

# Cultural Heritage in Local and Regional Social and Economic Stability

## The Finnish Experience

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### 1. Introduction

Finland is known to be one of the youngest cultures in Europe. The earliest signs of human activities have been found in the Susiluola Cave in Western Finland, and predate the Ice Age going back over 100 000 years. This area was inhabited after the Ice Age, and about 9000 years later dwelling sites of the Suomusjärvi culture existed in the both northern and southern Finland. There are also evidence for the Stone Age Finns living on hunting, fishing, and gathering. Cultivation and livestock husbandry started spreading about 4000 years ago. The following ages, Bronze, Iron, all are today a part of the Archaeological wealth of Finland, where different periods are named after the Europe's historical epochs; the Roman Iron Age, the Migrations Period, the Merovingian Period, the Viking Age, the Crusade Period, etc. The prehistoric time was ended in Finland with the adoption of Christianity and the annexation of the country to the Swedish Crown between 1100 and 1200. There are about 14000 ancient monuments and sites in Finland protected under the Antiquities Act.

Even though the historic building stock in Finland is young in the European standards, its significance as a tangible document to the cultural evolution cannot be ignored. A majority of the society, however, seems to be suffering a inferiority complex due to this lack of long roots. The Turku and Häme Castles, the oldest medieval structures, wooden houses from the Middle Ages are among those survived the test of time. The signs of historic town plans established during the Middle Ages and the cities founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with their orthogonal street grids, attest to the making of an urban culture. Wood being the major building material, it is no surprise that the present day Finnish researchers investigating the revival of the building traditions. Vernacular architectural traditions existed in the Finnish countryside since 16<sup>th</sup> century has adopted the features of European Classicism. The national romanticism at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the modern movement brought fame to the Finnish cities with the works of Eliel Saarinen, Alvar Aalto, Reima Pietilä adding a new cultural wealth. The development of the city also led to the abandoning of the countryside, costing the unified milieu of old communities. This has been worsened with the discontinuity of concessions offered to farming by the state after joining the European Union. A large proportion of the architectural heritage is intact although, a majority do not see the cultural values of these simple structures although declaring them a cultural heritage and inventorying are steadily growing. With the rise of Finland in the post-industrial era, the industrial districts of ironworks, textile, and wood, are also in the losing side. As the industrial districts are often within the city limits, the current urban planner has to respond to them and their values. The lack of awareness of the values, the cultural assets and their potential economic capabilities, and possible use or re-use are among the focuses of the researchers. The awareness of this cultural heritage is growing in Finland, where the scope of culture is also broadening.

The research on cultural heritage is growing in parallel. Since 1960s, the attention on the environmental protection whenever developing cities and communities is enlarging. The local authorities do contact the National Board of Antiquities (NBA), the official custodian of

cultural heritage which has been active in classifying and documenting the cultural heritage. The municipalities and other local authorities have their own unit for environment too. The discussion on environmental protection is more concentrated towards the natural environment but, the interest in the cultural environment is rising. The NBA, as an umbrella organisation, has encouraged its partners; the Rauma Museum the official custodian of the World Heritage City of Rauma and the Suomenlinna Board of Governors the caretaker of the World Heritage site of Suomenlinna, to contribute towards the enlarging public awareness through practical research and surveys. The municipalities, using planning schemes as tools to protect historic buildings and their surroundings, have generated much interests among the public. The town plans fall short in protecting the non-materialistic cultural heritage and promoting cultural values among the citizens. Investigating on the failure or success of these legal instruments is also a research area to be defined. As the Finnish society places a high importance to private ownership, and how the town planning schemes or the international documents on heritage protection would work within this context needs to be investigated. The present day facade-saving and readopting into uses that have no relevance to the cultural evolution, the relatively small heritage industry and nostalgia are among the research topics. The Finnish initiations for regional programmes and networking are also noteworthy.

