



WORKSHOP
THE SPOKANEANS
CITY

GOTHENBURG
RINGON

4-7 SEPTEMBER 2012



WORKSHOP READER

THE SPONTANEOUS CITY IN RINGÖN, GOTHENBURG

SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome

The Spontaneous City Programme by Gert Urhahn and Bernardina Borra welcomes you for a 4 days workshop to share knowledge and exchange ideas and concept by working together on the area of Ringön. The workshop is organized thanks to the Property Management Administration of the city of Gothenburg and this reader is meant as small guide to introduce all the participants to the area, the themes and organization of this short but new experience all together.

Wish you a collaborative and constructive week,

Gert Urhahn and Bernardina Borra



Göteborgs Stad
Fastighetskontoret

Urhahn+Borra
URBAN DESIGNERS

IFHP
FIHUAT
IVWSR

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INTRODUCTION

The IFHP Working Group on the Spontaneous City seeks to provide a contemporary response to fixed, large-scale master planning through a focus on open-ended outcomes. This working group seeks to gain a deeper understanding of how we can “plan” for spontaneity, creating user-defined places that are flexible and adaptable, while forging innovative cooperation that makes inclusive development possible.

Several trends and past traditions similar in their nature, but different in expression, occur all over the world generating different urbanities. We do believe that The Spontaneous City approach can fit and apply to many different places. That is because The Spontaneous City deals directly with local specificity: the history, the people, the culture and the topography in place. The Spontaneous City in Gothenburg can never be the same as in Rotterdam, New York or Shanghai. We are looking forward to explore the Spontaneous City’s principles in other parts of the world collaborating locally.

In this sense, Spontaneous City is not only a method for how to reinvent the city but a call for urban designers, planners and architects to reinvent themselves.

AIM AND AMBITIONS

The general idea of the Workshop is to bring the Spontaneous City in practice on the site. What means to bring people from different fields and disciplines together: officials of City departments or project groups, students of the University and stakeholders from the Ringön location together for collaborating during the workshop. The theme's are coming out of the Spontaneous City approach as well as of the local conditions.

The outcome of the workshop will be a Spontaneous City practice experience for the participants and some inspiring ideas about the future of the area of Ringön for the City of Gothenburg bound to local issues. After the workshop we will summarize the results in a booklet. In the end we will present it to the Property Management Administration of the City of Gothenburg (and others). Besides that there is the idea to present and discuss the results of the workshop also on the IFHP congress of 14 – 17 September 2012. The Property Management Administration will later this year invite the participants to a meeting, to inform how the department intends to proceed with the result of the workshop.



FORMAT

The 20-25 participants will be divided into small groups and Gert Urhahn and Bernardina Borra, and Lisa Häggdahl and Ann-Sofie Jeppson from the Property Management Administration will always be present during the workshop sessions. The 3+1 days workshop will be fostered and inspired by a series of lectures to open a dialogue on potentials and possibilities of Ringön as industrial area integrated into the city.

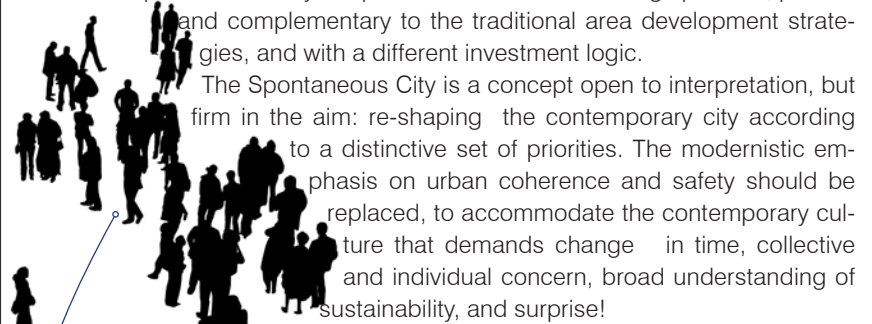
The opening and conclusion events are open to the public, but also every day at 17.00 there will be an open door moment where special guests from the city will be invited, and anybody who feels interested might come in and follow/engage into the discussion. This gathering moment at the end of the day will give the pace and every group is invited to wrap up partial conclusion each day. Therefore at the end of each day every group will give an in-progress presentation. This will be without pretending to achieve an end product since the beginning, but challenging each time a different issue and building little by little to discuss with the others. On the last day a final presentation will be given and the aim is not to achieve a fully fledged plan, but to bring people together to identify the most important issues and hidden values of Ringön for Gothenburg.

