The Urban STEP

En Workshop i deltagande planering

FÖRSÄTTSBLAD:

URBAN STEP

- a Participatory Method for Planning based on Sustainability in Town Types.

The key elements, or corner stones in the STEP concept are:

S Sustainability
T Town, village & settlement Types
E Evaluation/ Experience-, Evidence-, Empirism-based
P Participation / Proven Performance

Caption 5 Participation needs tools. The Urban STEP method promotes round-table work with house or block models an artophoto maps of the site in question. This has turned out to be more efficient and more creative than regular workshops, charrettes with pencil and sketching-paper, 3D modelling etc... People around the table can vary, professionals and laymen, neighbours and politicians, all are welcome. A good round-table is also a representation of the aspects indicated in the value-rose.

INTRODUCTION

DRAFT 2008-11-26

URBAN STEP highlights how you get better results by going via "attraction planning" rather than via "restriction planning". The STEP-method can also be described as a development of charrettes and workshops - it makes planning more participatory and bottom-up, more hands-on, more based in local settlement types and cultures.

Laymen and professionals work hands-on with models representing blocks or houses on top of aerial photos. Vital tools are a matrix of town and village types, and a evaluation rose that assesses sustainability in a broad sense, both for choosing settlement types and the groups layouts coming forth in the workshops.

The method is an experience-based approach that underlines the qualities gathered in our built heritage, encouraging people to trust their own experiences and dreams. The focus on settlement types as opposed to discussing house types, restrictions etc makes STEP easily understood by people of all walks of life.

The method can be used for designing villages, towns and regional patterns.
The Urban STEP Method has proven to bring seemingly opposing parties closer in creative dialogue. The vocabulary and imagery makes the method into an open arena for laymen and professionals of different trades. The tools encourage all to take part, hands-on, and to get all to help shaping development that bears the fingerprints of many.
STEP has often meant the end of receiving angry letters "finding faults" when plans are distributed for consultation. Real cooperation with real people tend to make the co-authors ambassadors of a mutual future.

The Urban STEP has been tested extensively in the Scandinavian context, once in Sri Lanka in an urban corridor project, and in a variation in Australia. The tools are clear but open for adaption to each project.

CHAPTER 1

- the workshop process step by step

This chapter introduces the tools in the flow of the process, and the next chapter expands on their details.

Step 1:
REMINDER OF HERITAGE - opening eyes

The workshop starts with a display of the vast heritage of settlement types that have evolved over centuries in different cultures and subcultures, dense and sparse, beautiful and ugly, threatening and promising, elegant and bohemic, posh and humble, silly and sensible, locally and globally.
This display works as a reminder that the human settlement has many faults and myths, many experts claiming knowledge of what the people or the consumer likes or should like, can afford or should be teased into.

Step 2:
IMAGINING - 30 sec for 30 years

An important next step is to get the participants to lean back and close their eyes using their imagination for the purpose of foreseeing a future trip to their children and grandchildren. Use let's say 30 seconds. Imagine a future, say 30 years from now, and visualise the town or village you wish for your loved ones. Ask the participants to describe their images for one another. The result is often creative - and a good input into the coming discussion.

Step 3:
DISTRIBUTING A MATRIX OF TOWN TYPES

Ask participants to comment and improve the given matrix of town types by adding in their own images. Then ask the participants to circle those types they want to see more of, and cross out those types they want to see less of. The notion of Town Types offers a vocabulary open to laymen and professionals of different trades. The vacant boxes of the matrix are their to challenge people to come up with their own travel photos, memories, postcards etc

CHAPTER 2

- Tools & observations

Tool 1
MATRIX OF TOWN TYPES

Planning in the sense of the process outlined here, means choosing what kind of town, or what kind of urban types that the participants want to see more built of, and which settlement types do they want to see less of, or want to see being avoided completely.
The notion of town types is chosen as this vocabulary represents a language that can be used by both laymen and professionals of different trades.
The notion of town types offers a perspective of wholes, as opposed to focusing on house types, or on technical details such as dBA, FAR, VLT, minimum tha and maximum that...

The matrix, shown here, has been used extensively in Scandinavian contexts. In other regions and countries it has been, and should be, adjusted accordingly. Empty boxes in the matrix are kept open for new types that arise during discussions. The photos in the matrix (postcards, clippings or private photos) can be put randomly, or, as in this matrix, sorted with the y-axis indicating density and the x-axis indicating the scale of ownerships and project.

Two sri lankan versions of the matrix are shown as a parallel, one covering the national level, the other covering a local small town situation.

There are many "town types" and "village types" to gather inspiration from. The matrix works as a reminder of the great diversity of settlement types that have developed over generations. Our urban heritage offers broad reference as to what works and does not work, as well as being the basis from which improvements can be evolved.

Any spontaneous addition in a workshop should be double-checked with a sustainability evaluation (value rose). Different town types will have different sets of advantages and disadvantages. The matrix depicts the performance (value-rose) in the upper left corner of each town type picture.
The matrix has other benefits: it helps turn the

PLATS:	Sverige, Sri Lanka, Australien
BESTÄLLARE:	Stat, Länstyrelser och Kommuner
TYP:	Deltagande planering,
STATUS:	Används kontinuerligt
DATUM:	2003-

Urban STEP visar hur du får bättre resultat genom att gå via "attraktion planering" snarare än via "begränsnings planering". STEP-metoden kan även beskrivas som en utveckling av charrettes och workshops
- Det gör planeringen mer delaktighet och bottom-up ", mer" hands-on ", mer baserad på lokala bebyggelse typer och kulturer.

Lekmän och professionella arbetar handgripligen med modeller som representerar kvarter, hus, vatten och vägar på flygbilder. Vitala verktyg är en matris av staden och byn och en utvärderingsstege som bedömer hållbarheten i vid bemärkelse, både för att välja lösning typer och gruppernas layouter som kommer fram under workshops.

Metoden bygger på att använda tidigare erfarenhet inom stadsplanering som understryker de kvaliteter som samlats in i vårt byggda kulturarv. Att uppmuntra människor att lita på sina egna erfarenheter och drömmar. Samt fokusera på stadstyper i stället för att diskutera hustyper, begränsningar osv gör att STEP lätt förstås av människor i alla samhällsskikt.

2013