

Hand in hand with Eline Vere and Louis Couperus

On Sunday 27 April from 14.00 - 16.30
Fin de siècle architecture in The Hague:
thematic afternoon and guided tour by Gert Esmeijer

Social and technological changes had a significant influence on the architecture at the close of the 19th century. The prosperous upper-class inhabitants of The Hague were conservative, Louis Couperus being a perfect example. In his novel 'Eline Vere' set in The Hague in the last decade of the nineteenth century, he writes in a subtle way about the unsurmountable barrier between classical and modern times, the rift between two worlds. What is extraordinary, is that during this period in The Hague two residential districts rose, virtually simultaneously, from the ground: the Archipel district built in an eclectische architectural style referring back to the Classical period, and the Duinoord district in the Art Nouveau style.

This afternoon spotlights both districts.

Start: Wijkcentrum 't Klokhuis',
Celebesstraat 4

Finish: Trefpunt 'Op den Engel',
Waldeck Pyrmontkade 885

Organisation: Residentie Ontdekkingen (inlichtingen@residentieontdekkingen.nl, 070 - 345 12 98)

in cooperation with both community associations

Tickets: €17.50 p.p. incl. coffee and a drink afterwards.

Reservations can only be made via the VVV in

The Hague open 7 days a week,

070 - 338 58 00.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Kijk-op-de-wijk

Neighbourhood insight

A photo competition is just one of the activities planned for the community fair on 28 June. Everyone – young and old – can send in his/her best 'Kijk-op-de-wijk' - photo(s). All the photos sent in will be exhibited during the fair. There will be a prize for the best photo chosen by a jury and the one chosen by the public. And the two photos will remain on view in Bankastraat for a month after the fair.

How do you take part? Of course first you have to take that special photo of the neighbourhood. Then you drop a print 20 x 30 cm off at Lijstenmakerij Annette Polderman, 85 Bankastraat. Beautiful weather is (hopefully) on its way so take to the streets, take inspiration from your surroundings and take us by surprise (and yourselves) with your own creative impression of the Archipel.

Queen's Day in the Archipel

This is the seventh time in succession the present oranjevereniging has organized special festivities to celebrate Koninginnedag in the Archipel.

On Wednesday 30 April you will again be awakened by a Brazilian drum band followed by the now traditional procession through the neighbourhood, with "Royal Headgear" as the theme this year. The members of your Oranje Comité: Martine van Berckel, AdJan Brouwer, Johannes ten Cate, Eugène Dekker, Evert-Jan van Hellenberg Hubar, Tjerk Huysinga, Benine van Karnebeek, Christine van Zuylen and Marian Wind are certain we can all look forward to another enjoyable community event.

Become a member and/or sponsor

Transfer €17.50 before 27 April to bank account number 62.41.74.646 in the name of Oranjevereniging Archipel with details of your name, address and the number of family members who will be attending the festivities.

If you want to join the BBQ also transfer €6 (adults) or €3 (children) for each family member: tickets do not include drinks.

Progress report on Community Fair

The plans for the biennial community festivities, with the theme Kijk-op-de-wijk, are taking shape. Apart from the regular activities such as the playground paradise, the flea market street football, music and the congenial communal meal and drinks around the fountain on Bankaplein, there are also some new items on the programme. Various guided tours through hofjes, past particularly interesting building and, last but not least, through the De Monchy complex. There will also be a treasure hunt and you can present your Kijk-op-de-Wijk photo at the photo exhibition (see other article on this page).

You can join in treasure hunts and guided tours, play, fly balloons, browse the stalls in our very own, listen to music, win the craziest prizes on the wheel of fortune, savour the Bankadinner sitting around the Bankaplein fountain and afterwards dance to the music of a great band. And for the youngsters, Billitonstraat will again be transformed into a playground paradise.

HELP!

Of course the Wijkfeestcomité has as ever an urgent request: we need practical help to make the day a success. Setting up and clearing away tables and chairs, moving barriers, supervising the train rides (back again this year), in short offers of assistance when and where it's needed! Actually, it is great fun and you get to know fellow residents in the neighbourhood into the bargain.

So please sign up at the central e-mail address wijkfeest@archipelbuurt.nl and you'll be welcomed with open arms!

One beautiful sunny day in the Archipelbuurt

Spring had arrived; the sun was shining; the temperature rising. The weather was fair and the meteorological office had forecast a week of beautiful weather. Doors to gardens were thrown open and the garden furniture placed outside in anticipation.