Heritage protection is assisted by research institutes and universities. They conduct short-term and long-term projects. The works of the post-graduate students often fall to the second type. The Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (YTK) is affiliated with the Helsinki University of Technology (HUT). Today, architects, planners, urban historians, geographers, environmental psychologists, cultural anthropologists, and various kinds of sociologists and humanists, who are interested in urban and regional issues are working under the roof of the YTK. Their interests may vary but, by working as a team, we are in a position to undertake multidisciplinary research work. The versatility of our staff attests to the type of research skills we have and to the potentials of becoming partners of such projects. Our close links with the other universities in Finland, and with the NODREGIO, the Nordic Centre for Spatial Planning, in Stockholm enhance these potentials. We promote new research projects, applied and practical, and become partners in regional and international groups. Our research varies from highly theoretical subjects of cultural heritage to more public-oriented empirical works. The Faculties and Departments of Architecture, Urban Planning, Landscape Planning, and the Interior Architecture are all linked to create the Graduate School of Architectural Studies, which guides post graduate degrees. As a whole, the academic and non-academic sectors are in the process of developing even closer links with each other to develop research on cultural heritage.

## **2. Research on Cultural Heritage: the state of art**

The research, as a process that continuously observe and analyse or adjust and adopt the previous work for the use, has become an important issue in the Finnish context. Today, research plays a vital role in the academic circles as well as in the more practical affairs. The universities and their affiliated institutes such as ours are the main performers of the so-called applied research while the NBA with its partners and cities carrying out practical research on the cultural heritage. The two types had been separated from each other for a long time, thus causing poor dissemination of knowledge, poor awareness of the cultural heritage among the general public, some professionals and policy makers, and creating obstacles for the exchange of knowledge between the academic core and practice. With regards to 'research on cultural heritage', this schism had been a reason for the development of isolated piecemeal protection of cultural heritage independent of the current development and production needs of the living society. It has also caused the ignorance of the intangible cultural heritage. The research was mostly focused onto individual items; buildings, cities, etc., chosen for various, in most cases personal, reasons. Knowledge collected and processed were stored but never used for the development of heritage-protection as a common goal of the community. This also limited the scope of cultural heritage as it

projected a view that the cultural heritage is a property of an intellectual minority. The idea of society, living in the urban areas, and cultural events in the city have always been rather problematic in the Finnish context. The sociologists note that although the city has existed for centuries there is no established urban culture in Finland. The cities are also of foreign origin. There is a need to study the urban heritage and its proclaiming within this particular Finnish context.

The number of research in Finland that dealt with the built heritage had been high, and the research on landscapes has evolved in several disciplines, but these have so far had very limited direct relevance for local policy making, especially for the everyday environmental policy and the cultural heritage. Among the exceptions are the studies carried out in within the environmental and archaeological administration itself, and, for instance, the project of Sakari Tuhkanen (refer Tuhkanen, 1990). There has been no continuity to approach the heritage in the local development strategies. The heritage is often treated as something to be considered of having surplus time and resources, and not as an important asset to be taken into account across the sectors. The potentials of heritage protection in reviewing a social and economic stability could then be studied too. The types of research had focused onto the tangible and materialistic portion of the cultural heritage and its 'freezing' without linking protection with social, cultural, and economic issues. Whenever these issues are dealt with, then it would be linked to social history or tourism. As a matter of fact, the post-graduate research at the three schools of architecture from 1920 to 1989 hardly touched the subject 'cultural heritage', although some post-graduates dealt with historic buildings and cities as subjects (refer *Rooms of Knowledge*, 1990). In the late eighties, post-graduate projects dealt with heritage and its social, cultural, and economic issues; the research on the So Ho district in New York and on the city of Kyoto.

The nineties became a turning point in the architectural research, with more architects becoming interested in post-graduate studies and state agencies making more funds available. The universities and their affiliated institutes were restructured and the Graduate School in Architectural Studies was formed. As a whole, this restructuring prepared the grounds for a new research culture that is paying due attention to the cultural heritage and potentials of its protection. Having come to know the consequences of the isolated attempts, the researchers began to form networks to share knowledge. The academic centres, represent the theoretical core in the networks, supplying the underpinning, setting out research aims and objectives and methodologies, could guide the process of analysis and processing of knowledge. During the last few years, the network forming on cultural heritage has been very successful.

