

Dissertation Release**13.5.2020**

Planning competitions on sustainable communities do not support effective knowledge co-creation

Title of the dissertation	Planning competitions as tools towards sustainable community development – A critical case study Suunnittelukilpailut välineenä kohti kestäviä yhdyskuntia – Kriittinen tapaustutkimus
Contents of the dissertation	Planning of cities and communities is a complex task, which requires contributions from multiple disciplines and interaction between them. In the recent decades, the task has become even more complicated and demanding, due to the challenges posed by environmental and climate change. There is much that is still not understood regarding sustainability of communities, and new solutions and innovations are needed. In this thesis, the instrumentality of planning competitions in generating solutions for sustainable community development is investigated. A key observation is that there are limitations in the planning competition conventions that restrict the realm of possible solutions. Planning competitions are dominated by the traditions of the architectural profession, and thus effective, multidisciplinary collaboration becomes crippled. Other professionals, who are not familiar with using visualisations and reading imagery, are at risk of receiving a secondary role in a collaborative, multidisciplinary design team. Moreover, the results imply that similar difficulties may be experienced more broadly in practices of urban planning and design, beyond competitions. The research adds to our understanding of what is needed from planning competition practices and planning more generally, in aiming to meet the goals of sustainable community development.
Field of the dissertation	Spatial Planning and Transportation Engineering
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Time of the defence	29.05.2020 at 12
Place of the defence	Aalto University School of Engineering, https://aalto.zoom.us/j/68424547048
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