

Invitation to international Workshop for planning students on “Heritage and Diversity” in May 2009

2009 marks at least three 20 year anniversaries - the fall of the Berlin Wall, leading to a "New Europe" with new possibilities for co-operation with other nations, cities and universities, the establishment of the Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), and the start of the programme of spatial planning at BTH, now also called "the Swedish School of Planning". We would like to celebrate these anniversaries by inviting you, our partner universities, to Karlskrona for a student workshop on the subject of "Heritage and Diversity" from the 4th to the 8th of May 2009. This will later be followed by a major Pax Baltica conference and other commemoration activities in Karlskrona on the anniversary of the fall of the Iron curtain. Among the plans by BTH is a seminar in October "Planning for sustainability in the Baltic region".



Aerial image of Stumholmen against a background of Trossö. Image Karlskrona Kommun

Theme of the Workshop: World heritage + global architecture

The arena of this workshop will be the city of Karlskrona. Founded in 1680 as a Naval Base, Karlskrona historically attracted specialists from all over Europe and became one of the foremost centers for shipbuilding, while it served as Sweden's bulwark against seaborne intrusions. Under the Cold War, the city was shielded off from nearly all foreign inspection. Since the 1990s, Karlskrona aspires again to be a world-leading centre of high technology in the beautiful setting of impressive World Heritage architecture in the midst of the Swedish archipelago. For this, it has to attract visitors, researchers and students from all continents. But how can a public space characterized by nationalistic monumental buildings welcome and integrate an increasingly diverse population and visitors from the whole world? This is a general problem common for many cities all over the world which have to redefine their city identity to adapt it to the new state of the world.

Workshop set-up

The workshop will address this problem by focusing on the waterfront possibilities and studying the addition of built structures on vacant land. The participants therefore should work mainly with the use and form of public space and buildings. We will meet for one week and work in mixed groups to explore the characteristics of Karlskrona and create proposals for the introduction of new architecture into the historic setting. The groups will be supported with coaching, but there will be no limits for creativity. A competition committee will award prizes after a final presentation at the end of the workshop.

Objectives of the student workshop

An international workshop with students from different planning departments provides the opportunity to reflect on and work with a subject very intensively under a limited period of time. By that students train their communication skills, having to work in groups with participants of different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds. For the programme of spatial planning the workshop is an opportunity to

strengthen the contacts it has with the international partner universities and by that securing the possibilities for a continued exchange of students and teachers. The staff of the spatial planning programme is well experienced in organising student workshops. These are frequently used as a means of teaching within the planning programme.

