









### THE ARCHITECT IS GOD

The possibilities are enormous under the global building boom. When the world is a construction site, the architect is God. But how to handle this massive task in a responsible manner and build a better world? Should architects and engineers engage in countries whose regimes they do not agree with? DR2 Tema follows among others Henning Larsen Architects, schmidt hammer lassen, COBE, Mette Lange Architects and 3XN, as they try to make a difference with huge projects in countries like Saudi Arabia and India and cities like Berlin and Beijing.



We're lowering the temperature  
through sustainable initiatives.

The problems here are multiple, because we (the architects) have the ambition on one level to shape the earth. And yet we do not have either the capacity intellectually, economically, or in terms of power. We have an earth-shaping rhetoric, but a Boy Scout ideology.

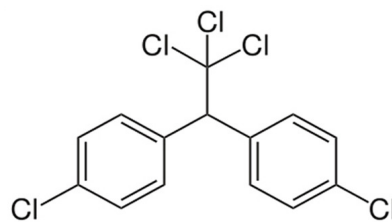
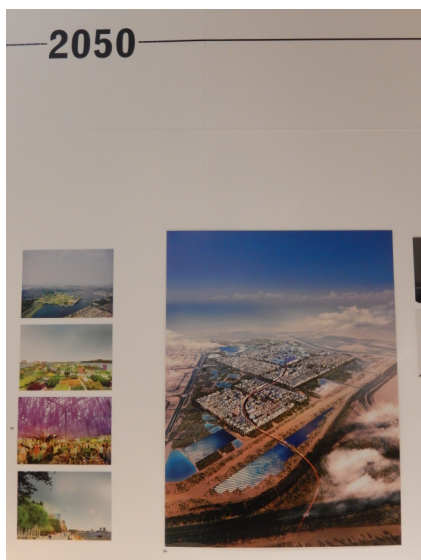
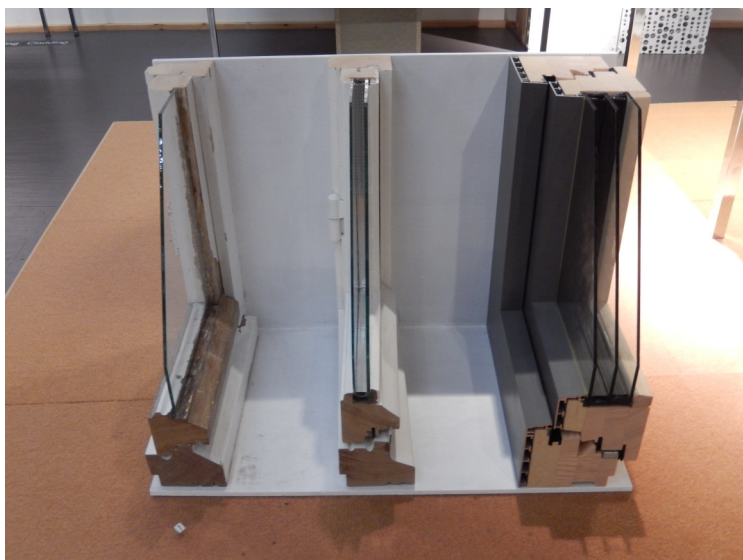
And since we control only two percent of building, we get involved in this false consciousness. We have to go along with the great middle-class lie that we can do something about global warming. That's the biggest, most unbelievable lie of our time, and everybody takes part in it, especially every architect. They have to, because it's too unthinkable to say, look, we don't make any difference, we can't make a difference, and it's an institutionalized lie to say that we can make a difference. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't do all the things that we're doing to promote an ecological or green architecture, but we should realize that these are gestures of symbolism and art, because we are artists in the end, and if we want to shape the global environment on an ecological level, we have to use our levers of power. And that means: get involved in politics.

Charles Jencks 'Enjoy the Futures'  
Columbia Laboratory for Architectural Broadcasting













1948 nobel prize in chemistry

1962 Rachel Carson published 'silent spring'

1968 - 1972 banned in most European countries and US



....there is no such thing as sustainable architecture or an aesthetic of sustainability, and that instead, sustainability arises out of a subtle, often imperceptible interaction between built form and the ambient forces that impinge upon its surface.s What this assertion posits is a nature-culture interplay in the deepest possible sense that looks to establish a continuous system of feedback and modification, not only with respect to each individual building but also with regard to the discipline as a whole. Needless to say, it is exactly at this juncture that the issue of sustainability begins to unsettle many of our more cherished views of the discipline with regard to the nature of architectural design and the current scope and mandate of architectural education.

