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### interview international student

Name: Semiha  
Age: 24  
Nationality: Turkish  
Study: Landscape architecture



#### Why did you come to Holland?

Last winter workshop was fantastic; I really liked the cycling project in Zwijndrecht. My English is not that well. By joining a workshop in a foreign country I can practise my English and try to speak with different people. Also the assignment attracted my attention.

#### How did you become interested in the workshop theme?

The topic of the assignment was inspiring and I liked the idea working in the field of architecture. Compared to the university which attend, the way of working and thinking is different. That's why I thought the different approach of this university would make this workshop very interesting. Especially the way of looking to the different layers which are connecting the field of architecture.

#### Wat did you think of it after working for 3 days?

Well, it is actually not what I expected. At the moment I'm in a group that is all about food. They discuss a lot, therefore it's hard for me to get along with the group, because of my lack of English. So for me it is not so interesting at the moment. Also the group food is not about architecture which I expected from the workshop.

#### What do you think about the Netherlands and the Dutch?

The Netherlands are compared to Turkey very structured and organised. When entering the county it all looks great, but after being here for a longer time one is not surprised anymore. In Istanbul it's not all very impressive, but for sure you'll be seeing new things every day.

And about the Dutch, The few I've met are very kind to me and tried to help me!

Evelien De Mey and  
Wijnand van der Ent

### Weatherforecast



Vincent Heesen

## Religion = Slavery

Enthusiastic and driven, that's how you could describe Ad van Nieuwpoort. From 2004 onwards he is the reverent of the Thomaschurch in Amsterdam. He grew up in a family of salesmen, but instead of following his father he chose to study theology.

The stories of the Bible are his passion. And then not the different interpretations, but the stories in their most original form directly from Hebrew or Greece. These stories are an invitation to ask questions: "That is the most important thing I am doing here: show people that they should interrogate themselves". That is also the reason why he thinks a combination of church and theatre is a very logical one. Also in the theatre people are challenged to look at things in a way they are not used to and to ask questions about matters which seem logical.

That is what he dislikes about religion: "Religion is binding, it gives answers. It is a form of slavery to tell someone what he or she should think". This attitude is the reason that

sometimes he is seen as a thorn in the side of the church. But on the other hand it is this attitude that makes everyone feeling welcome in his church.

Ad wants the people to become more humane. On Sunday the church community meets each other in an open and warm environment. But also for people who do not visit the service the Thomas church has a lot to offer such as concerts at lunchtime or performances of Remco Campert, Adriaan van Dis or Jan Siebelink. It is a special neighbourhood, the Zuidas, as Ad is aware. Big ego's, important jobs, but also a lot of lonely elderly people in big villa's. He aims to give his church a pivotal role in the neighbourhood..

His plans for the extension of the church endorse this role. He thinks of a restaurant driven by mentally handicapped people and a living room for lonely people in a glass extension on the front side of the building. The financing of the extension is already clear, the only thing that is missing is a design that honours the building in

its current state designed by Karel L. Sijmons.

Money and progress are according to him the essentials of our time, a new religion, in which we believe massively. Nevertheless, Ad wants to make the cliché of managers and young professionals on the South Axe only caring about earning money, disappear. "We have to stop thinking in caricatures. Because that kills society." He usually starts the weekly bible classes for young business men with something odd, like a poem, to get people out of their daily rush. The result of those classes is that the participants often leave the room feeling different. And that is exactly what Ad's goal is.

Name: Ad van Nieuwpoort  
Lunch restaurant: As  
Latest book: "War with the newts" by Karel Capek  
Gadget: The Bible, in its most original version

Marleen Malais and Kato Allaert



the reverent at work

### Speech Space

On the third day of the workshop, the association Spreekruimte has been searching for experts from the neighbourhood to show them their plans for a new use of the building. One of them is Ad van Nieuwpoort, reverent of the Thomas Church. He helped them with getting into touch with local people and invited the association to his bible class on Wednesday where they can talk to business men working on the

South Axe. A hot topic during the talk was the by Ad planned extension of the church. This greenhouse like extension could according to the students damage the surprise effect you have now when you enter the church. Their thoughts gave Ad new stuff to think about.

### Private Space *PRIVÉ*

Students of the association Private ruimte have been working on several designs for the court yard of the

Winterthur building. A pity is that the context of the building and the theme of emptiness in office buildings are not linked to the assignment and the plans of the students.

Quote of the day: "Why are we in this cold building when this assignment could have been about any courtyard?"

Kato Allaert and Marleen Malais

## Improvisation Cooking

Sunday continues to be a day of improvisations for the gastronomic group, because of regulations of the fire department who doesn't allow to do any cooking in the building. This is their solution; To collect a couple of large pans, rand a huge amount of potatoes and to ask locals to prepare them. All what's left is to add the endive and to bring it back to the Winterthur building. The bacon, normally added to this traditional Dutch recipe, is still a mystery. Rumours say it might be illegally prepared in the basement of the building, but we weren't able to have them confirmed.



Enthusiastic groupmembers of the Gastronomic Space

### Strip



Daan ten Kroode



### Whereto? Whatfor?

It isn't completely clear to all associations towards what goal they are working. According to a source in the 'Spreekruimte-groep': 'We basically we just talking a lot'. Within the group isn't any lack of inspiration, but they haven't managed to choose one of the large amount of ideas.

The 'Bewegingsruimte-groep' has different problems. "He's sometimes really breaking the fluency of the process and his critic is completely not motivating people," according to an anonymous source. It becomes clearer that the first days of the workshop are mostly about getting used to each other and the supervisors.

Wijnand van der Ent



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