- DURATION:** 3 1/2 days
- PARTICIPANTS:** 20-25 persons divided in 5 groups: Municipality, University, users
- FORMAT:** Interdisciplinary approach in mixed groups
- LAB:** lectures, working sessions, open discussions, site excursions
- THEMES:** The Spontaneous City, Collective value and Port & City, RiverCity Gothenburg, Industry in the city, Open development, Civic economy, Street Management



THE SPONTANEOUS CITY MANIFESTO ANOTHER PRACTICE

The Spontaneous City is a plea for another Urban Design practice, parallel and complementary to the traditional area development strategies, and with a different investment logic.



The Spontaneous City is a concept open to interpretation, but firm in the aim: re-shaping the contemporary city according to a distinctive set of priorities. The modernistic emphasis on urban coherence and safety should be replaced, to accommodate the contemporary culture that demands change in time, collective and individual concern, broad understanding of sustainability, and surprise!

The Spontaneous City is dealt by its inhabitants, in a never ending process of transformation and adaptation.

Individuals and groups, including both residents and business people, re-use or re-organize spaces in apartments block, workplaces, parks and street. The potential of city dwellers has too long been ignored.

Co-design, Co-production, Co-property and Co-responsibility are no longer just fashionable terms, but accepted design forms in terms of sustainable urban development, which have to be implemented and applied more and more in a larger scope in collaboration with the big companies and local authority.

The framework of The Spontaneous City has been developed through more than 20 years, according also to older principles, and is still under development. However, today's conditions –the failure of neo-liberalism, and the consequent definitive economical crisis- made evident the negative aspects of the current planning methods and, in a way, becomes a catalyst for The Spontaneous City.

**CHANGE IN TIME,
COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL
CONCERN,
BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF
SUSTAINABILITY,
AND SURPRISE!**

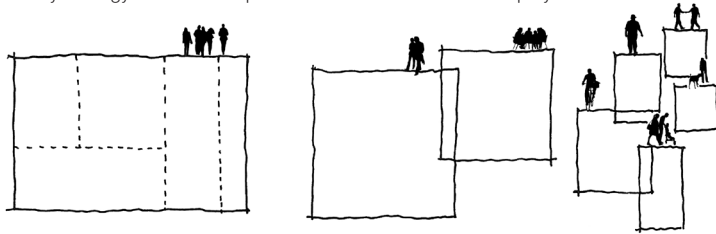
**IT IS NO TIME ANYMORE
FOR ONE WAY,
AUTISTIC, GRAND PROJECTS.**

PRINCIPLES

The Spontaneous City is based on four leading principles

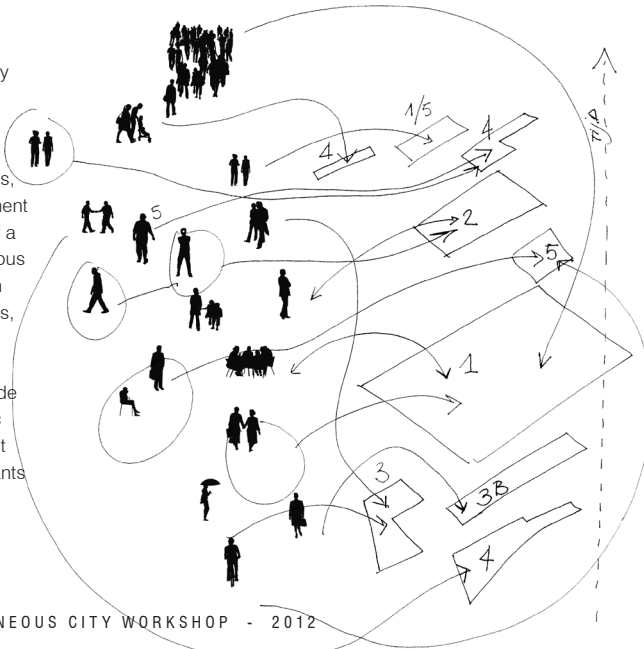
ZOOM IN

To alternatively shift from one scale to the other- means embracing a development process simultaneously at the disposal of many initiators. It is essential to map out local needs, relevant players in renovation districts, and the prospects –or rather obstructions– they face. A thorough examination of both social conditions and urban planning regulations is a necessary strategy for the urban planner and this demands a sharp eye for detail.



