

The Chesapeake Project: Integrating Sustainability Across the Curriculum

ARCH 478K/678K Building Scandinavia: Craft & Culture

One of two courses offered in the Education Abroad summer program

Scandinavia: Culture & Place Summer 2012

Peter Noonan, Professor of the Practice, AIA, LEED AP

School of Architecture, Planning, & Preservation

Building Scandinavia: Craft & Culture is a course within the Education Abroad summer program **Scandinavia: Culture & Place**. The program's intent is to increase students' awareness of the role that culture, geography, and history contribute to architectural form through the investigation of the built and natural environment in Scandinavia. The course includes travel to Sweden, Denmark, and Finland; the itinerary involves extended stays in the national capitals of Copenhagen, Helsinki, and Stockholm, using these urban locales as bases for excursions into the wider metropolitan milieu. Students spend two weeks in Copenhagen, one week in Helsinki, and one week in Stockholm. Accommodations are provided in hostels and university colligium. Students will take a group flight from Copenhagen to Helsinki; bus tours in central Finland; and an overnight ferry from Turku, Finland to Stockholm, Sweden. The course is open to graduate and undergraduate students within the Architecture Program, and the course may be used as an elective or seminar course type within the Programs required curriculum of courses.

In the summer of 2010, the first installation of this course focused primarily on the canons of Scandinavian architecture and design: important cultural landscapes, buildings, and figures that have made this one of the world's most critically acclaimed design regions. Students carried out pre-trip research, designed and collated a *Scandinavia|Research Journal* that accompanied the trip, and made in the field investigations using a variety of architectural documentation techniques. Post trip assignments included the design of a second bound volume titled *Scandinavia|Field Comparisons*.

The 2012 program will use the theme of sustainability as a lens through which the broader goals of the program are focused. The Scandinavian region has long been a global leader in sustainable practices, alternative energy sources, and integrated design initiatives. For this year's *Scandinavia|Research Journal*, rather than explore the well-known canons of design, individually selected research topics will focus on those landscapes, buildings, practitioners, and policies that have advanced both the built environment and sustainable practices within the region. The itinerary will include experiencing and documenting the Finnish Savo Sauna, Copenhagen's bike culture and infrastructure, and Stockholm's Hammarby Sjöstad neighborhood, a sustainable development that re-purposes an abandoned factory within the city center.

Experience of a place in the fullest sense of the word is a primary tenant of any Education Abroad program. A series of experiences have been designed for this program that highlight not only the buildings and places of Scandinavia, but also the behaviors, life choices, and cultural rituals that are central to this regions' stewardship of the planet. The Chesapeake Project initiated these changes to the program and course for 2012, experiences that will integrate the theme of sustainability in the program's itinerary.