ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION IN FINLAND
- A GLIMPSE TO THE EVERYDAY IN 2008

Pihla Meskanen
architect M.Sc.
Director of Arkki, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland

www.arkki.net
pihla.meskanen@mp.inet.fi
GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN FINLAND related to architecture education

Architecture was added in the National Core Curriculum of Arts Education in 1993.

The Finnish Architectural policy was issued in 1998. It contains a part which stresses the importance of architecture education for children.

In 2006 the National Board of Education included architecture in the elementary school curriculum.

In 2004 the Government founded a job called “Childrens Architecture Education Consultant” in Southern Finland.
ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION EVENT

BEE IN SCHOOLS - ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN THEME DAY IN SCHOOLS (October 2nd)
- CONNECTED TO NATIONAL DAY OF ARCHITECTURE (by UIA)

PROGRAM:
• ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS VISITING SCHOOLS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY
• BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE – architecture event for 500 children in Helsinki
• WEBSITE WITH ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION AID FOR TEACHERS
• PUBLICATIONS ABOUT ARCHITECTURE AND A.EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL SCHOOLS IN FINLAND (20.000 COPIES)

WWW.AMPIAINE.NI

AMPIAINE = BEE

Joint project by SAFA, Uusimaa Arts Council, Museum of Finnish Architecture, National Board of Education, Design Museum, Arkki School of Architecture & Helsinki Design Week
WEBSITES ON ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION

www.arkkitehtuurikasvatus.fi
- The website contains material to support built environment education, offers information on upcoming events and architectural training, and has an interactive material bank to offer inspiration for teachers. The purpose of the site is to support built environment education, offer information, intrigue, delight, challenge, and inspire!

www.arkki.net
- Website of Arkki, School of Architecture for Children and Youth. Mostly in finnish, contains information about architecture education available for children and youth in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa cities.

www.saunalahti.fi/lastu2
- LASTU, School of Architecture and Enviromental Education. Website contains information about the education and courses they offer for children and adults.

www.ampiainen.fi
- “The Bee”, website for the project architects and designers in schools. Contains educational material for teachers and a gallery displaying childrens projects.

www.viewpoint.fi
- “Viewpoint – investigating where we live” is a website containing educational material for teachers about using photography as a means to explore architecture and the environment.

www.mfa.fi

www.alvaraalto.fi
- Alvar Aalto museum and pedagogical material on architectural and design education

http://www.alvaraalto.fi/museum/pedagogi.htm
BOOKS FOR ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION

The “Agreeable environment”
Published by SAFA, the book was a pioneering step in Finnish civic education in architecture. The kit won tremendous popularity, particularly among art teachers. By Merja Härö, Liisa Piironen and Matti and Sari Vesikansa. 1980

Arkitehtuurin ABC (The ABC of Architecture)
(The ABC of Architecture – An Expedition into the Built Environment; published only in Finnish) The Finnish Association of Architects; Jaana Räsänen, Heini Korpelainen 2004

RUM
(Spaces; published only in swedish) with support from the National Board of Education. Intended to school techers. Written by architects Vera Schulman and Sofie Hägerström. 2005

Matkalla Arkkitehtuurin Maahan
(On the Journey to the Land of Architecture)
Matkalla Arkkitehuurin maahan is a guide book for pre school teachers about architecture education. It can also be used in secondary schools. The book was published by the National Council for Architecture. Written by architect and art teacher Anna Hänninen. 2007
Rajoja, Outlines
The aim of the book is to tell about the immaterial concept of architecture to ordinary people. To widen the knowledge of how the light, the scale and other components of architecture are constructing the idea of space. Published by Alvar Aalto Museum, 1992

Pieni Majakirja (The Small Book of Huts)
The book contains instructions on how to build huts in 1:1 scale with children. It can be used in schools and at home. All the photos in the book have been taken in Arkki’s Hut Building Camps. Written by architect Pihla Meskanen. 2006

play + space = playce – a book about architecture educations, practises and ethics in different parts of Europe. Containing seminar speeches held at playce@2005 seminar in Finland in August 2005. Available free from the Arts Council of Helsinki Metropolitan Region, liisa.heinonen@minedu.fi
CIVIC EDUCATION IN ARCHITECTURE
(after school activities)

ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland.
LASTU
School of Architecture and Environmental Culture
(situated in Central Finland)

LASTU School of Architecture and Environmental Culture is a free arts school and activities centre in Lapinlahti, eastern Finland. The school was established in 1993 to promote architectural education and environmental culture.
ARKKI provides civic education in architecture

This education is called “basic education in arts and architecture” and it is aimed to all citizens and is complementing the art education in schools. It is for 3-19 year olds.
Arkki arranges also various short courses in architecture to for example school groups.

SPACES - PLACES - Exhibition for children about experiencing architecture, 1995 Helsinki
280 children / week continuously in 3 cities (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa)
800 / year altogether in short term courses,
Instruction courses in teaching architecture to teachers and day-care personnel are organized by:

- National Board of Education (additional education to teachers already in jobs)
- Advanced learning center run by Ministry of Education (additional education to teachers already in jobs)
- University of Art and Design in Helsinki, architecture education to students to become art teachers
Arkki has an Architecture Gallery which displays expositions of architectural projects made by children.

Gallery Arkki is located in Helsinki, at the Cable Factory, which is a lively cultural center with various artists, cultural activities and art schools.
LEARNING METHODS IN ARKKI

Learning happens through play; children investigate, experiment and construct in three dimensions.

