

Urban Lab Pori, Finland 25th – 26th August 2021

Greening and blueing the city

Day 1

WELCOME BSR URBAN LAB "Greening and Blueing the city"
Hosted by City of Pori



PORI

BSR Urban Lab: Greening and Blueing the City

Wednesday 25th of August

Hosted by Harri Sippola, Pori UCP team



9:00-9:15	<i>Welcome!</i> Jyri Träskelin , Head of Culture Dept, City of Pori
9:15-9:20	<i>Green Utopia Symposium introduction</i> , Tommi Iivonen , Turku University
9:20-9:40	<i>Green Policy</i> : Daniel Nagy , Regional Architect, Satakunta Regional Council, Pori National Urban Park – as a tool for local implementation of ecosystem-based planning?
9:40-10:00	<i>Green Interventions</i> : Jere Nieminen , Chairperson, Villi Vyöhyke / Wild Zone NGO. Bottom-up interventions for Urban Biodiversity
10:00-10:20	<i>Green Art</i> : Tellervo Kalleinen , Artist, Rauman keskustelualue / Conversation Park: Gaming for Common Ground
Break	
10:30-11:15	<i>Breakout rooms: Green Policy, Green Interventions & Green Art</i>
11:15-11:45	<i>Reflections + Guidance to Expeditions</i> , Urbanist Jonas Büchel
11:45	End of Online Urban Lab / Local expeditions in local venues around BSR

Harri Sippola of the Pori UCP team presented the participants with the goals of the Urban Lab. We will look at the topic from three main themes: Green Policy, Green Art and Green Interventions. The lab will have keynotes from all of these themes and we will combine them in a group discussion later in the day.



On the first Urban Lab day artist Oliver Kalleinen told us about their common land project Pieni talo preerialla which took place in Rauma´s Keskustelualue (Discussion Park) in 2019-2020. The idea was to make a hut or a shed for local children´s activities together with them. Design workshops with residents led to nice social interaction. More on the project: <http://keskustelualue.fi/split-slide/>

Architect Daniel Nagy spoke about Finnish National Urban Parks concept and especially about Pori National Urban Park as an example of green policy and ecosystem-based approach on connection to the regional planning. It is a strong planning tool in terms of land use. Pori Urban Park was established in 2002 and it includes islands, urban parks and forests with versatile activities. Daniel also talked about green policy documents on regional level in Satakunta area, ecosystem planning and regional planning for Kokemäenjoki river valley.

Group work in breakout sessions

Discussion in Harri´s group, Green Art:

Common ground project was unique one. Gaming aspect gave the process balance between the participants. Plans and rules made it easier to implement. Long process gave the opportunity for every participant to have their king or queen moment during the project. People were really committed. They really spend time on building the trust within the long project. Coffee and buns became an important thing while doing that.

Jonas Büchel:

You should always keep on track on local rituals. If you don´t have coffee and pulla you are out of the game, you can´t participate.

Discussion in Kati´s group, Green Policy

Group had a discussion about the green policy, activism and art. All the sessions in the morning inspired people. Are the strategies important or not? Good strategy is a good backbone for your actions. Different places have different problems.

Discussion in Jonas´s group, Green Interventions:

There´s often a fracture between the city and the NGO´s. It is always about communication between the microscale and long term vision, the macroscale. This is where we can come in with the general project frame. When we talk about urban cultural planning. Communication skills.

Oliver: Our project consisted a very small piece of land in a small city in Finland. But issues are quite similar in different places and scales.

Jonas: I don't believe in sizes. Your work is marvellous. These projects are the ones we really need, because they give us the best practices. Every size matters and every moment matters.

Oliver: We learned to involve the administration and politicians in early stage.

Jonas: We all want to know what's happening!

Jere: Bottom up interventions. Sensitivity is important when working together.

Daniel: The city administration should have more contact with the NGO's and the fourth sector especially in these times. The organization needs a person who is in every day contact with the activists and the citizens.

Jonas: The green and the blue very much drives our communities. We all know how relevant the green and the blue areas are for the community.

The expedition for today: You will find a place in the landscape that gives you hope. Picture this point of optimism. Upload a picture of that landscape – look and dive. What is our perception of landscape? Let's make a gallery of optimism. Love your landscape!