The point of departure at the YTK, 'cultural heritage as an asset that has the capacity of growth and spurring growth', has formed the basis for many joint research projects. We are a close ally of the integrated view on European development and planning that has been evolving during the 90's as a result of the Member State co-operation. The final document, *European Spatial Development Perspective* (ESDP), accepted in May 1999 by the Member State ministers are responsible for planning in Finland, and as such for heritage protection too. The fundamental goals of the European society stated in the ESDP; economic and social cohesion, conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage, and a more balanced competitiveness within the European territory, are among our research focuses. These goals are further concretised in the policy guidelines that concern with the making of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship, the securing of parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge, and to promote sustainable development, or to prudent management of nature and the cultural heritage. However, like many other Nordic institutes, we are still struggling to bring the awareness of the cultural heritage in par with the natural heritage. Most of the Finns appreciate nature as if they are 'off the nature', and most of the policy documents place priorities with nature. The environmental impact assessments have not yet included the cultural values as a criteria. As we know, the final report of the World Commission on Development did emphasise more on the natural

resources, and there is no doubt that this report has a large impact on the Finns and their position over the values of the natural environment and natural resources.

We note the essence of 'wise use of heritage' among the best practices for heritage protection. Our current research look into the issue of integrating conservation with use. Following the new vision developed after the European Heritage Year in 1975 with regards to the aspect of use and integrated conservation of the built heritage, we promotes heritage as a major impulse for social, cultural, and economic progress. This aims at utilising the economic potentials of cultural heritage and their ethical aspects. We, forming a partnership with a few other institutions in Finland, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, and Germany, unsuccessfully proposed a research project entitled, 'Development through Conservation-Forms, Functions, and Strategies' to the Fifth Framework in the year 1999. The aim of the project had been to develop a thematic network to elaborate strategies to spur development through conservation of the urban heritage and formalise the contacts with potential users of these strategies. Later, with the financial assistance of the Academy of Finland, we were able to start a project within the similar ideology in the year 2000. This research project intends to study the potentials of urban heritage values in initiating a social and economic revival in the World Heritage City in the developing context. We test the hypothesis of bringing the current cultural consciousness to identify the carrying capacity of urban space in order to determine the most sustainable development and to shape a development-oriented conservation approach. We use Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius as the case study (see below under the current projects for more details).

In the year 2000, we, aiming to enlarge this project, unsuccessfully submitted another application to the Fifth Framework Programme entitled, 'Cultural Heritage Management in the European City of Tomorrow'. The aim of this research had been to improve heritage management strategies in the historic European towns by studying cases and then processing our knowledge into disseminating forms. We included education, training, and innovative inventorying techniques. Among the objectives had been identification and classification of cultural heritage and cultural landscape and visualisation techniques for documentation. We proposed to organise three workshops, to develop a web page and to produce a CD-rom. The heritage management was to become a facilitator for the 'wise use' of heritage, spurring a growth in the human capital and cultural wealth. Our case study were to cover cities and regions all over Europe. The partners from Germany, Italy, Holland, Spain, and Sweden, and sub-partners from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, agreed on elaborating the concept of cultural asset, and proposed this comparative research project with the aim of developing management criteria for the protection of cultural heritage as a promoter of sustainable development. The project was expected to be completed in three years. This project was to deal with the three key areas of the EU programme as,

1. *from the ecological point of view*, screening new intervention promotes the objectives of sustainable development.
2. *from an economic point of view*, sustainable use of the cultural heritage as a magnet for investment. Cultural activities, being defined as an intangible heritage, is to be promoted with unearthed facets of economic boosters.
3. *from a socio-cultural point of view*, emphasising the particular way of proclaiming a heritage would enhance the cultural diversity and the uniqueness in each culture. Further, placing the heritage within the society would promote cultural progress.

These three projects attest to the sharpening of our research focus towards the use of cultural heritage as a promoter and facilitator of high-quality urban life. This correspond to the current trends in the heritage discourse in Finland. Here, we find the broadening of the scope of heritage, widening related issues with protection and proclaiming of heritage, identification of various beneficiaries of protection, and the need for heritage management. We promote a more integrated type of heritage protection that not only preserves the materialistic remains of a culture but also promotes a cultural progress through heritage management. The

economic disabilities of the heritage cities and restrictions imposed on other heritage items as well as superficially-enforced market values and tourist values are also taken into consideration. We are trying to re-shape land use planning and spatial design along with morphological analysis to support this integration in the urban and regional scale. We carry out research on the tools, not only to protect the tangible built stock but also to enhance the cohesiveness of the society. (Refer Christer Bengts, "From Conservation to Convelopment", in *Built Environment* 26-3).

