LICHTJESAVOND IN DELFT:
A LUMINOUS PREPARATION FOR WINTER

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HAVE DESCRIBED THE NIGHT WITH THREE WORDS: COSY, FRIENDLY, MAGICAL!

The city center starts to welcome its visitors around 17:00 and the stalls of food and drinks greet the cheerful crowd. The ‘Christmas Lights Eve’ also known as Lichtjesavond is one of the most exciting nights when a year is about to end! Every year in mid-December, Delft hosts this magical night where people enjoy the Christmas market, choirs singing different kinds of music, beautifully illuminated window shops and the Lighting Ceremony.

The lighting ceremony took place at 20:00h and enables the people to share the joy of seeing the lights of the great christmas tree getting lit after a countdown. This symbolic night gives light to people as a preparation for the winter, the so called ‘Dark Days of Delft’ (Donkere Dagen van Delft). You definitely must try ‘erwten soep’ -split pea soup- which is a very heavy and filling soup, perfect for cold winter days, ‘glühwein’ -a spiced mulled wine- and all sorts of fried doughs such as ‘poffertjes’, ‘applebeignets’, ‘olliebollen’ accompanied with hot chocolate. The shops are open until late hours but if you are up to discover new things, it might be a good call to leave the shopping aside and get prepared to be amazed by this enchanting night!

BY PELIN ESNAF
The faculty has established connections with the industry, academia and the community. Across all three master programmes, there are always opportunities to work in collaboration with these partners on design projects. We get to rub shoulders with the professionals, subject matter experts and also the people that we are designing for. Such experiences are what the students always look forward to as we can take our learning beyond the classroom and into practice.

By Khaw Yee Yek & Sen Lin

Interviews

Filippo Petrocchi is an IPD student from Italy. He is currently working with Amsterdam Schiphol Airport on a pop-up store design for the Advanced Concept Design course.

“It is a great experience, where we work closely with the company to realize and refine our design concepts. We had access to the boarding area of the airport and did extensive user research to uncover the needs of the travellers. Frequent contact with the company also let us understand their perspectives. It was valuable to the design process and we also learned from one another through it.”

Boyu Zhu

“Interviews

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is an SPD student from China. She has worked with Quby to forecast and strategize growth strategy for Design Roadmapping course. She is currently working with Adidas to design future digital creative processes for the Design Strategy Project course.

In the 1st semester of the SPD master programme, we are already immersed in these practical experiences. In our Design Roadmapping course, we charted future strategy and vision for Quby, a smart device partner for energy companies. We worked closely with them to understand their ideals and were also advised by technology specialists on the future of smart technology. In our final presentation, we travelled to their headquarters in Amsterdam where we interacted with their board members and shared our research findings. In the course ‘Design Strategy project’, there were also opportunities to collate with either Adidas, Ford or KLM on a wide variety of business and innovation projects. We travelled frequently to their offices and premises, where we conducted user research, observations and prototype testings. These sessions brought fresh perspective to the project with in-depth insights. For my team, we are currently working with Adidas to relook at their digital creative processes. This collaboration saw us travelling to their headquarters in Germany, where we got behind-the-scenes look into their operations and also conducted co-design sessions with their designers. Being brought so close to real-life scenarios, users and experts quickly sharpens our skills as we put the knowledge to the test constantly.

Sathya Ranjani Rangarajan

is a Dfi student from India. She has worked with four different companies for design/business cases while on the Cases on Tour study trip.

“It was an exciting yet challenging experience and the exposure I gained through it was unbelievable. I had the opportunity to solve design problems for HEMA, RTL, Ziggo and AbInBev. We worked through iterations and consultations to come up with practical solutions for important real-life problems. The best part was getting to interact with people from the company and gaining hands-on experience on how things work.”

