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## A cruise quay at the end of the cruise route: daring designs from Rotterdam Hofplein to Marconiplein

A fountain and a cruise route on the Kruisplein, lampposts which project icons for the 21st century on the road in the 1e and 2e Middel-landstraat and front gardens and terraces on the Mathenesserweg. These are a few of the daring designs with which the public space along the ribbon from Hofplein to Marconiplein can become more the domain of the neighbourhood and inhabitant. The designs are being presented during the month of November as part of the project Stad op Straat (City on the Street) by the Architectuur Instituut Rotterdam (AIR).

Source *Rotterdams Dagblad*  
2003-10-30

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## Three short tunnels instead of an underground laying of railway in Dieren

Three short tunnels under the railway Arnhem - Zutphen is much cheaper than laying the railway and Burgemeester de Bruinstraat underground in Dieren. That is why Minister Dekker has chosen this alternative. By doing so, the minister from Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment has struck a fatal blow to the extensive tunnel plan Hart voor Dieren (Heart for Dieren). The local authority Rheden and the province Gelderland are disappointed, and still support this project. 'Hart voor Dieren' incorporated a lowering of the railway and the Burgemeester de Bruinstraat between the Harderwijkerweg and the Wilhelminaweg. This would have created space for a new village centre for Dieren, which would eliminate the division between Dieren-North and Dieren-South.

Source *De Gelderlander*  
2003-10-27

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# Making the most of space

## *Architectural policy between dream and action*

Text by  
**Ole Bouman**

AMSTERDAM, NOV. 6 – Any self-respecting person concerned with the ups and downs of Dutch architecture, town, infrastructure and the Dutch landscape should have a subscription to the IKC RO Nieuwsflits (newsflash), a publication of the Nederlands Instituut voor Ruimtelijke Ordening en Volkshuisvesting (NIROV; Netherlands Institute for Physical Planning and Housing).<sup>\*</sup> Day after day you receive a summary of what is currently happening in the battle for Dutch space. There must be a fanatical clipping department working at NIROV, with subscriptions to all important newspapers and journals, general and professional, which conducts searches every day for articles on...

Yes, on what? Just read a sampling of the messages on the following pages. Your first impression would be that the object of their search is the entirety of the vicissitudes of the spatial disciplines. Whether it involves the trials and tribulations on the national and/or abstract level or the practically endless series of spatial trifles manifesting in all corners and gaps of the Dutch territory, it seems that the newsflash provides a daily overview of the chances for the spatial disciplines. And perhaps that is what it is meant to do. A revue passes of all subjects, all locations and all people who are involved with spatial interventions. From region to street scene, from opinion-leader

to the local councilor, from top architect to do-it-yourself pig farmer, everything, but absolutely everything is considered.

And that is why the NIROV is revealing something else. At a certain moment the quantity becomes a new quality. It is precisely the unending stream of reports that can produce a form of disengagement which ensures that people rise above the swarm, take a bird's eye view, tower high above the goings-on, and you can conclude that what initially appeared to be essential specialist knowledge has in fact grown into a special type of insight into human nature. A wisdom develops that on Dutch territory, to a greater extent than the New Map of the Netherlands containing all proposed building projects could ever express, there is a total anarchy of intentions, interests, interventions, procedures, objectives, resentments, instructions and projects. A complete shambles of spatial ingenuity and spatial foolishness, criss-crossing each other, over and despite each other. What the IKC RO Newsflash truly reveals every day is not the vitality of spatial disciplines, but their total suffocation in an unbridled quantity of 'actions'. A vain attempt that has never yet been described in the best novels. A view of the senselessness, a memento mori, a genre tableau of national proportions, and there is nothing, absolutely nothing that suggests that it is any different beyond this nation. Past Lobith, south of Wuustwezel, offshore from Hoek van Holland, the same

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# Isolation Island

pattern continues inevitably everywhere. The world is being ruined by diligence. What begins in Tietjerkseradeel and Lutjegast, extends to the Bommelerwaard and the Veenkoloniën, is announced in polder and dyke landscape, i.e., what characterises the Dutch nation and gives it prestige, cannot be anything other than a local manifestation of an universal desire for ploughing under, weeding, raking, trimming, pruning, mowing and fencing of their own backyard. The backyard as ultimately the greatest common denominator of the spatial behaviour. That may also be the greatest merit of the current government policy: it is so realistic.

