

CIEE Study Center in Groningen, The Netherlands

October 2012

Newsletter 2, Fall semester, 2012

CIEE Amsterdam overnight excursion in Groningen

During the last weekend of September, CIEE Amsterdam students went on an overnight excursion to Groningen. CIEE Groningen also joined the program, which included an exploration of Groningen by canoe, climbing the majestic Martini tower, visiting an exposition at the famous Groninger museum and learning about organic farming in the north of Groningen (right next to UNESCO world heritage site the 'Waddensea'.

Second Manscape excursion

On October 20, the second manscape excursion for international students (including CIEE students) of the semester took place. The two internationally well-known concepts of 'Randstad Holland' (the major cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht, as well as numerous smaller cities and towns) and the 'Green Heart' (the open area in between these large cities, labeled by some as the 'strongest and oldest planning metaphor' of the Netherlands) were explored by means of stops and on-site explanations of urban expansions into the Green Heart (e.g., Amsterdam Bijlmermeer, where the ideas of Le Corbusier only lived a short life), separation of functions between the largest *Randstad* cities (e.g., The Hague - center of government) and Europe's largest port (Rotterdam). The excursion included a search into the precise nature and character of the Green Heart.



Cubical residences

Students also visited the cube residences in Rotterdam. Although Rotterdam is not exactly known as the most beautiful city in the Netherlands, in the past few decades the city has been focusing on numerous architectural projects, which has resulted in some interesting living concepts. Students went into these cubical residences to explore the lay out of the buildings. They found out that the homes were actually quite spacious.



Cube residences

Finally, students visited one of the largest harbors and main ports in the world, the harbor of Rotterdam. Until 2004, the harbor of Rotterdam was the biggest in the world. Since then, its size has been surpassed by Shanghai and Singapore. However, it's still of immense importance to the Dutch economy because of its international character.



Until the next update, wishing you a great semester,
Met vriendelijke groet,

Matthijs Rolsma
CIEE Resident Coordinator