

# 2008 Oslo Workshop Journal





The student charrette proceeded alongside the official proposals for an out-of-the-box opinion and also as an educational process for the students to get acquainted with how planning should be done and how a charette at this level is done.

Students and foreign experts were on Monday introduced to the on-site situation with a walk around the site featured in the charrette. There also was a tour that continued from St. Olav that introduced us to most of Oslo.

## Meetings

### Experts presentation

Students and charette participants listened to presentation of local experts in different fields.

**River expert** spoke about the *A-HA* concept where the three letters represent a river that passes through the charette site but have been covered by past developments in infrastructure. The concept desires that future developments in the area should uncover the rivers and the banks used as walkable green areas.

A **historical perspective** was given to us by a member of the Antiquary Association in Norway. It gave us an insight of the past memory of the old Oslo and how history was perceived by the citizens.

The **wants of the local authority** have been presented during a meeting with representatives of this administrative body. Their desires focused on the interconnectivity of the city and the fjord, the present infrastructure (highway and railroad tracks) and the planned building development is considered a barrier between the people and the fjord.

**Transport network** insight has been provided by an expert in that field. How the network works and what are the requirements of the system were observed in this meeting.

### Public meeting

This meeting presented to the citizens the problems and solutions this charette wanted to amend. Different experts presented their views of the problem. Also during the meeting, a questionnaire was used to poll and probe the desires, comments and fears of the people concerning the charette site.

