**Team Meetings Reports Rotterdam**

**First Team Meeting: May 18**

project workshops began on Tuesday, May 18. After a general introduction, a Skype meeting with the Shanghai project group, and a lecture on hybrid cities, the group members finally got down to work on the project. The group, consisting of pupils, students, architects and an artist, was filmed during the gathering by the Couscous Global camera team.

After a brief word of welcome by the Rotterdam team leader, Maarten Rens, the various aspects of the project were explained. The participants will make different models of the ideal city of the future, keeping in mind residents’ wishes and technical possibilities. These models will be professionally reproduced in Shanghai and exhibited at the Dutch Culture Centre as part of the World Expo. A corresponding team in Shanghai will perform the same tasks. Ultimately, a total of 18 models will be exhibited in a miniature city. People will be able to visit this city using robots that can be controlled over the internet and at two exhibitions, one in Shanghai and the other in Rotterdam.

A Skype meeting was held to inspire both groups. The participants asked each other questions to find out about similarities and differences between the two cities. For instance, how fast is each city changing? How do city planners involve the population in their plans? And how is space made for new buildings?

In his lecture on hybrid cities, Tijmen Schep looked at changes in the city and the role technology has played in these. He also cautioned that breaches of privacy can accompany this technology. “Become aware of the fact that your utopia could be another’s dystopia,” he warned.

**Second Team Meeting: May 25**

The second team meeting of the 3rd I project took place on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. The meeting focused on the research that has been done and the concepts for the models.

A number of proposals were outlined in the presentations of the different studies and concepts. One was for a residential complex on the water that would provide continued housing as sea levels rise. The students also came up with a master plan for the use of architecture as signposting for tourists in Rotterdam. Other concepts were a city farm, a green hill, and environmentally friendly apartment buildings. Sustainability was an important aspect in all the concepts.

In the Skype meeting with the Shanghai group, the pupils, students and professionals got an opportunity to exchange ideas with their counterparts in China. Differences between Rotterdam and Shanghai, sources of inspiration, and questions about the concepts produced were talked about in detail.

After the Skype meeting, there was a discussion on various practical issues, related to making the models and the limitations. On Friday, May 28, the definitive plans will be collected. Then the floor plan for the Shanghai exhibition will be made, and the team members will be able to start on their models.

**Third Team Meeting: June 8**

There were difficulties with the Skype connection at the third team meeting on June 8 and we hope this does not bode poorly for the robot control in the exhibition. In any case, the models looked promising. The difference in scale of the two teams’ vision was striking. It was obvious that the Chinese participants came from a city of millions, while the Dutch had taken Rotterdam’s more modest proportions as a starting point. This result will be a dream city where futuristic towers sit beside urban farms and floating mega-buildings alongside houses sunken in the landscape. Along with water, which plays an important role in both port cities, green space is a binding element. If it was up to these mainly young participants, the city of the future would shade imperceptibly into the countryside.

The workshop leaders will now fit the different models into the final city floor. Like real urban planners, they will address themselves to creating roads for robots and bodies of water for floating pavilions, and to the question of where to put Zoro’s Bridge. This monumental bridge will link the Chinese and Dutch models. Professional model builders in China will use the current models as a basis for building the super-city for the exhibition at the DCC.