The recent contribution made by the University of Oulu with regards to the research enlarging aspects of heritage protection is noteworthy. The completed post-graduate projects; *The Tourist and Vocational Buildings in the Lapland: from the beginning of tourism to the present day* (1997), *Urban Conservation and City Life* (1998) are among those that discuss the question of cultural heritage, its significance to local identity and the need for its protection. The latter extends beyond the protection to bring in the relevant aspects of economics, social and cultural importance. This exclusively focuses onto the issues beyond mere protection, and investigates the possibilities of rendering a true protection by reviving the traditional process of production as a way of giving a new lease of life to the deteriorating life in the World Heritage City. This is also an attempt to question the restricted nature of the concepts used in the international documents and the undue focus on the materialistic being of the heritage-items from the sociological and economic points of view (Refer H.Munasinghe, *Urban Conservation and City Life*, University of Oulu Press, 1998).

The national committees of the ICOMOS in Nordic countries started a joint research project in 1969-72 called 'The Nordic Wooden Town' that aims at studying the character, problems, and potential of the common Nordic cultural heritage typology. The project enlarged the public awareness and its continuity through post graduate studies, research programmes bring new ideas for testing and discussion. It has resulted in the revival of traditional skills. The NBA has been active in running short term practical type of research and in participating in such networks. Their continuous efforts for the development of documentation and on-site studies are important contributions. *The Sustainable Historic City: A North Eastern Approach*, is noteworthy participation of the NBA. This project focused on the historic quarters of Tallinn, Riga, Visby in Sweden, and Ålesund in Norway. The basic structure to study these cases consisted of values, development, and management. The NBA was among the expert advisors of this project, which collected empirical data on certain city quarters. (Refer Hans Jacob Roald, *Sustainable Historic Cities ?*, 2001). By bringing in the value of cultural heritage to generate a discussion, this team of researchers, have been able to note the issues related to development, policies, and future, yet missing the key issue of assessing heritage values and formulation a possible continuity. They, paying undue attention for economic gains through tourism, have also failed to study the continuity of the city life and the importance of these cities in the national and local levels. The next step would be to continue with these data to build up some concrete guidelines for the cities without ignoring the importance of Tallinn and Riga particularly in the national and regional context. The other important projects in which the NBA has been involved is the *Baltic Palette*, that was more to deal with the spatial planning aspects of the Baltic cities. This project dealt with the sustainable development and sustainable tourism to a greater extent, calling for regional co-operation. Yet, it failed to focus onto the interdependence between heritage, society, and development as a research problem (*The Baltic Palette- a Region full of Colours*, final report, 2000).

The Suomenlinna Board of Governors has carried out a visitor survey in 1997. The results of the survey has been processed properly, so the Board of Governors is aware of the visitors to the World Heritage site. The Ministry of Environment, the City of Helsinki, and many institutions are promoting and funding towards such surveys and empirical research. The recent reforms in the Finnish environmental policies are a result of these research. These reforms, changing their tradition from a *Command and Control Approach* to more governance type approach, appear to have covered the nature resources successfully. The attitudes to the management of the city has yet been limited pollution control and other such quantitative

measures. Extending this for cultural heritage is to be among the most important issues right now. The Museum of Finnish Architecture ([www.mfa.fi](http://www.mfa.fi)) has conducted several research projects that dealt with the heritage. Among them is the building protection, data collection and building evaluation are important. The MFA has links with the DOCOMOMO, and even ran the first pilot programme on the protection of Modern Movement buildings, and engage in research on these buildings as well.

The drafting a town plan refers to the beauty of the environment, cultural monuments, scenic views, and other aesthetic values are taken into account. The Act on the Protection of Buildings aims to protect buildings, group of buildings, or built areas connected with history or cultural development to preserve the national cultural heritage. There is an upswing in the urban politics to preserve and present the historic urban fabric or individual buildings. All the cities would like to present this inheritance rather than protect some historic urban fabric. The decision to proclaim an external cover of a building is followed by its readopting. It is a fact that often the interiors are changed irrespective to the exterior or the values for which the particular building has been proclaimed a heritage. Finns seem to have identified a wider variety of cultural acts in the historic quarters than others, they have deviated significantly from conventional cultural functions as well. With the idea of culture and cultural heritage being broadened from a homogeneous 'pea-soup' to a heterogeneous 'salad', and from individual objects of cult status to cultural environments, our research shall break the barriers to correspond with consequence of the idolising progress which is changing culture as the metaphor for good life. The research carried out in Finland could be divided into three basic traditions, the subjective-idealistic, the empirical-positivistic, and the hermeneutic-interpretative. The state of art in terms of research on the cultural heritage is becoming vibrant and dynamic in Finland.