Kenneth Frampton 'Urbanization and Its Discontents: Megaform as Sustainability'





there are over 400 registered environmental labels worldwide - up to 5 different seals on one product



Bicycle culture



Wind Energy

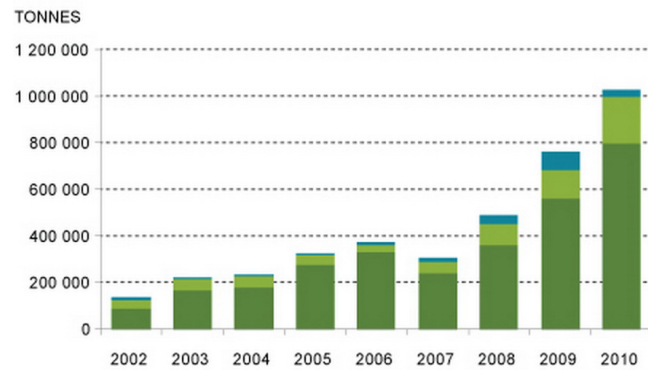


Copenhagen - the first carbon neutral capital in the world





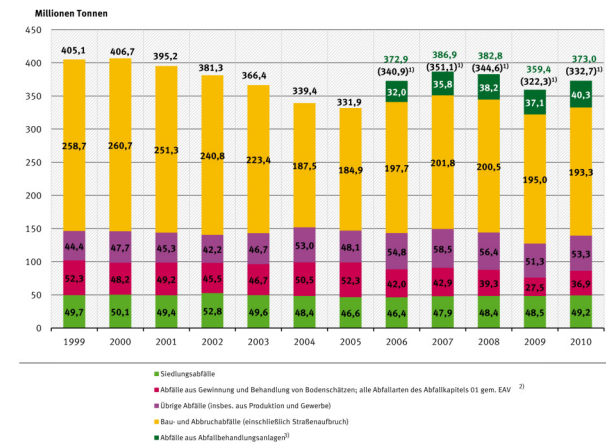
→ Export of waste from Norway from 2002 to 2010



■ Energy production  
■ Material recovery  
■ Final disposal

SOURCE: Climate and Pollution Agency, 2011 / environment.no

Abfallaufkommen (einschließlich gefährlicher Abfälle)

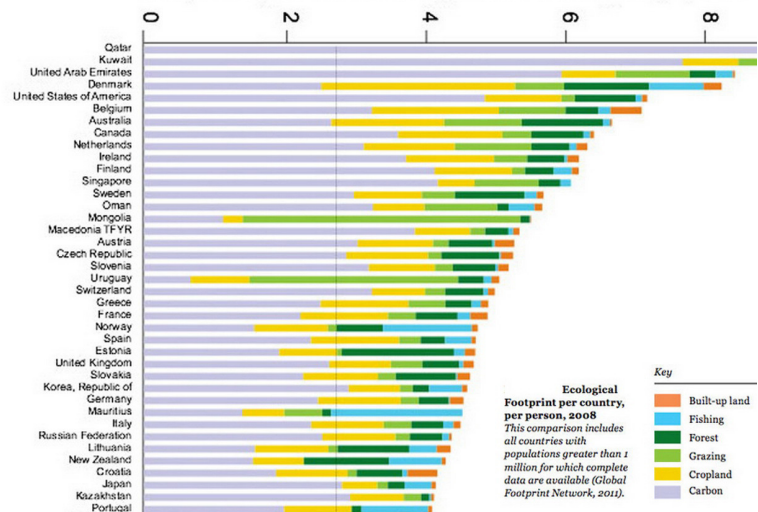


<sup>1)</sup> Hausabfallaufkommen, ohne Abfälle aus Abfallbehandlungsanlagen; 2006 erstmals als Bestandteil des Abfallaufkommens erhoben.  
<sup>2)</sup> Abfälle aus Gewinnung und Behandlung von Bodenschätzen  
<sup>3)</sup> Ohne Abfälle aus Abwasserbehandlungsanlagen (BAW 1998), Abfälle aus der Zubereitung von Wasser für den menschlichen Gebrauch nach industriellen Brauchwasser (BAW 1999), Abfälle aus der Sammlung von Böden und Grundwasser (BAW 1993) und Sekundärabfälle, die als Rohstoffe/Produkte aus dem Erzeugnisprozess herausgehen.  
Quelle: Statistisches Bundesamt, Abfallkatalog, Wiesbaden, verschiedene Jahrgänge

