



**A Week in the Woods** was a residency project that started in Canada in 2000. At that time, Yvette Poorter started growing trees from seeds that fell onto her Montreal balcony. In 2001, Poorter dedicated one room of her apartment to these trees. Here she would look for hours at the twigs - they would shed their leaves and sleep through the icy Montreal winters and sprout new leaves again each spring. As a way to give people a chance to understand the exciting slowness of the trees in her urban apartment, she came up with a residency in the room called *A Week in the Woods*. For two years, local and international artists came to participate. Residents were required to stay for a minimum of four hours but some stayed for weeks. As a brief interlude from hectic and distracting everyday situations, local artists would concentrate on their ideas, sing to the bald sticks, write stories, present lectures to the trees, let bread dough rise on their lap to slow themselves down to the speed of the trees, or play standup bass enjoying the acoustics of the 'empty' room. In 2003 Poorter moved to Holland and in 2005 she brought several of her trees over to join her in and continue with a new branch of this project in Rotterdam.

**An interesting fact:** In 1943 Princess Margriet of the Netherlands was born in a Canadian hospital where the royal family was living in exile during WW2. For her birth, part of the Ottawa Civic Hospital was temporarily declared Dutch territory so the baby could be a Dutch citizen. Canada's offer to shelter the royal family started a long-lasting tradition – the yearly gift of thousands of tulip bulbs to Ottawa from the royal family and from the people of the Netherlands.



**This Neck of the Woods** is the offshoot to *A Week in the Woods*. It will be located in a shed, with young trees, in the centre of Rotterdam on what will be temporarily declared Canadian soil. *This Neck of the Woods* will work on solar power and 110volts. The cabin will be slightly elevated off the ground and by collecting power from the same sun that shines on Canada and Holland and converting it via 110v solar generator, *This Neck of the Woods* will be able to offer its residents both the local and the exotic. On the porch in the urban core of Rotterdam they will find Canadian maple and pine trees that come from the original *A Week in the Woods* project. Local Rotterdammers who need to get away in order to concentrate on finishing or sparking a new project, might seek a 4-48 hour type immersion. For international artists, they might come for several weeks in order to undertake larger projects on or outside the site, this will allow them to spend time in Rotterdam as a focusing ground or pivot point, or as a work site.



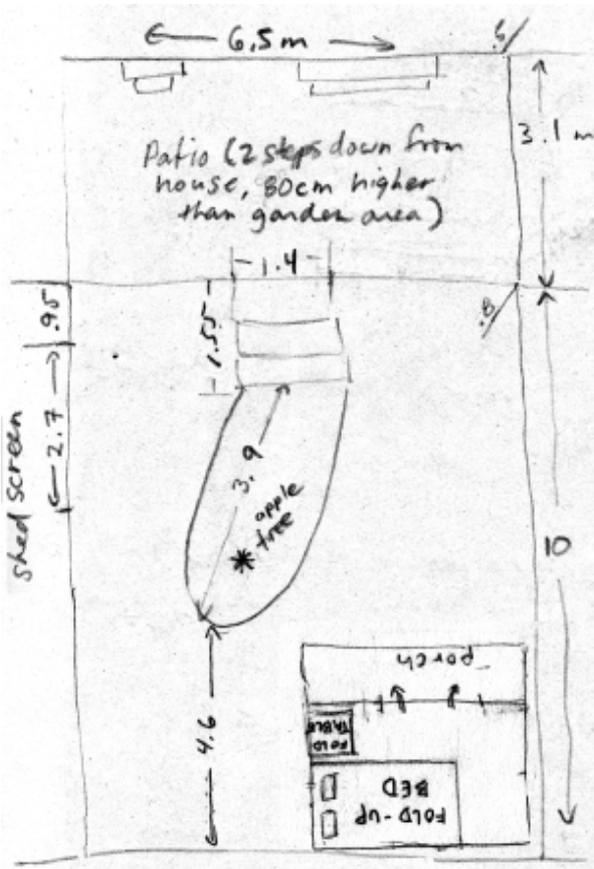
**A Co-Sponsor:** Supreme Court judge's assistant J. Spaans is the landlord at Harddraeverstraat 48-A, and he has been letting Yvette to use the backyard as a work and installation space since August 2003. Mr. Spaans has agreed to allow the use of this backyard for one year to conduct *This Neck of the Woods* residency. In addition he will take part in programming the inauguration of the space with *Fruits of the Poisonous Tree*, tentatively scheduled for August 28th, 2005.

**Fruits of the Poisonous Tree** will mark the beginning of the residency program with an evening of presentations by lawyers, scientists, artists and others. The backyard at Harddraeverstraat is a 2-minute walk from Rotterdam Central Station and is surrounded by a Colloseum of apartments (a captive and curious audience). It is south-facing and has sunlight from morning to evening and the singing of birds prevails over any urban sounds. In the yard there is a white wall (the backside of neighbor's shed) that is perfect for Powerpoint Presentations and slide shows and the deep-set position of the yard in relation to the patio is a natural lecture/performance stage. There is a grass strip leading from the porch to an apple tree in the middle of the yard creating a 'red carpet' podium for poets, celebrities and priests alike. On Saturday, August 28th, when *This Neck of the Woods* is fully constructed, the community will be invited for the opening including an evening of artistic explorations of *Fruits of the Poisonous Tree*.

