



**Program (concept)      Summer School Almere**

## **The Organic City: method or metaphor?**

Organization: International New Town Institute (INTI)

Date: Summer 2011

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*Almere is a new town created 30 years ago. It has plans to double its size within the next twenty years. A large part of this extension will be planned using experimental methods, aiming to create a city that is just as much shaped by its inhabitants as by its planners. Almere calls this 'The Organic City'. What does this exactly mean? Does an organic city have an organic shape? Does it function like an organism or does it grow in an organic way? Is there such a thing like organic infrastructure, organic housing, organic finances, or organic economy? Is 'Organic' just a metaphor for a democratic city, or a real alternative method for urban development?*

*The design, the program and the organization of an 'Organic City' are all aspects of this Summer School that is aimed at architects, planners, students and professionals in the real estate business taught by specialists from different disciplines.*

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'The Organic City: method or metaphor?' is an interdisciplinary design and research course which is organized by the International New Town Institute for the program of the Summer School Almere. See: <http://www.summerschoolalmere.nl/almere>.

The chosen theme is connected with the expected development of the Almere Hout Noord region and existing plans to start an organic urban development. The program of The Organic City will present and critically analyze the concept of organic city planning. The general goal is to have participating students reflect on and contribute to the design possibilities, opportunities and chances of an organic city. This process is closely linked to the existing situation and conditions of a case study from Almere Hout. A first attempt to understand the principle of organic in relation to urban planning will be provided by a keynote essay, specially written for the course.

The students will receive an assignment to react and reflect on the concept and possible problems of the Organic City. The plans and specific case of Almere Hout will have to be used as starting point. Students are free to use and incorporate other views and knowledge from other disciplines in their final project of the course.

The students are expected to produce a final project that will be presented during semi-public meetings in the presence of several visiting critics. The final project may vary from an essay, design, business case, strategic plan or other forms. Students will have to decide on both the topic and the form of the final project on the third day of the course.

ECTS: 3 (to be confirmed)

The course, which is open for international and local students, will be given for two weeks in the summer of 2011. The course will be coordinated by an INTI representative. Apart from the lecturers, visiting critics will also be contributing to this program. Several excursions in Almere and other destinations will also be part of the program. The students will stay in Almere.

Coordinator: **JaapJan Berg**, Program Manager INTI

Daily coordination :

**Ekim Tan**, Architect & Urbanist & Researcher at TReC - The Responsive City Network  
Phd candidate, u-lab, TU Delft - INTI

**Program (CONCEPT):**

*NOTE: Since not all lecturers and visiting critics have confirmed their contribution, changes may occur in the program!*

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**Day 1**

Introduction of content of the summer course

Lecture 1

Introduction The Organic City: method or metaphor?

**Dr. Michelle Provoost**, Director of the International New Town Institute (INTI)

Lecture 2

The multilayered concept of the architectural 'organic'

**drs. Petra Schilders**, Architectural Historian and author of the keynote-essay for INTI.

Discussion and Q&A with **ir. Ekim Tan**

**Excursion**

to Almere-Oost led by Dienst Stedelijke Ontwikkeling, City of Almere

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**Day 2**

Lecture 1

Introduction and further details on the existing assignments in Almere Hout Noord:

**Marcel Stolk**, Advisor of urban strategy, Dienst Stedelijke Ontwikkeling, City of Almere

Lecture 2

New urban craftsmanship & the organic city

**ir. Pieter van Wesemael**, Advisor city planning at Inbo

Explanation of assignments by **ir. Ekim Tan**

**Excursion**

to Almere Haven led by Dienst Stedelijke Ontwikkeling, City of Almere

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**Day 3**

Lecture 1

The organic city: a themed and actualized new town-method?

**Arnold Reijndorp**, Urban Sociologist and holder of Han Lammers chair at the University of Amsterdam (Researcher at INTI)

Lecture 2

Almere: an ecologic or organic city?

**Alex van Oost**, senior advisor Environment and Urban development, City of Almere

Discussion and Q&A with **ir. Ekim Tan**

**Excursion**

to Almere Poort led by Dienst Stedelijke Ontwikkeling, City of Almere

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**Day 4**

Visiting critic

Consumer driven city planning and the organic city. The role and position of inhabitants in the process towards an organic city.

**ir. Laura Weeber**, architect

Workshop led by **ir. Laura Weeber**

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## **Day 5**

Lecture 1

Master planning the Organic City

**Neutelings Riedijk Architects**

Visiting critic

De self-made city as a manifest: Urban Jazz

**Arie Lengkeek** and/or **Peter Kuenzli**, authors of the book Urban Jazz (2004)

Workshop led by **Arie Lengkeek** and/or **Peter Kuenzli**

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## **Day 6**

Individual program: tips & tricks provided by INTI

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## **Day 7**

Individual program: tips & tricks provided by INTI

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## **Day 8**

Visiting critic

What design instruments can be used in bottom-up urban processes where an end goal is absent?

**Bureau Ritsema** or **ANA Architects** or **Zandbelt van den Berg** or **Vincent Kompier**

Workshop led by **Bureau Ritsema** or **ANA Architects** or **Zandbelt van den Berg** or **Vincent Kompier**

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## **Day 9**

Lecture 1

The organic city as a business case. Practices of zoning and the creation of spatial quality without the loss of interest of parties involved.

**drs. Jeroen Traudes**, Amsterdam School of Real Estate (ASRE)

Lecture 2

The organic city seen as a conservator of the landscape.

**ir. Mark Eker**, Landscape Architect Eker & Schaap landscape architecture

Discussion and Q&A with **ir. Ekim Tan**

### **Excursion**

to IJburg (Amsterdam) or Leidsche Rijn (Utrecht) led by INTI

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## **Day 10**

Lecture 1

Can the tradition of institutionalized city planning be changed into a newly implemented city planning?

**Robert Broesi**, **Must city planners**

Presentations of students: part 1

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In the presence of several visiting critics and invited public led by. **ir. Ekim Tan**

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**Day 11**

Presentations of students: part 2

In the presence of several visiting critics and invited public led by. **ir. Ekim Tan**

Closing of the program

by **Dr. Michelle Provoost**, Director International New Town Institute (INTI)