Regional Integrated Design Practices in the Netherlands: Evolution and Experiences

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Abstract: While in the Netherlands early attention for environmental problems surfaced in the late 1960s, the environment started to get general attention in the second half of the 1980s. And although the integration of environmental considerations into received practices has nowhere been easy, by now considerable changes have occurred. One of the areas that has been impacted considerably, is the field of urban design and planning, resulting in the new regional integrated design practices.

This paper will share Dutch experiences in the development of these regional integrated design practices. It will give a short overview of its history; it will show how in this history different cultures of thought had to be mediated; it will indicate which solutions for this challenge emerged; and it will evaluate which were successful.

A presentation of two case studies – one in the Gelderse Vallei and one in Schiphol – will further clarify both the success factors and challenges of regional integrated design practices in the Netherlands.