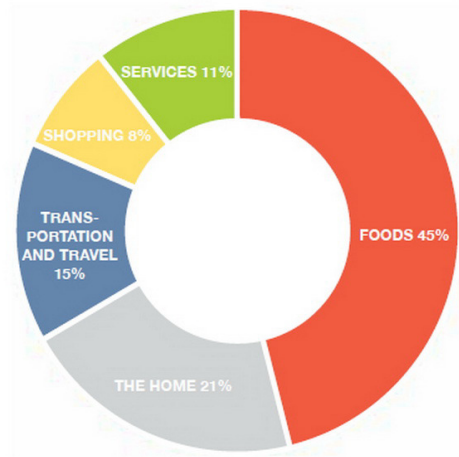


raw materials and waste

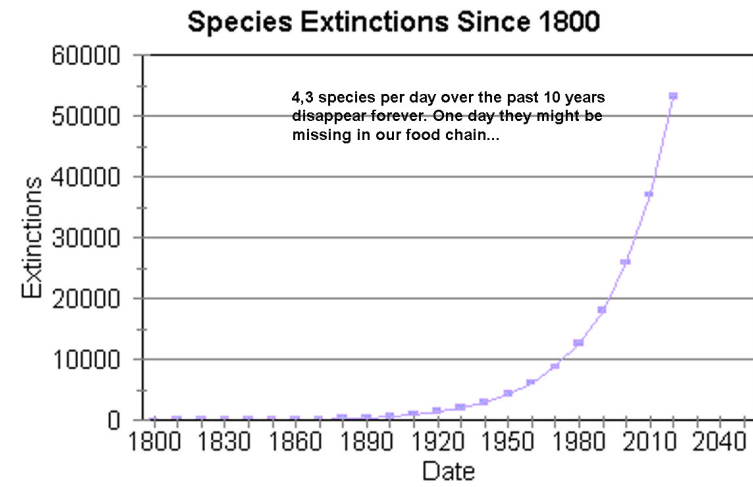
Ecological Footprint – the number of global hectares demanded per person







A Danish Citizen's Environmental Footprint Anno 2013 <sup>6</sup>



These are questions of the use and the organization of space on different scales, which decide our future.

It is questions for architects.



**Above all, architects should be intellectuals - and this is not defined by the job they do but by the manner in which they act, by the values they uphold.**

**We need more architects to become public intellectuals, who participate in public affairs discourse of society and engage with the global issues of our time, using their wide field of knowledge and competences.**

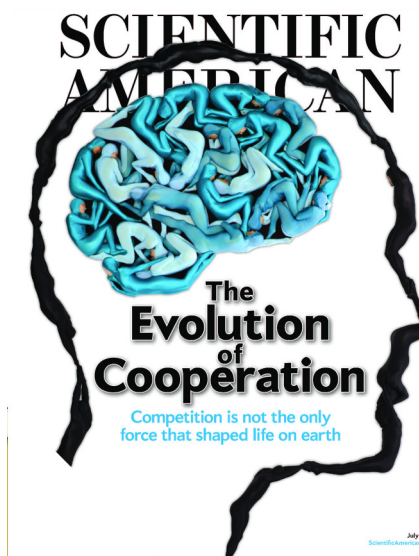
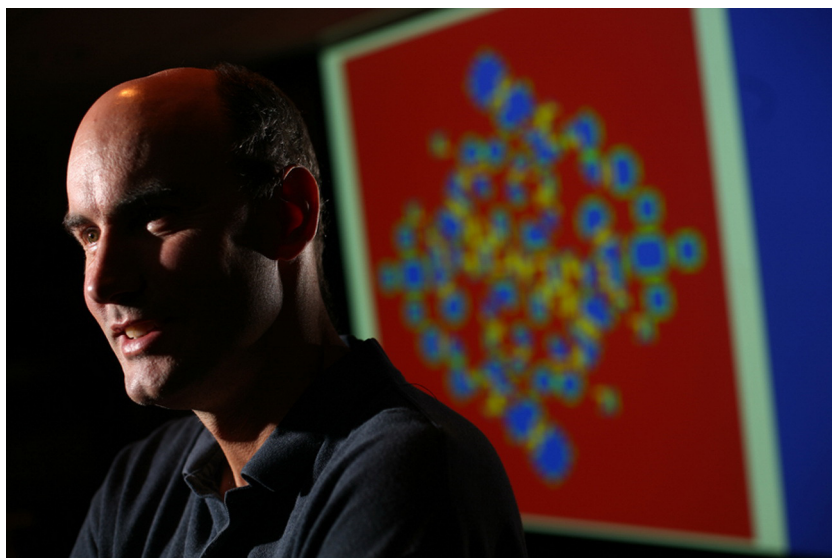