Pihla Meskanen, 2004. Pihla.meskanen@mp.inet.fi
FANTASY IS USED AS A TEACHING TOOL...
ALL THE SENSES ARE INVOLVED…
ENJOYING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE IS IMPORTANT!
How to become aware of the beauty and the possibilities of the surroundings?
- You can not force beauty, but you can allow it to be experienced!
BASIC ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE

Architecture education is about learning the vocabulary of architecture, the basic elements of space. Once a person knows the alphabets and learns to read, the language gives endless possibilities to use the language…

In Arkki we always start with the ABC’s…

- **light and shadow**
  - openings
  - rhythm and composition
- **colours**
- **form**
  - geometric forms
  - organic forms
  - proportional systems
- **mass**
  - rhythm
  - volume
  - streets and squares
- **volume**
- **rhythm**
- **structures**
- **materials**
  - feeling, smell etc. of materials
  - textures
- **details**
  - materials
  - joints
- **scale**
  - proportions
- **space**
  - space in nature
  - architectural space
  - city space
  - planes
  - relating spaces
  - acoustics
  - space, movement, time
- **spatial boundaries**
- **function**
  - functional requirements
  - spatial requirements
  - spatial interpretations of functions
- **relationship to the surroundings**
LIGHT AND SHADOW
LIGHT AND COLOUR
SCALE AND PROPORTIONS

Kuoppanummi Day Care Centre,
Vihti Finland 2004,
Architects Meskanen & Purslainen
GEOMETRIC FORMS

The cube and the pyramid

ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland.
ORGANIC FORMS
Houses have skeletons like humans… but what kind?

ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland. www.arkki.net

STRUCTURE IN ARCHITECTURE
Experimenting the strength of structures
Studying the structures of bridges
HISTORY AND BUILDING TRADITIONS
In Helsinki there are 560,000 inhabitants and about one million people live in the metropolitan area.
STRUCTURAL INVENTIONS OF ARCHITECTURE
- THE ARCH
CITY PLANNING

ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland.  Www.arkki.net
SPATIAL PLANNING
A BUILDING IN THE LANDSCAPE
FURNITURE DESIGN:
FANTASY CHAIR
STUDYING DIFFERENT CULTURES AND THEIR BUILDING TRADITIONS

Huts and houses of different cultures built by children on Arkki’s hut building camps

Kuvat: Pihla Meskanen
THE SMALL HUT BOOK

By Pihla Meskanen, illustrations by Antonia Ringbom, published 2006, Tammi
The Hernesaari local plan area is 33 hectares.
The shipyards have controlled the area of Hernesaari for many decades.

The shipyard will close during the years 2010 and 2012, and remove any buildings as stipulated in the rental agreement.
Key Planning Tasks

The key aims of Hernesaari's new local plan are to achieve a pleasant, high quality maritime residential environment.

The area needs to create a natural integrated quality in its surroundings and in the density of the development.

The local environment also requires to reflect Helsinki's residential character in terms of architectural quality of materials and high standards of design.

Height of buildings may vary and indeed it is encouraged to adopt a challenging profile.

Car parking facilities shall be located within dedicated buildings and/or can be covered decks, or other type of special facilities.

Public transport is a key element of the local plan and the main form of transport will be trams.

HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children
Public transport is a key element of the local plan and the main form of transport will be trams. It is intended that Hernesaari will become a main fare stage, meaning, the trams will start and complete their journeys from within the area.

In addition, the area will support both the local sailing community in the form of a yacht marina, together with harbour berths for the cruise liners.

The eastern shoreline shall be reserved for a city park. It is also required to accommodate small parks and other forms of communal garden areas for local residents.

HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children
"smell of the ocean"

"smell of wet wood"

"smell of school food"

"smell of cigarette smoke"

"smell of grass and dust"

"smell of oil"

"smell of rusty iron"

"smell of the wind"

"smell of the hot rubber tire of a car cruising on an asphalt"

"smell of the warming dog poo in the spring sun"

"smell of sweat of a construction worker"

"smell of a bakery"
3-6 YEAR OLDS WORKED IN CHILD – PARENT GROUPS
SYMBOLIC COLORS WERE USED TO MARK RESIDENTIAL, PARK, AND PUBLIC AREAS

HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children
ARE PLANS BY 4-6 YEAR OLDS

HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children
AREA VIEWS BY 7-14 YEAR OLDS

HERNEAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children
15-18 YEAR OLDS WORKING ON THE FINAL SUGGESTION

HERNEAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children
CHILDREN’S IDEAS FOR THE PLAN:

- CANALS THROUGH THE PENINSULA
- HOUSES ALONGSIDE CANALS
- DIVIDING THE AREA INTO SMALLER ISLANDS (LIKE BEFORE)
- GREEN AREAS AROUND THE HOUSING
- "FLOATING" HOUSING AREAS
- HOUSING QUARTERS FORMED AROUND A WATER
- GREEN AREAS ON ALL COASTS
- SMALL SCALE HOUSING; LIKE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE
- PUBLIC AND HOUSING AREAS WITH VARIOUS CHARACTERS
- A BIG YACHT MARINA SHAPED LIKE A HALF CIRCLE
THE FINAL AREA PLAN MADE BY 15-18 YEAR OLDS

HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children
HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children

THE MODEL OF THE AREA BUILT BY 15-18 YEAR OLDS
HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN  BY ARKKI CHILDREN
CHILDREN’S PANELS SHOWING THE PROCESS OF PLANNING
CHILDREN’S PANELS SHOWING THE PROCESS OF PLANNING
Architecture education for young people helps us create a deeper understanding of our surroundings and a demand for a better environment in the future.

Pihla Meskanen
2008