



Editor's Foreword

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10th Annual Architectural Research Symposium in Finland was arranged at Aalto University in October 2018. The subtitle was Global North – Global Challenges and Local Responses in Contemporary Architecture, which we rather intended to raise discussion on the differences and similarities between Southern and Northern planning and architectural models and the perhaps future ideals – if there still are in the contracting world view.

UNESCO Education has defined: Globalisation is the ongoing process that is linking people, neighbourhoods, cities, regions and countries much more closely together than they have ever been before. This has resulted in our lives being intertwined with people in all parts of the world via the food we eat, the clothing we wear, the music we listen to, the information we get and the ideas we hold.

We were welcoming research papers in the field of architecture and urban design with regard to globalisation and its effects on architectural culture. Potential papers were encouraged to provide pragmatic case-studies of professional practice, design methods, urban planning and building projects or architectural interventions, to introduce innovative research methods or experiments in architectural education, or offer re-readings from the history of architecture. Under different subtitles we presented nine themes starting from subjects concerning individual and universal humanity, regionalism and challenges focusing cultural heritage until global market questions and sustainable materials and methods.

The call for papers produced in the first round almost fifty abstracts from all over the world. After the double peer review into the symposium came 26 extended abstracts for oral presentations and first time also six poster abstracts. The call for full papers to be published in Architectural Research in Finland, Vol.4, no.1 was opened in January 2019, but the stream of full articles was not particularly rich, and then some authors left the process – so in the end ARF is now publishing four very well processed research articles and two interesting keynote speeches.

Pirjo Sanaksenaho writes in her keynote paper, how the concept of the Modern Home has inspired both film makers and writers of interior design books and magazines for decades. She mentions for example Jacques Tati's film *Mon Oncle* where Monsieur Hulot gets acquainted with a modern kitchen with all its machines and automation. Sanaksenaho has responded with her research to the need for knowledge about the

post-war period of Finnish architecture of single-family houses, with the new modern ideals of living on one level, with big windows, sliding doors, open fireplaces and bar kitchens. Magazines as her research material show how the family life was presented in the homes which followed the aesthetic and functional ideas first presented in journals of architecture and design.

Marija Drémaitė starts her keynote paper with a quote of Lithuanian architect Vytautas Čekanauskas recalling his first study trip to Finland in 1959: 'In Finland we really felt architecture.' The influence of Nordic architecture is often emphasized when discussing Baltic (Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian) design in the State Socialist period. Indeed, as opportunities for tourist travel and foreign exchange programs increased in the late 1950s, the Soviet Architects' Association began to organize professional delegations that included several representatives from each of the Baltic Republics, dispatched on fact-finding missions to Finland. Drémaitė argues that Finnish modern architecture, which was experienced at first hand during these study trips, was perceived as an acceptable model for Baltic architects who wished to belong to the international community of modern architecture, while retaining a national idiom and a distinctive character within the USSR. Together these two interesting keynote papers reflect how the modern architecture was materializing in different manifestations but still retained the central core ideals.

Helena Sandman argues in her article that to build sustainable communities in the rapidly urbanizing Global South, the inhabitants must be heard and be part of the development process. The profession of architects must adapt and evolve, too. To involve inhabitants, architects can use contextually suitable and effective design methods. Her study comprised research through design of an affordable housing design project in Zanzibar, Tanzania. She notes how professional architects are necessary (and sometimes legally required) within rapid urbanization processes, and there is a general scarcity of the profession in the Global South. Per capita, there are 20 times as many professional architects in the Global North as there are in the Global South.

The shortage of professionals engenders situations in which architects might have too many duties, come from another region, or from another social level than the inhabitants. Sandman presents how the practice of architecture can evolve and accommodate new flexible methods for inhabitant engagement in the design process. However, these methods need to correspond to local culturally specific customs not to reinforce and recreate colonial legacies.

Sara Porzilli's article presents the potentials of digital methods and techniques for the documentation of the Nordic cultural heritage. The methods are applied in two architectural examples, which then are monitored with the goals of the Madrid Document (2011). The verification of authenticity and the understanding of architectural values are beneficiaries from the current technological advancements. Porzilli argues, that the traces of the past, the presence of old buildings and traditional constructions cannot be ignored, because as a testimony of the past they provide a solid starting point for new, more coherent, sustainable, harmonic and creative urban development. In her two case studies from Oulu Porzilli demonstrates new methodological and digital tools that can support a correct documentation.

Mikko Vesisenaho and **Mirja Lievonen** are addressing (re)design of educational premises in their article. As *learning situations* diversify along with advancing ICT practices, an ever more challenging question for spatial design is: *what* provides *enabling settings* for learning? Apart from understanding the user requirements, the question is also about how well the settings are embedded into the local practices. In a (re)design process, multiple stakeholder perspectives are involved, each constrained in

Architectural Research in Finland, Vol.4, no.1 (2020)

their expertise, way of articulating the topic area, and terminology used which poses a challenge to design communication. Dialogue is a key for different stakeholders to learn from others' points of view, and to establish a common ground. The authors focus here on a methodological question: how could different stakeholder perspectives be brought together to best capture information relevant to the spatial design of the educational settings? Could an articulation tool help to focus attention on relevant issues in terms of spatial design and thereby, to map contributions within a bigger picture of the project? The authors of the paper take *learning situation* as a core concept as they seek to compose a simple articulation tool to aid dialogue in a (re)design process between key stakeholder perspectives.

Ilari Karppi and **Iina Sankala** present in their article how transit-oriented development (TOD) is one of the attempts to tackle the challenges of urban design now, when strong international and domestic migration is transforming Finland's spatial setup and the Nordic welfare state model with healthy environments is in danger. The paper is based on case-study data from Tampere city region and its on-going light rail transit (LRT) construction process as an example of the current TOD thinking. It also makes references to comparable or otherwise interesting international LRT processes as discussed in planning journals or based on the authors' own observations and fieldwork.

The process of this **Architectural Research in Finland, Vol.4, no.1 (2020)** has taken some time, but after all – we are very happy to proudly publish these articles!