SUPERVISE OPEN DEVELOPMENT

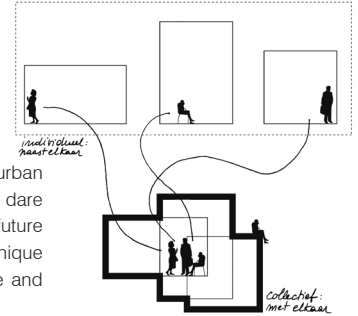
Urban functions, architecture, density and lifestyle are constantly changing factors. Sustained development means that a city district or quarter must be able to adapt according to these changes, in terms of housing and employment functionality. Non-linear design of a city ensures its vitality. Simultaneous supervision of project initiators, in varying frequencies and directions, is of paramount importance. The blueprint must be absolutely in tune with the map indicating a wide range of possibilities and specific opportunities. An urban plan must inspire a broad range of participants and, at the same time, be able to adapt to the rules of the game as they are being played.



CREATE COLLECTIVE VALUE

Defining shared ambition is an integral part of the game. It is a political process that must be developed both publicly and expertly. It involves collective investment, for example in innovative street patterns, parks, energy infrastructure or water quality, in order to conserve a city's heritage and enhance its public spaces. Acknowledgement of separate entities and future values is a component of a producer's anticipatory and imaginative power.

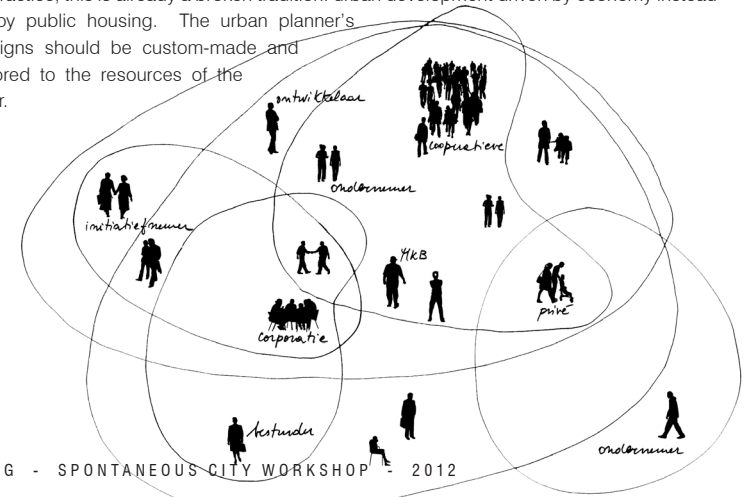
Nature, water, landscape, accessibility, heritage and architecture are combined to create collective values and inspire new forms of utilisation. These are strategically important elements for an urban planner of the 21st century: common values make it possible to dare dream about the environment of tomorrow. In anticipation of this future vision, the planner works on developing an area's quality, unique character and coherence, confident of the city user's resilience and conflict-resolving nature.



BE USER ORIENTED

Participatory structures must surpass participation itself. The energy, creativity and investment capacity of all involved parties must be embraced in order to meet future challenges head on. Fresh approaches and resources are needed, from micro-financing of local projects to digital visual platforms. Innovations can already be found in abundance, but must be intensified in order to reach as many potential project initiators possible, from top businesses through to deprived urban districts.

Residents, associations, companies and co-operatives should be given an active role in urban renewal initiatives. Boosting of endogenous investment capacity plays a central role. In practice, this is already a broken tradition: urban development driven by economy instead of by public housing. The urban planner's designs should be custom-made and tailored to the resources of the user.



RINGÖN AND THE RIVERCITY



The RiverCity area is oriented to the Göta River as the major structuring element of the city. It encompasses a 4 km² large area on both sides of the river.