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Interview with Ianus Keller, course coordinator of ‘IDE Academy’

Q: COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US A BRIEF INTRODUCTION ABOUT YOURSELF FIRST?
‘Hi, my name is Ianus Keller. I studied at this faculty from 1988 until 1995. During my study here, I was one of the first who focused on interaction design. We started with a group of 5-6 students. As a student I also worked on an interaction design project for Apple. I worked for a design company (Landmark Design & Technology) after graduation. Afterwards, I did my PhD from 1999 to 2005 on tools used by designers for inspiration, specifically collage materials. My PhD was about how designers collect materials, how they organise materials and how they use them in their design process’

Q: WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO START THE NEW COURSE IDE ACADEMY?
‘After finishing my PhD, I left here to teach in Eindhoven, Rotterdam and some other places. But gradually I found it really comfortable to stay in TU Delft. The surrounding environment and people make you feel at home. So I went back in 2008 as a freelancer and organized the Master Identity Day for DFI. When working with my colleague, we saw a discrepancy among master students. Master students who completed their bachelor here and who did it somewhere else lack skills that the other side has. For example, bachelor students from TU Delft are good at methodologies but tend to repeat what the book says while international students have their special advantages yet usually lack skills our students have. So instead of offering extra big electives, we thought it would be better to have students take short and basic workshops during the first two semesters of their MSc programme’.

Q: WE’VE HAD PLENTY OF WORKSHOPS THIS SEMESTER, WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPRESSIVE?
‘Let me see which one is my best :-) I love them all because they’re all different. The workshop that really stuck with me is the Scrum workshop. Students built paper rockets in an agile way. Three iterations were finished in one day! And another workshop that really surprised me is the Presentation Technique Workshop. I like it when the workshop teacher is different from who you normally see and that results will be unexpected’.

Q: COULD YOU RECOMMEND FIVE WORKSHOPS TO THE NEWCOMERS?
‘I would really suggest newcomers to go to the two presentation-focused workshops, one is for technical presentation, and the second one is pitching. The first one is more focused on cooperation, the other one is more focused on working in a small company. So one of those, I would suggest. Then I would suggest one for team work. So, we have two team-working focused workshops, one is about agile team-work, the other one is on team dynamics. Those are both interesting. And, I really like the Arduino prototyping workshop, especially for SPD students. Because I really want everybody to learn this skill that they think they don’t need. You need to program in one day, it’s a hard one, but I think it’s fun. And the e-commerce one is awesome’.

Q: WHAT KIND OF IMPROVEMENTS DO YOU SEE FOR THE FUTURE?
‘Every week we get feedback, and we incorporate it every week. If we find one workshop is really popular and valuable, we will offer it again next time. Then, what I want to improve is that I hope to do workshops in more different locations. We have given workshops at conference venues, theatres, sport centers and so on. I really want students to get out of this building, we have great facilities here, but I would also like to make you to do workshops in Amsterdam or other cities, that would be really nice! And my dream workshops would be at my place, because I live in the rural area, I would like to invite all of you to my garden in June. But it’s a dream I have, we will see!’
Preparing for the Dutch Weather

FOR SOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
THE DUTCH WEATHER MAY BE A BIT TRICKY AT FIRST, SUCH AS STUDENTS FROM TROPICAL REGIONS WHO ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO THE DUTCH MODERATE MARITIME CLIMATE.

DURING THE DAY, THE TEMPERATURE CAN VARY BETWEEN 0-10°C IN WINTER, AND 18-25°C IN SUMMER. HOWEVER, THE WEATHER CAN SOMETIMES BE KIND OF UNPREDICTABLE.

BY VINDA HARDIKURNIA & PELIN ESNAF

The IDE Compass team interviewed Mieke Rikken, an SPD student, for some tips during winter.

“A good winter jacket might be a good investment, ideally it should be windproof and waterproof, so it can keep you warm during the showers and/or the windy Dutch weather. Other than that, you probably will not need to splurge, you can get nice warm gloves pretty cheap in local stores such as HEMA. An big leather shoes can keep you warm, but I don’t really like them, so I usually just use my converse, haha!”

In the Netherlands? As it rains from time to time, a lightweight rain jacket might be handy. Sometimes an umbrella may not be so practical as the wind gets in the way, not to mention that it is difficult to use when you ride a bike.

In summer, there is quite a lot of sunshine. Feel free to wear your shorts, t-shirts, and slippers, but you will probably need a jacket or a long-sleeved top to keep you warm at night. However, in fall/spring, the weather gets colder, so during these times of the year people start to put on their jackets, but still quite moderate most of the time.

For winter, it can be pretty cold, but it does not snow much, so keep your warm clothes ready. Layering can be the key to keep you warm. So, instead of wearing one very thick layer, it is better to wear several thinner layers to keep the body heat. You should also prepare your warm accessories such as shawl, gloves, and beanie.

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