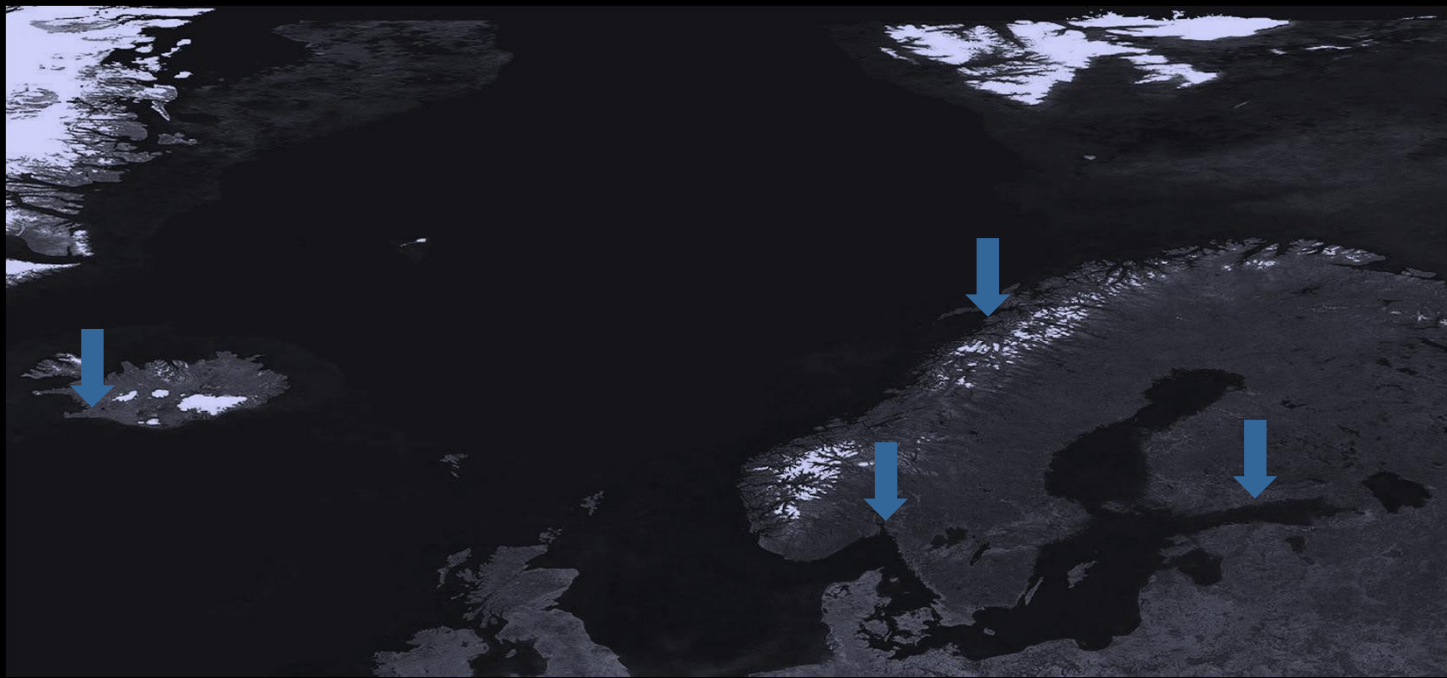




ASSOCIATION



REYKJAVIK

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Rintala Eggertsson Architects





Making of Architecture

1999-2019 workshop no: 195



*"Education for sustainability above all means the creation of
space for transformative social learning*

Such space includes:

*space for alternative paths of development,
space for new ways of thinking, valuing and doing,
space for participation minimally distorted by power relations,
space for pluralism, diversity and minority perspectives,
space for deep consensus, but also for respectful disagreement and
differences ,
space for counter-hegemonic thinking,
space for self-determination, and, finally,
space for contextual differences."*

*'Mirroring, Gestaltswitching and transformative social learning'
- Stepping stones for developing sustainability competence*

Arjen E.J. Wals
Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Place and public health: the impact of architecture on wellbeing

Architecture helps shape the quality of our environments and can contribute to health and happiness

Houses

Public spaces !



Health,

as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), is "a state of complete **physical, mental and social well-being** and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

Health may be defined as the ability **to adapt and manage** physical, mental and social challenges throughout life.