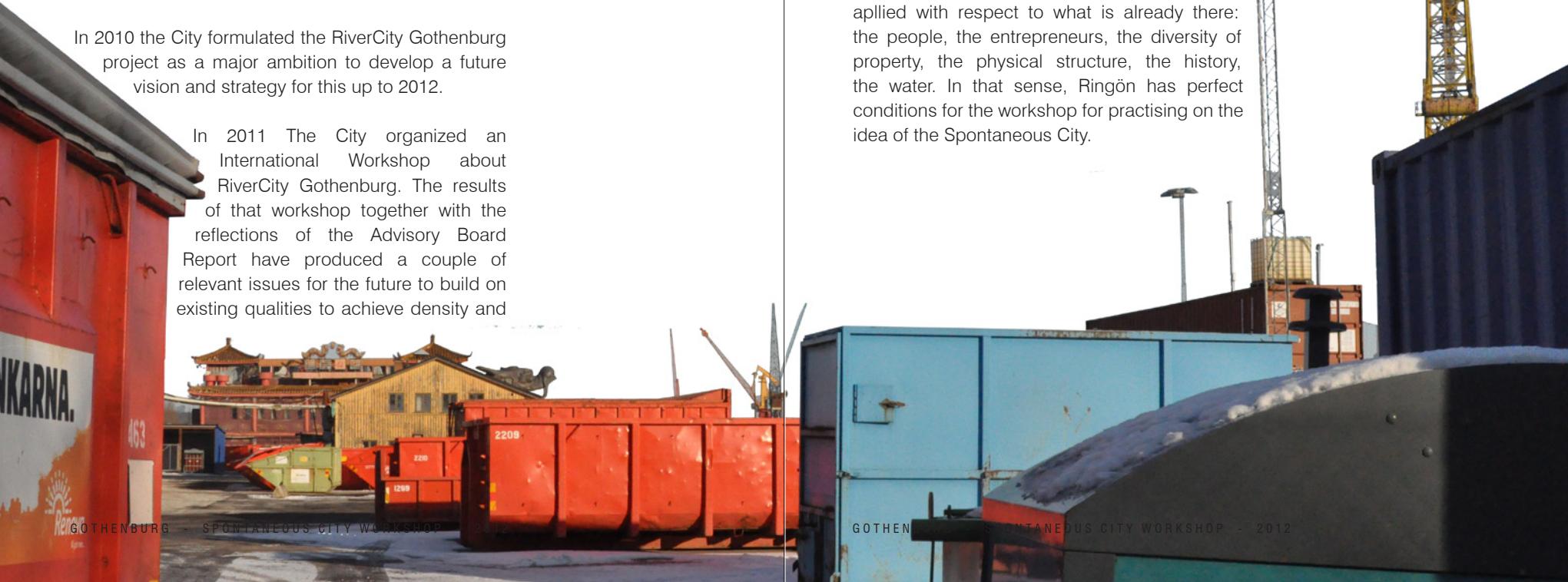
Urban development has been on both sides of the river, and the connection between port and shipyard activities has been strong throughout the history of the city. Most shipyard activities have been phased out, but the city's industrial heritage is still visible. Despite the river's size and significance, the river is relatively absent in the Gothenburg urban landscape and activities.

In 2010 the City formulated the RiverCity Gothenburg project as a major ambition to develop a future vision and strategy for this up to 2012.

In 2011 The City organized an International Workshop about RiverCity Gothenburg. The results of that workshop together with the reflections of the Advisory Board Report have produced a couple of relevant issues for the future to build on existing qualities to achieve density and

mix, culture and bottom-up processes.

Within RiverCity Gothenburg's locations, the one of Ringön appeared to be a quite specific area within the wider picture urging for a sensitive approach. The general idea for the future of Ringön was, to keep its industrial character with various smaller enterprises and water related businesses. The area's strategic position, close to the city centre, the river, the bridge and highways should be carefully respected and improved. A gradual transformation should be applied with respect to what is already there: the people, the entrepreneurs, the diversity of property, the physical structure, the history, the water. In that sense, Ringön has perfect conditions for the workshop for practising on the idea of the Spontaneous City.





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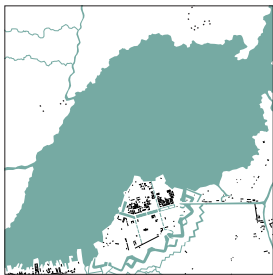
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RINGÖN AND SURROUNDINGS

Ringön is located alongside the north banks of the Göta River and is located close to the inner city and the Central Station of Gothenburg. It was created as an artificial island by landfill in the Tingstadvassen around 1880, surrounded by the circular canal Ringkanalen. Port operations were here intended up from the very beginning. Once the land was made, many industries moved to Hisingen. In 1874, the ferry line between Kvillebäcken and Lilla Bommen was replaced by a bridge. Today's Göta River bridge was inaugurated in 1939. The old bridge to Hisingen was razed in 1969. When the shipyard crisis hit the city during the late 1960's, the area transformed slowly into an industrial area.

Actually Ringön has a very strategic position, close to the city centre, the Göta River bridge and Tingstadstunnel and the railtracks. The area is limited in contact to its surroundings by hard edges: the arterial road Lundbyleden, the railways yard Kvillebangården, the interchange Ringömotet, the Göta River bridge and the Göta River itself.