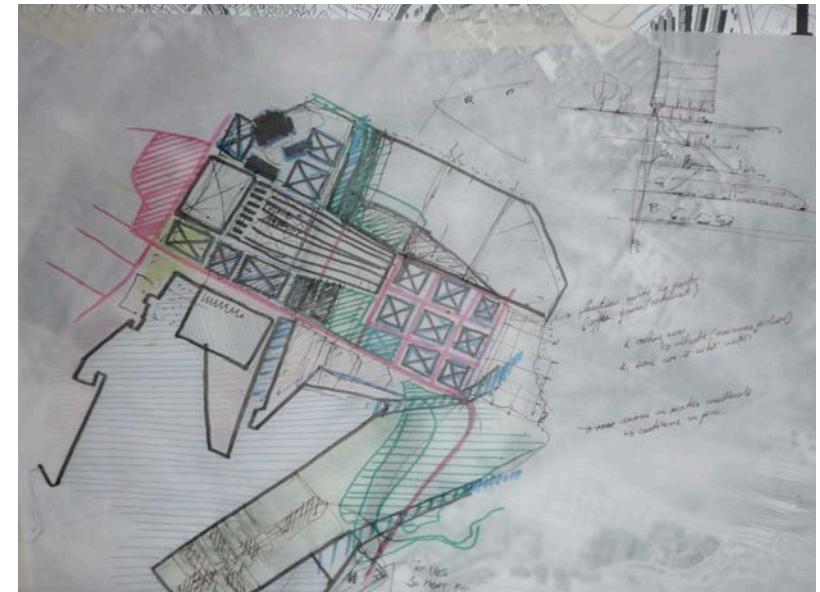
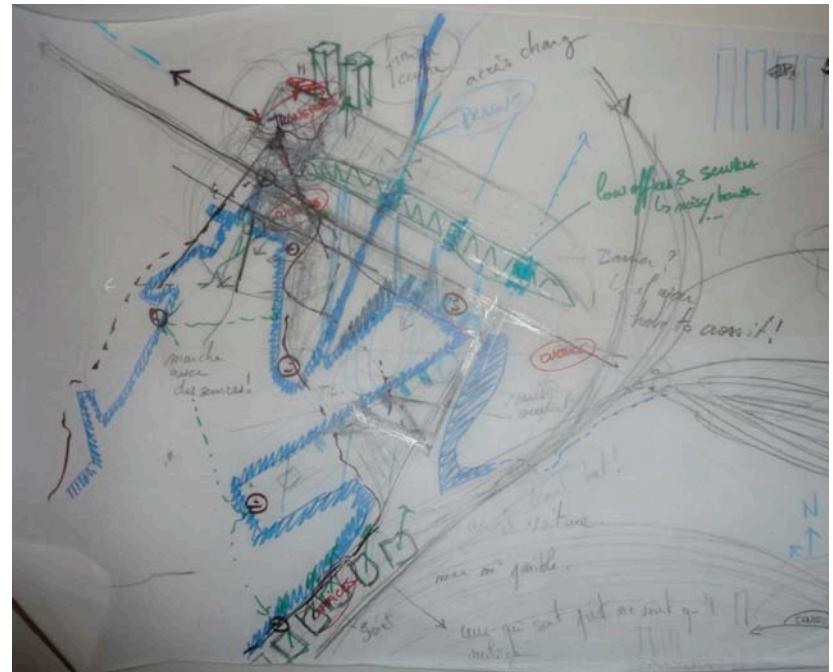
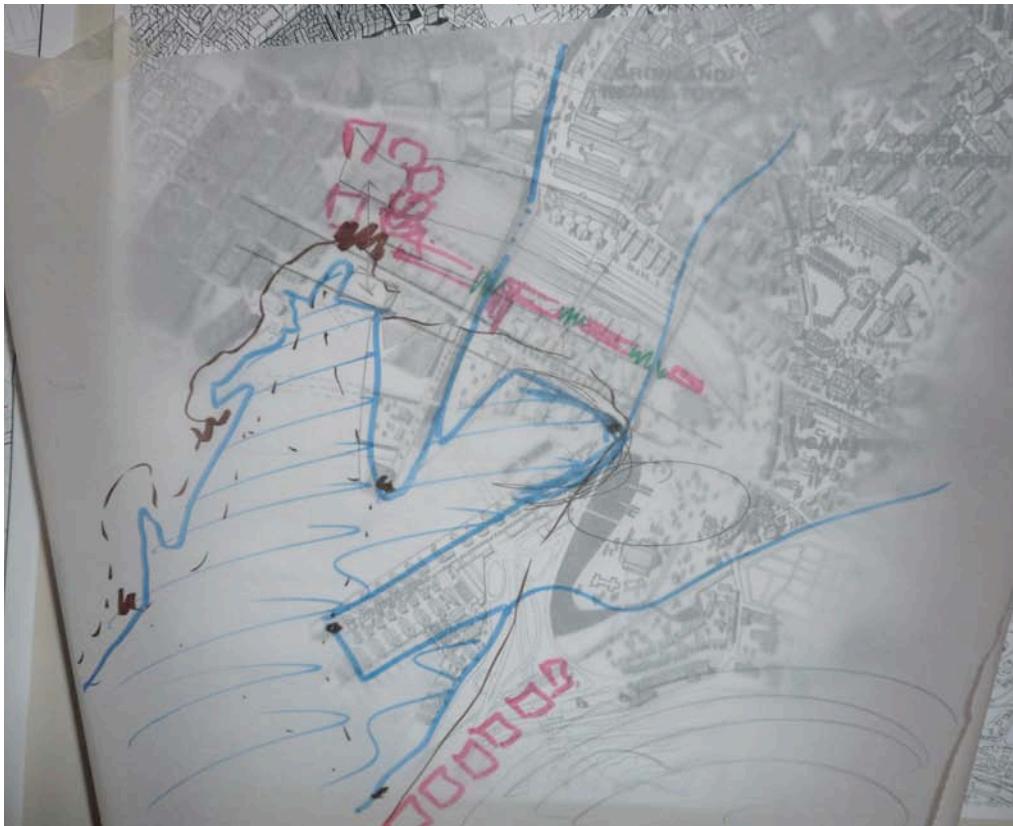


## Design Session

Wednesday, the first large scale sketches have been done and discussed with the urbanists present at the charrette. The 8 students were split into four teams and each came up with its own reinterpretation of the area in question. The ideas differed in urban fabric and in solution to different problems. The most important one, the height of the "barcode buildings", has been solved by trying to move them in the south-eastern part of the fjord, but with a question if this area will work if not properly connected. Also the coastline of the fjord was solved in different ways(as seen in the pictures below).



