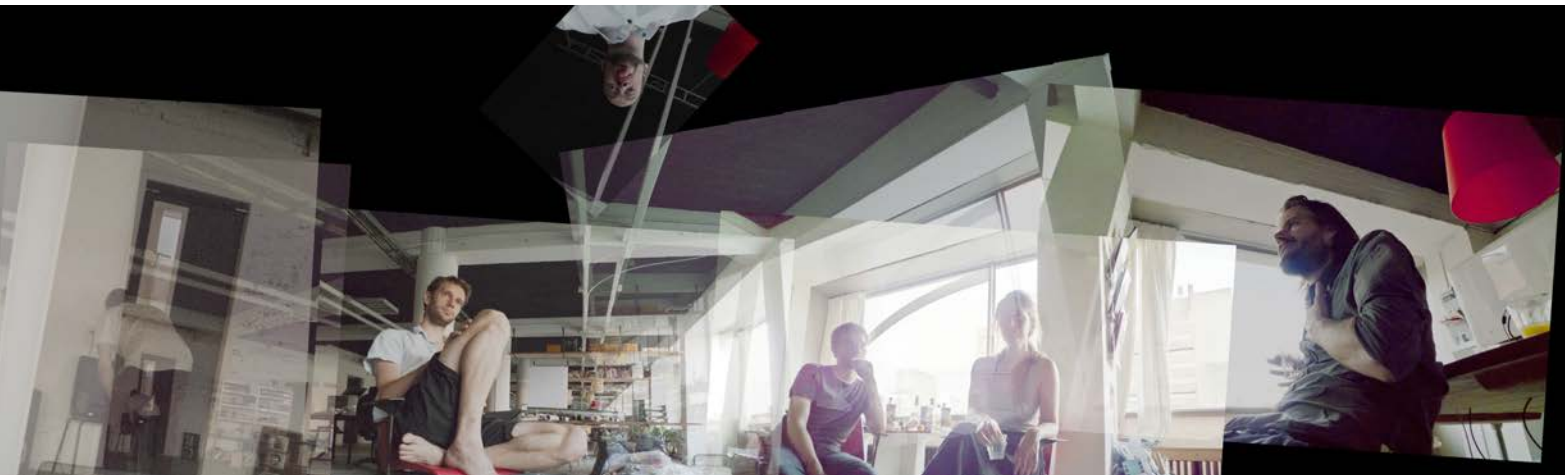
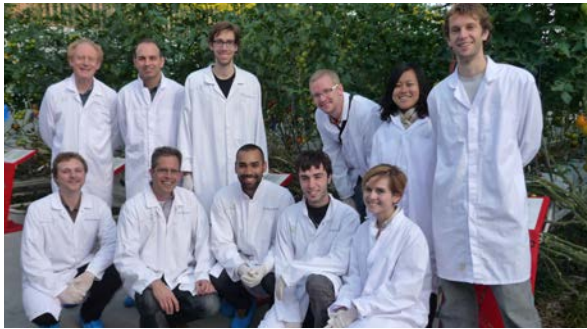




EXCEPT
INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY

13 a celebration





We celebrate 13 years of Except Integrated Sustainability. We're thrilled to see that in these years we've become a collective of remarkable individuals dedicated to building the foundations of a sustainable society, no matter who we are, or how we got here. We are thankful for every one of those years, and look forward with hope and the knowledge that by standing together we will achieve a better world for all.

If Except had a voice of its own, it would be grateful to all who are and have been part of Except for their contribution. Together, we made Except into what it is today.

This book records the things we are grateful about, our greatest sources of joy, passion and hope throughout the years. One item for each year. We love to give this to you and hope they'll inspire and make you think, as they have us.

*Thank you for 13 years of magic,
Tom Bosschaert
Michiel van der Vight*

December 2012





WE CELEBRATE

1. BEING THERE

"A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone." - Henry David Thoreau

Life is an unfathomable phenomenon that we can't be but grateful for. We celebrate this every day by dedicating ourselves to improving society in all its facets, for everyone. We care little that our work is complex, difficult, even frustrating at times, because with every step we can celebrate being here.

James: I'm thankful that there is far, far more to be thankful for than complain about. **Floor:** I celebrate the everyday choice; to see the good things in life, to be courageous when necessary, to be humble when suitable, to show forgiveness when possible, to be content with what we do have, to love. I celebrate the access to good food, housing and health systems; conditions that many people throughout the world can not take for granted. **Tom:** I celebrate the unique chance we have to dedicate our lives to improve those of others.

WE CELEBRATE

2. OUR GUIDES FROM TIMES PAST

"Our lives are not our own. We are bound to others, past and present, and by each crime and every kindness, we birth our future." - *David Mitchell*

We celebrate those that have bound us in their future, our teachers and the scholars that gave us awareness, insight and knowledge, the writers of the books that rattled the cages of our minds and gave us words to think with, and all that have fought to move the frontier we stand on. We stand on the shoulders of giants.

