URBAN TRENDS
URBAN TRENDS: An international conference for architectural and urban planning students

CONTENT AND RESULTS

The conference was hosted by Blekinge Institute of Technology and organised by a team of urban planning students:
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with advice and help from
Gunnar Nyström, university lecturer, Blekinge Institute of Technology
Abdellah Abarkan, head of the department of Spatial Planning, Blekinge Institute of Technology
CONTENT OF THE CONFERENCE
Presentations on the 27th of April:

**Presentation 1** 13.40-14.10 on the 27th of April
Eva Dalman, projektmanager, City Planning Office of Lund
Theme: Urban development in Lund

**Presentation 2** 14.20-15.10 on the 27th of April
Göran Rosberg, information manager, City Planning Office of Malmö
Theme: Urban development in Malmö

Seminars on the 28th of April:

**Seminar 1** 09.00-09.30 on the 28th of April
Christer Persson, university lecturer and researcher, DSN, BTH
Theme: Builders, planners and citizens: the interpretation of public interest in global urban competition

**Seminar 2** 09.30-10.00 on the 28th of April
Kalle Bergman, university lecturer, DSN, BTH
Theme: Public places - the preoccupation of public space and the spatial awareness that the current trends are based on.

**Seminar 3** 10.25-10.55 on the 28th of April
Gunnar Nyström, university lecturer, DSN, BTH
Theme: Urban ecology

**Seminar 4** 10.25-11.25 on the 28th of April
Tomasz Rozwadowski, teacher, Gdansk University of Technology
Theme: ‘Facing CITY 3.0 - are we ready for digital urbanism?’
In short: The discussion on new trends in urban planning in the context of digital communication technologies. The concept of ‘time’ and ‘place’ are changing as a result of diffusion of new ways of communication. Digital technology has become a kind of interface between man and city. How ubiquitous digital communication can affect the way we think about urban space and how it can influence the way we will build our environment in near future?

**Seminar 5** 11.50-12.20 on the 28th of April
Cornelius Scherzer, Prof., HTW Dresden
Theme: The role of landscape and open space in sustainable urban development. Focus on the contradictory aims of having a dense and compact or a spacious and green urban structure, using examples of current urban planning.

**Seminar 6** 10.00-10.30 on the 29th of April
Jerker Söderlind, urban researcher and teacher, KTH city development
Seminar 7 10.30-11.00 on the 29th of April
Moa Tunström, researcher, KTH urban and regional studies

Tour guides, with Tours both at 14.15-15.30 and 16.00-17.15 on the 28th of April:
Ivar Wenster, former Head of the culture department of Karlskrona.
Subject: culture and democracy in the city and in planning.

Leifh Stenholm, former Länsantikvarie of Blekinge county.
Subject: physical changes and the cityplan in a world heritage city.

Claes-Åke Kindlund, former head architect of Karlskrona.
Subject: revitalization of Stumholmen.

Olof Woltil, PhD, DSN, BTH.
Subject: "To be is to be in place - conservation and planning in relation to reality" - a mix between a discussion about current urban planning and restoration questions in Karlskrona and a problematization by key words such as; "cultural heritage", "conservation", "restoration", "planning".

Participants in the panel discussion 11.20-12.20 and 12.30-13.00 on the 29th of April:
Jerker Söderlind, urban researcher and teacher, KTH city development

Moa Tunström, researcher, KTH urban and regional studies

Tomasz Rozwadowski, teacher, Gdansk University of Technology

Dorota Kamrowska-Zaluska, teacher, Gdansk University of Technology

Cornelius Scherzer, Prof., HTW Dresden

Moderator in the panel discussion 11.20-12.20 and 12.30-13.00 on the 29th of April:
Gunnar Nyström, university lecturer, DSN, BTH
Participating universities:

Technische Universität Dortmund
HafenCityUniversität Hamburg
Technische Universität Kaiserlautern
Technische Universität Wien
Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil
Gdansk University of Technology
Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
Fachhochschule Erfurt
Nürtingen – Geislingen University
Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Dresden
Blekinge Institute of Technology Karlskrona
The Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm

Chalmers university of Technology
Umeå School of Architecture
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Alnarp
Malmö University
RESULTS FROM THE CONFERENCE
THE WORKSHOP

On the last day of the conference a workshop was arranged. The participants were divided into groups of 6-7 people. The groups each got a table where a question was presented. The group had 20 minutes to discuss and try to answer the question. When the 20 minutes were up, all groups switch tables, but the notes from the discussions where left on the tables.

The groups kept switching tables until all groups had discussed all questions. In total there was five questions to discuss, all on the topic urban trends.