The hallowed ground of our so-called creativity and the aestheticized stronghold of architectural academia may well require nothing less than a direct frontal assault if we are ever to establish an effective antidote to the status quo of professional practice that it largely serves to legitimize.

Kenneth Frampton 'Urbanization and its Discontents: Megaform an Sustainability'



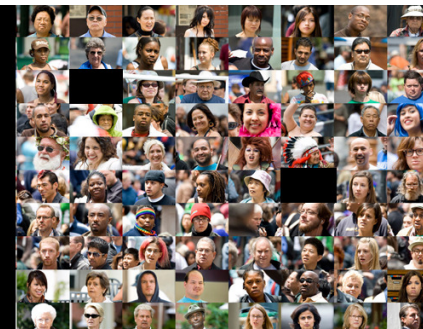




**95 % of games  
after 1 round empty pot**

**independent of nationality,  
education, social status**

**but: small minority took  
most !**





95 % of games  
after 1 round empty pot

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education, social status

but: small minority took  
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cooperation needs commonly accepted rules



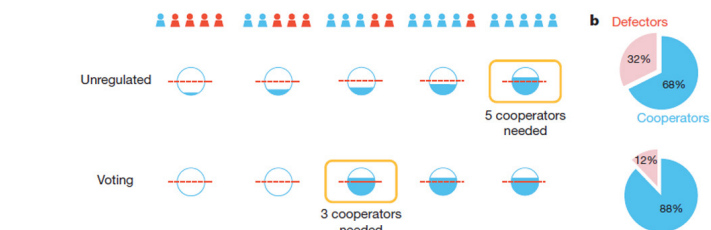
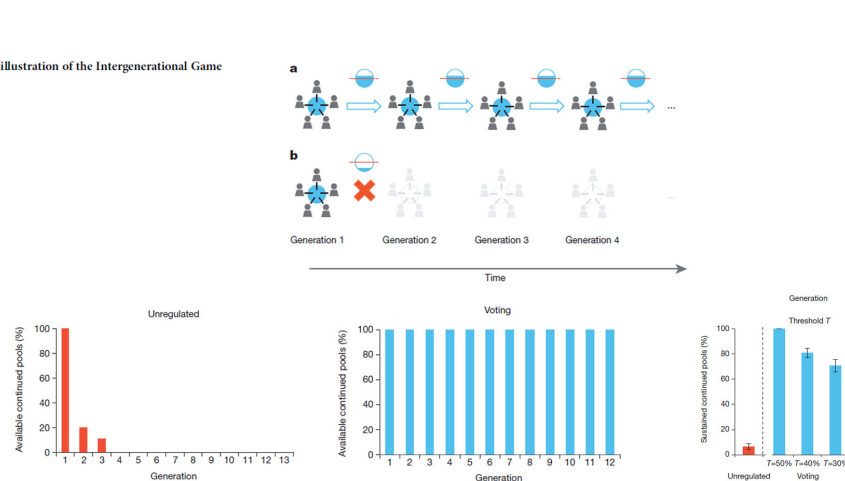
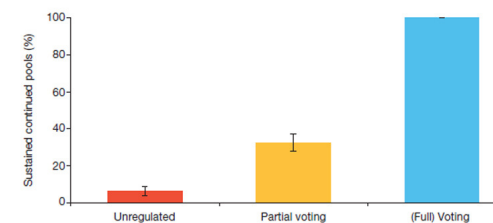



illustration of the Intergenerational Game



the voting institution is robust to extreme decision makers and thereby increases cooperative behaviour



