

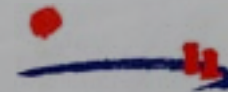
LANDSCAPE AS A DIALOGUE

Landscape study week 2006

Sunday 27 August 2006 – Saturday 2 September 2006



PETRARCA



European Academy for the Culture of Landscape

Blijvendijk

Introduction

Starting point for this landscape study week is the conviction that a living landscape can only develop when people commit themselves to it. The diversity in beautiful landscapes in Europe that we prefer to spend our holidays in, has after all originated in the intensive connection people had with these landscapes. This obvious connection has faded away over time. In a way we all have become urban people disconnected from any specific landscape. It is the challenge of this time to find a new, independent way to contribute to a responsible development of our cultural landscape.

The Bleijendijk estate is a beautiful playground for this. In the early 80's the current land owner took the initiative to develop the estate as a workshop for the development of consciousness of man in relation to the earth. In recent years much attention has been devoted to nature observation, to allow the landscape management to be tuned in a sound way to the character of the estate. An important question in this respect is how the quality of the dialogue between the singularity of the place (Genius Loci) on the one hand and our impulses to model this place on the other can be raised. In the PETRARCA landscape study week we want to engage in this question – with respect to both the content and the perception, and including concrete landscape action.



The Bleijendijk estate



Bleijendijk is an estate of about 100 ha near Vught along the Esschestroom brook in the province of Noord-Brabant in the south of The Netherlands. Just to the north of Bleijendijk the Esschestroom confluences with the Dommel, which then flows through the wetland of "De Bosschebroek" and the old fortified city of 's-Hertogenbosch to the Maas river. The lowland brooks south of 's-Hertogenbosch often inundated their banks and in late medieval times created favourable conditions for a fortification. In the 1960s the brooks were regulated and natural meanders disappeared. Currently the water authorities are developing master plans to control the flood risk and at the same time enhance the nature values. Inundation or retention basins are envisaged for which also lands of Bleijendijk are being considered.

Bleijendijk forms part of a series of estates along the Esschestroom and the Dommel. This area south of Vught was located well within reach of the town in an attractive diverse landscape, perfectly suited for estates, and at the same time near to agricultural lands. Bleijendijk too is such an agricultural estate with farmsteads, fields, meadows and orchards. A small part of it consists of woodland, which – together with the avenues – is a spatially characteristic feature of the estate.

In the early 18th century the name Blijendijck starts appearing in documents. Over the centuries various families have been the owners. From 1931 to 1955 the land owner is Van Beuningen. He builds new model farms en houses and replants the avenues. As a special point of attention he brings together on his estate both catholic and protestant farmers. In 1955 the father of the present owner Anneke



Bleijendijk

Teulings acquires Bleijendijk. Initially it is considered and managed primarily as an investment object. From the early 80s, when she becomes involved, she commits herself to “foster Bleijendijk as a workshop for inner development of people in relation to the earth”.

Since then many changes have occurred. As a reaction to the damage brought about by a new motorway, a planted barrier and retention ponds were realised. A new organic horticultural farm “de Guit” was established. A sheep fold, a meeting house and a machine shed were built, and also a wooden cabin for nature education of children. Water management was improved and the naturally moist areas now hold the water longer. A large part of the agricultural lands is now being managed in a nature-friendly way and there is much attention for the realisation and management of plantations and hedgerows.

Both from outside and internally, Bleijendijk now seems to be confronted by a new development phase. From outside in the west new extension plans for the motorway are being studied and in the east the water authority is developing plans to let the water from the Esschestroom move more freely. Internally there are new opportunities



for organic agriculture; new houses and a guesthouse can be built and education is receiving renewed attention. The latter concerns both the environmental education and the project of the estate as a whole, as a workshop for inner development. Ever more people find their way to Bleijendijk for quietness, motivation and inspiration. The initiative is not confined to a specific spiritual way of thinking and is open to people of all mind sets, who wish to develop themselves. A phenomenological ground attitude is considered as a common starting point. In Bleijendijk PETRARCA has met a kindred spirit and we are happy to jointly with them organise this year's landscape study week.

