

the conference proper, and included a round table on the possible survival of urban design in some Northern cities. The afternoon was continued with design on an urban scale, as the workshop awards were presented on the most interesting proposals for developing the Aalto campus. The keynote was a short and dynamic paper from Anthony Vidler on "Learning to Love Brutalism". In the closing session, which was a family gathering of hundreds (around

350) of **docomomo** members, welcoming words were presented by the delegation of the chosen hosts of the 13th **docomomo** International Conference from Seoul, Korea. The next hosts delivered welcoming words in such a tempting way that left many booking the dates for 2014 already. After several eloquent thanks for everybody involved in making the Espoo conference happening, a special thanks was given to the grand lady of Finnish **do-**

comomo Maija Kairamo for her great work right from the beginning of foundation of the organization. And then there was food and drink and dance to a band and a general feeling of exhaustion and satisfaction due to a conference witnessing the necessity and importance of **docomomo** as a dynamic organization.

International docomomo Workshop August 2-7, 2012

Department of Architecture, Otaniemi, Espoo, Finland
Head instructors: Professors Aino Niskanen and Olli-Paavo Koponen
Observer/Reporter: Panayotis Tournikiotis

Is Aalto just a name for a brand?

By Olli Hakanen, Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen, Tommi Lindh and Aino Niskanen



Figure 1. Panayotis Tournikiotis reporting on the workshop results at the Docomomo Conference final round table discussion August 10, 2012. Photo by Tommi Lindh.

The Helsinki University of Technology got its present placement and layout in Otaniemi with Alvar Aalto's competition winning entry from 1948. Aalto's red brick buildings freely grouped in the middle of green revolving around the focus of a Greek theatre, the main auditorium, soon became landmarks of modern architecture. The group of buildings was complete to start as a functioning campus university in the mid-1960s with student housing surrounding the educational buildings.

The area has during the decades got additions and alterations but the main features have however remained fairly intact.

Today the situation has changed. Helsinki University of Technology is annexed into a larger unit of the Aalto University having joined The University of Art and Design Helsinki and The Helsinki School of Economics since 2010. The Department of Architecture was merged together with the University of Industrial Design into a new School

of Arts, Design and Architecture in 2012.

The Aalto University is planning to move a major part of its functions from Helsinki into Otaniemi, Espoo. A two phase competition to design Aalto University's Otaniemi central campus and its main buildings facing the present. The former main building is arranged of which the first phase has just finished. The floor area of the new complex is about double compared with Alvar Aalto's building.

The future fate of Aalto's buildings is unclear: their uses will change and many of them are undergoing renovations. The buildings have no formal protection status although the area itself is included in the inventory of nationally significant cultural environments. For example the rector has moved away from the spaces which Aalto had designed as a climax of his composition—the future use of these spaces is unclear. The leaders of the university have shown no real interest in the qualities Aalto's architecture—although masses of architectural tourists visit the area.

The campus is also finally getting a subway connection to the inner city but it means at the same a pressure to condense the area with housing and commercial activities. What will happen to the character of campus architecture or the green outdoors of housing areas? The planning of the totality is a fairly invisible process. There are several projects going on—the increase of residential and commercial building is significant, more than doubling the current amount in square meters.

These topical questions were the starting point of the workshop which lasted a week was arranged as part of the Docomomo 2012 Conference. Unlike the previous Docomomo workshops the participants were not master students but young professionals instead, as the organizers had wished a relevant contribution for a situation facing real dramatic problems. They worked for a week with the aim of trying to understand the possibilities and threats of the Aalto building and their surroundings and presented their outcome at the conference. Smaller presentations were made during the workshop.

The small group of participants was divided into two: One group was working with the aim of understanding the future of main interiors of the architecture department. They researched the inner hierarchy of spaces and space sequences, materials and details: their authenticity, marks of wear and need of repair. Especially installations are under pressure of many changes. The interior group made a SWOT analyses and gave some recommendations for future uses of the spaces.

The other group worked on understanding the on-going change of the Otaniemi campus. Some guidelines for planning and design were identified.

Great care should be taken on designing the so-

cial and commercial services in a way the desired world class campus becomes possible. For example recreating the mobility system of the Otaniemi peninsula has a crucial impact on the most beneficial use of land.

The group encouraged to fertilize the new architecture with the best qualities of the existing environment and architectural heritage. Human scale, sensual detailing and intimate relation with nature will always be current qualities of inspirational architecture.

