



## Features



Photo by Heather Barrett

### Go With The Flow: A Documentary by Heather Barrett

You might remember the tale of The Little Dutch Boy who notices a small terrifying leak in his village dike while on his way to school. He pokes his finger in the hole, stops the flow of water, and saves his town from disaster.

That story was actually written by an American and the mere mention of The Little Dutch Boy makes real Dutch people roll their eyes. Especially now that Holland is facing a problem that can't be solved by plugging a hole in a dike.

Dutch engineering ingenuity has protected the low lying Netherlands from the North Sea for centuries. But rising ocean levels and increasing rainfall caused by climate change are a serious threat. Designers are racing the clock to create stronger flood barriers and more sophisticated pumping systems.

But architect Koen Olthuis and his colleagues see a different solution. Koen is urging his generation of thinkers and builders to take it's collective finger out of the dike, let the water flood in, and build houses, high rises, even entire cities that float on top of it.

Heather Barrett brings us this documentary, called Go With The Flow.



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Koen Olthuis, architect and founder of Waterstudio.nl, stands next to the field, near the city of Delft, Holland, The Netherlands, where his next project, The New Water, a floating community, will be located. The field behind him will be flooded by making a hole in the dike which surrounds it.



Photo by Heather Barrett

The future site of The New Water.



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Rolf Peters, concept developer for Waterstudio.nl, on the top deck of Waterstudio.nl's floating house in IJburg, a neighbourhood under construction in Amsterdam, Holland, The Netherlands.



Photo by Heather Barrett

A view of Waterstudio.nl's floating house in IJburg.