### **3. Significant Research Issues- hot problems**

Among the hot problems in research is the defining of the scope of cultural heritage, the interrelationship between intangible cultural heritage and the tangible component, the significance of the living traditions that have produced these inheritance, use of protection as a social and economic revival, and the issues related to authenticity, continuous production or re-production. The heritage of the recent past, the question of value and value ascription as well as the role of the current cultural consciousness are also being attended. Being a modern country, Finland is in full alliance with the modern conservation ideology that has yielded much of the prevailing modernistic architectural ideology and its particular focus on time, time layers, dating, and origin. We, having found the restrictions and complexities of the universally-tested Euro-centric heritage protection, finds the need to develop place-oriented conservation policies, and demands for more research to support that quest. We note the consequences of the professionalisation of the profession of architecture and urban planning as a cause for the present day isolated and piecemeal conservation of historic buildings. As such, scrutinising the potentials for integrated protection is an important issue in Finland. Our experience in the Baltic and other developing cities make us understand the need to use conservation as a tool to improve living conditions, not just by promoting cultural tourism and improving service but mostly by reviving the life in those inherited urban spaces. As such, we find the need to co-operate with different other disciplines such as social policy, development studies, economic policy, in addition to the land use, spatial design, and architecture.

Conservation and utility in combination is an issue progressively entering the debate of the European community. This brings up the other hot problems related to administrative structures, professional training, education, value systems, and their reforming to facilitate the integration of conservation and use. At present, development and conservation are handled by independently by authorities who often locks horns with each other. We note the strength of the evolved cultural consciousness for its capacity to become the co-ordinating agent between conservation and development. In simple terms, what the cultural desires of

the living society could determine the carrying capacity of both conservation and development. Reconstruction of the destroyed urban fabric or that is beyond restoration is among the most significant issues to deal with. Re-urbanising the historic city and sustaining the living community are also among the hot problems defined in Finland. There is a need to develop a system to study the existing urban fabric its use by the social fabric in terms of types and morphemes and then to develop an assimilation to cater for heritage demands and needs of the living society.

The aim of using land use planning and spatial design as a combined tool to strike a balance between conservation and development composes hot problems. Land-use planning has for most of the post-war period been organised to meet the expanding demands of society; construction of new residential areas and towns. The administrative structures and legislation have not been very well suited for managing maintenance and reuse of existing physical structures. Neither the training nor professional skills of planners and architects correspond to the current demands for a sustainable development. An additional feature of European land-use planning is that it has been reduced to a mechanism for finding solutions by establishing a formalised system for negotiation. Planning and building codes speak less about the factual outcome and more about how to reach it. As ordinary planning concentrate solely on the allocation of potential profits for investors, environmental impact assessment routines have been developed to counteract total *laissez-faire*. Where planning codes seem to address the benefit of non-restricted investments, environmental assessment methods seem to mirror the idea of still existing common good and shared interest. One could claim that the development of various methods for assessing environmental impacts actually reflects the shortcomings of the established land-use planning sector. As a whole, we intend to re-shape these tools to suite our purpose of heritage management in the cities and regions.

Tourism in Finland has very little to do with its built heritage, except for the negligible portion of visitors to the modern movement buildings. As other forms of cultural activities attracts a decent portion of tourism, there is an under-defined research problem. The need to apply more productive and investment-oriented economic models are becoming increasingly important in the Finnish, Nordic, and Baltic contexts. The possible social cost of conservation, destruction, potential heritage industry, disinheritance caused by the universal proclaiming and local and national identity are among the hot problems too. As a significant member of the post-industrial global world, Finland does have to pay more attentions to the traditional models for safeguarding the heritage.