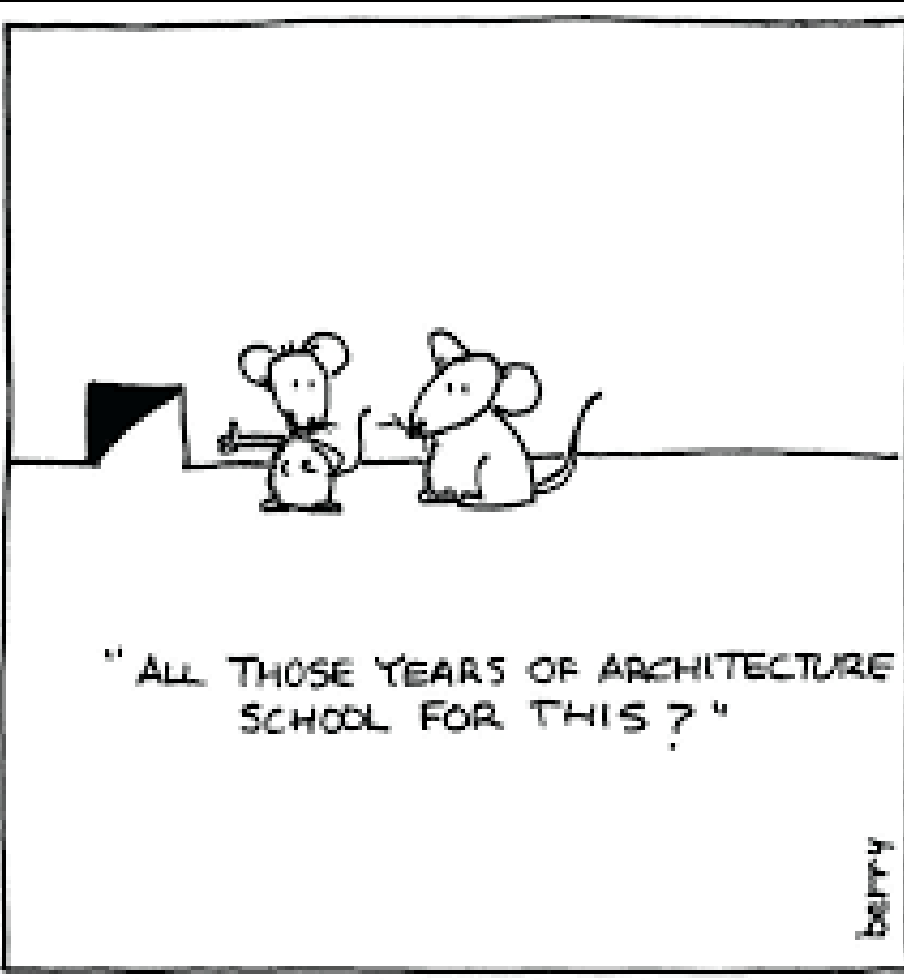
Architecture

is both the process and the product of planning, designing, and constructing buildings or any other structures.

Architectural works, in the material form of buildings, are often perceived as **cultural symbols** and as **works of art**.

Historical civilizations are often identified with their surviving architectural achievements.

1. *Making of it?*
2. *Living and working in it ?*



"ALL THOSE YEARS OF ARCHITECTURE
SCHOOL FOR THIS?"



Architecture 1:

Human centered/ Classical/ Cultural view:

- Cultural, political etc. symbol
- Work of art
- Sign of level of civilization

Vitruvius: De architectura

firmitas, utilitas, venustas – solid, useful, beautiful.

Architecture is an **imitation** of nature, shelter against the elements.

Alberti, Brunelleschi, Palladio, Boullee, Ledoux, Soane – Nordic
Classicism (Asplund, Aalto)

Architecture as a site specific human expression - compared to language/ dialect



Today: 6000 languages, 5000 with less than 100.000 speakers

Future: 1000 languages left in 100 years

Past: 60.000 languages 100 years ago

Loss of Human Biodiversity

Culture:

Human mind can form mental images of things that **does not exist**: imagined order, hierarchies , values and desires will defend the prevailing system.

Fiction of romantic, nationalistic, capitalistic, humanist myths

Nature:

Everything works together in a functional network that is in constant flux, trying out different ways to connect and use **what is available, existing**

Metabolism= ceaseless flow of energy through a network allowing life maintain and replenish itself.



CULTURE

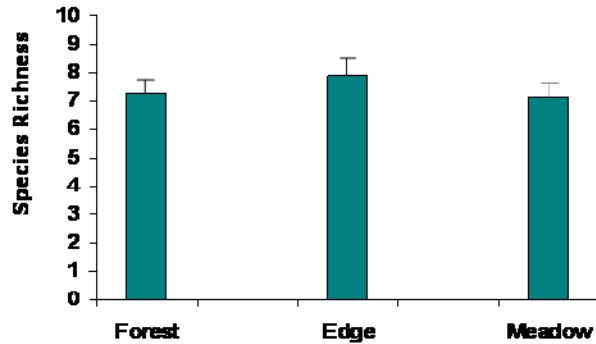
AGRICULTURE + URBANISM 3000 YEARS



NATURE

HUNTING AND GATHERING 2.000.000 years

Overall Species Richness



In ecology, **edge effects** refer to the changes in population or community structures that occur at the boundary of two habitats.