1621



1921

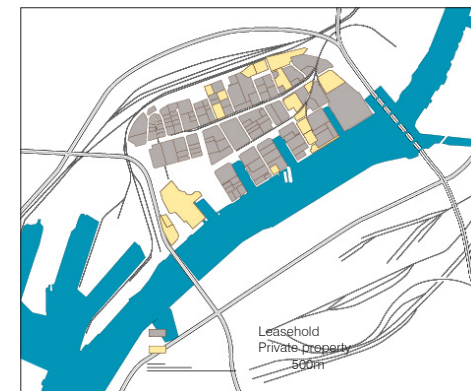


1972



The industrial district can be divided in 3 segments parallel to the river: areas which are located along and orientated towards the water with functions like boat and shipyard activities with a clear connection to the Göta River; the central strip bordered by two internal roads and the area next to the rail track emplacement. Along the westside and the eastside, Ringön is connected to the city and the region.

Today Ringön is a small scale industrial area. Most of the land is owned by the city and leased to a big variety of private entrepreneurs. The Kvillebangården railtrack area is owned by the national government. Other conditions are concerned with how the RiverCity Gothenburg influence the area and future connections to and over the River.



**LEASEHOLD AND
PRIVATE PROPERTY**

PROGRAM AGENDA

Day 1

OPENING

TUESDAY 4TH SEPT

- 12.00 Joint lunch
- 12.30 Opening by the Property Management
- 12.40 Introduction – GU, BB, LH
- Lecture on “The Spontaneous City” GU, BB
- Lecture on “RiverCity Gothenburg” BA
- Site visit

Day 2

WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPT

- 08.00 Final group definition and first working session
- 08.30 Working session
- 11.30 Lecture on Port and City and Collective Value GU 1/2h
- 12.00 Lecture on Open development BB 1/2h
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 13.00 Lecture on civic Economy JB
- Working session
- 17-18.00 open door presentation about the work of the day

Day 3

THURSDAY 6TH SEPT

- 08.00 Working session
- 12.00 Lecture on Industry in the City GU 1/2h
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 13.00 Lecture on Street Management EdK
- Working session
- 17-18.00h open door presentation about the work of the day

Day 4

CONCLUSION

FRIDAY 7TH SEPT

- 8.00 Working session the whole day
- Finalization of the proposals by each group
- 16.00h Presentation
- Farewell event



THEMES

COLLECTIVE VALUE RELATED TO PORT AND CITY

By making the creation of collective value a starting point, we can deal in an intelligent and integral manner with the future of areas. This can encompass nature and water as well as cultural history, accessibility, landscape, public space, identity and experience. It can also mean something that is (or has to become) unquestionably useful and valuable, visible and accessible to everybody.

In which way can defining and creating collective value contribute to fostering new forms of interaction between the city and water in a sustainable manner? The concept of collective value can be applied at different scales: local, regional or inter-regional. Applied well, public value can also generate financial value. How can we define what these values are and how can we generate them in transformation areas? This issue is extremely relevant when applied to Port and City connecting areas.

City and Port have a very sensitive interface. Switching point of view, thinking to land from water rather than to water from land helps unravelling solution for the fundamental questions: how to combine the port's economic progress and transformation with the city's urban expansion in a long-term sustainable relationship? How can port and industrial activities best be accommodated in a contemporary city region? How can a city region benefit from the presence of a port that is highly visible and present? Are ports able to generate a sense of place and enhance a city's identity? A harbour within a city is more than just shipping, logis-

GERT URHAHN



1945 4th June Germany,
Dutch nationality
MSc Architecture and
Urban Design

Gert Urhahn is an urban designer, lecturer and former Director of Urhahn Urban Design. He founded the Amsterdam based office in 1991 and developed it into an innovative urban design practice with a broad international portfolio of projects in cities such as Amsterdam, London, Antwerp or Oaxaca. Previously, Gert was Senior Urban Designer for the Municipality of Amsterdam, strongly engaged in the redevelopment of the Amsterdam waterfronts. His particular interest is to revitalize the relationship between citizens and their city. He has published extensively on regeneration strategies, urban typologies and principles and recently a book on 'The Spontaneous City'. Currently Gert is associate to Urhahn Urban Design. He is a member of the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), and chair of the IFHP Working Group 'The Spontaneous City'.

tics and water control. It is also urban landscape, cultural heritage, recreation, and public means. Expanding or transforming harbour facilities needs to go hand in hand with cultural, recreational and natural reserves developments. A well balanced and integral approach strengthens these interests one another. And think again: Water is fascinating on it's own.

