Well situated, research to relation between estate, city and landscape (1630-1730)

Keywords: estates, landscape, city, history, heritage, preservation and transformation

Chairs of Landscape Architecture and Heritage and Architecture

Area of Research: Landscape Architecture, heritage, cultural value, design and policy.

Research Summary: The main goal is to explore the historic tangible and intangible (visual, mental, social) connection between estates, cities and landscapes in the province of Holland between 1630 and 1730. During this period, the province of Holland had a leading role in both the young Republic of the Seven United Netherlands as well as Western Europe. Wealthy governing merchants built their estates outside the city in the reclaimed lowlands of Holland, as part of their status. In current research, the relationship between estate and their (physical) connection to the city is explored mentally, but the relationship with the landscape is staying behind. This research will explain the close connection of estates to the landscape characteristics in Holland in the seventeenth century. Therefore, this research will give more insight in a unique characteristics of Dutch estates: the close connection to other estates in ‘estate zones’ or ‘estate landscapes’. This relationship is important for the growing attention to preserve and re-use estate zones nowadays (legislation). By understanding the relationship between estates and their surroundings, we will be able preserve estate as part of the spatial characteristics of Dutch landscape and how heritage is defining these places.

Research Methodology: Within this project various methods are used to ‘describe’ the relation between cities, landscapes and estates: study on historic literature, spatial research on various scales using both historic maps and using new technology, like GIS. These methods contribute to describe the connection between estates, city and landscape in three scales. The final chapter will position this research in the current debate on the preservation of estates in the Netherlands.

Key Publications:

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Main Question: Were composition orientation, position and form of Dutch estates influenced by the pre-urban landscape of Holland (1630-1730) and how was the landscape influenced by these estates?

Deliverables:
- maps and descriptions of relation between estates, city and landscape
- definition of various words and elements for current debate
- overview on preservation of estates in the Netherlands

Link(s):

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