# Design Session



## Conferences

### Michael Mehaffy – New challenges of New Urbanism

The conference was about how the New Urbanism movement is growing its tools into bringing "urbanism" back into cities. From troubles with segregation to how the street pattern has to be connected.

### Frederika Miller – Sustainability in urbanism

The issues of global warming and CO2 reduction has been a new incentive to develop or bring back ideas in planning and design to create new no emission cities. Some of the topics were about the "good" placement of buildings and spaces to get the best efficiency and comfort. To different ways in which you can cut down on emissions and improve health. But for this practices to work it is required to integrate the inhabitants in the process so they can make conscious decisions.



## Design Session

By the end of the day there were three proposals to discuss about. Two student proposals and the official one at that time. There were two student proposals, one trying to use the space occupied by the medieval coastline for better communication with the future and the other trying to use the coastline in the planning, among other differences. The final proposal tried to merge the better points of the three into one.



## Conferences

### Chris Butters - Sustainable architecture and planning

This conference came as continuation of the previous one. The interdependencies, connection and cooperation between the different players involved in shaping present and new neighbourhoods. The optimal design is where the three spheres ("oikonomia", social, ecological) meet and interlace.

### Michael Mehaffy - Climate change and urban design

It was a conference about which tools new urbanists use to design ecological buildings. In particular, the system and point based checklists that evaluate the ecological potential of different buildings.



## Design Session

The final proposal uses the original medieval coastline to make a connection between the train station and the sea. It creates urban spaces within the street fabric, defines new neighbourhoods based on a medieval inspired urban pattern, tries to connect the two south-eastern land pieces.



## Conferences

### Michael Mehaffy - Tools for structuring connected urban system.

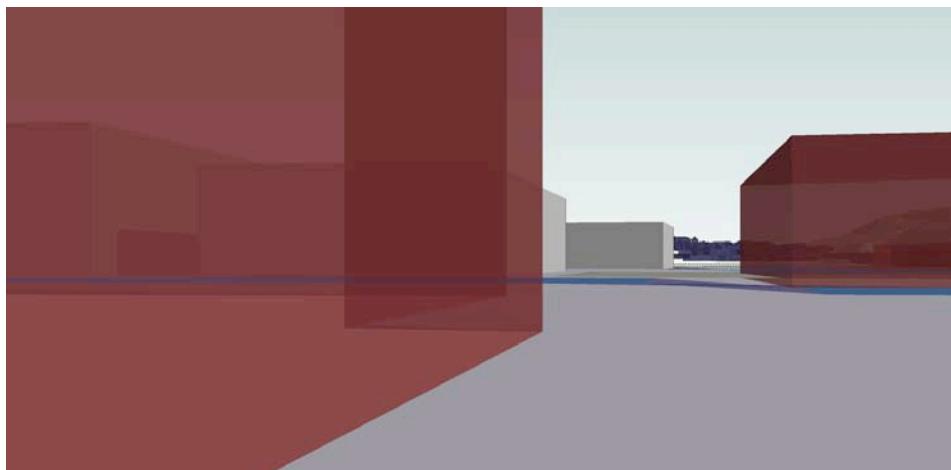
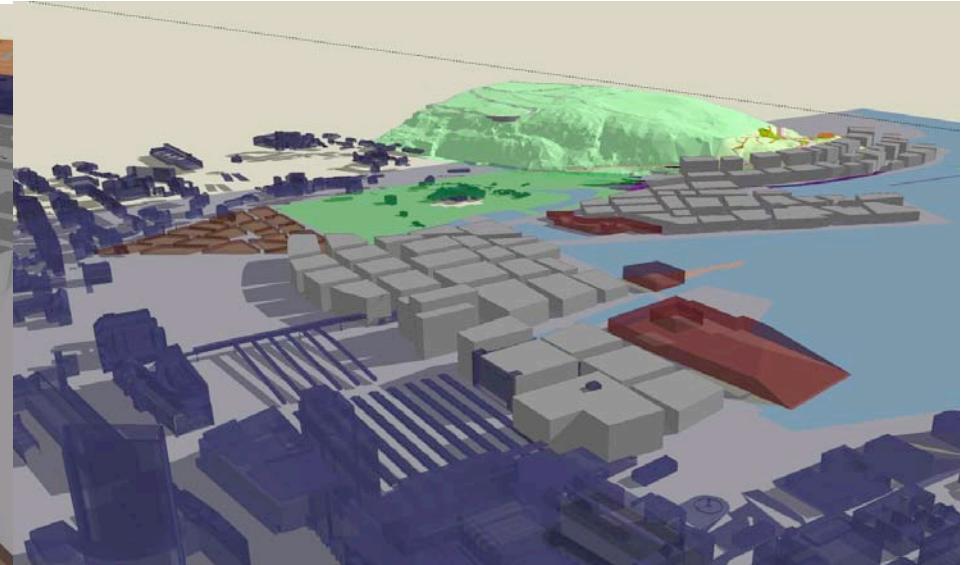
The conference highlighted the main ways to connect spaces. And the possibility to create in a controlled environment streets that have a higher degree of circulation or less, but not create any "dead" spaces. Types of useful codes (volume interaction, performance, transect), the mining and use of material for the codes and the application.