INDUSTRY IN THE CITY

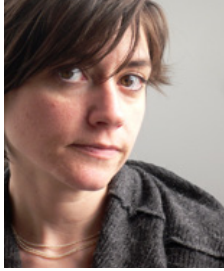
Industry, warehousing and similar activities provide important employment and exchange areas that can be intensified in compatible ways to the rest of the city. For instance high-density building typologies could include residential accommodation in close proximity to light industrial activities, storage and workshops. Based on case studies of international best practice, strategies can be outlined at area, block and building level proposing practical solutions for issues such as transport and logistics, noise and image, public space quality and shared social infrastructure.

OPEN DEVELOPMENT

Each city is a living project that renovates itself organically and is subject to too many factors to be sharply predictable. Diagnoses of trends and needs can be investigated and are useful tools, but do not provide total certainty about how to proceed and handle with care. Openness is a key factor to achieve flexibility in planning. Once collective goals are commonly stated, an open development process establishes a common horizon that can be achieved with a step-by-step approach. By doing so the planning strategy can logically and pragmatically change according to the actual situation and conditions without losing the final goal, rather being objective in terms of risks and constraints.

Strictly related to the open development, where and how to start is a critical question. Maybe starting simple and easy may not seem the most challenging and appealing, but could be the most effective and providing the fastest feedback. To start changing an area means working on its image and on people's engagement: testing how far everybody is open for surprise and change, and how many energies does it require and are available on site and outside it. Different methods can be used mainly divided in far distanced engagement (e.g; crowd sourcing) or in place involvement (e.g. small events, temporary actions...)

BERNARDINA BORRA



1976 12th January Italy,
Italian and Belgian
nationality
MArch Architecture and
Urban Design

Bernardina Borra is graduated from the faculty of Architecture at the University of Roma III and from the post graduate laboratory of the Berlage Institute. She is co-founder of DemoArchitects and works as urban designer in Brussels and Amsterdam where she regularly collaborates with Gert Urhahn in relation to The Spontaneous City. Bernardina is also PhD runner at TU Delft. Her PhD thesis investigates collective subjectivity and its interrelations to the urban project. She writes for different architectural magazines and is co-author and curator of several books. Her latest publication is Backstage-Architecture II, and will be presented during the Venice Biennale 2012.

CIVIC ECONOMY

Across the world, we are seeing how a set of economic behaviours are blossoming - we call it the Civic Economy. Our research has been published in a book (Compendium for the Civic Economy, 2011) which illustrates what places built upon a different economy might look like: edible public spaces, crowd-funded workspaces for social entrepreneurs, peer-to-peer car sharing websites, and town centre markets revitalised by a fresh approach to igniting good ideas. This is a trend that goes beyond traditional divides between the public, private and third sectors; an attitude that questions all aspects of supply chains and makes them more equitable; an approach that enables citizens to be co-producers and investors instead of just consumers; and an opportunity to unlock and share the resources we have more effectively.

We define the civic economy as comprising people, ventures and behaviours that fuse innovative ways of doing from the traditionally distinct spheres of civil society, the market and the state. Founded upon social values and goals, and using deeply collaborative approaches to development, production, knowledge sharing and financing, the civic economy generates goods, services and common infrastructures in ways that neither the state nor the market economy alone have been able to accomplish.

JOOST BEUNDERMAN



1979 17 03 the Netherlands,
Dutch nationality
MSc City Design &
Social Science

Joost Beunderman lives in London and has worked on Urhahn Urban Design's London projects since 2004. He is specialised in strategic urban development plans and in the analysis of national planning and development cultures. His key experience is as a multidisciplinary consultant on projects that integrate urban design with planning advice and urban regeneration. Joost Beunderman studied Urban Geography in Utrecht and at the University of California, Berkeley. He also has an MSc in City Design & Social Science (with distinction) at the Cities Programme of the London School of Economics. He works as a part-time researcher for Urhahn Urban design and for 00:/ [Architecture00], a research and strategy architecture practice, focused upon designing projects as prototypes for people-centred sustainability.

RIVERCITY GOTHENBURG

RiverCity Gothenburg will be open to the world. It will be inclusive, green and dynamic. It will be designed in a way that unifies the city, meeting the water and reinforcing the regional centre. Success in this endeavour requires openness, collaboration, knowledge development and strong leadership.

RiverCity Gothenburg is central Gothenburg along the river. Major areas of our city are waiting to be transformed into a living, attractive inner city. The task of producing the vision and strategies was commissioned by the City Council under the leadership of the City Executive Board. The process has involved the people of Gothenburg, municipal administration representatives, companies, private industry and academia. Since August 2010, public consultations, expert workshops, exchanges of experience, enquiries and studies have been conducted.