Programme

Arrival

The week has a diverse programme where reflective and practical activities alternate. On Sunday after an evening meal the week starts with a general introduction. Where are we, who are involved here, what is the genius loci? And what questions are we being asked, together and in dialogue with the landscape. A large part of the day programme we work in groups on the estate. The groups are each coached by a Bleijendijk and a PETRARCA person.

Morning seminars

The mornings start with breakfast and a visit to the various projects of the working groups. The morning seminar on the first day will be opened by Anneke Teulings and Jochen Bockemühl. On the other mornings others will also contribute. After that there is room for dialogue and linking up with the working group activities. The break between 12:45 and 15:00 allows for a good lunch and rest.

The working groups

The themes of the working groups each represent an aspect of the estate as a whole. The estate in this respect is seen as an organism. The organic coherence of the whole and its constituent parts and the relevance of each theme for the whole are crucial questions within the working groups. Themes of the working groups are:

- 1) water
- 2) skin of the estate: both in a physical and a social sense
- 3) trees, avenues
- 4) bio-dynamic farming
- 5) nature education

More information on the working groups will be provided at registration and will shortly be published on the website www.petrarca.info.



The collaborators

Jochen Bockemühl, Anneke Teulings, Rien van den Berg, Sonja Schürger, Hanny Kusters, Sandra van Groningen, Kazumi Makino, Laurens Bockemühl, Dirk Janssens, Thomas van Elsen, Gery den Duijf, Karina Hendriks, Kees van Dam, Bas Pedroli, Holger Coers and others.

The excursion

Wednesday is reserved for an excursion in the surroundings of Bleijendijk. We will visit among others the wetland area Bosschebroek just adjacent to the city of 's-Hertogenbosch, and the town's monumental Saint John's church.

The evenings

After the activities of the working groups and the evening meal it is time for a diverse evening programme. This programme comprises singing and lectures on the various aspects of the surroundings related to the estate as a centre. Themes like history, architecture, plantations and water will be dealt with.

The conclusion

Saturday morning gives space for a concluding word and good-bye. A lunch is not included. A comprehensive report of the landscape study week will be published in due course.



Practical information

Language

The common language is English, but if needed translation into German, French or Dutch can be provided.

Meals

Morning and evening meals are light meals. The cook will provide culinary lunches from organic products. At registration you can indicate your preference for vegetarian food.

Location

The Bleijendijk Estate is located near the A2 Motorway between 's-Hertogenbosch en Eindhoven. From exit 24 (Vught) you take direction St-Michielsgestel along the Haldersebaan. You directly take the first road to the right which leads with a U-turn onto the Oude Baan. The first byroad to the left is the entry of the estate.

Bleijendijk 2

5261 NL Vught

Tel: 0031 (0) 73 656 90 82

By public transport:

From 's-Hertogenbosch railway station you can take a cab or bus nr 69 direction Vught and get off at stop Laagstraat. From this stop it is a 20 min walk to the estate.

- at the Laagstraat to the left,
- to the right into the Glorieuxlaan,
- to the right and cross the motorway,
- to the right onto the Oude Baan and you arrive at the entry.



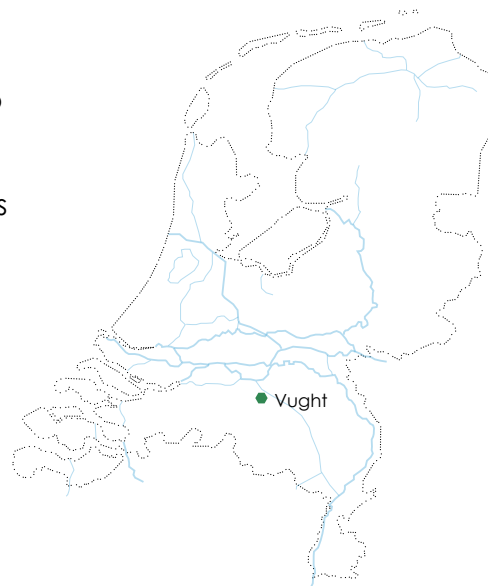
Registration

For participation in this week please fill out the registration form and send it to

PETRARCA, c/o Laurens Bockemühl,
Am Kalkofen 30,
D-66127 Saarbrücken.
Tel.: +49 (0)6898/3090367
Fax: +49 (0)721 151381680
E-mail: info@petrarca.info

Please submit the registration form before 1 July 2006. After registration you will receive a confirmation with details on the definitive programme and the payment mode. Because of logistic constraints the number of participants cannot be higher than 40 persons.

