Innovations in Urban Planning

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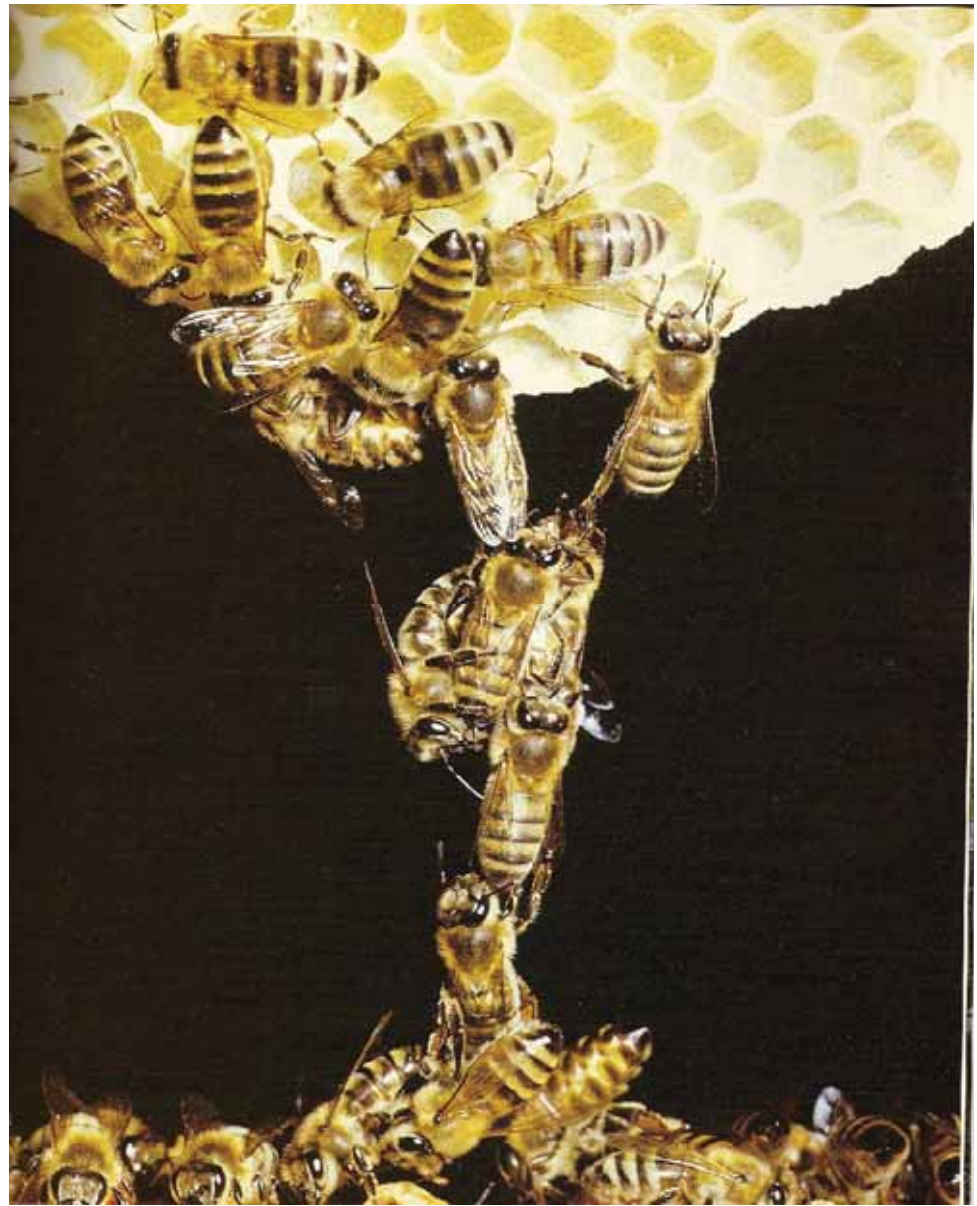
What is an innovation?

