function. These developments often take decades to complete, have a considerable impact on the character and functions of the surrounding areas, and can be disruptive to the life and energy of the city.

The European Learning Cities Platform of the Academy of Urbanism, together with the INTA Objective 2030 program, aims to provide a learning network for cities to share experiences, identify common problems and bring together public, private and community partners to propose lasting solutions for managing the process of transforming inner-city places of connection.

Themes of the Learning Cities Platform

The central issues are:

What are the common ambitions and challenges for European cities in the 21st century?

How can we change our cities in a way that makes them successful, resilient and adaptable enough for the demands of future generations, and how can we make sure they can adapt themselves to environmental, socio-economical as well as technological changes?

What are suitable mechanisms and processes to implement long-term urban change whilst

allowing the city to continue to function successfully?

Transforming a railway station is very often a project of metropolitan importance reflecting the changing nature and size of the city. Train station regeneration - the development of places of connexion - encompasses wider issues of urban development such as: Connectivity and connection; diversity and synergy of functions; the balance of security and accessibility within the public and semi public realm; space and place development; ownership, governance and management; inter-communal cooperation. How are these themes treated in current station renewal projects and how do they relate to each other?

Case Study Approach

Three case study projects have been selected as "Learning cities" for detailed analysis: Hafen-City, Hamburg, Bordeaux Places of Connection, and Utrecht Central Station Area.

The main learning event will be hosted by the City of Utrecht, Central Station project team 27 - 29 June 2012, with an optional tour of the central area of Utrecht on the afternoon of Wednesday 27 June. The main event will be a plenary presentation and analysis of the three case projects, providing the stimulus for interactive working discussions, to draw conclusions which capture the common principles for successfully planning and managing the structural change of existing inner-city places of connection.

The intensive two day program will be a combination of plenary presentations (35 participants) and; small, 6-7 person facilitated workshop groups, with time for informal networking and exchange of experience. The aim is for projects to learn from each other, by the exchange of experience and insights between the individual participants from different disciplines and cultures.

2 UTRECHT

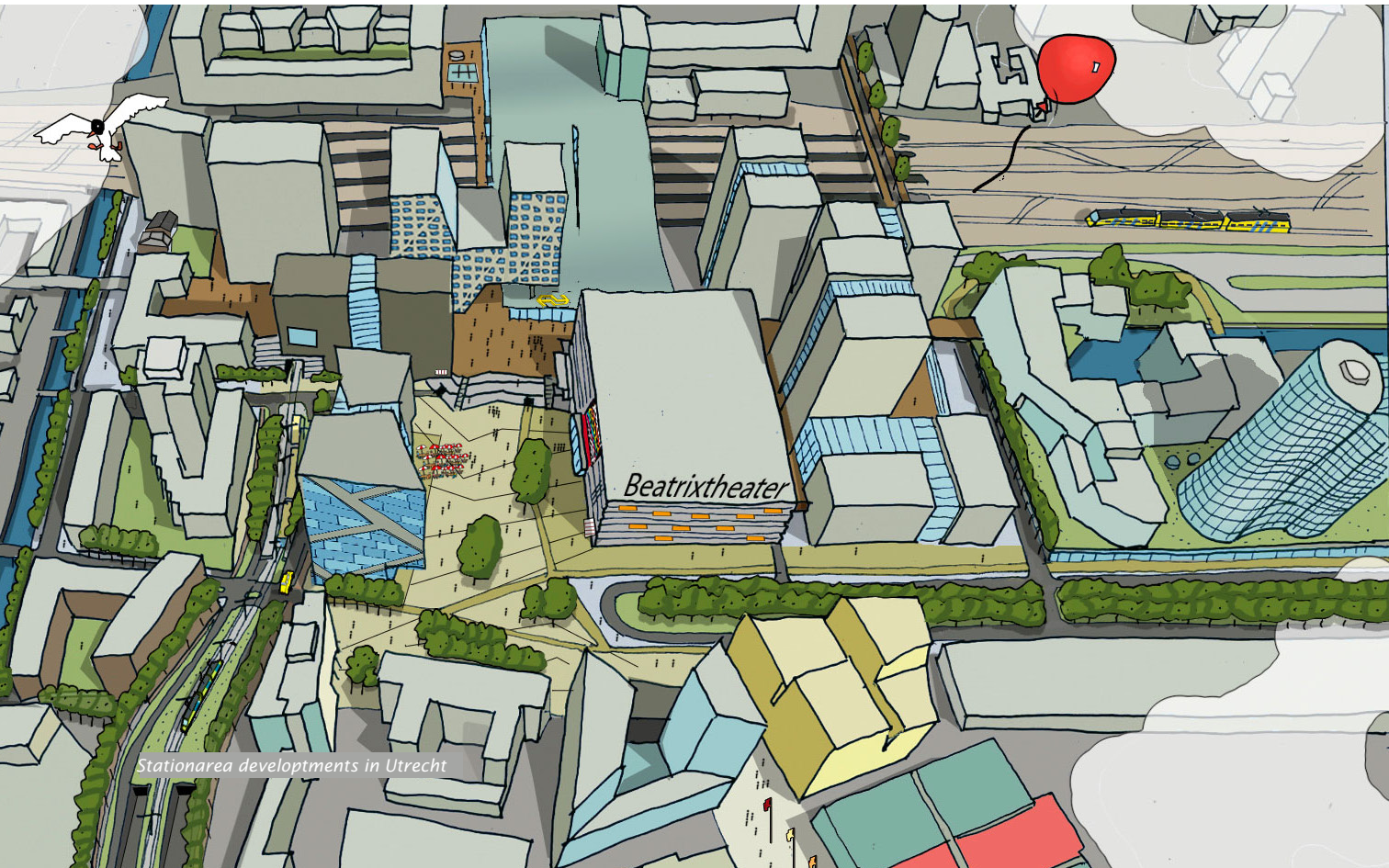
Utrecht Central Station Area: The rail interchange of the Netherlands, with a distinctive local identity