A series of lectures illuminated different aspects: the history of the university area, the measures of building protection, development plans for the

whole area, the politics of a larger metropolis area, Aalto's interiors. A site visit was made to the neighboring faculty which is under renovation. The workgroups commented that lectures and visits gave good support for their work.

What was gained during the process?

For the participants the current state of conservation in the Aalto Campus might have come as a surprise. A renowned area for its architectural quality together with the respect to Alvar Aalto's work may come as a shock case of cultural heritage in danger. At least the participants and some of the lecturers also, got a better overview and more knowledge of the current situation in the area today.

Lecturers: Jaakko Penttilä, Olli Hakanen, Kari Kontturi, Kaarin Taipale, Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen, Gretel Hemgård, Aino Niskanen, Staffan Lodenius, Henrik Wager, Jonas Malmberg, Juha Lemström, Tommi Lindh, Vladimir Slapeta.

Invited specialists: Ana Tostões, Esa Laaksonen, Ivan Blasi, Maija Kairamo, Panayotis Tournikiotis, Vladimir Slapeta.

Group 1 / General Plan and the space between buildings.

Participants: Jonna Taegen, Architect, PhD student (Finland); Miguel Araujo, Architect, PhD student (Portugal); Salim al Elwazani, professor (USA).

Facilitators: Aimo Nissi, Architect; Olli Hakanen, Architect.

Group 2 / Volumes and spaces, building fabric, detailing and technical systems.

Participants: Katariina Ockenström, Architect, PhD student (Finland); Marzio di Pace, Architect (Italy); Mihoko Ando, Architect, PhD student (Japan); Seija Linnanmäki, Architect, PhD student (Finland).

Facilitators: Jonas Malmberg, Architect; Alvar Aalto Foundation. Ola Wedebrunn, Architect, Docent, Royal Technical University of Copenhagen.

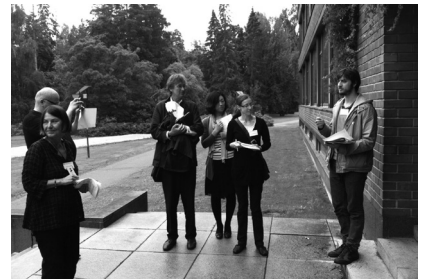
Observers: Han Na Song, Seung Tae Choi, Young-Cheol Kim.



2



3



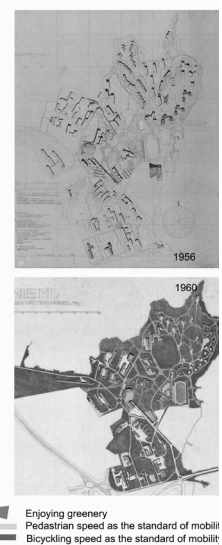
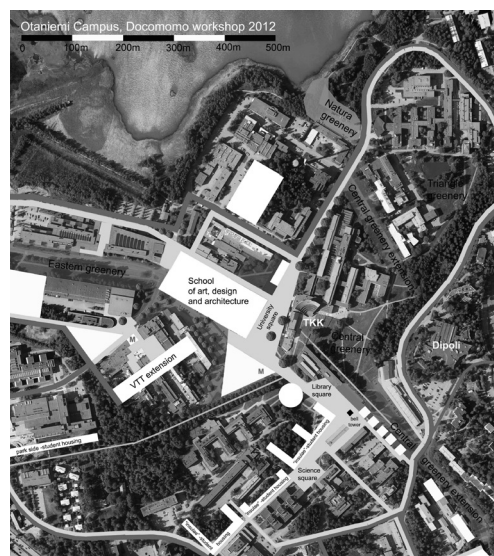
4

Figure 2. Ana Tostões, Chair of **docomomo** International and Panayotis Tournikiotis, Chair ISC/Registers at the Workshop presentations.

Figure 3. Worksite tour in the former main building of the former University of Technology. Photo by Tommi Lindh, August 3, 2012.

Figure 4. Architect Marzio di Pace (Group 2) presenting his initial findings regarding the Department of Architecture. Photo by Tommi Lindh, August 4, 2012.

Figure 5. Otaniemi core campus. Existing main roads and parking lots can be transformed into academic and residential building sites, urban pedestrian spaces and extensions of parks.



5