Various types of accommodation are available. The estate has a limited number of (shared) double rooms and a dormitory. There is also the possibility to camp on the central meadow in own tents and use the shower and toilet facilities. Costs of double rooms are € 20,- per person per night, of the dormitory € 10 and of camping € 5,- per person per night.



Costs

For participation in the landscape week a fee of € 360,- is asked. This is including the costs of meals and excluding the accommodation costs, which depending on your choice can vary between € 30,- and € 120,-. At the confirmation of your registration you will receive payment details.

We advise you that cancellation after 1 August 2006 would necessitate us to charge part of the fee.



Registration Form

Landscape study week 27 August 2006 – 2 September 2006

Ms Mr

.....
Name First Name

.....
Adress / Nr.

.....
Postal code / Place Country

.....
Telephone (mobile nr.) Fax:

.....
E-mail

wishes to participate in the landscape study week at the Bleijendijk Estate and commits to pay – after receipt of confirmation and invoice – € 360,- (excluding accommodation costs) to PETRARCA.

- I prefer vegetarian food
 I come by bicycle

Preferred accommodation:

- Shared double room € 20,- p.p. p. night
 Dormitory € 10,- p.p. p. night
 Own tent € 5,- p.p. p. night

.....
Date Signature

Please send, fax or e-mail (take care to provide all requested data) before 1 July 2006 to:

PETRARCA, c/o Laurens Bockemühl,
Am Kalkofen 30,
D-66127 Saarbrücken.

Tel.: +49 (0)6898/3090367
Fax: +49 (0)721 151381680
E-mail: info@petrarca.info

Programme

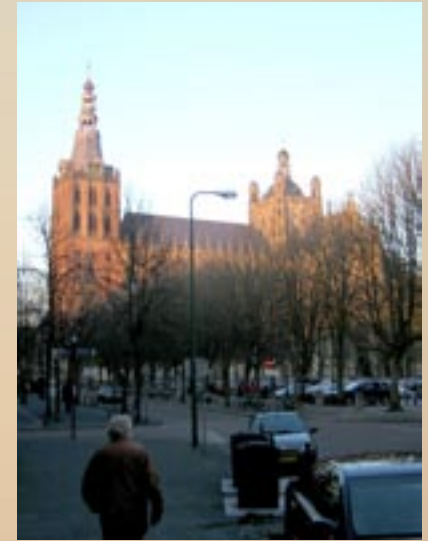
TIME	Sunday 27-8	Monday 28-8	Tuesday 29-8	Wednesday 30-8	Thursday 31-8	Friday 1-9	Saturday 2-9
7:00-8:30	Breakfast						
8:30-9:00		Field observations		Excursion	Field observations		8:30-10:00 Farewell
9:15-10:45		Morning Seminar			Morning Seminar		
10:45-11:15		Break			Break		
11:15-12:45		Working groups	Working groups		Working groups	Excursion working groups	
12:45-15:00		Lunch			Lunch		
15:00-18:00		16:00 Welcome and general Introduction	Working groups		Working groups		
18:00-19:30	Diner						
19:30-20:30	Introduction Bleijendijk Estate and terrain visit	Lecture	Lecture	Open	Lecture	Feed back	

Early June at the latest, a definitive programme will be available on the PETRARCA website.

BLEIJENDIJK:

“...a person who is dedicated attentively to the things appearing to him/her and who considers this a learning process, becomes creative as of nature and in this way gets in contact with his/her inner self....”

“It is man him/herself who is at stake, and with him/her the earth. Just as man is an organism, so is the earth, and they live in a mutual relationship. From this relationship evolves what we call landscape.”



PETRARCA:

“A living landscape can only evolve where people commit themselves actively with their social and physical environment. In this respect it is essential to start from the personal connection with the world and to build a conscious relationship with the coherences in nature and landscape.”