DESIGNING FAIR CITIES

Securing urban equity, social inclusion, cultural diversity and urban commons

World Urban Forum 6
Naples 2012
The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (in Swedish: Boverket) and Mistra Urban Futures share the ambition to develop and enhance knowledge on urban development. Still both work in rather different ways, focus on rather different actors and have rather different networks. We do however believe that these differences and similarities, given the right opportunities, could function as an asset that enhances creativity, innovative thinking and interesting new networking opportunities. This is why it felt natural and exciting for us to collaborate when organizing our networking event at the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples.
Introduction

In order to meet the complex challenges of urban sustainability, the Swedish Government has commissioned four national agencies within the fields of environmental, social and cultural policies to explore the role of urban planning, public participation, heritage and architecture in strengthening socio-cultural urban development. The four agencies are The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, The Swedish National Heritage Board, The Swedish Research Council Formas and The Swedish Museum of Architecture. This collaboration also involved a fifth member, The Swedish Delegation for Sustainable Cities, which had a limited commission during 2009–2012. Some of the common standpoints of the above mentioned agencies are the following:

- Social and cultural dimensions of urban development must receive more attention and support than they have hitherto
- Sweden needs a national policy for urban development that bridges the administrative barriers between different sectors
- Different sustainability perspectives need to become more united and the cultural perspective more acknowledged and taken into consideration in the sustainability discussion
- Sweden must become more actively and continuously involved in international activities within the field of urban sustainability, something which can be achieved for instance by engaging in dialogs and collaborations with national and local agencies, researchers and practitioners from all over the world

The main aim of this networking event has been to create an opportunity for sustainability practitioners and researchers from around the world to present and discuss examples of how to handle socio-cultural challenges in different kinds of cities.

Further it is the joint ambition of Mistra Urban Futures and the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning that these discussions will lead to sharing of interesting ideas, thoughts, knowledge and experiences about how to increase citizen participation in the city design processes and about the role of urban planning and architecture for the quality of life in cities of the future.

Globally we have agreed on magnificently written conventions. One of them is the UNESCO-convention on cultural diversity. It says: Cultural diversity is a rich asset for individuals and societies. The protection, promotion and maintenance of cultural diversity are an essential requirement for sustainable urban development for the benefit of present and future generations. In this event we will therefore discuss questions as: How can urban practice and architecture reduce unfairness and strengthen social inclusion? What kind of design tools and experiments can support the vitality of cultural diversity in urban life?

Åsa Dahlin, architect, PhD, Boverket

www.boverket.se
www.mistraurbanfutures.se
www.raa.se
www.arkitekturmuseet.se
www.formas.se
SUMMARY

DESIGNING FAIR CITIES
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Designing fair and sustainable cities is one of the biggest challenges society is confronted with today. This challenge requires action on all levels, globally as well as locally, by a multitude of different actors, and it requires coordination of different dimensions of sustainability. It also requires creativity, innovative thinking and attentiveness regarding social and cultural aspects.

At the network event Designing Fair Cities – jointly organized by Mistra Urban Futures and the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning – researchers and practitioners from Sweden and many other parts of the world, including representatives from Mistra Urban Futures research platforms in China, South Africa and Kenya, met to discuss questions such as:
• What challenges related to urbanity do we perceive in different parts of the world today?
• In which ways can architecture and spatial planning counteract urban inequality and increase social inclusion?
• Which strategies and design processes can enhance cultural diversity and improve people’s everyday life?
• How can we increase citizen participation in the development processes of cities?

Professor Lars Reuterswärd, Director of Mistra Urban Futures and Vice President of Chalmers University of Technology, together with Martin Storm, Head of Operations Department and architect Åsa Dahlin, PhD, both from the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, had the honor of opening the fully booked event.

Professor Siegfried Wu from Shanghai raised the topic of how urbanisation leads to a sense of rootlessness among people both in cities and in the countryside and how the one child policy has led to the challenge of an aging population in China. Wu was of the opinion that the caretaking of elders in China will have to be solved on a governmental level and that both issues require new ways of thinking about spatial planning.

Professor Alexis Pontvik from Stockholm raised the topic of how grandiose urban planning projects often tend to fail. In contrast to this, he presented examples of successful small scale, international, high-tech based architecture projects and talked about their potential of improving everyday life and cultural diversity in the cities of the future.
Dr Zarina Patel from Cape Town described the gap between the environmental goals and local practices in South African cities and emphasized that local inequality has global impacts. Patel underlined the need for genuine respect for human beings when developing cities: "justice is not something static, it needs to be practiced".

