

ESUA Workshop Report 3: Bjørvika charrette, Oslo. 21 - 26 January 2008.

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop was to test how a group of students can be involved in a live planning charrette in order to learn to work as a team, in collaboration with public and local stakeholders, and in order to arrive at one collective proposal within a limited time-span.

Method

The workshop was arranged as part of an actual formal contract for a charrette with the local authority adjacent to Bjørvika development area.

The aim of this charrette was to produce plan for the urban development of the vacant harbour areas of Oslo East, which could be more adapted to the needs of the local population, compared to the current plan from the planning authority of Oslo.

A temporary planning office with a professional staff was set up locally, linked with student facilities enabling them to both work separately from the professionals, or being actively involved in the charrette process when required.

In parallel, the students were brought up to date with relevant knowledge through lectures which were also open to the charrette team and the public, thus spreading “gap knowledge” also outside the ESUA partnership.

Results

The results of the charrette where two-fold:

Official plan

This was presented by the professional team at a public meeting the last day and in a report produced one week after.

Student plan

The student outcome was presented as one collective plan at a closed meeting for a team of evaluators, and in reports produced by the students after returning to their universities.

The first plan had to be realistically adapted to political, economic and technical restraints, and was supervised by a committee of local representatives.

The second student plan was also given realistic constraints, but with a wider choice of urban solutions, allowing for a more visionary plan.

Conclusion

The Bjørvika workshop proved to be an optimal compromise, with student both having to conform 100% with delegated tasks as full members of a charrette team (as in Bran) and working theoretically in a separate group without the constraints and inputs from a live charrette.

The students achieved:

- Investigating a local area effectively over a short period.
- Assessing information through stake-holder and public meetings.
- Exploring a wide range of urban proposals, and through a negotiating process arriving at one collective solution.

- Presenting a solution within a limited timeframe.

The ESUA partners achieved:

- To test out educational efficiency by integrating teaching within a real charrette planning process, teaching students how to merge their individual proposals into one collective plan, and having them present it in a professional manner within the timeframe; confirming that combining teaching with a live charrette works well.

See attached main charrette report (in Norwegian) and student reports (in English)

Oslo 14.4.2008

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