

Institute for

Environment
Sustainability
and
Regeneration



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY

Public Lectures in Regeneration 2008

"Cities for People: The Changing Nature of Public Space"

Speakers:

Oliver Schulze

Architect, Director at Gehl Architects,
Copenhagen

and

Kevin Logan

Architect, Associate at MaccreeanorLavington,
Rotterdam and London

Thursday 30 October 2008

Ashley Building, Leek Road campus, Staffordshire University

Lecture series supported by



Oliver Schulze

Oliver trained at the Manchester School of Architecture and was elected to RIBA membership in 2001. He works on international projects for Gehl Architects in Copenhagen.

Based on the academic research carried out by Professor Jan Gehl and the Research Studio of Gehl Architects, Oliver advises public and private sector clients on projects of all scales to maximize people's benefits in the planning of our urban environment. Oliver has worked on major city development projects across Europe, North and Central America, the Middle East and North Africa.



At the small scale Oliver's work involves advising clients on the design of individual public spaces like the transformation of New Road at the Royal Pavilion Gardens in Brighton. The design proposals for New Road managed to transform a car-dominated and neglected back street into Brighton's fourth most popular public space destination. The completed project has become a best practice benchmark for holistic street design in the United Kingdom.

Experience on large-scale projects ranges from the development of public space frameworks for new or existing city districts to the development of large-scale development proposals for buildings and public spaces in sites that extend existing city centres. Oliver has developed an understanding of man's innate need for complexity in urban environments and he applies this knowledge to the creation of proposals aimed at creating a rich and stimulating urban environment.

Oliver has lectured as a keynote speaker at international conferences on subjects ranging from the transformation of public spaces in the 20th Century to the development of quality criteria for the planning of new city districts and the achievements in sustainable transport planning in Copenhagen since the Second World War.

Oliver and his wife live in the centre of Copenhagen with daughter and son. He owns no car and has no plans to buy one. Hobbies frequently involve exploring Copenhagen by bicycle or on foot.

International Project Experience:

- 2008 *Olympic International Broadcasting Centre and Media Press Centre, London, England* – Legacy masterplan
- 2008 *Boulogne Billancourt, Paris, France* - Masterplan with Sauerbruch Hutton
- 2008 *Bjørnlika, Oslo, Norway* – Volume – and massing distribution study with Behnisch Architekten
- 2008 *Sneinton Market, Nottingham, England* – Neighbourhood development plan with Maccreanor Lavington
- 2007 *Meadows Square, Nottingham, England* – Public space design
- 2007 *Ebbsfleet Valley, Kent, England* - Masterplan with Arup
- 2007 *Victoria Transport Interchange, London, England* – Public Space Recommendations for Land Securities
- 2007 *Stoke-on-Trent, England* – Public Realm Strategy with Maccreanor Lavington
- 2006 *Rabat, Morocco* – Masterplan with Tro Jung Brannen for Sama Dubai
- 2006 *RiverParc, Cultural District, Pittsburgh, United States* - Masterplan with Behnisch Architekten
- 2006 *Mezaparks, Riga, Latvia* – Masterplan with Behnisch Architekten
- 2005 *Porta Nuova, Milan, Italy* – Public realm strategy and public space design with Land and Edaw for Hines Italia
- 2005 *Meadows Gateway, Nottingham, England* – Masterplan with Make Architects
- 2005 *Kuwait City, Kuwait* – Masterplan with Make Architects
- 2005 *Riverside, Sheffield, England* – Masterplan with Make Architects
- 2005 *New Road, Brighton, England* – Public space design with Landscape Projects
- 2004 *Ossett, Yorkshire, England* – Public realm strategy
- 2004 *Wakefield, England* – Public realm strategy and five catalytic development options
- 2004 *Zürich, Switzerland* – Quality and use analysis of 18 parks, streets and squares

Kevin Logan

Kevin trained as an Architect at the Manchester School of Architecture and also holds an MA in Urban Design. He works for Maccreanor Lavington a 60-strong practice based in Rotterdam and London. Since its inception in 1992, the office has won 14 architectural competitions, and has received seven awards for architectural quality. In addition, the work of Maccreanor Lavington in the Netherlands was cited as a case study in the Urban Taskforce's report; a UK Government report on housing environments and in a recent CABI publication on housing and public space design.

Kevin has experience of mixed-use projects, large-scale masterplans, and urban regeneration projects and has a particular interest in the dynamics of contemporary urban and rural conditions in cultural, social, political, and economic terms. Underpinning his approach is the development of a rigorous, unbiased view of conditions, coupled with the use of realistic and rational assessment methodologies, which form the basis of any decision-making processes. In 2005, Kevin completed a research project, which culminated in an MA in Urban Design focused on the conception of policy that creates and informs the Built Environment.

He was a finalist in the Shrinking Cities International Competition in 2004. His published papers include 'The Consolidation of Historical Cores', MCLC 2005; 'The Space of Policy', AESOP 2005. Exhibitions featuring his work include 'LRW Best Portfolio Prize', Cube, Manchester 2003 and 'Shrinking Cities', Berlin, 2005.