#### **4. Current projects**

In 1999, our current major project regarding cultural heritage, 'Development through Culture', was approved by the Academy of Finland. This project, focusing onto the context of World Heritage Cities in the developing context, attempts at contributing towards the improvement of state of living in these cities through heritage-protection. The major aim is to develop a new heritage management strategy that places due priorities with a development-oriented conservation process or, in other words, appropriating a new way of integrating heritage protection with urban development. The values ascribed with the heritage by the current cultural consciousness are to be used as a tool to promote sustainable life in the city with use of Vilnius, Riga, and Tallinn as a case study. This interdisciplinary project deals with the social, cultural, and economic issues of urban *intervention*: having defined urban heritage protection as an intervention. We also step into areas such as cultural tourism, globalisation of the Baltic city, the state of the economies and societies in transition-in terms of value forming, and the establishment of new nation-states and the significance of the national identity created in the city built by a colonial power. We analyse the protection policies, development agendas and pressures, and the policy making structure through literature survey and interviews. As a whole, we would be in the line of the theme of this conference,

**“Cultural Heritage in Local Economic and Social Stability”**. We aim to move away from the conventional thinking of justifying heritage protection through economics, mostly based on cultural tourism, towards making economic and social problems a reason for heritage protection.

At the moment, we are participating in a research project, ‘Urban Catalyst’ within the Fifth Framework Programme. In this, our YTK team together with Germany, Austria, and Netherlands attempts to study the urban residual areas with views to develop them for diverse uses. Naturally, we come across with sites with heritage values and the short-term and long-term impact of their development on the city’s heritage values. We use Helsinki as the case. Even though, the idea of cultural heritage is not directly mentioned in the project plan, it is a major part of the study. Greenscom is the other important research network YTK has founded with Denmark, France, Holland, and France within the Fifth Framework Programme. The objective of this is to improve and develop planning concepts and policy instruments for sustainable urban development to be worked out in a toolkit for urban practitioners.

We are also currently facilitating a few other research projects on this aspects. The most recent is called, ‘Identity as a Cultural Resource: Small Historic Towns Facing Development and Change’. This project is in the initial stage, making contacts, finding partners and resources. This links Nordic cases with a few Baltic cases, and a workshop to share the knowledge was held at Tallinn from 5<sup>th</sup> May 2001 to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2001. This workshop may result in the formation of networks beyond local, national, and regional boundaries. Our role in this project would be more as a research advisor, setting out project guidelines, and organising and processing data collection. The first workshop at Tallinn was attended by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. This group is to enlarged with Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, and Russia entering soon. The group is however is limited to the Nordic and Baltic region for a number of reasons. The speakers from the Nordic countries, presenting their ‘success-stories’, attempted at setting examples for the Baltic region. The question of identity and its related cultural-rootedness was least focused. As such, we do have a vital role to play in forming the research project by supplying more philosophical underpinning. We may also be entrusted the responsibilities of running the training. We should be prepared to learn from the expertise in the Baltic countries and to place our idea of developing a ‘common strategy’ in a larger perspective to avoid the unforeseen problems caused by generalisation, and then to develop this into a more result-oriented research. This project, running for three years, would enlarge potentials to identify the hidden problems in the Baltic society and its heritage proclaiming, and as such enhancing a development-oriented conservation.

We are in process of proposing a new project with Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Latvia, Spain for a joint research project within the EU programme, Cultural 2000. This project, SIME city is at the very initial stage and we got into the research team quite late. Our common aim is to learn the historical and cultural events in the historical living city, and document them and present them in a disseminating forms that are attractive to the younger generation. We plan to generate training projects for the unemployed youth, and to use the modern IT facilities for documenting and dissemination. The Production of DVDs, TV and PC games, documentary films, as well as using telematics are among the deliverables.

The Laboratory of Architectural History, University of Oulu is running a wide array of projects. The possibilities of historical city as a future urban environment, The restoration of modern architecture as architect's work field, the building of Oulu and the development of the townscape of Oulu, the problems of Building Monument, use, conservation and restoration in Architectural Restoration, the Wooden Shingle Research, the Historical Continuity and Building Conservation in Russia, Haapasaari - a village on the outer islands, the Maintenance and Continuing use of the Northern Finnish Built Agricultural Environment, The Cultural ecology of Finnish peasant architecture, are noteworthy for the subject of this workshop. The projects also represent a clear cross section of the State of Art in Finland, which is moving towards more integrated and multidisciplinary style. The projects necessarily



deal with the social and economic issues, also attest to the capacity of the university. The University of Oulu facilitated a seminar, "Identity and Change", in the year 2000 under the EU programme Rafael. This seminar has inspired a continuous project on wooden architecture and its preservation within the urban setting.