Urban planner Lisa Wistrand and architect Vanja Larberg from the City of Gothenburg contributed to the event by presenting urban development methods that take social aspects and children’s perspectives into consideration in interesting ways. Wistrand and Larberg also invited the participants to join an open workshop in the Swedish pavilion the day after the Designing Fair Cities event. At this workshop, a highly appreciated design rug, visualizing various urban scales in cities from a human experience perspective, was demonstrated. The workshop lead to a number of creative and interesting discussions among the participants and proved to be an additional good networking opportunity as well.

Professor Stephen Agong from Kisumu talked about Kisumu as East African Millennium City and argued that justice is a key issue for achieving sustainable green urban environments accommodated to sustainable extraction of renewable resources.

Lars Amréus, General Director of The Swedish National Heritage Board, described cities as landscapes built up of many cultural and symbolic layers which are all continuously being reshaped to fit the functional needs of the present. This is why, according to Amréus, we need to include the inhabitants and their narratives, and other cultural heritage aspects of the place, when striving for more democratic and equal cities of tomorrow.

The Designing Fair Cities networking event was part of the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning’s ongoing government assignment about finding ways of encouraging sustainable development, an assignment that is being carried out in cooperation with The Swedish Research Council Formas, The Swedish National Heritage Board and The Swedish Museum of Architecture. The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and Mistra Urban Futures will use their established networks and develop their international relations further to make use of the experiences from the Designing Fair Cities networking event and take their sustainability work to the next level.
Environmental governance structures and processes in contemporary large South African cities have been influenced by three distinct but overlapping planning objectives: sustainable development, environmental justice, and adapting and mitigating for climate change. In this paper, these three goals together with the governance arrangements supporting them have been characterized as three waves of urban environmental governance. This paper is concerned with the evidence that suggests that environmental injustices have persisted in spite of policy efforts to address these goals in all three waves. The paper responds to calls for a better alignment between sustainable development, justice and climate change at the city scale. By reflecting on the institutional arrangements supporting the governance of these three policy foci, the paper raises caution regarding this alignment in the absence of institutional reform at multiple scales and among multiple actors.
Conclusions

- Practitioners (architects and EIA practitioners) operate within a broader planning context (local and global dimensions)
- Justice is not static – it must be practiced
- Tools for achieving justice shape outcomes
- Judgment is critical for achieving justice
- Activist role for practitioners

Justice

- **Noun:** just behaviour or treatment: a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people
- **Justice**
  - Rawlsian – benefits to the worst off
  - E.g. Housing and delivery of basic services
  - Nozickian – rectification of injustice
  - E.g. Land restitution and redistribution
  - Young – politics of difference
  - E.g. respect for people, cultural diversity, social inclusion
- **Environmental Justice**
  - Distribution of environmental externalities
  - Power relations - citizens’ ability to seek recourse

Definitions:

**Fair**
- **Adjective:** treating people equally without favouritism or discrimination

**Equity**
- **Noun:** the quality of being fair and impartial: equity of treatment

South African Cities

- Over 50% of South Africa’s population is urbanised
- Service delivery not in sync
- Legacy of apartheid spatial planning endures
- Growing inequalities
- Cities are sites of environmental injustice
- Cities are sources of GHGs & sites of consumption and production of energy

‘...This unsustainable progression of extremes of wealth and poverty threatens the stability of the whole human system, and with it the global environment...’ UNEP Millennium Report on the Environment – Global Environment Outlook

Environmental Justice
- **Distribution of resources; power relations; access to decision making**

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Interactive Tools for Social Aspects and Children Perspectives in Urban Development

In the autumn of 2010 a working group with officials and researchers from Gothenburg came together to develop tools that supports and highlights important human aspects in urban development. The political mandate was clear: In urban development there should always be an impact assessment of the planning. These assessments should be performed with both children aspects and social sustainability in mind.

The process so far has resulted in building a common structure to support these issues throughout the whole planning process, and creating a platform that enables experiences to be shared. In our lecture we will tell you about the design of our tools and how we are implementing them in our organizations.

Urban Planner
Lisa Wistrand, Sweden (City of Gothenburg)

Architect
Vanja Larberg, Sweden (City of Gothenburg)
**Cohesive city**
Barriers, Connections and Context, Variation and Mix, Patterns of Movement and Mobility, Segregation, Safety

**Identity**
Housing, Character of Built Environment, Anchoring, Cultural Heritage and Environment, Variation, Belonging, Co-creation, Continuity, Safety

**Interactions**
Meeting Places, Play and Learning, Recreation, Culture, Sports, Mobility, Streets, Safety

**Everyday life**

**Impact Analysis tool**

- Inventory
- Solutions
- Effects
One Chinese social character is the unrooted urbanization. With the rapid development of urbanization, China is facing a great transition of agriculture population to urban population. From 1978 to 2010, China’s urbanization rate has increased from 17.92% to 49.95%, urban population from 172.45 million to 669.38 million. Agricultural population of 497.33 million has transferred to urban population in past 30 years. If China’s urbanization rate is to reach 80%, there will be about 500 million more agricultural population (including the present temporal urban immigrants) to change their status. Part of these population are not well educated, work in the informal economics, not assimilated to the urban society. This year they live in city. The next year perhaps they move to other city, or go to their home town. After each Chinese Spring Festivals, the Chinese metropolis cities face to this special period. The phenomenon causes lots of social risks for both urban and rural area in 5–10 years.