Archipel residents were already looking forward to a quiet hour in the garden: reading the newspaper or a book; tending and preparing the garden for the summer. A tray of pansies waiting to be planted; the neighbour already had the trowel in her hand. She looked around once again: the roses are in bud; the jasmine will be early this year, the rhododendron too. In fact everything will blossom earlier this year.

The moment the next-door neighbour opened his paper realizing that life is not so bad after all, it began ...

Perhaps it's the gremlins at work... but just as the first rays of sun broke through in the spring, it started again! The piercing sound of the machines and tools of contractors and of neighbours doing a bit of home-improvement. Sanding machines – sometimes two in unison – for hours on-end, day-in day-out, with increasing zeal shattering the peace in gardens throughout the neighbourhood. There is no district in The Hague where quite so much home-improvement and rebuilding work goes on as in the Archipelbuurt. Compared to other districts, in Archipel and Willemspark it's become almost too much to bear.

Perhaps it's time to purchase modern silent tools. They've been available in the trade for ages. What's more, a little moderation and consideration wouldn't go amiss either. Is such extensive building work really necessary? Couldn't it be curtailed just a little?

Another example: on a really hot day in July 2006, there was a national health warning: on that day all construction worked ceased and factories were closed because of the high pollution level. But in the Archipelbuurt it was disregarded. Apparently here nobody knew about it and just carried on. Demolition work continued – with all the windows open – and the street became white as all the dust settled ...

A.G.

Queen's Night/Day on the new Mallemolen esplanade

The Mallemolen will again be celebrating Koninginnenacht and - dag with live music, snacks and drinks.

The live music on the bill during **Koninginnenacht** will be performed by the band Mappatazza (a regular in the Mallemolen) in the newly opened Café Hier and Crazy Rootz at Café De Malle Meid.

On **Koninginnedag** too, there will be non-stop open-air performances from various bands from 16.00 till 19.00. You

can listen or dance to genuine unadulterated fifties Rock 'n Roll while enjoying the tastiest Indonesian, Mediterranean and typically Dutch delicacies served by the Mallemolen restauranteurs. All accompanied of course with a suitable beer, glass of wine, or if you prefer a soft drink.

Café Hier

Café Hier opened a few weeks ago. The interior of the premises, which formerly housed eetcafé 't Elfde Gebod, has changed somewhat: all the ornaments

have disappeared and the walls have a fresh coat of red paint. All the photos and guitars on the walls are evidence of the managers' love of music. So not surprising that it is their intention is to organize live musical performances: the first of course on Queens' Night!

Hier is open seven days a week and the kitchen is ready to serve from 17.00 with a modest menu and dish of the day.

Community



in a state of flux

Eva van Voorst Van Beest Gallery

There was a lot of speculation as to what would replace the gift shop: Blokker, a fishmongers, bookshop... It turned out to be a gallery. No mean undertaking, especially if you are 28 years old, like Eva.

Eva van Voorst van Beest is actually following in the footsteps of her parents who had an art dealer business on Laan van Meerdervoort/Anna Paulownastraat. She can profit from their knowledge and experience.

The formula for this new enterprise is one of alternating sales promotion and exhibitions: 'Impressionists' alternated with modern artists. For example members of the Spronken family (Caius and Siiri) and relatives like Thomas Junghans (there is a piece by him in Sumatrastraat!). You can also see the work of the well-known sculptress Tony van der Vorst, who gives lessons to her majesty Queen Beatrix. Currently there

is an exhibition of work by Isaac Israëls that runs till 18 May.

How do you like it in the neighbourhood?

Eva: "The Archipelbuurt is a pleasant place to work and live; my parents live just around the corner. I've had very positive reactions from people in the district."

The gallery is open from Wednesday to Sunday
Bankastraat 1X,
070 338 97 26 www.evagallery.com

E.S.

De Vrije Vogel Gallery opens

After a serious illness Angelique Schouwman has once again opened her gallery where she exhibits her paintings and bronze objects. The theme 'Atlantis' plays an important role in her paintings and music and birds often provide the subject matter for her sculptures.

In principle she only exhibits her own work although in the past other artists were given the opportunity to show their work. This will however only happen on rare occasions in the future.

If you would like to visit the gallery please ring 070 364 40 70 or e-mail info@angelique-art.nl

For an impression of her work visit <http://www.angelique-art.nl>

E.S.