The founding of the City of Utrecht dates back to the Roman Empire (Ultrajectum) and the city has a beautiful old city centre with its own characteristic canals. Utrecht has approx. 350.000 inhabitants and is part of the Randstad with approx. 7 million inhabitants. It is the capital of the Dutch Catholic church and until the 17th century, the Dutch Golden Age, was the leading city in the Netherlands. With the growth of rail and car transport, Utrecht became the crossroads of the Netherlands. This attracted major companies in finance, communications and professional services. Utrecht has a

university, founded in 1636 and now with 30.000 students. Its hospital is one of the largest in the Netherlands)

The City of Utrecht is one of the four major Dutch cities, complementary to each other and forming the Randstad. The station is a national, regional and local transport hub through which over 120 million people pass every year. The station acts as a link between the medieval city centre and the recent development of 30,000 new homes on the far side of the rail tracks

In 2002 after decades of plans for the station area and all kind of partnerships between the city and private stakeholders, a newly elected political party announced that the city would take the lead in making a Masterplan. Scale, speed of development and the choice between local or international interested became subject to a referendum. The referendum resulted in a



Stationarea developments in Utrecht



The Utrecht Canals

leading role for the city in celebrating its 'smallness' on the one hand, yet accommodating major 'national' programs (public transport hub, Shopping centre and fairground) on the other. This statement of need has led to a relatively simple Masterplan in which public and private are clearly defined by 'scaling' the plan in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large areas. The Masterplan is not a blue print, but a framework to manage incrementally the slower development resulting from the present economic situation.

Themes of the two-day meeting

A railway station is more than a functional place of connection, it can become a place of environmental innovation; building relationships with neighbouring public spaces and with an effective process of urban planning stimulates the process of transformation of the city. In the past, inner-city regeneration associated with major infrastructure projects has not always been both conceived and implemented in the context of the wider city. This programme aims

to address the potential risks of stand-alone redevelopment and to identify new strategies for design, implementation, management and partnership.

Five themes - Connecting, Collaborating, Changing, Communicating and Controlling, will be discussed for each of the learning with the aim of providing an understanding of how to:

- Identify demand, define expectations, balance interests and thus ensure success;
- Manage a process of continuous change;
- Initiate a collaborative process of planning, design, production, and management including decision making and communication between operators of railway stations and transport systems on one side and urban communities and other public actors on the other side;
- Review the conditions for shared governance for the functional development and management of the various public components of the development of places of connexion.

3 PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

Learning Cities

The Learning Cities will display their inner-city projects and assess their performance in small group discussions, facilitated by a panel of experts, with representatives from each of the three Learning Cities, and the three invited Reference Cities. One person per Learning City will also travel to the other two cities for the familiarization visits.