Kevin has taught at The University of Sheffield architecture department, The University of Liverpool School of Architecture and is an associate lecturer at The Manchester School of Architecture. Additionally, Kevin is a member of RENEW North West's design review panel, and sits on Elevate East Lancashire's Highways / Public Realm working group.

Projects

- Robin Hood Gardens, Utopian Urbanism, London.* Commended competition for the redefinition, and intensification, of post war utopia, through heritage based intervention strategies
- Sneinton Market, Neighbourhood Framework, Nottingham.* A Neighbourhood Framework to guide the regeneration of the Eastside of Nottingham for the next 15 years
- Barking Riverside, sub-framework masterplan, London.* Detailed elaboration of the Stage 2 sub-framework masterplan, and the outline design of 2500 residential units
- DLR - Extension to Dagenham Dock, Urban Design Guidance, London.* Urban integration, and public realm strategies, for the DLR Extension to Dagenham Dock
- Hanley City Centre, Public Realm, and Urban Regeneration Strategy, Stoke-on-Trent.* Competition scheme for the urban regeneration of the city centre of Stoke-on-Trent
- Whitefield, Public Realm Strategy, Nelson.* Public realm strategy for the historical area of Whitefield, Nelson
- Crumlin Road Goal and Girdwood Barracks, Masterplan, Belfast.* Masterplan proposal for the site of a former Army Barracks and Prison within central Belfast
- Hub Site Leith Docks, Masterplan, Edinburgh.* Mixed use masterplan proposal consisting of 46000m² shopping, 92900m² office, and 1500 residential units
- Whitefield Masterplan, Residential and Community Facilities, Nelson, London.* Competition winning scheme for the urban regeneration of the historical area of Whitefield, Nelson
- North Woolwich Masterplan, London.* Masterplan for the redevelopment of an industrial area in North Woolwich, adjoining the River Thames
- South Dagenham Masterplan, London.* Masterplan for the redevelopment of a former industrial site into mixed-use residential area



Lecture series supported by



Lecture series supported by



Thoughts on future-proofing Stoke on Trent

The most desirable cities are able to attract and encourage a diverse and vibrant urban culture. As travel, mobility and leisure become more commonplace, so does the need for cities to invest in the quality of their public space in order to strengthen their position in the global marketplace. It is through a high level of activation of the public space that a sustainable urban environment emerges, in which people will live, work, and invest.

Stoke-on-Trent's current urban configuration is not conducive to supporting 21st century living, and whilst design is vitally important, especially in creating a sense of place and in city branding, without a clear strategy for generating the activities to take place within its public spaces it will ultimately fail.

Throughout the UK it is now generally accepted that those parts of our cities that are mono-functional in their use, whether it is residential, offices, retail or leisure, lead to a dead city outside the operating hours of the particular use. The city centre of Stoke-on-Trent is busy for 14 hours per day, but is limited to shopping from 0900 - 1800 and pubs are the major perceived activity after the shops close.

Currently the shopping streets and squares dominate the city centre with their purely commercial offer. How do we break-out of that sterile monoculture? The 'cultural quarter' concept needs expanding to embrace a much larger area by creating a wider number of locations where cultural activities can take place: in effect forming a CULTURAL ARCHIPELAGO. A full programme of cultural events and activities needs to be developed and coordinated that invites people to use the city 24 hour per day – 7 days per week - 365 days per year. To realise a cultural archipelago will require the development of a network of streets, lanes and squares that provide many opportunities to experience and move through the city centre.

Stoke-on-Trent is not lacking in cultural history. By rediscovering Stoke-on-Trent's past, making it more visible in the city centre, and exploiting it as its distinctive unique selling point, Stoke can capitalise on its cultural heritage to the benefit of the urban regeneration process. More can also be made of strategic ties with the twin city of Erlangen. The Oktoberfest and Christmas market are fantastic events of public life, warmly embraced by the people. Further cultural exchanges with similar cities should be established – Delft, the pottery capital of the Netherlands, or a similar city with a pottery history in China. New programmatic uses are needed in order to build the 'congenial city' within the city. Smart residential, health and fitness, a choice of restaurants and cafes, some late night shopping, a grand hotel, a bus, taxi, bicycle transport interchange, an evening adult education centre, a cinema, etc.

Realising a renaissance in city life will need reconfiguration of the city centre, though this can be done in a sensitive and non-brutalist fashion. Key to any centre is the draw that shopping brings and the attractiveness of shop frontages: but this needs to be managed, enhancing and supporting city centre residential living. Transport and parking is a key issue: the car must not dominate, but be managed in such a way that it is possible to create urban boulevards, streets and squares, resulting in a more balanced, democratic, use of the public realm: in essence a rediscovery of the historical finer street grain.

See: www.gehlarchitects.dk/ and www.maccreanorlavington.com/website/nl/index.html

Lecture series supported by