A duck with pretensions

Spring bulletin from our flat-dwelling correspondent A v.d. Kontvangen: for about the last ten days or so I've had a duck brooding 10 eggs in my plant container on my fourth-floor balcony. Because of holiday plans I won't see the eggs hatch. My neighbours have taken over the role of midwife and will ring the animal ambulance once the chicks have arrived. Hopefully the ambulance crew will be successful in transferring mother and children to some safer natural haven.

A world for children
Schoolchildren say
‘Child labour must disappear from the world’

Minister Bert Koenders has emphasized that the fight against child labour is a spearhead of the Dutch human rights policy.

He recognizes that there is still a lot to be done to bring a permanent halt to the exploitation of children in this way. Various parliamentarians have promised to make every effort to ensure that the policy focuses on getting all these children back to school. The ambassadors of Venezuela, Brazil and Morocco support the initiative and will advocate that their governments take measures to combat child labour.

Peter de Ruiter – travel photographer and writer from the Archipelbuurt – and the initiator of this action campaign, believes this is a step in the right direction.

For more information: www.kinderarbeid.nl



INDONESIAN SIGNS IN THE ARCHIPEL

Archipel & Indonesia

Where does the bond between the Indonesian neighbourhood and Indonesia really come from? We know that earlier the houses were lived in by those on leave, but is there something else to know apart from nostalgic longing for the old colony? The editorial staff went in search of cultural and culinary enlightenment!

10th years of KOEMPOELAN in 't Klokhuis (means "meeting" in Indonesian)

Every second Wednesday of the month there's a meeting in the Klokhuis, primarily for people with an Indonesian background, but also for anyone else with an interest in Indonesian culture.. In 1997 the Senior Citizens advice centre of the time took the initiative to do something special for those elderly Indonesians in the neighbourhood who were alone. Carmen Boersma and Sonja Walther were two of the volunteers who helped them and who still belong to the organisation. In the meantime two volunteers were replaced by Erna Wasch and Mineke Mac Gillavry as there is a lot to consider and organize. Senior citizen advisor Patricia Haverkort and professional aide Anneke Ruff van St Pelita (organisation for Social Community work for the benefit of the Indonesian people) help out. The target group: elderly in the neighbourhood and from Schakelpunt, but also people come from other parts of the town and also from outside it.!

Indonesian Culture

On 11th February the first Koempoelan was opened by Coen Pronk and on the occasion of the 10 year anniversary Coen Pronk was again the one to give the opening shot before midday.. There was aschedule made for the whole season (every second Wednesday from 14.00 to 16.00)There is always something cultural about Indonesia on the program : Often well known

Nederlanders such as Coen Pronk, Wieteke van Dort or Yvonne Keuls, but also travel tales of other Indonesian subjects are on the program. Wieteke van Dort promotes the work of HALIN (Help for compatriots in Indonesia), an organisation that gives support to people in Indonesia that need it..

The 'snacks '

>Á very important part of the fternoon is 'The Snacks ór the djadjan!The Workgroup has a good relationship with Toko Solo in the Renbaanstraat,who deliver the special Indonesian snacks. People can buy and enjoy them during Koempoelan for 1 euro a piece. There is a batchelor who takes 30 snacks home and so has his own Indonesian breakfast taken care of! There are also special Koempoelans; in December there is a Christmas meal and in May the Koempoelan-season is finished with an Indonesian high tea. Luckily people also get a subsidy out of different 'pots'such as the Senior citizen work and St Pelita; in this way the entrance price (2euros 50 cents inclusive coffee/tea) stays low.

It is quite clear to me that the Workgroup Koempoelan still gets a lot of pleasure in organizing these afternoons; Carmen Boersma talks about it very enthusiastically.

ED

Ger Sittrop:

I am and will always be an INDO!

That sign is on the back of his car..Now Sittrop is not so Indonesian; he had an Indonesian mother, a Dutch father-also a regular soldier- and a German ancestor , from whom he got his surname . Consequently, he was born as a Dutchman -in Surabaya, East Java -in 1929. Brought up in a boarding school of Don Bosco he went into the Indonesian army (TNI-Tentara Negerie Indonesia) at the outbreak of the war with Japan.

Imprisoned by the Dutch he was drafted into the Royal Dutch Indonesian Army (KNIL).He even fought under Westerling, later in New Guinea and Korea, and still wore his-bit too tight- uniform with the appropriate decorations with pride. Those who think he is a typical warhorse are mistaken. On the contrary, as he says himself, he likes to help people physically and mentally..

