SUN-A10 Sweet & Salt: Water and the Dutch

Explore projects—from the practical to the utopian—that reflect the Netherlands' new natural approach to water management. There is an emerging dialogue among architects, landscape architects, and engineers on issues of water safety and flooding and strategies for weaving water into our daily surroundings.

Learning Objectives:

1) Learn how Dutch engineers and designers speak each other's language and are transitioning to an integral approach to "building with nature."
2) Learn how water safety measures can improve the quality of residential areas, urban environments, public space, and the natural environment.
3) Differentiate between the Dutch/European disaster-prevention approach and the American damage-repair thinking.
4) Discover why the evacuation of New Orleans before Katrina is an example to the Dutch—who have no evacuation plans.

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Tracy Metz, a California native, lives and works in the Netherlands as an author and journalist on the built and natural environment. She writes for the country’s premier daily newspaper, NRC Handelsblad and for the respected weekly magazine De Groene Amsterdammer. She has presented several documentaries and leads a monthly live talkshow called ‘Stadsleven’, City Life. She is an international correspondent for Architectural Record and a contributor to Metropolis and Next City. She was a Loeb Fellow ’07 at Harvard Graduate School of Design and was a member of the Delta Commission, a prestigious commission to advise government on water safety in the Netherlands for the coming one to two centuries. She is the author of a number of books, the most recent of which is ‘Sweet&Salt: Water and the Dutch’ in collaboration with art historian Maartje van den Heuvel.