During the course of the work, a consensus has emerged about how the city ought to be developed. We should strive towards urban development where we make use of the features offered by the river and the water. We should understand and use our historical heritage. The city should be accessible for everyone, regardless of background, and it should be designed with meeting places that vary in nature and which promote activities in every form. The city should be open. We want to take possession of our city and use it for our own benefit and the benefit of others. We want a living city that can be extended cohesively

Bo ARONSSON

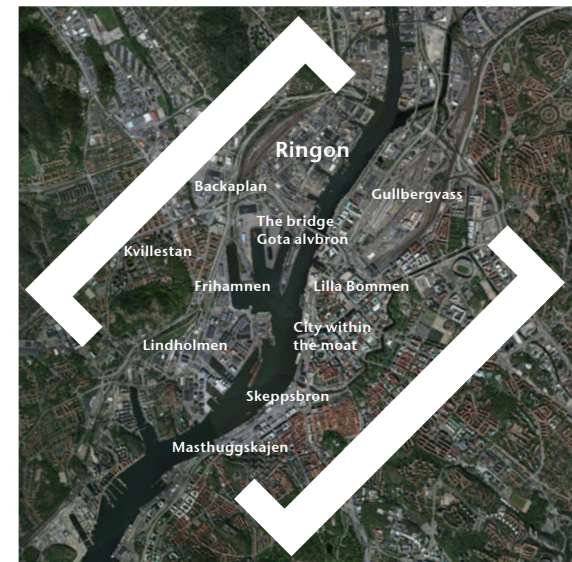


1948 09 18Sweden
Swedish Nationality
MSc Architecture and Urban
Design

Bo Aronsson is an architect and a city planner. He is currently working as the supervisor for the project RiverCity Gothenburg. Bo Aronsson is the former Head of Regional Planning, Gothenburg, and he has many years of experience as a consultant. Bo Aronsson is passionate about the development of the Gothenburg Region and works to support politicians in finding the forms of cooperation needed for a sustainable urban development.

across the river.

Following adoption by the City Council, the vision and strategies will form the basis for future work in the city with the aim of planning and developing RiverCity Gothenburg.



STREET AND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT

Defining ambitions, exploring the area and SWOT analyses, all this is necessary for adjusting changes, coping with threats, and eventually unravel successful plans. Implementation of these plans however will only succeed and have a sustainable result if the plans find support among residents, owners, entrepreneurs, employees and other users. It is on the streets where the real things happen, because users will always be there as plans will mostly fade over the years. Without their support the implementation will be slow or sabotaged.

Knowledge of all the actors in the street or area, but also insight in actual changing potential is vital. Who is taking the lead? How to create an environment where users grasp opportunities, maintain or contribute to collective values? What makes the implementation sustainable?

Implementation of changes is possible with a intensive micro-approach, so called street- or district management. Key elements of street management are micro-focus, time, patience, entrepreneurial drive and collective vision on problem-setting and necessity by (at least some of) the users.

ELLEN DE KROON



1976 30 03 The Netherlands,
Dutch nationality
MSocial and institutional
Economics

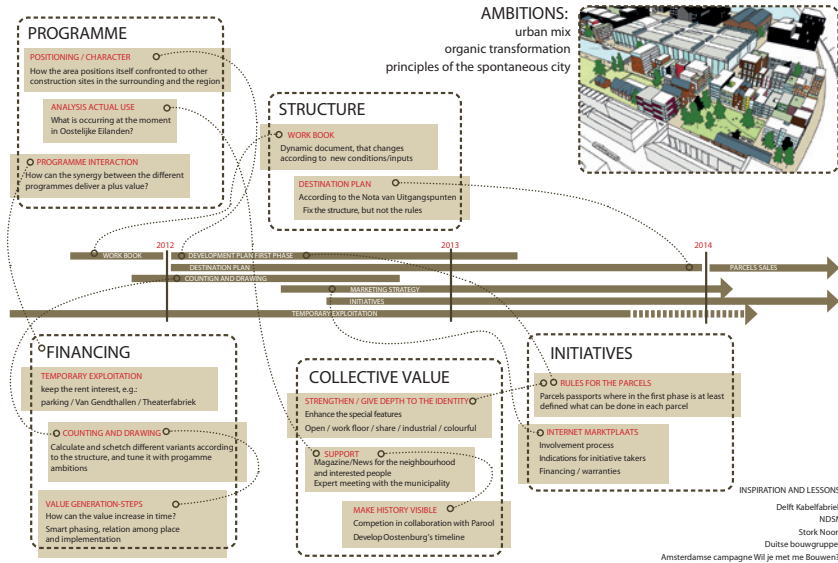
Ellen de Kroon's professional field spans from marketing and recruitment of participants, establishing associations, redeveloping projects, budget control, price negotiations with third parties, financial administration, streetmanagement.