Tom: I'm especially indebted to Andrew Light, Joseph Tainter, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and Timo de Rijk. **Arjan:** I thank Ignasi Solà-Morales and Bernard Tschumi. **Tijn:** I'm grateful for our education that contributed to our ability to recognise patterns in complex behavior and taught us to apply practical knowledge for the benefit of myself and others. **Elias:** I thank Eckhart Tolle for "The Power of Now".

La Palma, Canary Islands

Research for the Sustainable Island Scan

Photo: Tom Bosschaert

A photograph of two Buddhist monks sitting on a blue tarp. They are wearing orange robes and have shaved heads. The monk on the left is wearing a white shirt under his robe and a string of prayer beads. The monk on the right is wearing a white shirt and a green cloth tied around his head. They are both holding large, round, wooden drums. In the background, there are yellow banners with text in various languages, including "FOR A", "CH-MA", and "SAMANCA". There is also a blue banner with "NO NU" and "FUND". A plastic bottle is visible on the tarp between the monks.

WE CELEBRATE

3. THE RESILIENCE OF **HUMAN SPIRIT**

"Guard well within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness." - George Sand

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Thanks for the unwavering human spirit, its capacity for kindness, forgiveness, hope, energy, passion, and dedication.

Floor: The experience of genuine, unconditional kindness and happiness amongst people. **Elias:** Little genuine gestures in public spaces, questioning of established routines and institutions, and the human drive to move forward. **Gerard:** Intelligent people who feel the urge to collaborate and share power and capacity. **Michiel:** The strength we have to succumb unforgettable personal loss, move on and enjoy life.



WE CELEBRATE

4. THOSE WHO DARE TO STAND UP

"It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but even more to stand up to your friends." - J. K. Rowling

To those unique individuals that stood up and fought for a better world, regardless of what would happen to them. We celebrate all those that have chosen to unconditionally follow truth, a better future for all, and to right what is wrong.

Erik: All the people that give a damn, follow their dreams and passionately do the right thing. **Arjan:** Ingenuity and industriousness of humans that bring out undiscovered solutions. **Tim:** Activist Malala, for standing up against the Taliban. **Matthew:** Contrarians and polemicists who confront commonly accepted norms and present new ways of evaluating problems. People that find a graceful way of standing up against popular opinion when they perceive popular opinion to be unjustified. **Tom:** Malthus, you had a point. **Michiel:** the people in Egypt, Syria and all other countries where basic rights of freedom still need to be claimed by those who stand up.

Peaceful prayer and protest at the United Nations

Photo: Tattooed JJ



WE CELEBRATE

5. THE

ABUNDANCE OF RESOURCES

"Abundance is, in large part, an attitude." - Sue Patton Thoele

Resource shortages only exist in the outdated economy we've shackled ourselves to. There's an abundance of renewable, clean and high quality materials and energy around us. It's up to us to find ways to use these to our benefit, and plenty of possibilities to do so.

Tom: Sunlight, ocean water, self-producing ecosystems, thermal energy, the jet stream, sand, algae, tidal movements, the myriad of materials that lie unused on waste piles and other abundant resources form the foundation for the economy of tomorrow, and will provide the foundations for the economy of the future. **Marten:** There's an abundance in the diversity of people, of food, of music, of culture, of the environment, of language, of time and of everything else, all there to enjoy and use at any time. **Michiel:** The abundant warmth of the sun and a gentle breeze in your face.



WE CELEBRATE

6. THE ASTOUNDING POWER AND BEAUTY OF

NATURE

"Trust one who has tried it, you will find more in woods than in books; trees and stones will teach you what you can never learn from masters." - Saint Bernard de Clairvaux

Marten: The vibrant aliveness, acute interdependence and clear awareness of danger in the tropical jungle. The silent and colorful underwater world of coral reefs. The beauty of women. Storms and other signs of the immense power of nature (preferably non-deadly). **James:** It is increasingly easier to bring our work, research, and life into the outdoors. **Gerard:** Feeling humble and overwhelmed at remote places in nature. **Tijn:** Chickens. Chickens lay eggs. Eggs are fantastic. **Tom:** Forests; an endless source of inspiration, sustainable solutions, peace of mind, air, and cute animals.

River in Dolina Pięciu Stawów Polskich Tatrzański Park, Poland

Group outing, 2010

Photo: Tom Bosschaert

WE CELEBRATE

7. HOPE IN

BENEVOLENT


SCIENCE

"Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Science and research lie at the core of the developments supporting the new sustainable societies we seek. We're thankful for the fundamental research, knowledge systems and the smart science tools that make us do our job better.

Matt: I thank the triumph of science, the scientific method, and rationality against superstition and fanaticism (both outside and inside the sustainability field). **Arjan:** Mars Curiosity: a very inspiring, resilient and autonomous chariot that goes where no man has gone before.