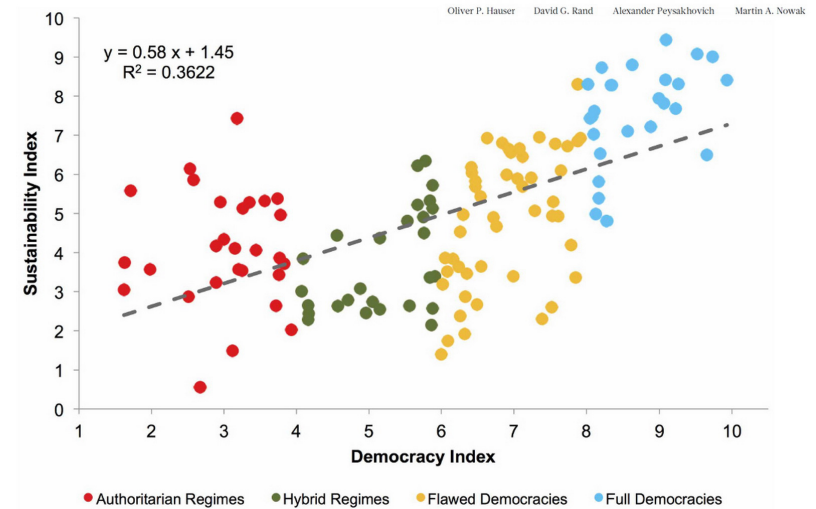


there is no sustainability without reducing  
inequity

1% population 40 % wealth  
10% population 85 % wealth  
50% population – 1 % wealth

energy sustainability index for 128 countries

Cooperating with the future

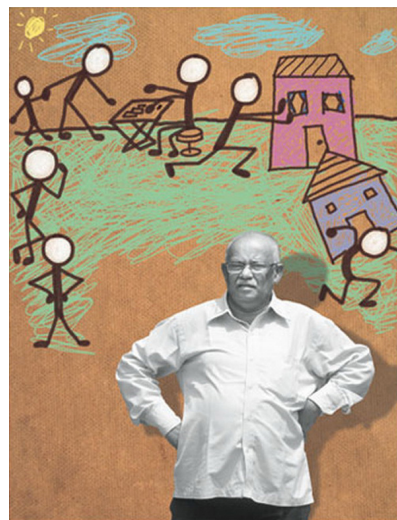
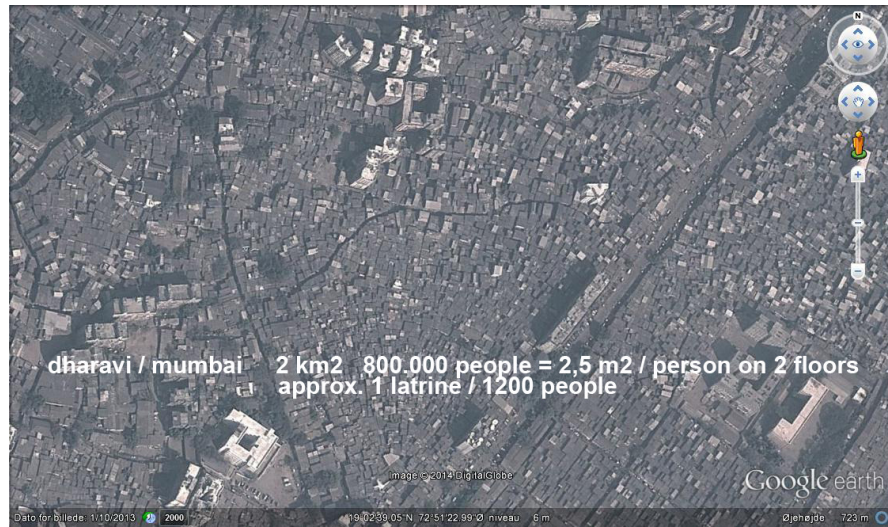


my notion of democracy is that under it the weakest shall have  
the same opportunities as the strongest... No country in the  
world today shows any but patronizing regard for the weak ...

western democracy, as it functions today, is diluted fascism ...  
true democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the  
center. It has to be worked from below, by the people of every  
village