Reference Cities

The Reference Cities will have the opportunity to introduce their projects at the main event. They will compare their own projects with the projects of the Learning Cities. They will participate in the panel discussions and draw conclusions from their own projects to help formulate principles of relevance to all.

Observers

Observers will attend the event and have the opportunity to actively participate in the plenary discussions. They will gain new insights into large-scale development practices and interact with decision makers and project leaders of the Learning and Reference Projects.



The Hamburg Hafencity development



New waterfront in Hamburg

Utrecht New Canal



4 PROGRAMME

The programme is jointly organised by the Academy of Urbanism and INTA. John Worthington, Founder of DEGW and Director of the Academy of Urbanism, Michel Sudarskis, Secretary General INTA, and Henk Bouwman, Director of HKB

Urbanists and Urban Impulse.eu will jointly chair the programme.

The programme will start from April 2012, with the main two-day learning event planned for the 27th till the 29th of June 2012 at Utrecht, The Netherlands, at the Central station site.



Place de la Bourse in Bordeaux

Suggested programme and timing for main event

Wednesday 27 June

- 14.00 – 17.30 Optional walking introduction to site and surrounding areas
 19.00 Informal pre symposium dinner

Thursday 28 June

Places of Connection: Three projects, three places, three cultures, three stages of completion; one goal

- 08.30 Welcome and Introduction
 09.00 - 10.00 Hafen-City, Hamburg
 10.00 - 11.00 Places of Connection, Bordeaux
Break
 11.30 - 12.30 Centraal Station: Utrecht

Lunch: Eat , walk and talk

- 14.00 - 15.30 **Places of Connection: Defining the agenda**
 Five working groups each focused on a theme, reflecting The morning presentations and participants project experience
 - Connecting
 - Collaborating
 - Changing
 - Communicating
 - Controlling

- 15.30 - 17.00 **Assessing the Learning Cities**
 Three workshops, with five theme perspectives, led by three reference places
 - Hafen-City, Hamburg
 - Places of Connection; Bordeaux
 - Centraal Station; Utrecht

- 17.00 - 17.45 Plenary feedback – Common issues, distinctive differences
 20.00 Symposium dinner

Friday 29 June

Places of Connection: Framing the Issues, Establishing the principles

- 08.30 - 10.00 Five working groups, five themes, one set of common issues and principles
Break

- 10.30 - 12.00 **Three Learning Cities groups, one set of principles**
 Three working groups

Lunch

- 13.30 - 14.30 Plenary feedback and synthesis
Break
 15.00 - 16.00 Plenary drafting: ten principles for achieving great places of connection
 16.00 - 16.45 Conclusions for the European Learning Cities Platform, Places of Connection
 17.00 Closing by the mayor of Utrecht (tbc)

10 | 5 OFFER AND COSTS

Three Learning Cities already participate. Learn from their experiences on Connecting, Collaborating, Changing, Communicating and Controlling in their plans. Below you will find our offer to join the Event 2012:

Observer Project : € 1.000 per participant

Each observer will be offered:

- ✓ - Active participation in the main learning event
- Access to supporting documentation
- Visibility in the final publication
- Copies of the final publication

In addition they will be offered preferential rates for a learning day events at the two additional Learning Cities.

Individual Observer : € 900

Each observer will be offered:

- ✓ - Active participation in the main learning event
- Access to supporting documentation
- Copy of the final publication

In addition they will be offered preferential rates for a learning day events at the two additional Learning Cities.

Please contact Henk Bouwman + 31 654 295 377 or see contact information.



Bringing back old waterstructures in Utrecht and redeveloping the area

6 CONTACTS

Find the latest updates about the Event on:

www.learningcitiesplatform.eu

and

<https://learningcitiesplatform.wordpress.com>

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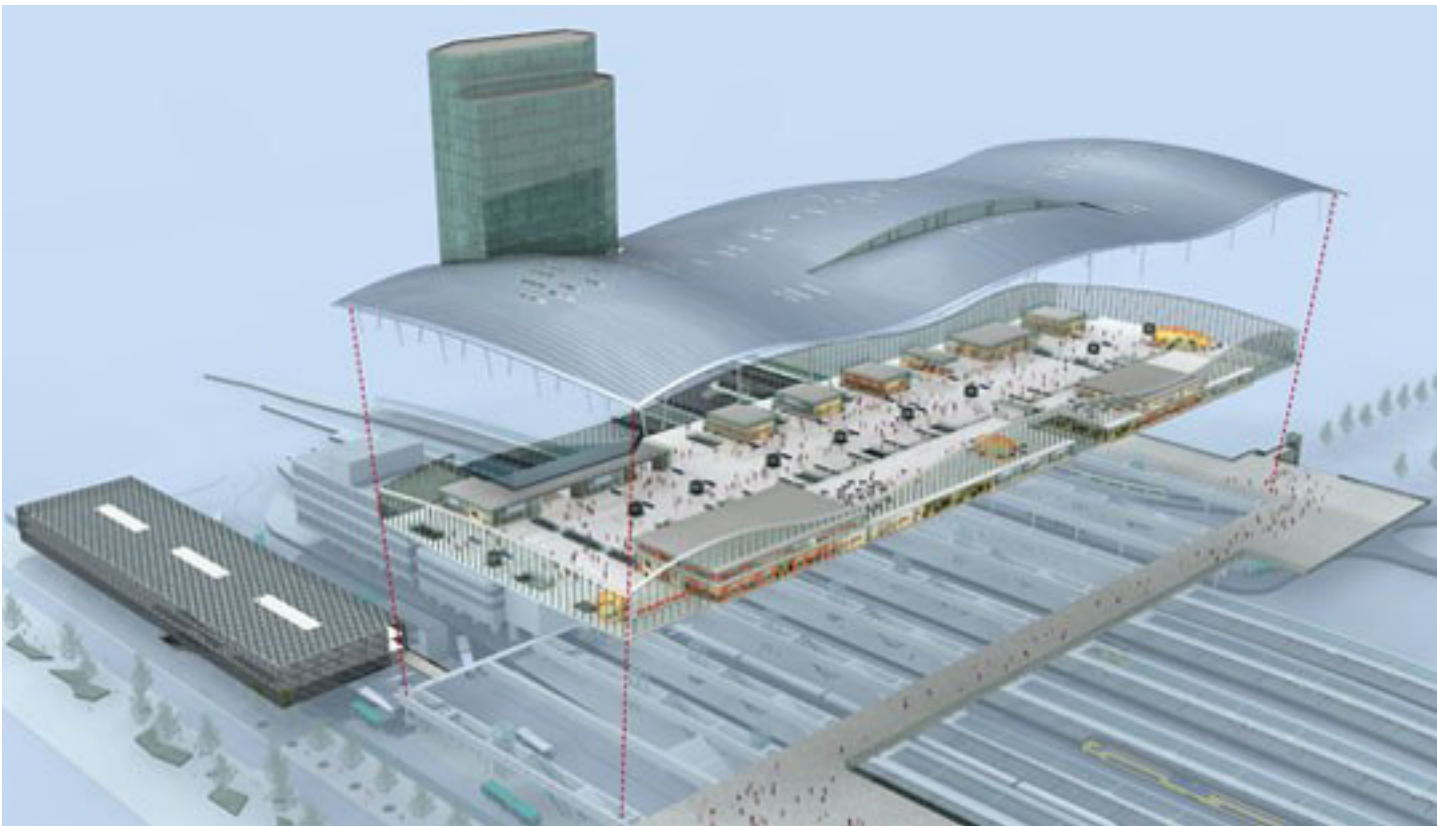


7 SPONSORS

The three Learning Cities Bordeaux, Hamburg and Utrecht sponsor the Event 2012. Utrecht will be hosting the event in June. In the beginning of May we will collect the various project information of the cities and will be made available on our website for all participants. A research will be done on the material and it will be made 'comparable'. For the event we will offer a guide with the relevant information.

