



Introduction

The 6th Annual Symposium of Architectural Research 2014 and The Annual NAAR Symposium arranged in the October 23–25, 2014 at the Oulu School of Architecture (OSA) is a continuum to the novel tradition of arranging an annual research event by the three Finnish Schools of Architecture. The symposium was arranged for the first time in the year 2009. The current Symposium has besides the national also a Nordic dimension, since the Nordic Association of Architectural Research (NAAR) has arranged the Symposium together with the Oulu School of Architecture.

The aim of *The Annual Symposium of Architectural Research* is to establish research as part of architectural discourse. In an international context it is quite exceptional that universities together are able to arrange a high quality annual research event. One of the reasons for co-operation is the limited number of architectural researchers in each of the universities. The Symposium is an important arena for researchers to disseminate and discuss actual research questions, topics and results with both academics and practitioners. For doctoral students the Symposium offers a place to join the discussion, network, practice conference skills and to get peer-reviewed articles published for their doctoral dissertations.

Three years ago, in the 3rd *National Symposium of Architectural Research 2011* at Oulu (Herneoja et.al. 2013), we offered all the participants a possibility to submit their seminar papers in the Symposium proceedings in two categories, peer-reviewed or non-peer-reviewed. This year we reached even further, and used the Open Journal Systems (OJS) –open access publishing platform hosted by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. The usage of OJS for free was possible thanks to one of the Symposium organizers, the Finnish Association of Architects SAFA, a member of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. The criteria of the publication were set high, since the aim of the publication is to fulfill the criteria of the official Finnish Publication Forum to receive recognition at Level 1 (basic).

The Scientific Committee members, not announced to the writers, representing various national and international architecture schools and other expert organizations, carried out the review process arranged by the organizing group of the OSA. Accordingly, the true double blind peer-review process of full articles was available. At least two of the three reviewers of each article were professors and/or research active post docs and one of the reviewers was professional expert and/or research active professional. We are sincerely grateful for the Scientific Committee members for their careful contribution to the peer-review process. Seven full articles were accepted for publishing. The writers of the peer-reviewed articles come from several countries: Belgium, Sweden and Finland, from all the three Finnish schools of architecture. The variety of nationalities among the authors of non-peer-review articles is even broader, and they represent besides Finland, Belgium, Canada, Sweden and Turkey. We are sincerely grateful for all the writers of both categories for their efforts to conduct high quality scientific articles. Finally, we give acknowledgements for the Scientific Board members for confirming the peer-reviewing process of the full articles.

The theme of the symposium - *Designing and Planning the Built Environment for Human Well-being* - is once again actual in the rapidly urbanizing world, and we seem to lack research based knowledge of what kind of built environments has the ability to promote good life, the experience of freedom, health, personal security and good social relationships. Our aim was to discuss how to bridge knowledge gaps between the planning, design, production, use and transformation of the Northern built environment in the context of human wellbeing. In addition, theoretical and philosophical discussion openings were

asked for. The Symposium call of papers resulted abstracts and manuscripts covering the themes of Theory and Methodology, Urban Design and Planning, Cultural Heritage, Spatial Experience and Learning and Working Environment. Since the research of human - built environment relationship benefits of a cross and trans disciplinary approach, we wanted to welcome researchers and practitioners in architecture, urban design and planning, geography, cultural anthropology, social sciences, ecology, and other fields related to architectural studies to present their work.

To deepen the discussion around the conference theme we invited three keynote lecturers. Professor Kristina L. Nilsson from Luleå University of Technology, Unit of Architecture, Sweden is discussing about the very essential theme of *Liveable urban environment* in her keynote lecture. Professor Jonathan Hale, the University of Nottingham, UK is enlightening the contents of *Materiality, Movement and Meaning: Architecture and the Embodied Mind* in his keynote lecture. Cultural Anthropologist Dr. Tiina Suopajarvi from the University of Oulu, Finland highlights the human well-being of senior citizens in built environment through her keynote lecture titled *Lived, sensed and contested: ageing in a smart city*. We are sincerely grateful for Professor Nilsson, Professor Hale and Dr. Suopajarvi of contributing their expertise to the Symposium.

Finally, we thank the members of the Organizing Committee of *The 6th Annual Symposium of Architectural Research 2014* and *The Annual NAAR Symposium* for their great efforts to arrange the Symposium once again. We are also sincerely grateful for The Finnish Cultural Foundation, The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies and The University of Oulu for the financial support to the Symposium.

Dean, Professor Helka-Liisa Hentilä
Chair of the Organizing Committee
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