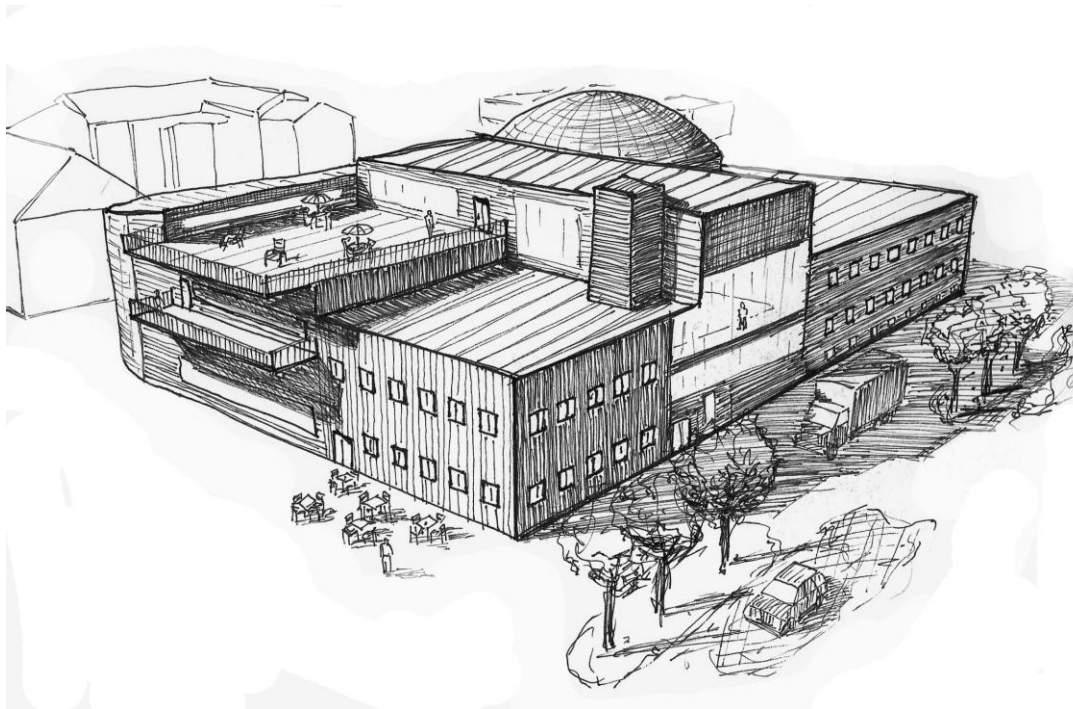
Seminar for scholars

The participating scholars are invited to attend a seminar on the topic of changing identity in a diverse global context. This would be an unpretentious discussion where participants are invited to give a short presentation of their respective cities of residence, work or research. What constitutes the image of our cities? What artefacts in the cultural heritage are worth preserving? Which constraints should the renewers follow to adhere to the conservation ambitions? Which groups in society sets the agenda? We are asking for good examples, problematic issues and even discouraging cases.

Invitations

The following institutions are invited:

- Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany
- Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain
- HafenCity Universität Hamburg, Germany
- Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Dresden, Germany
- Lunds Tekniska Högskola, Sweden
- Nanjing Forestry University, China
- Newcastle University, United Kingdom
- Politechnika Gdańska, Poland
- Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- Vilniaus Gedimino Technikos Universitetas, Lithuania



Sketch of city library for Karlskrona, Emma Olsson student of class 2004

Human resources

The teaching staff of BTH, accompanying teaching staff from the partner universities and municipal officers will form the core of lecturers, tutors and examiners. Students of the BTH course Planning Laboratory will form the core of hosts for visiting students, taking responsibility for patronage and individual student support. Officials and experts from the host Municipality and other local institutions

would be expected to demonstrate examples of the UNESCO World Heritage and take part in the final review.

Travel

To get to and fro Karlskrona would be the responsibility of each participating party. Visiting academic staff is expected to arrange lodging by themselves. We recommend the following hotels which offer discount for BTH guests: Hotel Conrad <http://www.hotelconrad.se/eng/> and Hotel Aston <http://www.hotellaston.se/eng/>.

Sponsors

Karlskrona kommun, Region Blekinge, Länsstyrelsen i Blekinge län. With the aid of our sponsors we can offer visiting students the following.

Lodging

Simple accommodation in the city's youth hostel will be booked and paid by us.

Meals

Lunches are offered at campus during the three days as part of the workshop, essential to get the groups going and staying together. Also participating scholars are invited. Final party organised by BTH students.



The premises of BTH are spacious and offer a view of the Baltic sea. Image Ulla Haglund Dec 2009

Program

Mon 4 May evening: arrivals, student reception.

Tue 5 May: Introduction and presentations of participants. Organisation of student groups. Lunch. Student field work starts.

Wed 6 May: Student field and studio work in groups. Possibly coaching of groups. Seminar for participating scholars on the theme changing urban identity. Presentations by the visiting scholars. Dinner.

Tue 7 May: Student groups presentations. Comments by participating scholars. Farewell party.

Fri 8 May: departures

Final result

Results of group work will be distributed to sponsors and key stake holders. A possible continuation would be the Pax Baltica celebration in October 2009 (week 42). If sponsored, one or two elected groups would be invited to exhibit their work on the event.

Timeline

Invitation	Dec 15, 2008
Declaration of interest	Jan 15, 2009
Registration participants	March 1, 2009
Detailed schedule	April 1, 2009
Workshop & Seminar	May 5-7, 2009

Request

From invited partners, we would appreciate an email declaring interest in the event. We initially figure a group of six students and two academia would be equal if all invitations are accepted. However, after considering declarations of interest from invited institutions, we would be able to maximise numbers.

Contact

Sofia Cedergren
Amanuensis
phone +46 455 38 53 13
sce@bth.se

Organisers

Gunnar Nyström
Sen. Lecturer, architect MSA
phone +46 455 38 53 04
mobile +46 70 667 68 40
gunnar.nystrom@bth.se

Kalle Bergman
PhD, Ass Professor History
phone +46 455 38 53 59
Mobile +46 (0)709 26 43 16
kalle.bergman@bth.se

Blekinge Tekniska Högskola
SE-371 79 Karlskrona
<http://www.planeringsarkitekt.se/>
<http://www.bth.se/ifp>



*The glory of the past reflected in present decay.
Image Gunnar Nyström 2007*