Thus far the reality, back to the dreams, ambitions and ideals of those who feel that an 'integral approach' exists. Return to the 1990s and their continuation. In retrospect, it is truly phenomenal what has been happening in the spatial integral thought in the past decade. Ministers, toiling away at the new comprehensive policy document for Physical Planning. A professional community, bouncing from one expert meeting to another spatial scenario. A flood of separate interventions pretending to be an exemplary project that anyone could learn from. A complete architectural policy with a refined set of instruments for the maintenance, extension and renewal of quality, for the promotion of practical, future, and cultural value. A series of National Grand Projects, which have to be initiated because of a serious governmental responsibility, a Netherlands Architecture Institute as a large sector agency, a stimulation fund, a VROM Council, a Spatial Planning office, a very ambitious government architect, what could possibly be lacking? And will it help? In the Netherlands there is even an instrument with which all forces, visions, examples, judgements, terrains of knowledge and sources of inspiration can be brought together in a medium for debate on an international scale.

You are holding that instrument in your hands right now.

At least, if you haven't already thrown your hands up in the air while reading this. What a paradox, what a contrast, what a lost effort. We could imagine that gesture clearly. It seems an immense discrepancy has developed between the individual gardening and the collective garden design. Perhaps this discrepancy has always been there, but it has now become so striking, because we are currently experiencing the pay-off from a culture of external involvement to a culture of personal responsibility. The question is how far will the pendulum swing to the other side? And even more important: do we really have to go completely to the other extreme?

This coming year *Archis* will subject the above-described discrepancy to meticulous study. A study of the tension between faith and a sense of reality. Between idealism and cynicism. It is said that foresight is the essence of governing. But now that this country is finally being governed again, it seems the present is the lord and master. Nevertheless, there are members of the various professional societies who will again in 2004 devote time to conceiving models with which subjects can be broached that are larger than the personal interest or the local intervention. What do they have left to base their ambitions on? Especially now, when everything seems to revolve around 'personal initiative', the intrepidity to dare to close your own garden gate behind you and to go out into the world must become evident. Soon, in this rubric.

\*See also [www.ikcro.nl](http://www.ikcro.nl)

## Designers must also provide colour

Opinion. (Mr. Robbert Coops, social geographer and general director of HVR Public Affairs /Public Relations in The Hague) The opportunities available for urban planning and architecture to improve the continuity of and between public spaces will be reduced by the lack of emphasis on colour placed in current architectural courses, according to Prof. Jenno Witsen, chairperson of the foundation Stichting Kleur Buiten, which is celebrating its anniversary, at the presentation of a book on the characteristic white buildings in The Hague.