### Jerker Sörderlind - An example of urbanism

An example from Stockholm was presented to us showing how different procedures can create a pleasant urban context for the inhabitants. How form and placement has influence. And how pluralism in styles and decisions can create a diverse and always amazing landscape of architecture, design and lifestyle.

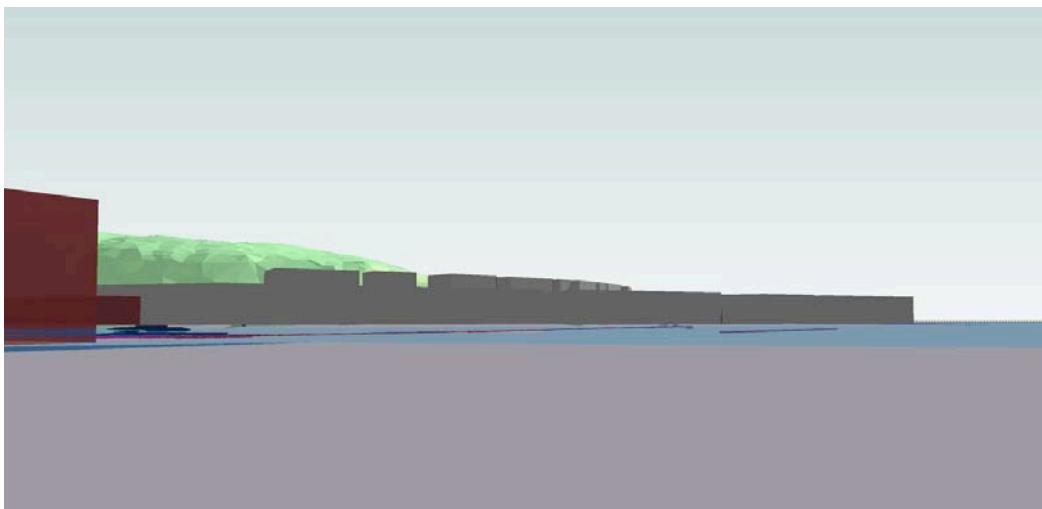


## Design Sessions - Saturday



Computer generated model from  
different points

## Design Sessions - Saturday



Computer generated  
model from different  
points

# A great week



Gabi Nicoara , Bogdan Isopescu, Clara Bogdan , Alexandra Spiridon, Sergiu Sabau, Marko Brasovan, Paul Valeanu, Pierre Bortnowski