At the moment she is project leader of a redevelopment of a former brewery and project leader at NV Zeedijk.

The company NV Zeedijk buys buildings in the Redlight district and renovates, rents and manages these. Aim is to enhance livability on the streets of this particular part of Amsterdam. Previously she has been project leader at Kuub and advised groups of individuals in the development of their own homes. Finding a balance between private and collective interests is Ellen's core motivation. Ellen also worked in several roles at a Dutch municipality of Utrecht, for instance as coordinator of special initiatives of future inhabitants in new neighbourhoods.



ROAD MAP EXAMPLE: AMSTERDAM OOSTENBURG



RINGÖN'S ROAD MAP DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Participants will be divided in 5 groups and each group will focus on a different topic: programme, structure, financing, collective value, and initiatives. At the end of each working day the groups will update each other about the specific developments. In order to discuss the vision in an integral way all together and restart the morning after with inputs from the others. The fourth day representatives of each group will work out together the final road map for Ringön, whilst the other will be working out the specific aspects of each topic.

PARTICIPANTS

Henrik Johansson	Claes Pettersson Åkeri	Company operating in Ringön
Gert Guldbrand	Lundby plåt	Company operating in Ringön
Jan Hilmersson	Bogser AB Sven	Company operating in Ringön
Niklas Nilsson	Ringö brygga AB	Company operating in Ringön
Lars Nilsson	Ringö brygga AB	Company operating in Ringön
Carl Sandén	Visionsgruppen	Company operating in Ringön
Martin Gidenstam	Eklandia Fastighets AB	Real estate company
Anita Lindberg	Sälta Fastighets AB	Real estate company
Pernilla Hallberg	Fastighetsägare Centrala Hisingen	Property owners association for central Hisingen
Erik Liedner	SCH Stadsplaneringsforum Centrala Hisingen	Urban planning ass. for people in central Hisingen
Janne Heiskanen	Master student Chalmers School of Architecture	
Sara Svensson	Master student Chalmers School of Architecture	
Sara Fast	Master student Chalmers School of Architecture	
Hilda Hallén	Master student Chalmers School of Architecture	
Anna Noring	City Planning Authority	
Erik Florberger	City Planning Authority	
Arvid Törnqvist	City Planning Authority	
Joel Blomgren	Lundby City District Administration	
Sören Olsson	University of Gothenburg, Dep of Social Work	
Patrik Fridh	Traffic and Public Transport Authority	
David da Cruz	Property Management Administration	
Sofie Bårdén	Property Management Administration	
Bernard le Roux	Administration for allocation of social welfare	
Manilla Shillingford	RiverCity Gothenburg	

N.B. it could be that the amount of participants slightly increases

Gert Urhahn	urban designer	gerturhahn@gmail.com
Bernardina Borra	urban designer	borra@demoarchitects.com
Lisa Häggdahl	property management administration	lisa.haggdahl@fastighet.goteborg.se
Ann-Sofie Jeppson	property management administration	ann-sofie.jeppson@fastighet.goteborg.se
Bo Arnosson	rivercity Gothenburg	
Joost Beunderman	social geographer	joost@research00.net
Ellen de Kroon	social economy advisor	ellendekroon@hotmail.com

WORKSHOP LOCATION

The workshop location is in proximity to Ringön at Kajskjul 107, Frihamnen 16 B. Please bring your personal laptop if you have one and a camera. We will be close to Ringön so that anyone at any time can go check the area/talk to people again.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Property Management Administration is working on behalf of the Property Management Committee and is responsible for the City of Göteborg's land and housing policy tasks. It includes creating conditions for good housing and good accommodations for those who live and want to live in Gothenburg as well as support businesses by providing land for industrial, commercial use, education / research, etc.

Ann-Sofie Jeppson and Lisa Häggdahl are working with strategic land use issues for the Property Management Administration. Both Ann-Sofie and Lisa will participate in the workshop as organizers.

LISA HÄGGDAHL



1979 19th March Sweden
MSc Spatial Planning

ANN-SOFIE JEPSSON



1951 14th March Sweden
MSc Architecture



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