Source *Cobouw*  
2003-10-23

## Part of the large Groningen new housing estate Meerstad will be troubled with complaints about stench

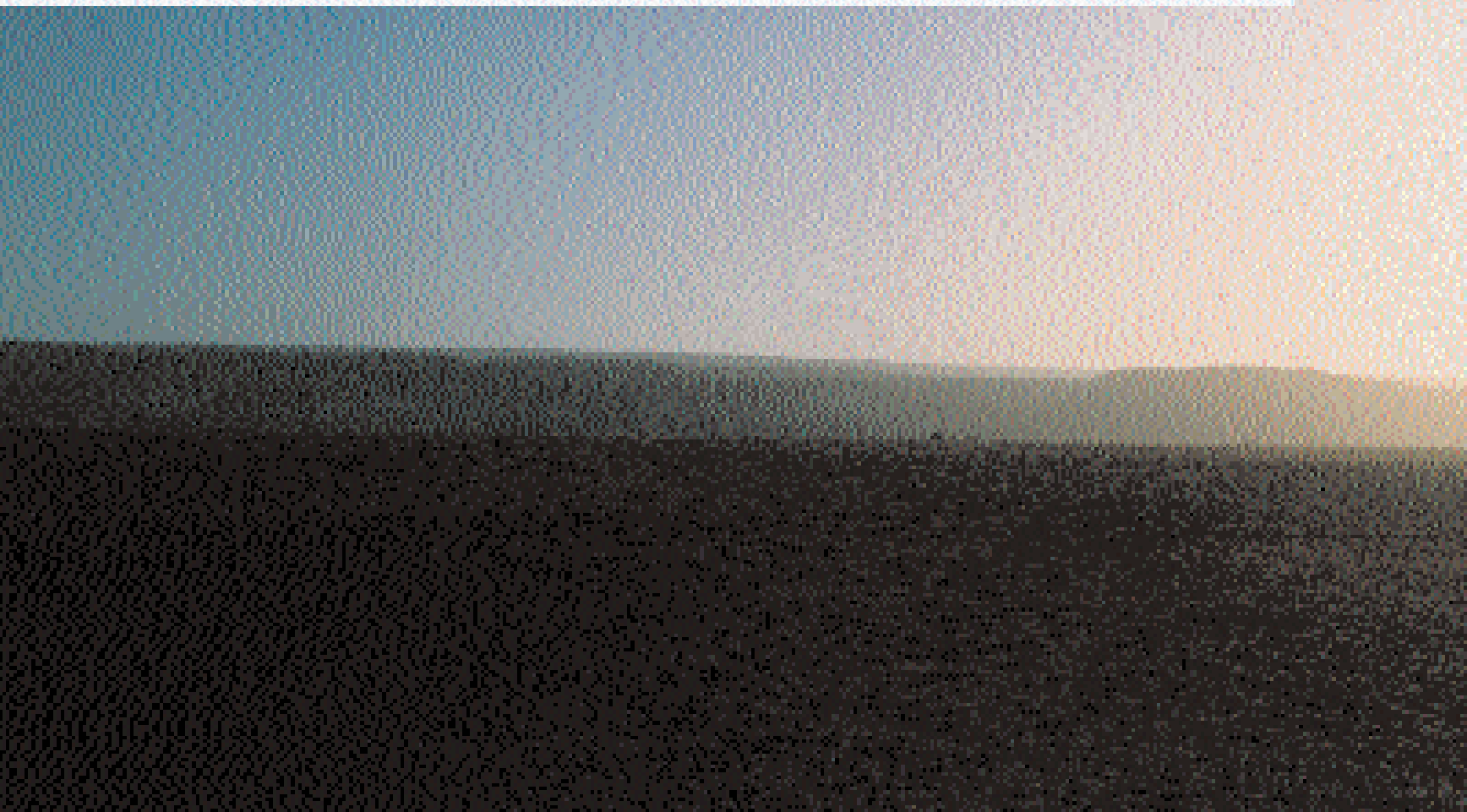
Part of the projected new housing estate Meerstad will be troubled by the stench arising from the sewage purification plant in Garmerwolde. Only a handful of people live in that area at the moment. Within ten years this will grow to several hundred. "It stinks really badly in the summer. Then you can really smell it, depending on the wind of course," says B.J. Mulder, whose farm lies on the other side of the Eemskanaal, just across from the sewage plant. "They claim that measures have been taken against the stench, but I honestly haven't noticed any difference."

Source *Dagblad van het Noorden*  
2003-10-28



*above* Rest space in the Soviet Union: the Aral Sea.  
Photo Armin Linke

*below* New construction in Egypt: 6 October city  
Photo Armin Linke





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## Dekker prefers new buildings in cities

Minister Dekker of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment is no longer interested in the new construction of large-scale housing estates like Vinex locations. She prefers smaller housing projects in inner cities and smaller towns and villages, once the construction of the current Vinex estates is finished. Dekker will choose more new housing in old run-down parts of the cities because 'the great drain from the inner cities must be stopped'. The minister was speaking last Saturday in an extensive interview with *De Telegraaf*.

