**Study guide Nordic architecture**

ARK079, Spring 2020

Credits 7,5

Examiner: Prof em Claes Caldenby

Teachers: Tabita Nilsson, Peter Lindblom

**Welcome!**

The course gives a basis for reflection on Nordic architecture and a preliminary meeting with some of its traditions, buildings and architects. The course is based on lectures, student seminars, excursions and an analysis through model building, including a small exhibition at a downtown gallery. The students will work (and travel) in groups of about four students each.

**Course outline**

The course has two main aims. First to give a brief introduction to Nordic architecture. Second to work with a concrete analysis of a particular building through modelbuilding. Eight buildings, four churches and four libraries from four of the Nordic countries will be studied and analysed in depth. An overview model of each building will be complemented by two analytical/descriptive models as well as images and text. This analysis is intended to help others understand essential qualities of the buildings and also to develop, or clarify, concepts of architecture.

The course in Nordic architecture is three weeks long. The course is directed towards the exhibition opened the last day of the course.

The first week includes a presentation of the course and a brief presentation of Nordic architecture. It also includes an introduction and preparations for the model building. It ends with two days (plus a weekend) for study tours and study visits.

The second and third week will be mostly dedicated to model building with exception for a seminar between groups sharing experiences from the study trip.

The third week will include concrete preparations for the exhibition. The students will be responsible for the layout and mounting and dismounting of the exhibition as well as promoting it. For this purpose, a curating group is to be formed. A folder or catalogue of the exhibition is optional. The exhibition will take place at Nadén Studio, Föreningsgatan 2, from Friday February 7 until Sunday February 9. The exhibition will be mounted on Thursday and the inauguration will be Friday evening. On Sunday, the exhibition will be dismounted and transported back to Chalmers and re-exhibited in the Atrium from Monday February 17 until Friday February 21.

**Study trip report**

To share the experiences from the different study tours with the whole class, each group  
will make a study trip report. The report will give an idea of the trajectory of the trip and present some of the highlights to the other students. It will consist of 4–6 A4 pages with text, photos, drawings and other illustrations and the digital format will be pdf. The report should start with the group number and ALL THE NAMES OF THE STUDENTS in the group participating at the study trip. The report will be sent by mail to [caldenby@chalmers.se](mailto:caldenby@chalmers.se) and uploaded on Canvas latest on Wednesday January 30 at 16.00. It is sufficient that one copy of the report is uploaded from each group (from one of the students in the group). All the reports will be shared with the whole class so that every student can learn from the experience and thoughts of the others.

**Study trip presentation**

Beside the written report each group will present their study trip to the others during a class presentation. Each group will make a slide presentation around 15 minutes long. At this occasion there will also be time to ask questions to the different groups and speak of the experiences of the study trips in general.

**Model building report**

To share the experiences from the model building with the whole class, each group will make a model building report. The report will describe the most difficult problems confronted by the group during the model building – and of course its solution. This can e g be a gluing setup, using tools in a specific way, treating the material in a specific way, shaping the material etc. The report will consist of 1–2 A4 pages with text and at least 3 pictures. The digital format will be pdf and named with group number but the pictures should also be uploaded separately as jpg and named with the photographer. These may be used by the workshop in the future for educational purposes. The report should start with the group number and ALL THE NAMES OF THE STUDENTS in the group participating in building the model. The report will be uploaded on Canvas latest on Friday February 7. It is sufficient that one copy of the report is uploaded from each group (from one of the students in the group). All the reports will be shared with the whole class so that every student can learn from the experience and thoughts of the others.

**Examination**

To pass the course the following is required: active participation in lectures, seminars and trip as well as contribution to reports and to the exhibition.

Grading

For any student being present at all the lectures, trips, seminars and the model building the normal grade is 4.

Lesser participation will result in the grade 3 or not passed.

Exceptional contributions during the course might result in the grade 5.

There will be no chance of supplementary examination for a higher grade after the course.

**Literature**

(Books are available at the library at the School of Architecture or at the University library.)

Claes Caldenby (ed.), *Sweden: 20th-century architecture*. München: Prestel, 1998.

Kjeld Kjeldsen (ed.), *New Nordic: architecture & identity*. Humlebæk: Louisiana, 2012.

Nils Ole Lund, *Nordic architecture*, Arkitektens forlag, 2008.

**Schedule**

Monday Jan 20

09.00–11.45 Nordic Architecture: An introduction, Claes Caldenby R 268

13.15–16.00 Model building, Tabita Nilsson R268

17.00 Visit to exhibition space Nadén Arkitektur, Föreningsgatan 2.

Tuesday Jan 21

09.00–11.45 Eight Nordic public spaces and four Nordic capitals: An introduction to the model building objects and to the study tours (see below), Claes Caldenby R 268

afternoon Students planning study tours

Wednesday Jan 22

whole day Planning of study tours and preparation of model building

Thursday Jan 23–Sunday Jan 26

Study tours to Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm-Uppsala and Helsinki

Monday Jan 27

morning Model building ACE workshop

afternoon Work on study tour report

Tuesday Jan 28

whole day Model building and study tour report

Wednesday Jan 29

morning Model building and study tour report

afternoon Study tour presentation Claes Caldenby R 268

Thursday Jan 30

whole day Model building

Friday Jan 31

whole day Model building

Monday Feb 3

whole day Model building

Tuesday Feb 4

whole day Model building

Wedneday Feb 5

whole day Model building

Thursday Feb 6

whole day Model building

Friday Feb 7

whole day Arrangement of exhibition at Nadén Arkitektur, Föreningsgatan 2.