New perspectives of common problem settings

PYHÄJÄRVEN osallistuvan maankäytön suunnittelun kokeilu

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Katso ja kommentoi kuvia

Voit katsoa karttaan merkittyihin paikkoihin liittyviä kuvia klikkaamalla kartalla näkyviä symboleja. Avautuvasta linkistä pääset siirtymään paikasta käytävään keskusteluun. Oikeassa laidassa sijaitsevista valintapainikkeista voit merkitä uuden paikan karttaan.

🔴 kehittämistä vaativa paikka   🟢 miellyttävä tai toimiva paikka   🙂 muu paikka

Toiminnot

Katso ja kommentoi kuvia

Merkitse uusi kehittämistä vaativa paikka 🔴

Merkitse uusi miellyttävä tai toimiva paikka 🟢

Merkitse uusi muunlainen paikka 🙂

Ohje

Kyselylomake

Keskusteluaiheet

Viimeisin keskustelu

Keskustelu kehittämistä vaativista paikoista

Keskustelu miellyttävistä tai toimivista paikoista

Keskustelu muunlaisista paikoista

Etsi [   ]

Keskustelu paikasta

Kartta | Satelliitti | Hybridi
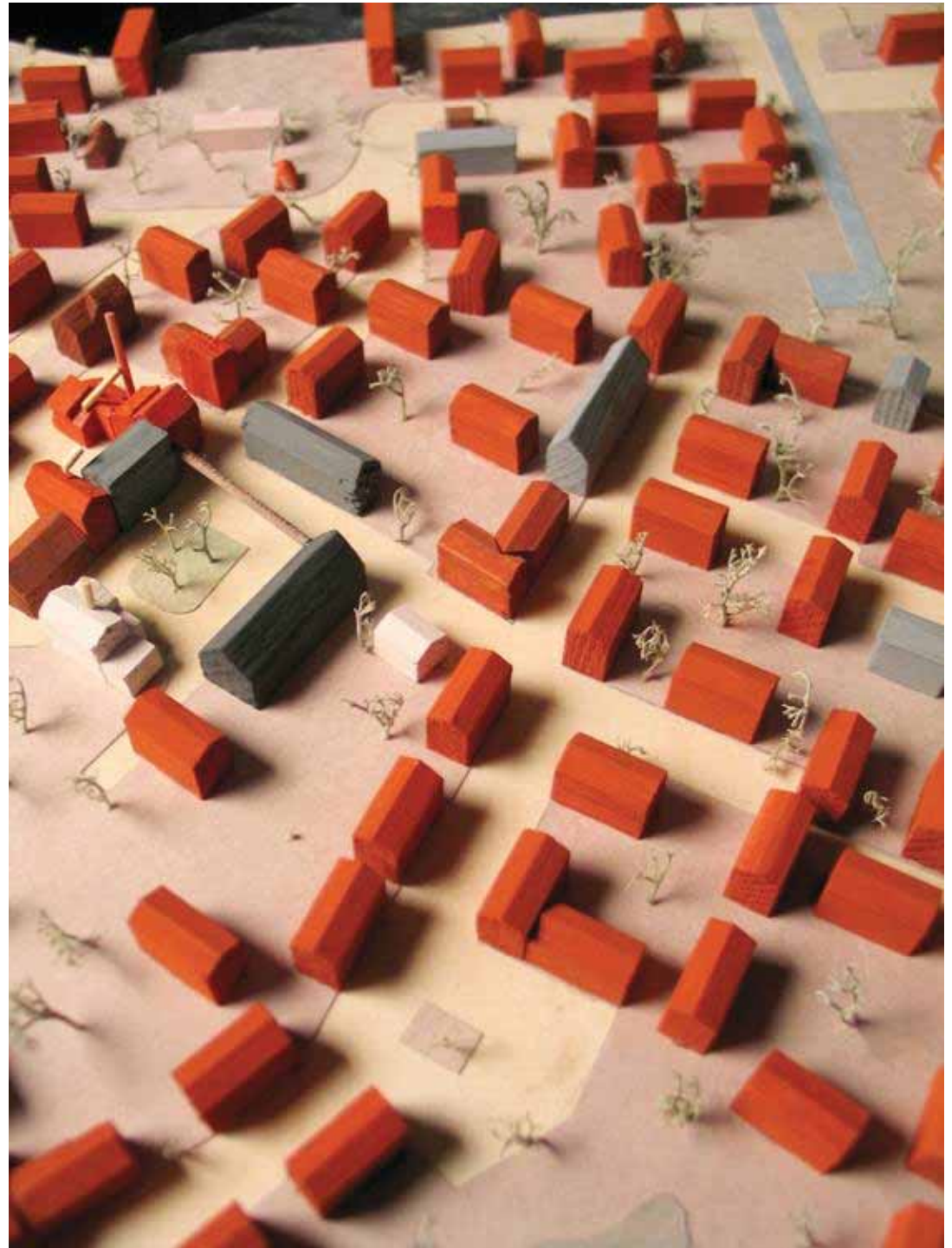
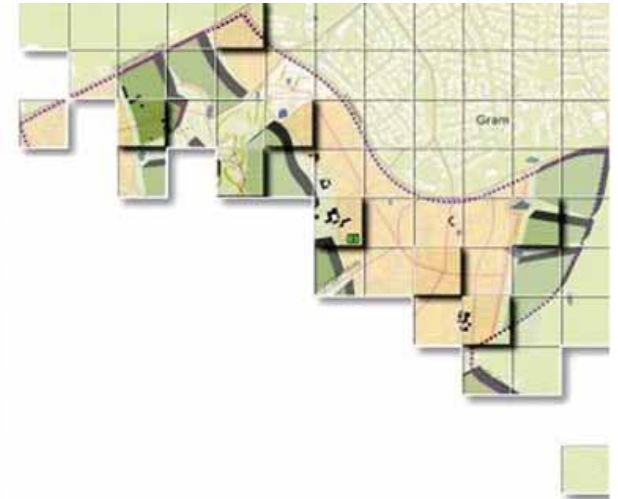Karttatiedot ©2008 Tele Atlas - Käyttöehdot