Areas with small habitat fragments exhibit especially pronounced edge effects that may extend throughout the range. As the edge effects increase, the boundary habitat allows for **greater biodiversity**.

Western
+
Educated
+
Industrial
+
Rich
+
Democratic
=

WEIRD





Advanced culture



Primitive culture

‘ We could define six steps in the development of creating control over the nature landscape as a set of historic and cultural strategies of occupying a territory:

1. Choosing a physical position in the landscape,
2. Making a shelter in the landscape,
3. Harvesting the landscape,
4. Constructing a home in the landscape,
5. Taming the whole landscape into an extended crafted homestead, village or urban man-made landscape
6. Losing control of the man-made dense landscape turning it into a mechanized landscape of production, traffic and information. ‘

Positioning

Every living creature- from bacteria in a small pond of liquid to a herd of antelopes on a savannah - tries to constantly position itself in the best place in a given situation.

The highest criteria for successful positioning in a landscape are **protection and overview**: To be protected against unfavorable conditions, weather and physical dangers, and meanwhile to be able to see movement of food and possible enemy from a safe distance.



Shelter/ Refuge + Control / Overview





Photograph by Yukihiro Fukuda

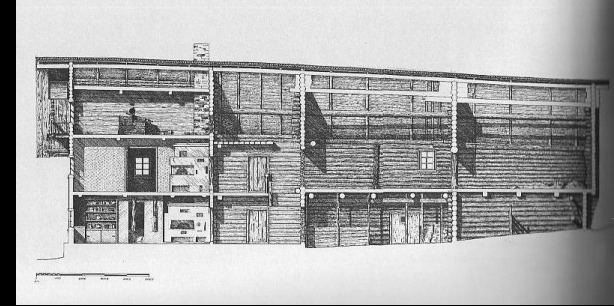
Visions of Earth
National Geographic, July 2008
© 2008 National Geographic Society. All rights reserved.



Home

Home is a more permanent base for movement to different directions, a reference point for undertaking activities in landscape. It is also the private arena for marital and family life and becomes thus **the major showcase of individual and cultural identity.**

Forming a permanent settlement of this character is a more complex phenomenon: although strongly related to cultural cluster or territory, it is always one single person who decides to call one place at a time by that name. Being an individual choice, home is the result of a person's claim for a place.



Nordic cultural identity as a home



The landscape of production, transit and information, coined the mechanized landscape may lead to **biological alienation**:

Position is now defined by the rules of consumption, production and traffic. As active physical *positioning* is no more necessary, it has been replaced by stagnant social *posing*.

Making or finding a shelter is not a necessary skill any more: The whole mechanized infrastructure tends to become a shelter in itself, but without offering any personal space. Larger and larger entities are being wrapped and folded inside a vacuum.

The making of a home is done merely by purchasing serial produced items and placing them to a serial produced house or apartment. Individual choices and identity are manifested merely by product placement.

Being reduced to a no-man's land, the landscape becomes the in-between spaces of highways and large halls, spaces of no interest, non-places.



‘ With aid of raising and **education** our children and grand-children are re-connected to reality and nature.

With building this means that all our houses and infrastructure is there to also create many-faceted biodiversity and living grounds. Architects together with biologists, farmers, foresters and geologist are able to design houses that at the same time are gardens and create positive micro-climates protecting and supporting natural magnifold. This symbiotic **gardening-construction** is made of local materials for local climate, no waste is generated.

On the level of an individual the quality of life becomes far better. We eat healthier and use our own body to tend, repair, **control and articulate** our own surroundings. Our houses are smaller, using this way less resources and energy, we need less things around us and the ones we do, are made better and thus last longer. Cheap mass production ends.

Understanding the **interconnectedness** of all things on the same planet and the limits of our common resources will add as a balancing effect. Movement mixes peoples and ease of access to information reduces political polarization and dropping off. ‘

Architecture at crossroads:

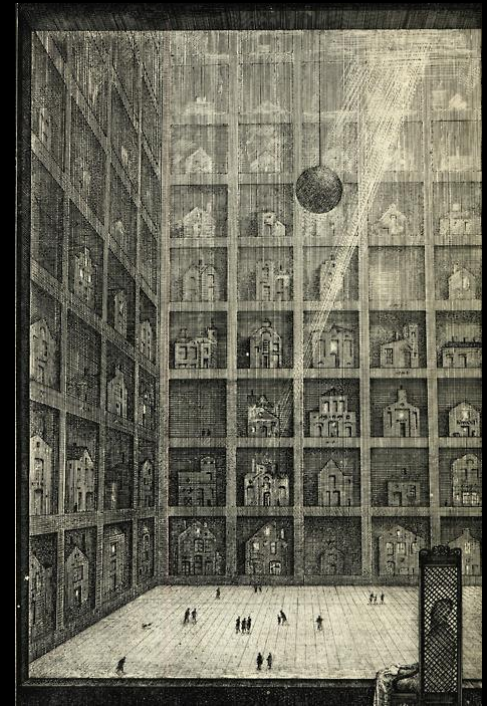
- source of positive experiences; expanding the possibilities of the users
- capitalized, neo-liberalized and owned by forces of market; reducing content and quality



Architectural content
still remains, and it is up
to us to use it and
believe in it.