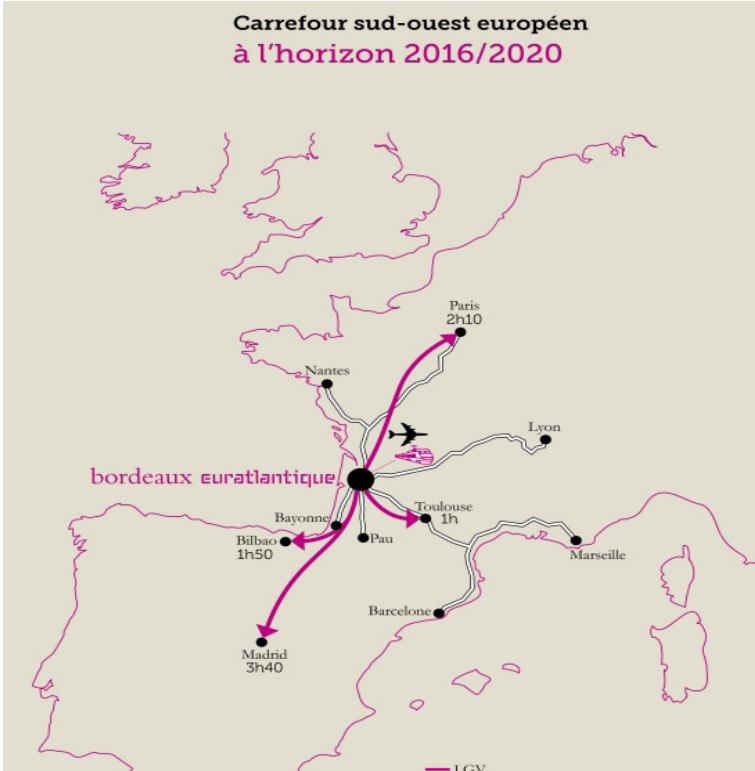
After the event a report will be made with the findings. With support from the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment we will be able to produce a publication in the autumn with learning principles, the event cases, and comparisons with other (European) cities.

You can follow us at www.learningcitiesplatform.eu and post comments to the blog or at info@learningcitiesplatform.eu



Utrecht, exploded view of the new central station

Carrefour sud-ouest européen à l'horizon 2016/2020



Hamburg HafenCity, aerial view http://www.bordeaux-auratlantique.fr/images/image_carrefourLGV_light.jpg

8 INITIATORS

THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM

The Academy of Urbanism is an autonomous, politically independent, cross-sector organisation incorporated in 2006 with the aim of expanding urban discourse. The Academy brings together a diverse group of thinkers, decision-makers and practitioners involved in the social, cultural, economic, political and physical development of our villages, towns and cities, and is an active membership organisation.

The AoU has an annual awards programme for places, neighbourhoods, streets, towns and the European City of the year award. Since inception over 90 places have been shortlisted for awards and visited.

www.academyofurbanism.org.uk

**THE ACADEMY
OF URBANISM**

HKB URBANISTS

HKB Urbanists is a Dutch consultancy and design studio. HKB develops practical spatial and programmatic solutions within the ever-changing human biotope. Our focus is to create meaningful places in order to let people develop their talents. For that purpose, we gain knowledge on the physical context, but also explore stakeholders' values. Reflecting on the ultimate ambitions of these aspects will result in a spatial and programmatic agenda instead of blue prints.

HKB is based in Rotterdam and Groningen, and has clients based in Europe and Asia. In our 60 years of existence, we have developed a strong continuous relationship with the Universities of Delft and Amsterdam.

www.hkbs.nl

HKB
stedenbouwkundigen

INTA - INTERNATIONAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT ASS.

INTA is a global membership association, based in Paris, of public and private policy makers and urban practitioners that share knowledge, experience and tools for integrated urban development. Different Communities of Competence within INTA further deepen the understanding of specific issues identified within the membership, that most likely will have a significant impact on urban society, thus fostering new insights, tools and methods to improve decision-making and public action. INTA's Annual Congress is the forum where the results of the Communities' efforts are brought together, in order to provide urban stakeholders with useful insights for strategic debate.

www.inta-aivn.org



SPACE SYNTAX

Space Syntax is an expert consultancy office providing a unique, evidence-based approach to the planning and design of buildings and urban areas. Based on 25 years of academic experience at University College London, Space Syntax has been able to illuminate a range of physical and spatial factors that strongly influence the performance and value of built environments. This approach helps to reduce or mitigate the risk of functional failure and can help to boost returns of many sorts: footfall, safety, interaction and, generally, the 'buzz' that is the goal of so many initiatives. Operating out of its Bloomsbury studio in London, Space Syntax has developed a 'spatial language' that cuts across disciplinary boundaries and translates the objectives of public and private agencies and stakeholders into meaningful frameworks of action.

www.spacesyntax.com

Space Syntax

URBAN_IMPULSE.EU

works on changing cities
works on how to exchange with them
works on how to learn from them
works on how you can change it into your own
urban biotope
works on finding the right imPulse to get things
started
and make it happen

www.Urban-imPulse.eu

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New station including the many railway tracks



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