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## EDITORS' NOTES

**ANNI VARTOLA, MADELEINE GRANVIK AND  
CLAUS BECH-DANIELSEN**

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The publishing of an issue composed of mixed papers resembles the arrival of the blooming spring after the dark and cold winter. The hard work with the papers is over: the authors have done their research and written about their findings to let us, the readers, learn new things about architecture and planning. We the editors have assessed the incoming submissions, edited the manuscripts, acquired the scientific reviews, taken care of the correspondence between all parties involved and finally, put everything together. It is always such a delightful moment to witness our prestigious journal and our Nordic research community to take yet another step forward in the form of a shining new issue.

This particular spring issue, which also marks the farewell to our Finnish co-editor Anni Vartola, demonstrates how diversely architectural research is currently done in the Nordic countries. The eight papers published here come from universities located in Finland, Sweden and Denmark, and represent a remarkable variety of research traditions and theoretical viewpoints. The liberal diversity of the Nordic architectural research climate is something that our journal values very highly.

How does this versatility show in practice? In this issue at hand, we discuss sophisticated algorithmic lighting control, mosques and townhouses, municipal architectural policies and the transmission of Chinese architecture, children's outdoor environment, urban biking in New York and educating urban tectonics in Aalborg – all this information packed in a single issue.

In detail, the paper by **Marie Frier Hvejsel, Lea Holst Laursen** and **Poul Henning Kirkegaard**, who work in Aalborg University in Denmark, re-read an essay by Eduard F. Sekler from the 1950s and apply it to their teaching. Their paper describes a workshop where they studied the spatial relation between urban design and architecture with their students. Finnish doctoral candidates, **Eija Hasu** and **Anne Tervo** together with **Jukka Hirvonen**, senior expert in quantitative housing research in Aalto University, present the results of their case study about housing preferences. The three authors develop a lifestyle-based approach in order to unfold an alternative understanding of housing preferences and to explain the conceptualization of a new housing typology, a Finnish townhouse.

The paper by **Maja de Neergaard, Lasse Koefoed** and **Kirsten Simonsen** from Roskilde University, Denmark, examine cross-cultural encounters in Copenhagen. How are purpose-built mosques planned? How are they received by the local community in the public debate? **Petri Tuormala**, a doctoral candidate at Aalto University, Finland, also explores the public sphere. His paper presents his analysis of the Finnish architectural policy programme and its application in policy work on the municipal level.

The local level is the focal point also in the paper written by Aalborg University researchers **Gitte Marling** and **Line Marie Bruun Jespersen**. They have cycled around the new Manhattan Waterfront Greenway in New York and discuss the architectural, cultural and social effects of active traffic planning and the creation of urban bike environments. **Toni Österlund, Henrika Pihlajaniemi** and **Kerstin Nordin** examine outdoor environments as well. Österlund and Pihlajaniemi, who conduct their research at the University of Oulu in Finland, discuss intelligent lighting design. Their paper offers a practical example of a park lighting installation and gives new insight into the creative aesthetic and artistic potential of sophisticated control methods of adaptive led lighting.

Kerstin Nordin, who is a landscape architect in Sweden, presents result from a study with the aim to design a method called “Children’s Maps in GIS” for consulting children and teachers on children’s outdoor environment. The author focuses on identified problems experienced by the users when communicating the results to different actors in urban planning. The study provides an example based on information from the municipality of Västerås, Sweden, where 90 children aged 10–11 and six teachers were responding on a facilitated map questionnaire.

The international research team composed by **Chiu Chen-Yu, Philip Goad** and **Peter Myers** take a look at architecture from a completely different perspective. Their topic is the modern Danish master Jørn Utzon (1918–2008), and how the cultural interplay between Denmark and China – a country which architecture Utzon repeatedly studied – displays in Utzon’s architectural projects.

As announced on our homepage (<http://arkitekturforskning.net/na/>) the board of the Nordic Association of Architectural Research has decided to temporarily stop for submissions of papers for the time being. The reason is, that the editorial team are currently experiencing an extraordinarily high interest in our journal, and we have been receiving significantly more papers than we can manage. The editorial process and the way it is organized will therefore be undergoing some changes. The association regret to have had to make this decision, and we hope to be able to open for submissions again soon.