It is about channelling it
back to people, to re-
appropriate architecture.

People who live in it,
have to have an
expression of their own
time and possibility to
thrive in it.



Kunst For Dyr / Art For Animals

Land Art with 11 year old school kids

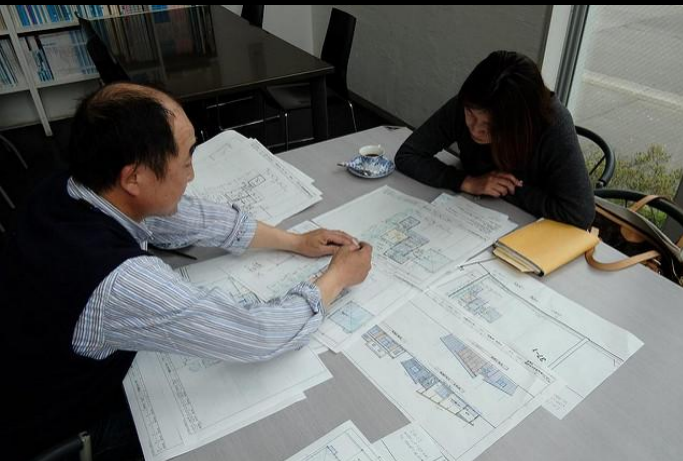


POST TSUNAMI ARCHITECTURE IN JAPAN

Naomi Sato, a mother and temporary housing resident, envisioned a combined roadside market and youth centre for Kitakami, which she named [We Are One](#). In her vision, the centre would sell fresh food and supplies, and provide a safe, clean and peaceful space for children. The centre would employ a small group of mothers to stock and vend merchandise and look after the youth activities.

Sato was introduced to architect [Fumihiko Sasaki](#), whose firm had built a reputation on small-scale wooden projects. A traditional Japanese building material, wood carries with it a sense of comfort, and, when left untreated for interior finishes, lowers the risks of combined indoor ailments known as sick building syndrome.

The client and architect collaborated to design a building focusing on health, inside and out, from the fresh fish and community garden vegetables sold in the market to the thermal and acoustic insulation imbued by the walls themselves, to the carpentry construction techniques. The innovative building system pieced together several wood frame modules, a strategy that reduced the overall cost. Other design decisions ensured that the centre would quickly and permanently make up for the post-tsunami loss of public space.



1. SCALE AND ECONOMY

Focus on the quality of space, material and natural light while minimizing floor area.

2. THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE

Create site-specific structures that are well adjusted to the terrain and climate. Treat surrounding landscape as physical and contextual material that cooperates with the architectural idea.

3. CULTURAL READING

Architecture defines cultural identity. It creates fruitful collages that become meeting and fusion points of local and global, old and new. Inclusion and managing of complexity through narrative and poetry rather than exclusion and reduction.

4. EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Organize hands-on design & build workshops with clients, users and students to ensure ownership, social engagement and local empowerment.

5. SENSORIAL EXPERIENCE

Design spaces and atmospheres that enhance the use of senses. Use materiality and natural light to create an atmosphere where it is possible to be present in reality.

6. FUNCTIONALITY

Design structures that have a technically sound life-cycle from production to use to disposal/ recycling. Flexibility.



Reading list:

Architecture:

Douglas Spencer : *The Architecture of Neoliberalism -
How Contemporary Architecture Became an Instrument of Control and Compliance*

Biology:

E.O Wilson: *On Human Nature, Biophilia*

Social Anthropology:

Jared Diamond: *The World until Yesterday: What Can We Learn from Traditional Societies?*
Davis, Wade (2009). *The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World*
Robert Pogue Harrison: *Forests - The Shadow of Civilization*
Gardens- An Essay on the Human Condition

Sociology:

Richer Sennett: *The Fall of Public Man, **The Craftsman***

Philosophy/ Phenomenology:

Gaston Bachelard: *The Poetics of Space*
Christian Norberg-Schulz, Genius Loci: *Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture*
Juhani Pallasmaa, *The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses*
Holl, Pallasmaa, Perez-Gomez: *Questions of Perception.*