Tijn: High quality software that enables us to work faster, communicate efficiently and elegantly, have fun and allows things that would be impossible without it. This inspires me to make high quality software myself. **James:** That in the 21st century I can still hold a new book made from paper (recycled), and that the verb Google has not (yet) replaced the verb think.

A world map with a brown/orange color scheme. Overlaid on the map is a dense network of white lines representing global railroads, gas pipelines, and power lines. The lines are most concentrated in North America, Europe, and East Asia, with more sparse networks in Africa and South America. The map is the background for the entire page.

WE CELEBRATE

8. FREE SOCIETIES OF COLLABORATION

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." - African proverb

The freedom we have to find each other and go further together, internet, the collaborative platforms and tools we use, open knowledge and data structures, and shifting global mentalities away from patents towards sharing and transparency.

Tijn: Having the shared freedom to read and see what I would like to read and see, to say what I want to say, to love who I love. **Matt:** New platforms, business models, and entrepreneurial activities that deliver value in new ways such as crowdsourcing, creative commons, product-service systems, etc. **James:** That despite remaining relatively uncensored, it is possible to filter the mind numbing content of the internet. **Tim:** The innovation that arises out of collaboration. **Michiel:** I just love sharing!

WE CELEBRATE

9. THE JOY OF HUMAN EXPRESSION

The only addiction worth having is the addiction to human culture. Thanks for the awesome music that fuels our long hours and late nights, and for painting the endless landscape of human expression in every medium possible.

Tijn: Rhythm: if it ain't got rhythm, I can't dance to it.

Marten: Live music and wild dancing! And oscar Wilde's sense of humor.

Elias: Creative expression and computer games.

Gerard: Different cultures, David Bowie.

Tom: Beethoven, Snorkels, Simeon ten Holt, Apparat, the Fuck Buttons, and late night exploring in our modern metropoli: Beijing, New York, Berlin, and Barcelona. And Gerard's new logo design, yeah!



WE CELEBRATE

10. THE AWAKENING OF GLOBAL AWARENESS

Thank you world, for starting to wake up. Thank you for casting aside the ignorance that's embedded in propaganda of corporations and governments alike, and taking a stance. We're thrilled to see international fora arise where the complex issues of our days are addressed without compromise.

Matt: Thanks for the deluge of young people and graduates, who pour into the job market, demanding more than just a paycheck from their employer.

James: For the boom in open and progressive conferences and discussion forums worldwide.

Floor: The globally growing awareness of the importance of love, humbleness, compassion, towards ourselves, others, nature, and society alike. From that, all solutions will arise.

The Tobacco Factory, Cultural Venue, Madrid, Spain

Photo: Tom Bosschaert

WE CELEBRATE

11. THE POWER OF AND SYSTEMS THINKING NETWORKS

"In a networked world, trust is the most important currency."
- Eric Schmidt

We celebrate that the world is increasingly discovering the importance of networks over individual objects, and the power of transparent, fair, and resilient systems. Systems thinking and network theory lie at the root of our SiD method, and we love them for the insight and symbiotic solutions they yield.

Tom: We're grateful for the development in natural systems theory, peer to peer networking, bottom-up social development, Smart grids, online knowledge communities, and the fundamental science that underpins all these powerful strategies. **Michiel:** System thinking is the fastest way forward. Products or business models may be part of the solution, but there are always more pieces to the puzzle. I am grateful to be part of Except Integrated Sustainability, the perfect place to work exactly along the lines of this conviction.



WE CELEBRATE

12. OUR AMAZING PARTNERS FRIENDS FANS AND FAMILY

"The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

You know who you are. Thank you for all your love, kindness and support. Without you, we would have never even started.

Tijn: I am very grateful for all the late night conversations with smart and compassionate people we've had in the past year. At night we are less bound by daily things and free to choose where our ideas wander: I am grateful for the conversations that brought a bright perspective on our future. Thank you all. **Floor:** Thanks to people with a good sense of humor and the capacity to place things in proper perspective. Thanks for the unconditional love from our beloved ones. **Elias:** Thanks for friends and laughter, and the warmth of a genuine hug.

Gerard: I celebrate my parents for taking a last chance to get a son.

Amphitheater at the Akropolis, Athens, Greece

Photo: Tom Bosschaert



WE CELEBRATE

13. THE INFINITE PASSION AND DEDICATION OF OUR **TROOP**

Together we are Except, that odd and talented bunch destined to make a positive mark on the timeline towards the future. Thank you for your incredible trust, passion, drive, and sweat.

Floor: I'm grateful for meeting the right people, at the right moment in place and time. **Gerard:** I celebrate being surrounded by fantastic people, people that make me think. **Tim:** For the self-organizing principle of Except, where I meet enthusiastic and talented people that connect and develop great relations, and those that don't leave.

Tom: That we may we move the world.