Source *Aedesnet Nieuws*  
2003-10-28

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## Quality of life in the countryside not improved by continuous building

The first Balkenende cabinet stated that for the quality of life in the countryside, building was permitted at least for the local inhabitants. Without building more in the countryside, there is no guarantee for the quality of life, as shown by research from the Office for Environmental Assessment. There is primarily a need for affordable living accommodation for young people and the elderly. Quality of life in the countryside benefits primarily by improvement of access for people who do not own cars.

Source *RIVM*  
2003-10-23

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## Zwijndrecht disagrees with recommendation to delay separate freight railway into Belgium

The municipality of Zwijndrecht disagrees with the recommendation to delay for the moment the laying of a separate freight railway from Rotterdam to Belgium. This so-called Robellijn would considerably reduce the amount of freight transport through Zwijndrecht, and in addition more offices could be constructed along the railway because the strict regulations due to the passage of freight transport would no longer apply.

Source *Rotterdams Dagblad*  
2003-10-29

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## Twente garden village Lansink granted protected status

The garden village Lansink has been officially named a protected village. The State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science and the Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment made the announcement on Monday. The nomination has consequences for the inhabitants. All plans for e.g. the building of a bay window or a garden shed must be suspended immediately. The existing zoning plans 'Wilderinkshoek, Tuindorp 't Lansink' (from 1978) and 'Wilderinkshoek, de Breemars' (from 1979) provide insufficient protection according to the municipality and will have to be modified within two years.

Source *De Twentsche Courant/Tubantia*  
2003-10-22

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## Protection of Brabant underground 'inadequate'

The protection that the province wants to provide for the ground under Brabant is seriously inadequate according to the nature and environment conservation movement. Many valuable areas have not been included in the new geology Belvedere map and are therefore exposed to damage to the soil structure, like erosion and draining. These claims are published in protests made by the Brabantse Milieufederatie (BMF) and local conservation groups against the provincial map with geological values, which determines the identity of the Brabant landscape. According to the BMF, the province has consistently ignored for the wrong reasons all geological values outside the main ecological structure, the backbone of the Brabant nature. "This threatens the permanent loss of an important part of the foundation under both nature and landscape and Brabant history."

Source *Brabants Dagblad*  
2003-10-06

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## Farmyard camping managers want a legal maximum of 25 places

Farmyard camping managers want the number of camping sites allowed per farm increased from 15 to 25. To establish this nationwide, a statutory regulation is necessary. LTO Nederland, the Stichting Vrije Recreatie (SVR; Free Recreation Foundation) and the Vereniging van Kampeerboeren (VeKaBo; Society of Farmyard Camping Managers) wrote a joint letter to the Second Chamber concerning this issue. They fear that the situation will otherwise become chaotic because local authorities follow different rules.

Source *AgriHolland Nieuws*  
2003-10-28

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**SURVIVOR**  
THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK

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## Collaboration between local authorities and the government in municipal renewal could be better

The collaboration between the local authorities and the government did not run smoothly during the start of the first round of the ISV. Local authorities perceive the government to be a collection of little kingdoms, with little agreement between them. There is also not much transparency in the forest of consultative bodies and responsible parties working in municipal renewal. Local authorities also complained about the severe (time) pressure under which municipal renewal started a few years ago. This criticism was expressed during the KEI-atelier ISV2, which was recently held by the KEI information centre for municipal renewal.