Mahatma Gandhi





dr. jockim arputham a public intellectual  
UN representative for slum sanitation









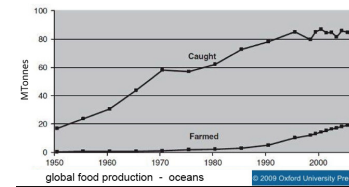
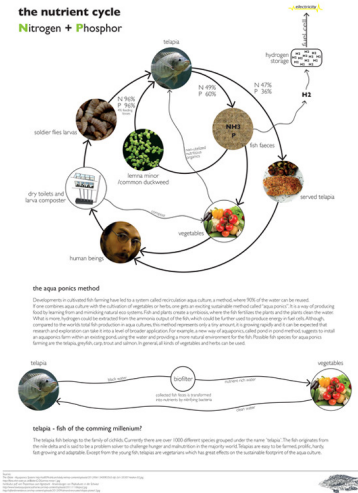


**one form of urban farming in a 'non symbolic' way, addressing biodiversity and ecological cycles as a prerequisite for clean water and food**

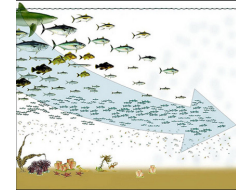
**an example of transdisciplinary  
experiment and design for a  
radical change in the alienation  
of urban population from food  
production**

**Aquaponics** *a symbiotic relationship of fish and vegetables*

**the nutrient cycle**  
**N**itrogen + **P**hosphorus

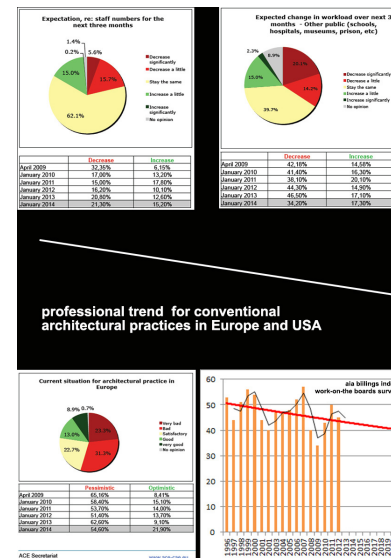
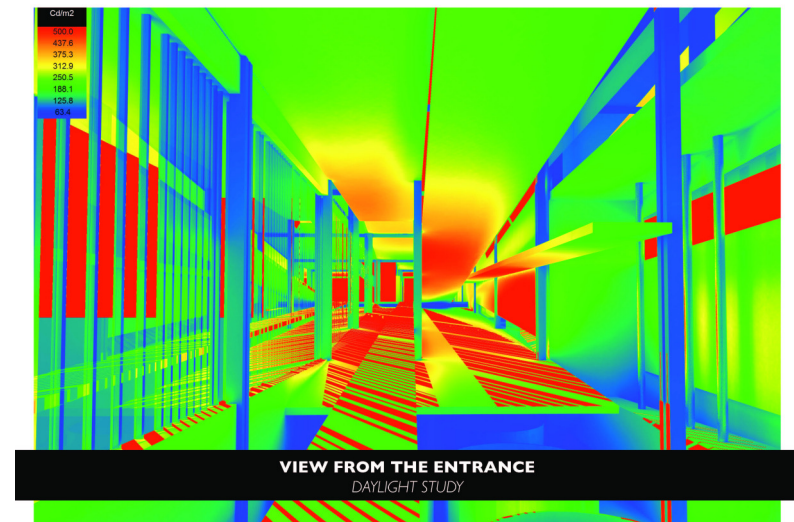
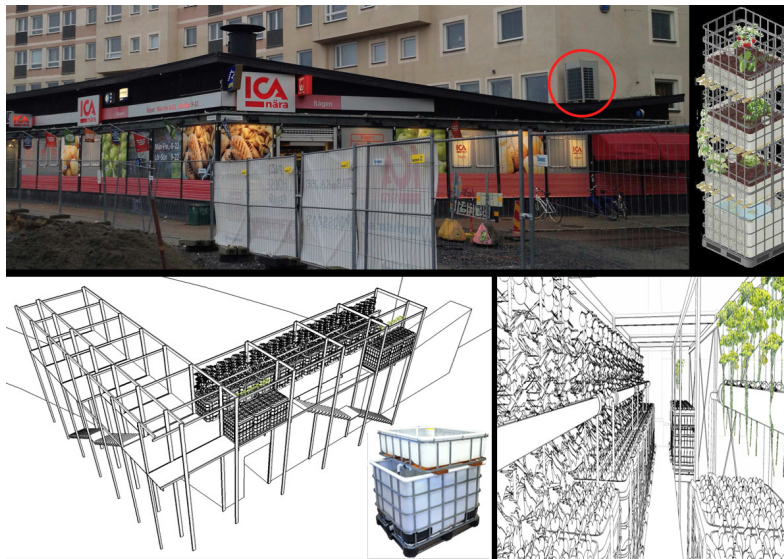