Urban Farming?

Local administration and urban innovations:
- below
- above
- within

Innovation is contextual

Benchmarking

Evaluation of the cases

	Novelty	Quality	Significance	Transferability
Oulu	Locally high, in the European scale medium	High in the competition entries, quality of the realisation still to be seen	High potential to be used again	High, the competition concept easily transferable to other places
Skanderborg	Locally high, in the European scale high	High	High, will be used again in Skanderborg	High, the play easily transferable to other places
Umeå	Locally high, in the European scale medium	High potential	High potential to have an effect on local practices	High, the network easily transferable to other places

Thomé

Cities must learn to work for their own general good.

Prof. Helka-Liisa Hentilä 29.5.2009

Innovations in Urban Planning

What is an innovation?

- An innovation can be understood as an idea, a method or a product that is considered to be new and that can be used in new ways economically or socially.
- Innovation involves a fresh idea and its expression in a practical course of action plus the implementation phase plus successful outcome – so innovation means also *successful novelty in action*

- According to innovation research, innovations are classed in many ways: they are radical or incremental, continuous or discontinuous, protective or disastrous, closed or open.

- Innovations are often identified with new technologies developed in private companies or as visionary ideas created by genius individuals.
- The public sector is seldom mentioned as an example in proposing or developing innovative solutions or products.

Creative cities

- But innovation can also take place and needs to take place in the level of local administration and public sector.
- According to Landry (Landry 2000), the contemporary discussion of creative cities and creative class emphasizes urban innovations as the corner stones of success in the global competition between the cities.
- The shift from IT economy to creative economy means that cities and regions with concentrations of creative people and creative environments do manage better compared with cities without them.

- If a city or a region manages to capture "flow" of creative people, rest of the flows – like flow of investment or flow of technology – will follow.
- A city that attracts creative people – or the symbol analysts, like Soininvaara was calling them in his speech yesterday – has rich cultural life, tolerates alternative life-styles and subcultures, bursts cultural events and has an exiting atmosphere & interesting image.
- All issues with a strong connection to urban planning!
- This means that also the local government has to take initiatives in innovation processes.