Source *KEI Nieuws*  
2003-10-24

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## Poor communication about regional vision for Groningen-Assen

In the past few years communication about the regional vision for Assen-Groningen has been poor. Therefore, a full-page advertisement will appear soon in *Dagblad van het Noorden*. Shortly thereafter, a telephone survey will examine the inhabitants' evaluation. This was outlined by the Groningen representative Mark Calon on Wednesday in the Provincial Council Committee for Environmental Policy and Housing. The latest version of the regional vision was discussed with its ambitious targets for housing, traffic and transportation and the development of the countryside. The council members feel that the inhabitants are hardly interested in the plan.

Source *Dagblad van het Noorden*  
2003-10-30

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## Campaign by Milieudefensie to save the Utrechtse Heuvelrug

Eugène van Haaren, spokesperson for Milieudefensie: "In fact, the Utrechtse Heuvelrug is an example of how throughout the Netherlands the public space is being squandered. However, large parts of the Utrechtse Heuvelrug have just been named a national park, and there are projects underway to return built-up areas to nature." Campaign leader Willem Verhaak from Milieudefensie: "It is rather confusing. The southern part, around Amerongen, is the national park. We are now concerned with the middle section (around Zeist), and the northern section near Hilversum and het Gooi. For example, Zeist wants to build on the terrain of the Sterrenberg (institute for mentally handicapped people, ed.), at Huis ter Heide and Den Dolder, and around the train station Driebergen-Zeist. Of course, we are talking about small areas, but this development has been going on for years. We want to prevent it continuing."

Source *Utrechts Nieuwsblad*  
2003-10-28

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## Neprom wants Second Chamber pronouncement about damage due to planning

Neprom wants the Second Chamber to make a pronouncement during the budget negotiations with VROM about repairing the law regarding claims for damage due to planning. The pronouncement should make it easier for local authorities to conclude reimbursement agreements for damage due to planning with developers despite the gap in the law. After the pronouncement by the Supreme Court in the Nunspeet-arrest case, the smaller local authorities in particular have become wary of concluding agreements with developers according to Neprom director Jan Fokkema.

Source *PropertyNL*  
2003-10-23

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## Villages benefit from rural institute

The province will have to establish a so-called rural institute, in which all knowledge and experience in the field of rural development can be collected. This suggestion was contained in a memo about the role of multifunctional centres in the Frisian villages. The drafters of the memo include the foundation Samenwerking Dorpshuizen Friesland (Collaboration between Friesland Town Halls), the emancipation office Equa, the Feriening Lytse Doarpen and the foundation DBF. They argue that the establishment of centres with different functions is a complex task.

Source *Leeuwarder Courant*  
2003-09-29

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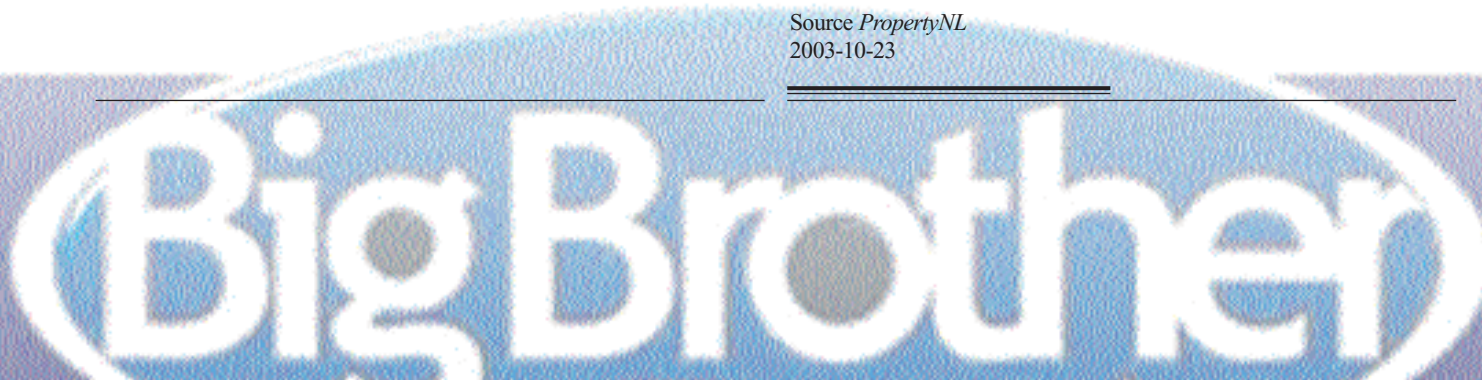
## Waal sprong: reversing the priorities

