

Urban development: Russian mission for Dutch know-how

The breakthrough import of Dutch knowledge and skills by Peter I is a frequently quoted fact. Then the booming cities of the Low Lands served as a model for masterplanning and development of newly-born St. Petersburg. Through the following centuries Dutch and Russian cities survived through demolitions and revolts, which transformed them. Difference in historical choices minimized exchanges between Russian and Dutch professionals working in the urban development industry. Today we witness the “second advent” of Dutch technologies to Russia. The Guild of



Property Managers and Developers is going to repeat the experience of “Peter’s Embassy” to Holland in a new format: Russian developers and project owners are coming to the Netherlands to see the best revitalization projects of old cities (Amsterdam and Rotterdam) and creation of a new city from scratch (Almere). The Guild is looking forward to direct contact with well-known assets of Dutch professionalism: functional architecture and design, advanced technologies of sustainable buildings and commercial property projects, which integrate not only different styles and structures, but also land, water and air.

Reviving the spirit of Peter’s Embassy the participants of the mission will discover yet unknown technological wonders and rational futurism so much needed by modern Russia, which, like in the XVIII century, is experiencing the revolutionary transformation of urban environment. The business tour program in the Netherlands is supported by the Dutch Consulate-General in St. Petersburg. This time participants of the Russian Mission will not wear bearskin coats – the tour is scheduled for 20 – 23 June 2010.

The Guild of Property Managers and Developers (GMD) is the largest Russian association of real estate professionals. Its main event is annual PROEstate Forum (www.proestate.ru). GMD organizes business tours to most dynamic and interesting markets of the world on a regular basis. More information: <http://www.gud-estate.ru/>