At their last table the groups were told to summarize the notes that had been made. The summaries were presented as lists with the questions at the top. The lists were put up on the wall. Each person were handed one sticker per question and was thereafter told to mark the points that they found the most relevant.

The result was again summarized and is presented in the following pages. The concepts are listed in an order according to the number of votes given by the participants.

What kind of urban development is argumented for in the context of recent urban trends?
1. Sustainability (participation, densification, recreation areas, nature + environment, inter-generational resource management, green transport/housing, energy)
2. City networks (short ways, walking distances)
3. Post-industrial revitalization
4. Reurbanisation (green belt, urbanity)
5. Urban compression/ density + gated communities
6. Sustainable transportation
7. Greening
8. Urban farming + biodiversity
9. Smart city (IT)
10. “The European city”
11. Glocal city
12. Waterfronts
What kind of urban development is implemented in the cities in reality? Which joint terms/concepts could describe this kind of development (terms that could be compared with the trend concepts)?

**Terms**
1. Separation
2. Bicycle/pedestrians
3. Mobility
4. Green belt
5. Malls
6. Sprawl
7. “Planning from a human perspective is not always implemented.”
8. Flagship projects
9. Density
10. IT
11. Gated communities
12. Sustainability
13. Community gardens
14. Cars?
15. Less diversity- material, structure for example waterfront development

**Concepts**
1. The attractive city: revitalization, digitalization - hot spots, healthy cities – bike paths etc., landmarks – global competition, BIDS
2. The attempted sustainable city: ecological development, revitalization
3. The global city: digitalization - hot spots, same-same development, globalization, ecological development, McDonaldization
4. The unjust city
5. The smart city: digitalization - hot spots, McDonaldization, unmarked space
6. The compacts city: revitalization, “sustainable” development, transportation, BIDS
7. A city for the rich
8. The divided city: gated communities, segregation, society problems
Which role does the urban planner have when it comes to relating to urban trends? Which possibilities and limitations do we have?

**Role**

1. Balancing
2. Expert
3. Analyser
4. Lawyer of space
5. Mediator
6. To shape peoples ideas
7. Creator
8. Liar
9. Presenter
10. Observer
11. Researcher
12. To collect ideas
13. To present ideas
14. Visions
15. Moderator
16. Dictator
17. Director of the city life
18. Promoter
19. Writer/author
20. Sharing knowledge
21. Teacher
22. Dreamer

**Possibilities**

1. Life quality
2. Creativity
3. Society shaping
4. “The sky is the limit”
5. Increasing awareness of citizens
6. To make a change
7. Urban planners = servants?!?
8. Flagship projects
9. Advices
10. To manipulate people
11. The cities always are changing
12. The possibility to choose
13. To create something completely different
14. To attract people
Limitations
1. Diversity
2. Economical limitations (money) through: ownership, landscape
3. Tree huggers
4. Ignorance
5. Money
6. Conflict of interests
7. Policy/law
8. Infrastructure
9. Time
10. Government
11. Citizens
12. Democracy
13. Human rights
14. Technology
15. Motivation
16. Lobbyist
17. Lack of knowledge
18. Misunderstandings
19. Interpretation
20. Deliberation

Which methods/tools does planners have to interpret and relate to the urban trends?

1. Communication: Visualization, interview, cooperation, concepts, vocabulary/terms, social media, press
2. Participation: public consultation
3. Education: Research, workshops, university, conference, experience, books
5. Open-mindedness
6. “Don’t get stuck in a trend!”
7. Scale: local context, compare to others - best practice
8. Persuasion: citizens, politicians
9. “Dare to try!”
10. Technology: Social media, internet, GIS
How do you create the city or the feel of the city which is the aim of the urban trends?

1. Include the history of the place, connect to history and make history
2. More cooperation between investor, city and people
3. Inspire people to take part in the development
4. Green spaces
5. Presence of people – life – citizens participation
6. Identification
7. Place making – identity, contexts
8. Human scale
9. Create communities, where people know each other
10. Social mixture
11. Unmarked/unprogrammed space – multifunctional space
12. Image
13. Arguments and long term thinking
14. Implementation of the infrastructure (accessability)
15. Affordable housing + living
16. Communication
17. Integration
18. Manipulation
19. Activate people
20. Make people understand/speak their language
21. Transparency
22. Tourist attractions
23. Inform people and politicians about different solutions
24. Create a city with owner based building groups instead of general investors
Thanks to our sponsors who made the conference possible:

Blekinge Tekniska Högskola
Länsstyrelsen Blekinge
ArkitektStudenterna
PEAB
Karlskrona kommun
Malmö stad
Michano AB
Malmö Högskola

Also a big thanks to all the students, lecturers and guides who contributed to the conference!