The second topic is about taking care of aging people from at home by home to at community by community. The sixth nationwide population census showed a gradually accelerating aging process. The population of aged 60 and above is totally 178 million and accounts for 13.26% of the total population, increasing by 2.93 percent from 2000 to 2010. Office of the National Committee on Ageing in China predicted that by 2023 the aging population will increase to 270 million in 2006. Under the traditional Chinese ethics of “filial piety” value, for thousands of year in China, sons and daughters should take care of their aged until they leave the world. But with the implementation of China’s one-child policy, the family structure is 4-2-1, which means four grandpa grandmas, two parents, one child in a family. As a result, many family functions have to be more socialized. As the increase in the aging population and life expectancy, family aged caring is facing an unprecedented difficulty. The mode of taking care of aged at home by home is replaced by the mode of taking care of aged at community and by community. What shall we as urban planners and architects do for the changing?
0.25 billion aged population in China

- One child policy
- The family structure is 4-2-1
- Chinese tradition is taking care of elder in home by home

The future is to take care of aged people from home to community

Migrant Urbanization

Migrant urbanization causes social problems:
- Empty nest elderly
- Left behind children
- Transport during spring festival

Aging in Shanghai

HOME + COMMUNITY + ORGANIZATION

9073 policy
Taking care of 90% aged in home
Taking care of 7% aged in community
Taking care of 3% aged in organization

It’s far away from demand!
Urban Concretions

Prof Alexis Pontvik, Stockholm, Sweden
(School of Architecture, Royal Institute of Technology)

- Large scale projects have a tendency to either partially fail or not to be realised at all. Can visions to improve life instead be realised via small scale and concrete lighthouse projects?

- The individual dwelling is the core to a better life for people – how can housing be better managed? Perhaps inhabitants might have to alter habits in order to get an improved environment?

- Technological spearhead knowledge can make a difference in daily life for citizens. But how could it become less complex and more affordable – thus accessible for a vast number of people?

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Husco Housing Neemuch for mixed income classes, aerial view

Anders Wilhelmson PEPEPO: Peepoople Niklas PalmklintPeepoo series studio

Another type of dwelling, for a Somali mother with 8 children

Anders Wilhelmson PEPEPO: Bag garden in Sianda

One of five auditoria at Theaterhaus
PUBLIC SPACES, GREEN AREAS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Public Spaces: Where people meet

Director General
Lars Amreúus,
Sweden
(Swedish National Heritage Board)

A public space could almost be any space in the urban landscape, but is determined as being public by how and whom it is used. In urban development it is vital to understand the importance the public spaces have for people today but also the importance they have had historically, and may have for future generations. This requires knowledge of history as well as inclusive planning processes, based on citizens’ experiences and knowledge, to make long-term sustainable choices about what should be a priority in changing situations.

Today, urban public places are challenged in different ways. Environments where people gather for various activities, cultural as well as political, are transformed, individualized and commercialized. The city can be described as a symbolic landscape that shows who is represented and who is excluded in the public domain. Heritage puts public spaces in a context and conservation strategies can be seen as a way of designing a place. In these processes it’s important to pay attention to who has the right to shape and define public spaces and how such places generate different symbolic meanings.

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Cities are more than the sum of their buildings

Places – diversity of meanings and narratives

Urban landscapes in transformation

Participation and accessibility
The 21st century is considered the urban century with Kisumu City being delineated as the Millennium City in the East African Region. The designation of Kisumu as Millennium City has come with challenges and opportunities. Harnessed and nurturing these opportunities and challenges will go a long way in addressing issues of fairness, with inclination towards making the city a green environment that is sensitive to sustainable resources utilization. In addition the city planning and organization is already taking cognizance of the fact that rapid urbanization must consider critical issues like densification in relation to available space within the city. This presentation thus assesses the case of Kisumu using a unique model of the informal platform Kisumu Action Team that has consistently worked with the municipal leadership to shape socio-economic development of the City. Lately, the action team has also spearheaded the formation of a formal platform dubbed Kisumu Local Interaction Platform under the support of Mistra Urban Futures which will now systematically address urban issues with respect to: Green, Dense, and Fair by providing a platform for key players (academia/research, public, civil society, industries and private) in deciding the destiny of the Kisumu City future.