Arrival in the Netherlands

In 1947 Ger arrived in Holland where he was called up to the draft in Venlo. He received his non-commissioned officer training in the Kromhout-barracks in Utrecht. There he married his first(Indonesian) wife, with whom he had three beautiful children. After his divorce he moved to Den Haag, where he lived in one of the Ministry of Defence houses at no. 45 Atjehstraat, which cost 46 guilders a month in rent.... He married an American here from whom he is also divorced. Otherwise,he has a good and regular contact with both exes as well as with his children and grandchildren , with no feeling of ill will or resentment. He loves having his freedom again, and luckily everyone understands that (the author as well naturally)!

Colourful

Meanwhile with about 20 years retirement Ger is very contented. He is pleased to spend his time with needy people He participates in the activities in the neighbourhood. Until several years ago, he was responsible for all the chinese fireworks in the street for New Year. Everyone is welcome in his home, for a stimulating chat -you have to make your own pleasures in life'-but he also does personal wellbeing through means of acupuncture and massage, learnt from an Haagse Chinese. He also looks after the birds and the cats in the neighbourhood by putting out food in his back garden. Now and then he visits the Casino, to wager a bet or just look. His house is full of unusual souvenirs and ornaments, among them beautiful woodcarvings and a collection of buddhas. He had to hand in his weapons and to do that he had to go to a judge, who didn't penalise him.

If I ask him if there are many countrymen in the area that he still has contact with, he can only arrive at two or three. Therefore anyone who values an eyewitness account from someone who has lived through such a difficult period in our fatherland's history must not wait too long. And the picturesque interior comes free.

A v.d. K

INDONESIAN SIGNS IN THE ARCHIPEL

Djawa: a Haagse face with an Indonesian heart

The best Indonesian restaurant of The Hague, was named by a friendly estate agent once as the Djawa-aan-de-Mallemolen, the picturesque sidestreet of the Javastraat from which the restaurant is named. The atmosphere is not particularly Indonesian. Apart from a collection of wajang dolls above the cosy bar it has the appearance of a smart Haagse restaurant. Maybe that is why the Haagse owner, Ulpho van der Zalm, born in Bezuidenhout but descended from an old Westlands family, has consciously chosen it. How has such a Hagenaar become the boss of such an excellent Indonesian restaurant.

Considered lost, the Indonesian opera Attima on the Haagse stage after 90 years!

During his search through the neglected Indonesian musical history (see elsewhere on this page) Henk Mak van Dijk discovered the Indonesian opera Attima by Constant van de Wall. In 1917 Attima was also performed here in the Haagse Schouwburg. After that it was supposedly lost..

Now, 90 years later thanks to the dedication of many people, institutions and donors (the Pasar Malam for example) Attima” will again be seen.

Oscar Wibaut made the Haagse Schouwburg available for five days including technical service. The Council found an initial subsidy not necessary but after a petition capitulated with a “grand” gesture of €12,500.

Mega musical operation Mega muzikale operatie

At the end of May an exceptionally large production with about 90 people is coming to the Schouwburg stage..

The main roles are being sung by professional singers. Chorus and orchestra members are good amateurs and semi-professionals. Direction is in the hands of David Prins and production, costumes, direction of chorus, orchestra and choreography are in professional hands. Constant van de Wall (Soerabaja, 1871-1945) wrote not only music but also libretto. With a ‘western’ orchestration he invoked an eastern atmosphere. For it goes according to the subtitle ‘an episode from the lives of Javanese people’.

There turns out to be two scores; one for piano (from 1904) and one for orchestra (from 1922) and they differed here and there from each other. For the discoverer and dramatist Henk Mak van Dijk it was no small task to make a complete work from it.

Attima similar to Carmen?

Attima is a dancer on the island of Java and performs with a gamelan orchestra. She has agreed to marry Kartono, one of the musicians who plays in the orchestra. However she falls in love with Armand, a Dutch KNIL (Royal Dutch East-Indian Army) non-commissioned officer. When she confesses her love for Armand ... oh no, we’re not going to give the plot away, but it promises to be a sort of intercultural ‘Carmen’.

For more information see: www.Attima.nl
Performances from 23 through 28 May
Tickets: www.ks.nl or ring: 0900-345 67 89.

ES

VREEMDE EENDEN (Outsiders)

The residents of the residential care home **Huize Tichelaar** (part of the Kessler foundation), and people from the **Vredeskapel, STEK** (City & Church – a service organization for churches and other organisations supporting vulnerable city dwellers) and **PJ Partners Office for Art & Culture** (an expertise centre offering practical advice to voluntary groups) put on three performances in the **Vredeskapel** and three in **Huize Tichelaar**.

