Abstract

In 1989 the young Dutch architect Jan Neutelings, who had just left the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, was called to develop a project for the area in between R’dam and the Hague that was going to face in the next years a huge increment of population and activities. 

In this context he proposed his personal reinterpretation called tapijtmetropool or “carpet metropolis”. Due to the process of intensification of the use of the territory, particularly evident in a quite small and very populated country as the Netherlands, the different functions has been developed separately, trying to capitalize the used land. In the light of this phenomenon the Randstad is evolving towards an extensive carpet of patches, every one with his own program and specific spatial structure, as conceived in 1989 by Willem Jan Neutelings. “In this heterogeneous field the contradiction between city and landscape is abolished” (Neutelings, 1989). A complete territory has been shaped by the interactions between social and economical processes. New housing developments, business centres, parks, glasshouses agglomerations, old cities are laying side by side in a new territorial structure.

Structure:
1. The study of the project that Jan Neutelings developed in 1989 through interviews and documents.
2. The study of the condition of the Randstad before the 1989.
3. The study of the evolution of the territory of the Randstad after the Neutelings intuition. Several planning policies (Vinex) and projects (BrabantStad, IABR2014) have shown the relevance of the Patchwork Metropolis concept as well as deepened it.
4. A comparison between the Patchwork and other urban models that try to overcome the juxtaposition of urban versus rural.
5. The study of a selection of European keys studies that can be compared with the contemporary evolution of the Dutch territory.