sgagong@bondo-uni.ac.ke
As part of its diverse and growing stable of achievements, the Kisumu Action Team (KAT) in 2008 was the turning point for Kisumu and the immediate issues that KAT addressed were:

- Initiative towards combating urban poverty
- Water and sanitation via KIWASCO
- Solid waste management
- Urban transport and mobility
- City planning
- Improving on the governance especially via KAT
- Improving on the healthcare and education

**KAT represents a rare model of city development initiative. Being an informal and non-legal entity, KAT has retained its integrity and dignity as an advisory team with focus on to provide strategic direction for sustainable socio-economic development in Kisumu. As a first step towards putting Kisumu onto growth path, KAT developed a roadmap in 2008 covering key sectors: requisite infrastructure:**

- Urban development plan for Kisumu
- Revival of the lake, land and air transport
- Establishment of an effective waste management
- Improvement of the water supply to residents of the city
- Rationalisation of space utilisation
- Development of recreational and sporting facilities
- Establish an effective disaster control system
- Setting up a teaching and referral hospital
- Improved housing provision

**The challenges**

- Poor urban planning
- Inadequate infrastructure and services
- Degraded urban environment
- Increased urban poverty
- HIV/AIDS pandemic and other diseases
- Unregulated urban agriculture and livestock Keeping
- Poor urban governance
- Inadequate urban housing
- Food insecurity

As part of its diverse and growing stable of achievements, the Kisumu Action Team has also more recently spearheaded the formation of a much more formal citizen participation platform dubbed the *Kisumu Local Interaction Platform* (Kisumu LIP) under the support of Mistra Urban Futures.

- KLIP will now systematically address urban issues with respect to attaining sustainable urban development objectives by providing a platform for key players.
- The players are drawn from: academia, research, public sector, civil society, industry and private sector actors or making decision on the destiny and futures of Kisumu City.
DESIGNING FAIR CITIES
Securing urban equity, social inclusion, cultural diversity and urban commons

Fair cities rise from democratic and empowering urban design processes where the needs and desires of the citizens are taken into account. In this workshop we will thus discuss the characteristics of future fair cities from a socio-cultural point of view.

Moderator: Architect Olov Schultz (Boverket)

Welcome
Head of Operations Department Martin Storm (Boverket)
Prof Lars Reuterswärd (Director Mistra Urban Futures, Vice President Chalmers)
Architect, PhD, Åsa Dahlin (Boverket)

Urban Design Practice and Social Inclusion

The Unrooted Urbanization and Taking Care of Aging People at Community by Community
Prof Siegfried Wu, Shanghai, China
(Mistra Urban Futures Shanghai, College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP), Tongji University)

Urban Concretions
Prof Alexis Pontvik, Stockholm, Sweden
(School of Architecture, Royal Institute of Technology)

Discussion
Public Involvement and Governance

Sustainability and Justice in an Age of Climate Change: Implications for environmental governance in South African Cities
Dr Zarina Patel, Cape Town, South Africa
(Mistra Urban Futures Cape Town, African Center for Cities, ACC)

Interactive Tools for Social Aspects and Children Perspectives in Urban Development
Urban Planner Lisa Wistrand and Architect Vanja Larberg, Sweden
(City of Gothenburg)

Discussion

Public Spaces, Green Areas and Cultural Diversity

Urban Futures in the Context of Fairness, Green and Densification: A case study of Kisumu Local Interaction Platform
Prof Stephen Agong, Kisumu, Kenya
(Mistra Urban Futures Kisumu, Maseno University, Bondo University College & Kisumu Action Team, KAT)

Public Spaces: Where people meet
Director General Lars Amréus, Sweden (Swedish National Heritage Board)

Discussion

Closing
Head of Operations Department Martin Storm (Boverket)
Prof Lars Reuterswärd (Director Mistra Urban Futures, Vice President Chalmers)

Mistra Urban Futures is an international center for sustainable urban development. The headquarters is located in Gothenburg, Sweden and the center operates in five cities around the world including Cape Town, Gothenburg, Kisumu, Greater Manchester and Shanghai. Co-production of knowledge as well as creating Fair, Green and Dense cities is a winning concept for a successful sustainable urban future.

Boverket, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, is a central government agency for the management of land and water resources, the supervision of town and country planning, the issuing of building regulations and the monitoring of the housing market. Sustainable urban development is a core objective.
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Examples from China, Kenya, South Africa and Sweden
Tuesday 4 September
4:30 - 6:30 pm
Pavilion 5
Room 15
Event NE 81