The important projects being carried out at the Laboratory of Urban Planning at the Tampere University of Technology are, the Urban Governance Research Project, Urban Reuse Projects in Berlin, Newcastle and Helsinki, Potential of Railway Station Environments, the Built Heritage and Locality, and Architecture in Urban Conservation. They all are EU projects. By looking at their titles, one could easily take into notice that they all touch the subject of our today's discussion on local economic and social stability. For example, urban governance is among the highly useful tools to protect cultural urban heritage to revive the life in a historic city, studying the potentials of the rail yards that are becoming increasingly 'unused space' within the city core, and using architects skills to revive a historic identity thus developing our skills to design proper in-fills are the kinds of research we need to promote. The Built Heritage and Locality, on the other hand, directly deals with our subject. As a whole, they all attest to the widening discourse of the state of art in research on cultural heritage in the Finnish academic circles.

With the reincarnation of the concept of sustainable development, Finland embraces this concept in the development policies within the restriction of its current definition that focuses exclusively onto the nature. The Academy of Finland, the main facilitator of academic research has set up a project entitled, 'Space of Nature and Culture' in order to extend this idea into the cultural environment. The YTK has proposed a, 'From Conservation to Prudent Management' s within the aims of the Academy's objectives. The project aims at,

1. Elaborating the *basic hypothesis* that conservation of cultural heritage can be pursued by development measures.
2. Investigating to what extent the *chosen set of municipalities and regions* are conceiving *environmental values* (nature and culture) *as assets for development* according to actual plans, programmes and strategies.
3. Investigating methods in Scandinavian systems to compile a set of *best practice examples* concerning cultural heritage and planning.
4. Finding out the *relevance* of best practice examples *for the studied municipalities and regions*.
5. Establishing a *network for testing* whether stakeholders are willing and able to cooperate on *development strategies through conservation*.
6. Drawing conclusions with respect to *current administrative practices* as well as planning and development routines in relation to the demand for promoting cultural heritage issues by development measures.

We are aware of the fact that protection of heritage is closely related to social justice, human rights, cultural tolerance, and as such living standards. The urban protection in the global scale could play a vital role in world peace movements and development agendas as many people are living in the cities and many moving towards cities. Conservation, being an intervention that aims at social well-being, is a form of development. In the urban scale, proclaiming a diversified urban heritage means delivering social justice to majorities as well as to minorities. It would also be a solid way to develop a new urban culture based on respect, solidarity, and social justice. The broadening scope of cultural heritage also reminds that even though practically anything can be ascribed with a value, everything cannot be conserved. There is a greater need to assess cultural heritage to screen what to conserve and how to conserve to achieve the said goals. These may shape into our new research interests to answer 'why conserve' and 'what conserve'.

## 5. Training and Education in Finland

Our institute, the centre for Urban and Regional Studies (YTK) is an able institute to form networks or supervising doctoral dissertations as it is an affiliated institute of Helsinki University of Technology (HUT). Dating originally from 1969, the purpose of the YTK is to carry out academic and applied research, as well as post-graduate and further education. The higher degrees are awarded by the HUT. Among these degrees are Doctor of Technology and Licentiate of Technology. The YTK is specialised in urban and regional studies, planning theory and practice, and urban and regional development and policy. The heritage studies are added on this system within the close links between heritage protection and regional and urban management. The staff is about 30. They work in different research projects funded by different organisations. The aim of the institute is to combine scientific expertise with theory and practice of urban and regional planning to improve knowledge for development and planning. The institute brings together young and experienced researchers from different backgrounds to respond to the actual needs of knowledge/ education in planning and development. The institute has a national status, ratified by the Ministry of the Environment. It is managed by a Board of Directors who represent most of the Finnish institutes dealing with planning. During the last decades, the YTK has carried out research projects dealing with ecological urban planning, environmental policy, housing preferences, urban and housing policy, transportation policy, regional development and policy, as well as communicative planning theory and practice. In most of the projects, there are international partners or co-operation, and the institute is an active partner in the research network Green Structure and Urban Planning, which has applied for COST Action status. The YTK is also working together with the University of Joensuu and the Finnish Environment Institute, as the National Focal Point in the Study Program for European Spatial Planning launched by DG XVI, in order to develop the knowledge basis for the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). Together with the NORDREGIO in Sweden, it has carried out a study of the Spatial Development problems and prospects of the Baltic Countries. We have two full professors, our Director Prof. (Mrs.) Hilikka Lehtonen and Prof. (Mr.) Christer Bengs, who is also a Senior Research Fellow at NORDREGIO. Both are architect/ planners and do guide post-graduate studies (refer their homepages). In addition, we have scholars who have the docent status at different universities and thus could guide such studies (refer [www.hut.fi/yksikot/ytk](http://www.hut.fi/yksikot/ytk) for the staff and research projects and interests).