Opening of exhibition at 6 pm. Exhibition stands till Sunday Jan 9.

Exhibition will also be shown at Chalmers Feb 17–21.

**Model building objects**

Mortensrud church, Oslo, Jensen & Skodvin 2002

Vennesla library, Helen & Hard 2011

Bagsværd church, Copenhagen, Jørn Utzon 1976

Dokk 1 library, Aarhus, Schmidt Hammer Lassen 2015

Årsta church, Stockholm, Johan Celsing, 2011

Uppsala library, Carl Nyrén, 1987

Myyrmäki church, Helsinki, Juha Leiviskä 1984

Oodi library, Helsinki, ALA architects 2018

**Study tours**

Some suggestions for the study tours

**Copenhagen**

Thorvaldsen’s Museum, Bindesbøll 1848

Police HQ, Hack Kampmann 1924

Grundtvig church, Jensen Klint 1927  
Kilen Copenhagen Business school, Lundgaard & Tranberg 2006

City theatre Copenhagen, Lundgaard & Tranberg 2008  
BLOX, Dansk Arkitektur Center 2018

Bagsvaerd church, Jørn Utzon 1976

Örestaden:   
Tietgen College, Lundgaard & Tranberg 2005

VM-Houses Plot 2005, The Mountain BIG 2008  
The Eight, BIG 2010

Ørestaden college, 3xNIelsen 2007

Saint Peter’s Church, Klippan Sigurd Lewerentz 1966 (eventually, on the way)

**Oslo**

Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO), Jarmund/Vigsnæs 2001

St Halvard’s church, Lund & Slaatto 1966  
Mortensrud church, Jensen & Skodvin, 2002  
Gyldendal building, Office, Sverre Fehn, 2007

Norsk design og arkitektursenter (DOGA), Jensen & Skodvin, 2005  
Oslo National Academy of the Arts (KHiO), Lund Hagem and Søyland 2010

Oslo Opera, Snøhetta 2008  
Extension of Museum of architecture, Sverre Fehn, 2008   
Oslo City Hall, Arnstein Arneberg and Magnus Poulsson 1931–1950   
Astrup Fearnley Museum, Tjuvholmen, Renzo Piano 2012

**Helsinki**

Helsinki old university library, Carl Ludvig Engel 1844

Helsinki central station, Eliel Saarinen 1916

National museum, Gesellius, Lindgren, Saarinen 1916

Studio Aalto and villa Aalto in Munkkiniemi, 1950s

House of culture, Alvar Aalto 1955

Rock church, Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen 1969

Kiasma art museum, Steven Holl 1998

Viikki church, JKMM architects 2005

Soc&Kom university, Juha Leiviskä 2009

Helsinki university library, Anttinen Oiva architects 2012

Löyly floating sauna, Avanto architects 2017

Amos Rex art museum, JKMM 2018

Oodi library, ALA architects 2019

**Stockholm**

Woodland cemetery, Asplund and Lewerentz 1915–1940  
Saint Mark’s church, Lewerentz 1960  
Vällingby shopping centre with church by Peter Celsing 1960

Stockholm City Library, Erik Gunnar Asplund 1928  
Stockholm City Hall, Ragnar Östberg 1923  
Årsta Church, Johan Celsing 2011  
Stockholm School of Architecture, Tham & Videgård  
Cultural center, Peter Celsing 1966  
Museum of Modern Art and ArkDes, Rafael Moneo 1998

**Gothenburg**

Gothenburg Art Museum, Bjerke and Ericsson 1923

Gothenburg Concert hall, Nils Einar Eriksson 1935 (try to enter!)

Gothenburg City theatre, Carl Bergsten 1934 (try to enter the staircases!)  
Haga city district  
Haga church Adolf Edelsvärd.

You can also walk Åvägen in the area Gårda (https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gårda) which is an interesting area with great potential, half abandoned and half developed. Try to compare Gårda and Haga.

Gothenburg City Hall (Law courts extension) by Erik Gunnar Asplund. Difficult to get in, except on special tours (try to join one! It is worth all your efforts!).

Gothenburg Cathedral by Carl Wilhelm Carlberg (Gothenburg’s first city architect). Universeum Wingårdhs

If the weather permits it you can then do a 1 km walk to Prytzgatan (see Google Maps) and see one of the early important modernist villas in Gothenburg by female pioneer architect Ingrid Wallberg (https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingrid\_Wallberg).

Härlanda church by Peter Celsing 1958.

Karl Johan school by Erik Gunnar Asplund. Try to go there together early in the morning (around 9) and ask the administration if you might enter (that should be possible).

Try to borrow the guide book Claes Caldenby and others, *Guide till Göteborgs arkitektur*, Arkitektur förlag 2006. It contains 450 Gothenburg buildings. Text only in Swedish.