Before drawing up future plans for the Waal sprong, Nijmegen had better examine the framework of nature and infrastructure, states Han Meijer, Professor of Urban Development Design at the Technical University Delft. He feels that Nijmegen is still trying too hard to begin the planning process at the wrong end: with the sharpest possible definition of housing environments and architectural concepts for 'living by the river'.

Source *De Gelderlander*  
2003-09-22

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## VROM reduces rules

Minister Dekker and State Secretary Van Geel (VROM; Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment) are going to curtail the rules of VROM. The ministry will discard 100 of the 400 rules and combine another 100. In time, a far-reaching integration of the Spatial Planning Act, the Conservation Act and the Housing Act will follow, and a VROM permit will be created. This is meant to improve clarity about which VROM rules must be followed and increase the speed with which the rules are obeyed. The administrative burden for citizens and companies is expected to be reduced by several hundred million euros per year.

Source *Press release from the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment*  
2003-10-20

## Alarm about poisonous substances in cement

Thousands of housing units, office premises and roads have been built and laid in the past few years with cement containing poisonous waste. People working with this cement run great health risks such as severe lung problems and cancer. The environment is endangered in the long term with the risk of severe contamination. This was reported by Prof. Lucas Reijnders, Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Amsterdam. His statement is supported by the chemist Dr. Atie Verschoor, expert in the field of dangerous substances, who fears this is a 'time bomb'.

Source *De Gelderlander*  
2003-10-15

## Rucphen still monitored by VROM

The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) will continue for the time being to monitor Rucphen regarding the local authority's building policy. The increased monitoring required by Inspection South of VROM remains in place even after a consultation between VROM and the local authority held last week.

Source *BN/De Stem*  
2003-10-14

## Inspiration team for youth and student accommodation started

The province of Utrecht has established a joint effort of owners, housing corporations, local authorities and other interested parties to make more accommodation for youths and students available. At the request of provincial governments, delegated councils formed an inspiration team for youth and student accommodation. This is a result of the provincial housing policy, which aims to increase the supply in the housing market for youths, students and starters. The team started work on 1 October 2003 and will be active for two years. The team consists of representatives of the municipality of Utrecht, University of Utrecht, SSH Utrecht, USF student interests and the Province of Utrecht and is being led by Renée Schoonbeek. On November 27, the team is organising a group of experts. Interested parties can exchange experiences and make contacts in an informal manner.

Source *Press release from the Province of Utrecht*  
2003-10-09

## Plan for 900 housing units in Wijchen-Huurlingsedam

The local authority Wijchen wants to hire an office to make a plan for the new housing estate Huurlingsedam for 150,000 euros. In this estate, lying north-east of Kerkeveld, about nine hundred housing units could be built. In comparison: in all of Kerkeveld there are about 1100 houses. In the mid-1990s, when construction of Kerkeveld was started, continuation of building in the direction of Huurlingsedam was discussed. In the spring of 2000, however, the local authority was forced to stop making further plans for this area. This was due to the national and provincial policy of that period which aimed not to fill up the countryside even further with buildings and called a halt to the expansion of villages. The new government has a different policy, though.

Source *De Gelderlander*  
2003-10-09

## Bunnik politics divided about construction of an 'extra village'

Building five thousand housing units, in the region between Bunnik, Odijk and Houten? In other words: a village of 15,000 inhabitants in addition, for Bunnik? The local politicians in this local authority were strongly divided about the plan from the ten local authorities from the Council for Utrecht Region.

Source *Utrechts Nieuwsblad*  
2003-10-09