Day 2

BSR Urban Lab: Greening and Blueing the City

Thursday 26th of August

Hosted by **Kati Fager**, Pori UCP team



9:00-9:05	<i>Welcome!</i>
9:05-9:45	<i>Experiences from local expeditions</i> , Moderated by Jonas Büchel
9:50-10:20	<i>Pori Jazz & Sustainable Development</i> , Sanna Grönmark , Producer
-----BREAK-----	
10:25-11:25	Green & Blue Cases <i>Kokkeli: Cultural Planning and Artistic Development for Kokemäenjoki Area</i> , Professor Maunu Häyrynen , Turku University <i>Vesikansa / Water People: Cultural Mapping</i> , Maria Kirveslahti , Turku University <i>Case Kulttuurisuunnistelu / Cultural Orientation: Green and Blue</i> , Laura Seesmeri & Katrina Virtanen , Turku University
11:25-11:40	<i>Regards from Green Utopia Symposium</i> , Tommi Iivonen , Turku University
11:40-12:00	<i>Reflections and feedback</i> , Moderated by Jonas Büchel
12:00	End of online Urban Lab

Jonas Büchel discussed with us about yesterday's task – the picture about landscape and optimism. The participants told about their pictures. Urban trees, animals, change of seasons in Greece, the view from the window and the garden, a ditch and a cat, a roundabout with clover flowers and a shipyard with spontaneous plants were shown in the pictures.



Sanna Grönmark spoke about Pori Jazz Festival which started in 1966. Nowadays there are about 290 000 visitors in the Jazz Park every year. It was the first Finnish festival to have an environmental program and policy. They make an Environmental Impact Assessment every year. Waste management is the most important thing. The change towards the environmental friendly festival has happened by the younger generation.

University of Turku landscape studies has been working on three projects, which were presented in Urban Lab. The projects are about cultural mapping, participatory art and community-based landscape conservation in Kokemäenjoki River Valley in Western Finland.

Maunu Häyrynen told us about cultural mapping of a rural area in a regional scale and the Kokkeli project. It combined participatory art with a development aspect. Project aim was to create a dialogue between expert-led conservation valuation and local knowledge. Basic elements were participatory GIS, observation, workshops, art processes, interviews and meetings. Binding factor was the River Kokemäenjoki. Artistic processes were carried out jointly with cultural planning.

The Vesikansa (Water People) cultural mapping project was about urban nature as culture. Urban nature should be included in cultural mapping. Aim of the project was to find out what the River Kokemäenjoki means to residents of Pori and what kind of relationship they have with it. Methods were interviews, observation, participation, workshops and surveys. Results from map survey were introduced to us by Maria Kirveslahti. The river is a key identity factor in Pori.

Katrina Virtanen and Laura Seesmeri told us about project Kulttuurisuunnistelu (cultural orientation) which is about art based methods used in cultural planning. It takes place in Väinölä and Pihlava suburbs in Pori. Research topics of this project are art based methods, experimental and sensitive knowledge of places and making cartography a cultural resource. Art enables alternative forms of discourse and it helps to find embodiment and affects. Workshops are often implemented with children and young people. Experimental and cultural GIS is a part of the work. The project helps people to fasten their relation to the area. Both methods have been successful.

Tommi Iivonen brought fractions and ideas from Green Utopia Symposium on 24th-26th August this year. He spoke about creating a new way for greening and creating a new relation to nature. Corona pandemic has shown us how the dichotomy between the city and the nature exists deep in peoples minds - city is not "real" nature. Pori was used as an example. It is necessary to create a new relation to nature, which would be socially, economically and ecologically "fair". Eco-gentrification starts to be a problem. New indicators are needed to measure the functional relations between humans and nature.

Jonas Büchel took us through the final discussion. Terms interspecificity and planetary wellbeing were mentioned. Non-human inhabitants in cities are also very important – we should respect other species too.

We have used Pori as a case study, but the thoughts are universal. Pori has enormous potential. This aspect of green and blue (River Kokemäenjoki) in Urban Lab has been really interesting. We´ve had lots of new ideas to our work. Art enables also alternative forms of planning.

There will be a conference in Riga to sum up the Urban Cultural Planning project. After that there will be a Urban Lab in Copenhagen. Final Urban Lab will be in Kiel in the end of September.

<https://urbcultural.eu/>