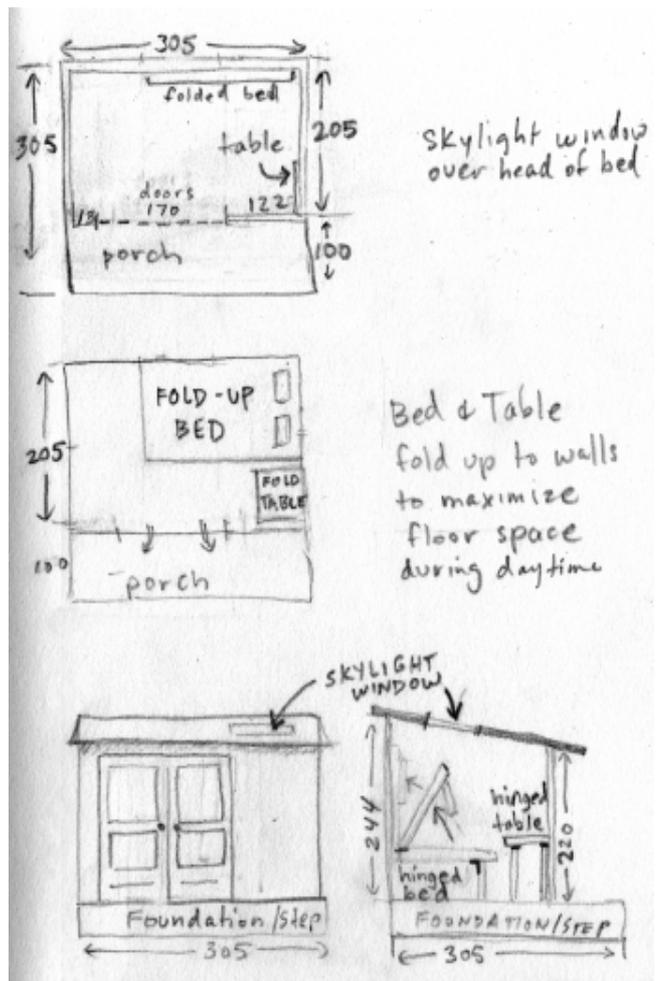




-view from apartment showing projection screen (to right), grass carpet for podium (centre).



-solar panel with 110 voltage generator



-cabin will have a fold-up bed and table to maximize workspace during daytime.



M A N D A T E

this neck of the woods residency program  
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*This Neck of the Woods* is designed as an intensive residency, in a shed, with young trees, in an urban centre. The residency is open to local and foreign artists who wish to work on a project in the company of small trees on a patch of Canadian soil in the centre of Rotterdam, The Netherlands\*. *This Neck of the Woods* is a threefold project: a mental work space, a viewing space, and the roots of a publication with Intrepid Tourist Press. In exchange for time in the Canadian woods in Rotterdam, we ask that residents complete an official resident form and invite them to leave any written, drawn or sound work that they think might add to the future of the project. A poem, short story, cartoon, article, video, or sound recording of the performance created while in residence, would be appreciated as long as the format can fit in the small wooden box that is built into the floorboards of the shed.

As a mental work space, the program can be seen as a sort of treehouse where one gets away from the 'parents' of life. Local Rotterdammers who need to get away in order to concentrate on finishing or sparking a new project, might seek a 4-48 hour type immersion. For international artists, they might come for several weeks in order to undertake larger projects on or outside the site, this will allow them to spend time with young Canadian trees as a focusing ground or pivot point, or as a work site.

As a viewing room, people who wish to visit the space, can sift through the box to look at the documentation/remnants of previous residents - including those from *A Week in the Woods* Residency in Montreal. Visitors can read, listen to the audio projects, or view the video projects alongside the trees. In this way the trees will be able to recall those times in which a resident was actively cohabitating with them. Viewers will be able to roam through scattered artistic musings undertaken by previous residents, and facilitate in sparking memory in the trees.

The publication will be a culmination of the remnants left in the floorboard box by the residents. Intrepid Tourist Press is a mobile publication collective, that publishes artist's books in limited edition. *This Neck of the Woods* publication will be a distilled book/cd/video which will be made available through ITP's usual distribution venues such as art book stores, galleries, and word of mouth. The publication will be a collaborative effort between *This Neck of the Woods* and ITP.

The residency supplies a rectangular cabin, living trees, a thin Japanese mat for resting, a small table, electrical outlets (110 volts), overhead lighting, a built-in wooden box, and a window which faces the sky. Some equipment is available for realizing projects outside of the room, please contact the resident technician for more details.

Any questions or suggestions should be directed to resident technician Yvette Poorter at the above coordinates. All stays must be a minimum of four hours. Longer stays are possible, depending on the project, and space availability. People wishing to visit *This Neck of the Woods* to view the projects that have been undertaken there, should contact the technician to schedule an appointment. These visits will only be scheduled when there are no residents working in the space. Thank-you for your interest in *This Neck of the Woods*.

\*In 1943 Princess Margriet of the Netherlands was born in a Canadian hospital where the royal family was living in exile during WW2. For her birth, part of the Ottawa Civic Hospital was temporarily declared Dutch territory so the baby could be a Dutch citizen. In a similar exchange *This Neck of the Woods* has temporarily been declared a part of Canada so that the imported trees from *A Week in the Woods* residency will feel at home and resident artists will feel both the local and the exotic. The cabin is slightly elevated off the ground, and collects solar power from the same sun that shines on Canada to generate the Canadian standard of 110 volts. From the porch one can see real Canadian maple and pine trees.