Local urban innovations

- Innovations related to local government can be categorized to social and cultural, political and administrative, economic and financial, technological, spatial and physical innovations.
- According to Perlman, a sustainable local innovation is socially equitable, economically viable, politically participatory, ecologically sustainable and culturally transferable. (Perlman 1990 s.10)
- It may happen that an innovation does not meet all the criteria simultaneously, but the more dimensions it fulfils, the more powerful it is likely to be.

- Innovation activities – whether from institutional, community or jurisdictional standpoint – are based on new perspectives of common problem settings.
- Innovations involve imaginative leaps capable of carrying beyond existing practices.
- This means that an innovation frequently has to overcome initial institutional or social resistance during its phase of diffusion. (Morley et.al. 1980 s.9)
- There are always those, whether it be colleges, chiefs or politicians, who say: nonsense, there is nothing wrong in the way we do it now.

- The social resistance towards innovative ideas was well illustrated yesterday in Kai Wartiainen's speech, as you may remember he said something like "you need culture to grow things"
- If a culture can adopt an innovation, sometimes it happens that a local innovation turns to a catalytic snowball effect, starts to diffuse and includes further creative leaps of various size, form and significance far beyond the local circumstances.
- The most successful innovations have the power to cause shifts in the level of meta-paradigm or paradigm.

Examples of urban innovations A

- As an example of an urban innovation that caused meta-paradigmatic change can be mentioned the idea of a modern city
- The idea was very radical and it challenged the old traditional way of building and living in cities
- One could argue that it was a disastrous innovation: the results are not sustainable since an other innovation, namely private car, was adopted a bit later and became an evident part of the modernistic planning ideology, leading to urban sprawl and unsustainable way of living

Examples of urban innovations B

- Another example of urban innovations is related to how planning is organized
- For a long time planning was "for professionals only" – they knew all of it and did it all among themselves
- In the complex post-modern world this so called rational planning approach is no longer sufficient, and from 1980's onwards processes of planning have started to change
- The planning processes have started to open up, to involve various stakeholders and to become more open and more communicative
- Wartiainen was talking yesterday of co-creation, having similar characteristics with what the planning theorists call communicative planning and the innovation theorists open innovations
- This change from rational planning to communicative planning has been incremental, and many researchers still argue if it has happened or not: the rational planning culture seems to still be strongly rooted in planning practices

Examples of urban innovations C

- As the third example I will take an emerging issue where there is a need for urban innovation, namely urban farming
- Globally seen more and more people are living in the cities, and less and less people are farming – like Soininvaara said yesterday, future is cities or urban
- This has already led to some problems, like long distances between the farmers and urban dwellers, logistical difficulties and rising price of food
- If there will be no increase in food production of cities or close to them, we might meet a future with food riots and famines, that is serious lack of food
- Or then we have to force part of the urban population to move out of the cities to farm the land
- So I really believe we need to reinvent new kind of strategies for urban farming in the future

- Vertical farming could be an option
- It has been calculated that a green block with 30-storeys could feed 50 000 people.
- On the roof there could be corn farming and downstairs one could raise chickens.
- You could get the energy form sun but also use earth energy systems
- This kind of vertical greenhouse would need only one tenth of the water and one fifth of the land area compared to conventional horizontal solutions.

- Also transport distances would be short from suppliers to consumers and the logistical chains could be really efficient.
- It has been calculated that if all the roofs in New York would be gardens, the city could supply double as much of fruit and vegetables as needed there
- City of Chicago already implements a rooftop greening strategy and many other cities like Vancouver are active, but the Nordic innovations in urban farming are still to born!

How do innovation get born?