They rehearsed for many, many months to create a performance using improvisation, their own life stories and ideas from all participants to show that all of us have the potential to be 'vreemde eenden' (outsiders)!

What is normal and what isn't? What is usual and unusual? Unlike others or in fact just the same? Able or disabled? Questions that regularly confront us all!

Unlike others

The result was a performance that was sometimes very different to other performances but also sometimes very familiar. There was a telling use of symbolism. For example, imagine a long table with chairs on either side, on the table are forks with handles one-metre long. At first the performers try to use them to feed themselves (which of course is impossible!). Much later in the play when they are seated at the table again, they discover that they can help one another by feeding the person opposite!

Both directors Drosoula Tsangaritou and Karina Bes have managed to put on a very successful performance with a cast not cut out by nature to be actors! They have been able to show clearly that the distance

Brainstorm and participate in the working party Public Space



When Dorien de Buck approached me to take over the chairmanship of the working party 'public space', it already has a number of successes to its name.

In the Surinamestraat the proliferation of rogue posts has been stopped. An information evening was organized for those living around the Deliplantsoen to discuss the accommodation of dogs and playing children. Also the plans to return the Nassauplein to its former glory are beginning to take shape. The working party functions too as a go-between for the community committee with the municipality. These are just a few examples. Given all the plans this working party still wants realise, it was no indulgence to ask for reinforcements. The couple of months

Enjoyable digital browsing

Give it a try, log on at www.archipelbuurt.nl. The amount of information about our district available here is not only impressive but also extremely clearly presented.

On the right is a list of current news items. While on the left, information of a more permanent nature is set out in what is fondly known as the 'blauw bocht' (blue curve), a sort of electronic 'who, what, where'.

Looking for a restaurant? Look under 'local addresses'. Interested in the history of the district? Check out 'local information'. And so on ...

After browsing the six headings with all their links to the sub-heading, you'll certainly be a deal wiser about our neighbourhood and know exactly where to look and what's available. A pat on the back for the website team.

HB

between each other's worlds is much smaller than we think. Abnormal and normal appear to be relative concepts because everyone needs attention, recognition and affection.

Best of all, it was great to see the pleasure the performers got from taking part in the performance! I think this is what made being a member of the audience such a pleasure too!

ED

I have now been involved in the working party, has transformed me from an innocent passerby to an alert local resident. "Perhaps the pavement could be widened here?", "Couldn't we do with more bicycle racks here?" "Request some more of those litterbins, the model that can be attached to lampposts". And so on.

"Banka Project"

The biggest project the working party is involved in at this moment is the Bankastraat. Concrete, rapid changes the working party is currently keeping an eye on, are the plans concerning the extension of the Albert Heijn. We are involved in close consultation with the supermarket management to that ensure that the immediate surroundings are not detrimentally affected.

Something less immediate, but nonetheless important, is the further development of improvements to the Bankastraat. There is still a long way to go. If it is were up to us, it will become a street - along which buses drive at an acceptable speed - where you can choose on which cafe terrace you sit, where different trees grow and shrubs will bloom, where there is somewhere to park your bike and where it is a nice place to be.

If you are interested and have time to become involved, then do please get in touch.

Josien Deknatel: 06-55 88.56.18,

Dranglab production
Schelpkade 45
070 346 46 45 : info@drang.nl : www.drang.nl

23 April - 10 may 2008 (Tuesday - Saturday)

Troost van Haagse jongens
(Comfort from the boys from The Hague)

Time: 20.30 uur

Tickets: €12.50

Reservations: www.drang.nl; 070-3464645;
info@drang.nl

Box office open: 19.30

Plenty of Haagse ingredients in this production: the royal family, the Scheveningen fishing fleet and surfing world, The Hague jazz scene all get a mention. It is a story about two young men and an elderly lady who meet on the beach at Scheveningen.

Boys full of passion, drive (drang) and energy. Their world must be filled to the brim in order to lead the exciting life they desire. Kelvin is an inspired jazz musical and Martijn an out-and-out surfer.

The elderly lady is introverted, contemplative, perhaps even embittered? Sometimes she is the queen, Juliana and Beatrix rolled into one. Sometimes Kniertje (a Dutch theatrical figure) or anyway a typical Scheveningen fishwife. As the world becomes more globalized, her existence becomes a biotope.

Is there anything they can still learn from each other's perceptions and desires?

Is water still a friend to a city on the sea? Of course, say the boys. Watch out, says the elderly lady.

A/W Community Newspaper, April 2008

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Contact linda@archipelbuurt.nl