experimenting aquaponics with self-built equipment made of thrown away products from a garbage place - fish and tomatoes

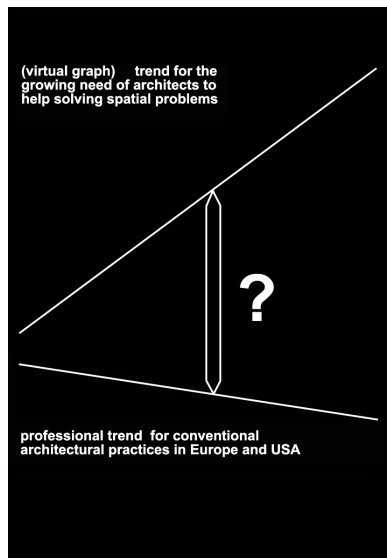
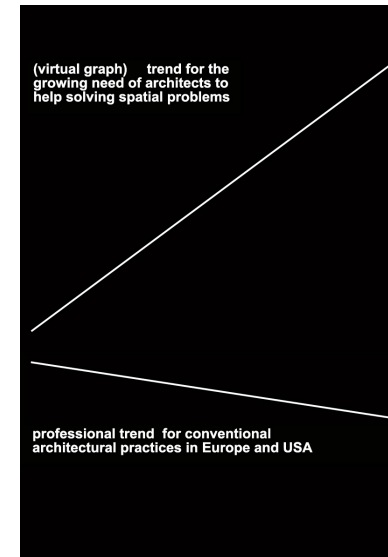
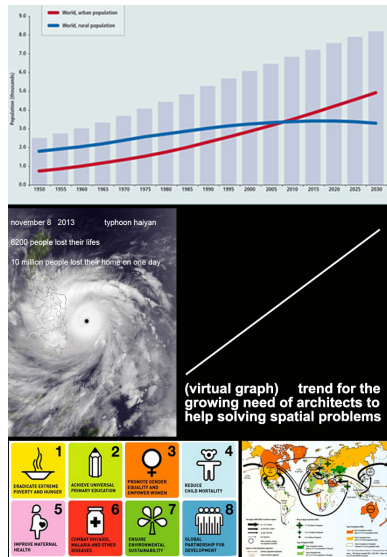


UMA  
LSAP Aquaponics workshop









The collage includes several images: a modern building with a glass facade, a brick wall with graffiti that reads 'IBA = GENTRIFICATION = SHIT', a book cover titled 'TOWARDS A NEW CITY: A GUIDE TO THE ELBE ISLANDS AND THE PROJECTS OF THE IBA', and various other architectural and urban scenes.

Text on the right side of the collage:

**There is no sustainable architecture - there is only sustainable architectures !**

Like all good architecture, sustainable interventions are highly contextual referencing local cultures, local social conditions, local environments, local climate, local economies. Other local resources including education and knowledge of local building skills are also an intrinsic part of this process.

Standardized and universal solutions labelled as 'best practice' are at best obstacles to the necessary strategic and tectonic diversity needed to implement sustainable interventions but can also be detrimental to the basic concept as they can often lead to accusations of 'green washing'.



There is without a doubt many good and very good students at AAA.

What I miss, are mind-blowing projects of these very good students, projects and theses that make a difference and effect the whole school.

For that, we must challenge ourselves by creating a culture of taking more risks, intensifying research and collaborations inside the school as well as transdisciplinarity, leaving the comfort zones of 'best practice' and aspire to unpredictable outcomes.

Where are the laboratories for future architecture if not in the schools of architecture ?