- How do innovations in the local administration get born?
- Taking the local level as starting point, the innovative processes can be classed in three ways: below, above and within (Martinotti 1997 ss.35-37).
- Innovation from below is linked to grass-root movements like self-organized urban movements that want to promote for example ecological or to built heritage linked urban issues.
- Grassroots groups and NGOs appear to be a rich source of innovation, especially in innovating new cultural ways of using old abandon industrial sites.
- If they are to have significant impact, they need the acceptance of the local government, and not doomed as nonsense.
- Innovation from above means innovation imposed by the central government.
- If the governmental impact spans several policy areas, they have the capacity to become powerful innovations.
- The third type of local innovation – within – means that an innovation is made in the local government.
- They take the initiative in developing new methods, ideas or products.
- Innovation within has much to do with sustainable managing of local urban resources, and often responses to the pressures of change.
- Innovation within has sometimes a tendency to have a character of closed innovation, meaning the process is not open to others than those in the same organization
- Depending on the purpose of the innovation, this is not necessarily a bad thing but if the aim is to create novelty beyond the local borders this might be a bit too limited access, despite the fact that…

Innovation is contextual

- Innovations are always bound to their context.
- What is innovative for one city may be already common knowledge to another – or it is realized that there is a chance for learning and adapting new ways.
- If this is done systematically from within, one can talk of benchmarking, meaning systematic search for best practices that lead to superior performance.

Benchmarking in local administration

- Benchmarking in local administration can take various forms (Hall & Landry 1997 s.6):
- *Co-operation*: local administration seeks to share its knowledge and contacts local administrations in other cities in order to do so.
- *Competition*: local administration compares what and how well it is doing something in comparison with its competitor as well as develops understanding of its own position and practices.
- *Collaborations:* local administration makes a conscious effort to share knowledge through active joint learning.
- *Internal development work*: local administration identifies its own best in-house practices and disseminates the knowledge in their organisation.

- In the Nordic context the role of the local government is crucial in creating and maintaining urban resources, developing urban environments and creating urban planning methods, ideas and products.

- The local level innovative decisions are needed in order to incrementally transform the urban practices to meet the challenges of sustainable cities of tomorrow.

Evaluation of the InnoUrba cases

- The aims of the InnoUrba project have been linked to planning processes, organization of planning and products of planning, as we have heard during this morning.
- Our role in the projects – with us I mean architect, researcher Leena Soudunsaari and myself, has been besides reporting the projects also to evaluate the outcomes from the point of view of innovation
- The three cases have therefore been evaluated from the perspective of novelty of the method, quality of the results, significance of the method / results and transferability of the method.

- The case of Oulu shows a deliberate way of opening the planning towards private sector and international professionals as well as presents many innovative spatial and architectonic ideas in the competition entries.
- The novelty of Toppilansaari invited international competition method is locally high but in the European scale medium since the method has been already tested in some cities.
- The competition format has though been modified (citizens interaction, integrating private sector to the competition) in innovative ways.
- The competition entries show high architectonic and urban qualities, but of course we have not seen the realization yet.
- The "tuned" competition format has a high potential to be used again in Oulu, and is easily transferable to other places.

- The case of Skanderborg is an excellent example of a novelty in action: planning is organized so that it has a character of an open innovation process and aims in enhancing birth of sustainable living environment.
- The novelty of the Anebjerg play event could be described as high both in local and European levels.
- The quality of the event was high and it was well prepared and very successful.
- The significance is proved to be high and the play will be used again in other places in Skanderborg.
- The play is very easily transferable to other places seen even globally.

- The network in Umeå has a potential to become a forum that catalyses systemic local change in planning and building practices, as well as uses technology innovations – like in the case of Ön – as part of planning processes in order to rise the quality of the end product: the sustainable urban environment.
- The novelty of the Umeå case is evaluated locally high, but in the European scale medium since IT based interaction has in recent years been on the agenda of many cities.
- The sustainability network has a very high potential to have a strong, even systemic effect on local practices.
- The transferability of the network is also high: it could easily be adapted to other cities as well.

Summary

- The project InnoUrba has also included different forms of benchmarking in order to enhance innovation in the urban context.
- The three municipalities of Oulu, Skanderborg and Umeå have sought to share their knowledge of urban planning in co-operation.
- The project has developed understanding of their own position and has formed an arena for joint learning in issues related with urban planning and environments.
- It has also helped the cities to identify their own best in-house practices and to take steps forward in their internal development work.

Finally

"Cities must learn to work for their own general good." (Morley *et.al.* 1980 s.9)

- On the basis of the InnoUrba results I am convinced that the cities or Oulu, Skanderborg and Umeå are highly motivated in learning to work for their own general good.

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