

## Arnhem the Learning City the Nest! Project

- Mother Centers International Network •
- **mine** Nederland • Nest! projectbureau •
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## Program August 31, cordaid

- 1) What is the Nest! Project?
- 2) Why does it work?
- 3) Why would a town want it?
- 4) What is the permanent result?
- 5) And now what?



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# 1) What is the Nest! Project?

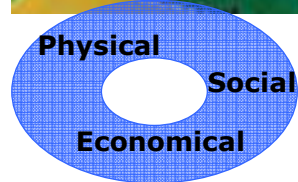
Feasibility Study -VROM funded  
(Ministry of Housing Planning and Environment)

Case study in Arnhem (4 locations)  
"Not the Chicken, Not the Egg, but the Nest!"

Bringing forces together  
Mobilizing additional development potential

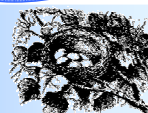
Schuytgraaf

Arnhem



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# 1) What it is:

Urban Development redefined:

- \* Temporary settlement = integral part urban planning
- \* Settlement of temporary units (containers)
- \* Using time- and space gaps
- \* Stays for 5 or 10 years
- \* Non subsidized, open to all
- \* Social structure to precede the physical
- \* Bring life, social cohesion, services, diversity + cultural richness to new neighborhoods



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## 1) What it is: the elements

### Mother Center "Public living room"

- Self-organization
- Work is paid
- Open program
- Children are a part of it

[www.mine.cc](http://www.mine.cc)



### An International Garden

- Integration (The "green language")
- Recreation
- production (familiar plants from home)
- Visibility (exchange "over the garden fence")



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## 1) What it is: the elements

### Nest! Buurt Academy

#### Neighborhood empowerment

- \* Mobilisation, Skills audits
- \* Trainings, partnership skills,
- \* ... Knowledge from within



### Grassroots International Academy

- \* [www.GWIA.net](http://www.GWIA.net)
- \* ... Knowledge from outside



### Organise settlements as a learning organisation



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## 1) What it is: the elements

Economic empowerment

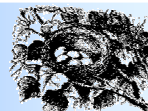
Bringing forces together

- \* Temporary Housing Co-op
- \* Job Agency
- \* Saving and credit groups
- \* Facilitating exchange of different forms of capital
- \* business incubators:  
Mobilizing local economy



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## 2) Why does it work?

A) It is cheap

B) It is available

A temporary settlement solves an urgent problem for many

- \* Students,
- \* Artist,
- \* Refugees, and other
- \* Starters on the housing market
- \* Seniors looking for 2<sup>nd</sup> home



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## 2) Why does it work?



A temporary settlement gives space for blocked potential

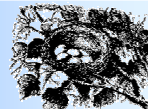
- \* Freedom
- \* Space for creativity
- \* Business opportunities
- \* Community
- \* Chances

It fits the needs of the pioneers, for a price they can afford



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## 3) Why would a town want it?

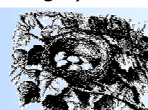
Changing environment requires flexible answers

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Changes on the housing market  | - the new shortage        |
| Changes on financial situation | - less money              |
| Political changes              | - post-Fortuyn times      |
| Changing population            | - demographic, ethnic     |
| Changing governance model      | - City branding           |
|                                | - Creative city           |
|                                | - Development planning    |
|                                | (Ontwikkelingsplanologie) |



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## 3A) flexible answers to urban issues

Changes on housing market require flexibility:

- Baby boomers: time, money, high demands
- Demand for cheap housing, but...

Building for the demand now,  
spoils the market of tomorrow

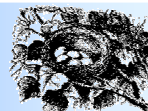


Folding chairs of the housing market



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## 3B) Less money, more requirements

The Nest keeps cities in business:

- Attracting the creative class (R. Florida)
- Strengthening their image (city branding)
- Increasing the value of real estate

Other resources are attracted



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### 3C) Political changes post-Fortuyn times

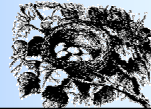
Since 'Fortuyn' increased resistance against closed political culture  
Protest in stead of participation  
Dualism became "duellism"  
Splintering of forces

Pro-actively stimulate  
civic participation  
Partnership building



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### 3D) Changing development methodology

Changing governance model:  
From reactive to proactive planning  
(Nota Ruimte: "Van hindermacht naar ontwikkelkracht")

Development processes need to be steered in  
environments where government has less power

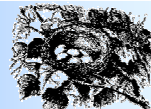
Creative towns require creative management  
Network planning requires network governance

The town as learning organization



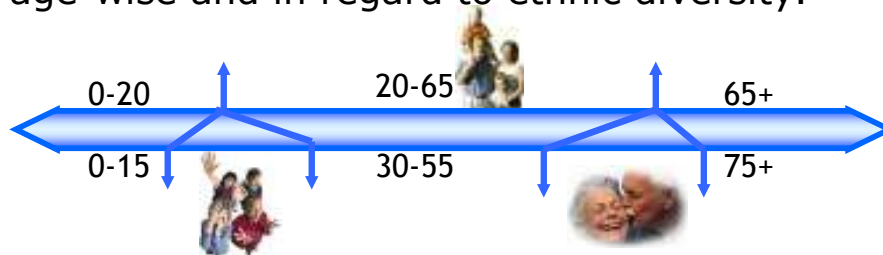
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### 3E) Why would a town want it?

productively engage new groups of people:  
age-wise and in regard to ethnic diversity.

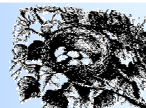


Preventing future decline of homogeneous neighborhoods (diversity as a strength)



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### General principles

Substitute professionals for paid volunteers  
whenever possible

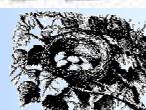
Replace hardware for software  
where possible

Maximize partnerships,  
Minimize costs



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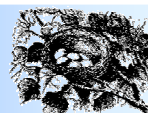
## 4) What is the permanent result?

- A) A permanent housing project  
developed during the time the Nest! exists
  
- B) A learning process  
the Nest! settlement as a whole is shaped  
as a learning organization



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## 4) A permanent housing project

- \* New partnerships in housing development
- \* Privately commissioned housing
- \* "Luscious Living"
- \* Competitive product in a shrinking market
- \* Wider involvement of market forces



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## 4) What is the permanent result?

B) A learning process

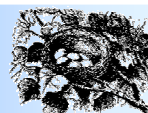
Developing new governance models for local authorities (leading by stepping back)

The Nest! settlement as a whole is shaped as a learning organization



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## 4) A permanent learning process

Learning from the South for the North



Innovative method for urban development

- \* Using all resources available
- \* De-institutionalization
- \* Stimulate self help + citizen involvement
- \* Community = asset for urban development



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## 5) And now what?

What do you think?

Do you have questions?

What partnerships do you think we should develop in order to realize this?



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