At the YTK, we have specialised courses (one year), short-term courses (less than 6 days) and long-term courses (more than 6 days). We also co-ordinate the Graduate School for Urban and Planning Studies. The Distant Learning Programme is an important forum for the researcher of different background to share views. We provide these graduate students and direct receivers, with the possibilities of integrating with others, sharing knowledge, and learning the latest urban and regional issues, in which the questions related to cultural heritage is a vital part. In addition, sharing our responsibilities with the NORDREGIO, we conduct several other teaching courses for Nordic and Baltic researchers and policy makers. The NODREGIO has successfully conducted a series of courses to different types of officials who are dealing with the cultural heritage. Among the programmes, the Cultural Environment, has been quite successful in giving the policy makers a special training in understanding the cultural values of their built environment. We are also in a position and willingness to develop regional or continental training and teaching programmes or to co-ordinate with other such programmes (refer *After All These Years*, 1998).

Our other international contacts are Nordisk förening för Arkitekturforskning ja NSSB, Association for European Schools of Planning, International Federation of Housing and Planning, International Planning History Society.

The NBA has run educational programmes in-built with heritage protection. We are currently communicating with a polytechnic to set up a training programme for unemployed architects who would eventually become specialists in architectural conservation. Our aim is

to give an awareness of the cultural values of this heritage and then to develop restoration, or preservation skills, so these young professionals would be more responsive to the existing built heritage. They could as such be in a better position in design new or restoring an old. The latest to join the training professionals on cultural heritage is the Espoo Vanta Institute of Technology. This polytechnic offers a Bachelors degree in conservation studies and marine archaeology. The institute intend to develop their research facilities in the near future.

## **6. Future Research Potentials**

As mentioned earlier, we are in the favour of developing integrated strategies for the protection of cultural heritage and the development of instruments for assessing the values of the cultural heritage. Our main concern is the improvement of man's living environment, and here we do not restrict it to the physical and tangible aspects of the environment. There are many possibilities of conducting research within the parameters of creative urban design in historic ensembles worth of protection, promotion of contemporary buildings with high architectural quality within these, enlarging public and professional awareness of the urban and spatial development policy to the cultural heritage of future generations, and issue of development through conservation. The question of identity, cultural identity vs. regional or continental identity as well as its contribution in promoting a better life in the historic city are among our research interests. We wish to participate in testing the environmental awareness, cultural consciousness, economic potentials as backgrounds for heritage conservation planning. The heritage industry/ crusade, disinheriting heritage, World Heritage and other conventions as well as the international charters could be further studied with use of case study. Our current research on the Baltic city expands the research interest on cultural tourism and reconstruction.

There are a number of funding agencies in Finland. The most well-established is the Academy of Finland which funds higher research degrees (refer [www.aka.fi](http://www.aka.fi)). The Finnish Cultural Foundation is an extensive provider for research on Finnish culture ([www.skr.fi](http://www.skr.fi)). The Ministry of Education, through its Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) is another funding agent. Most of the universities have fairly modest research grants or publication grants. The funding agents such as ministries or cities can be found in the homepage of the University of Turku, [www.utu.fi/hallinto/tutkimuspalvelut/turatiedotus.html](http://www.utu.fi/hallinto/tutkimuspalvelut/turatiedotus.html). In addition, we also have a handful of private funds that would assist research as well as publishing.

Our co-operation within the European Union and its funding system as well as our so-called bilateral agreements with other countries also could support joint research in terms of funding and other needed resources. We screen the proposed research projects, doctoral research and others thoroughly, to invest exclusively on high-quality 'researchable' research that will serve long term goals.