



The Vision for Central Helsinki

The Participation Process

&

Development through action research

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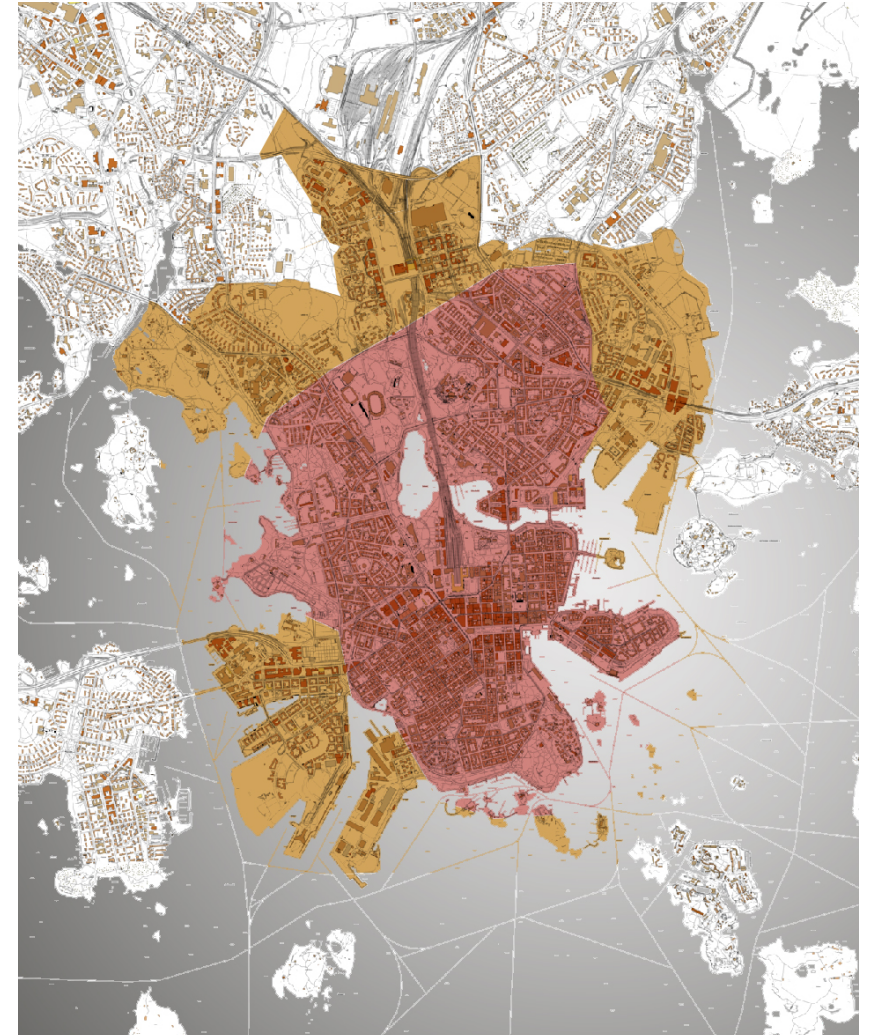
The Planner's Role in Participation

PART 1: The Case + Methods



The Vision for Central Helsinki

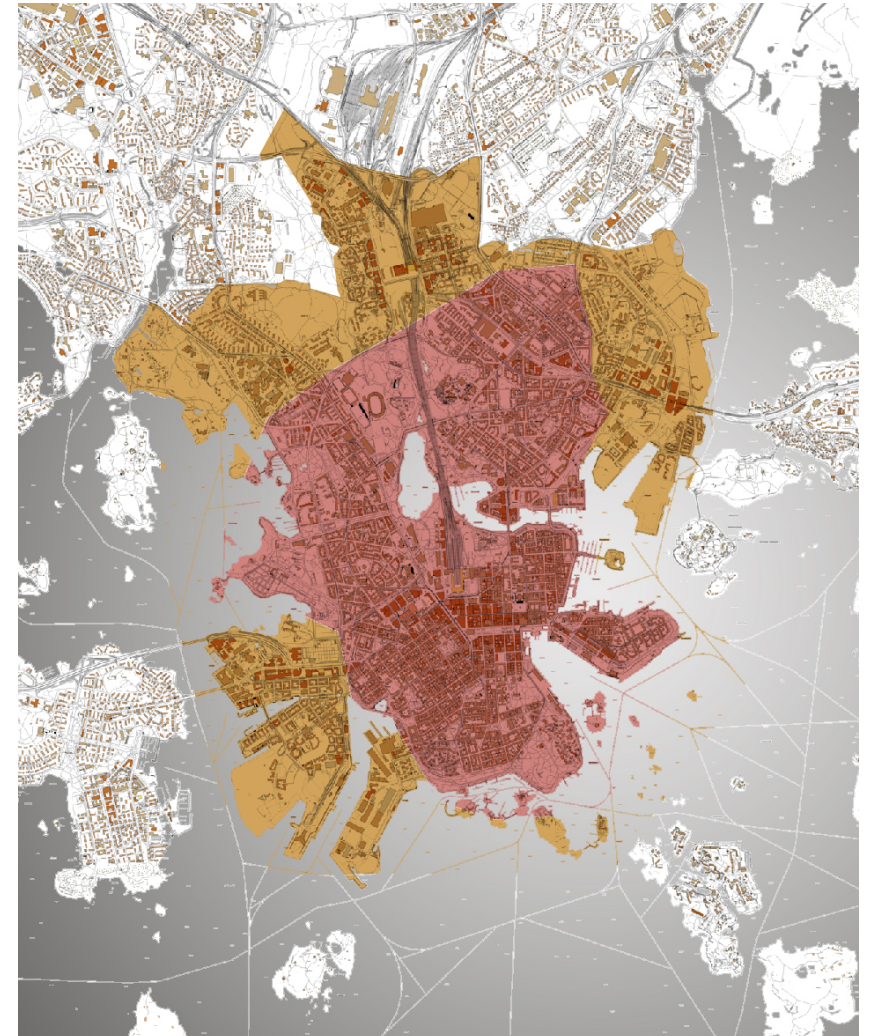
A vision for the development of land use and transportation in the Central Helsinki area



The Vision for Central Helsinki

A vision for the development of land use and transportation in the Central Helsinki area

Created at and for the Helsinki city planning office by a team lead by architect Kerttu Kurki-Issakainen.



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Goal: To find key characteristics that form local area identities and to analyze citizens' needs with a wide scope



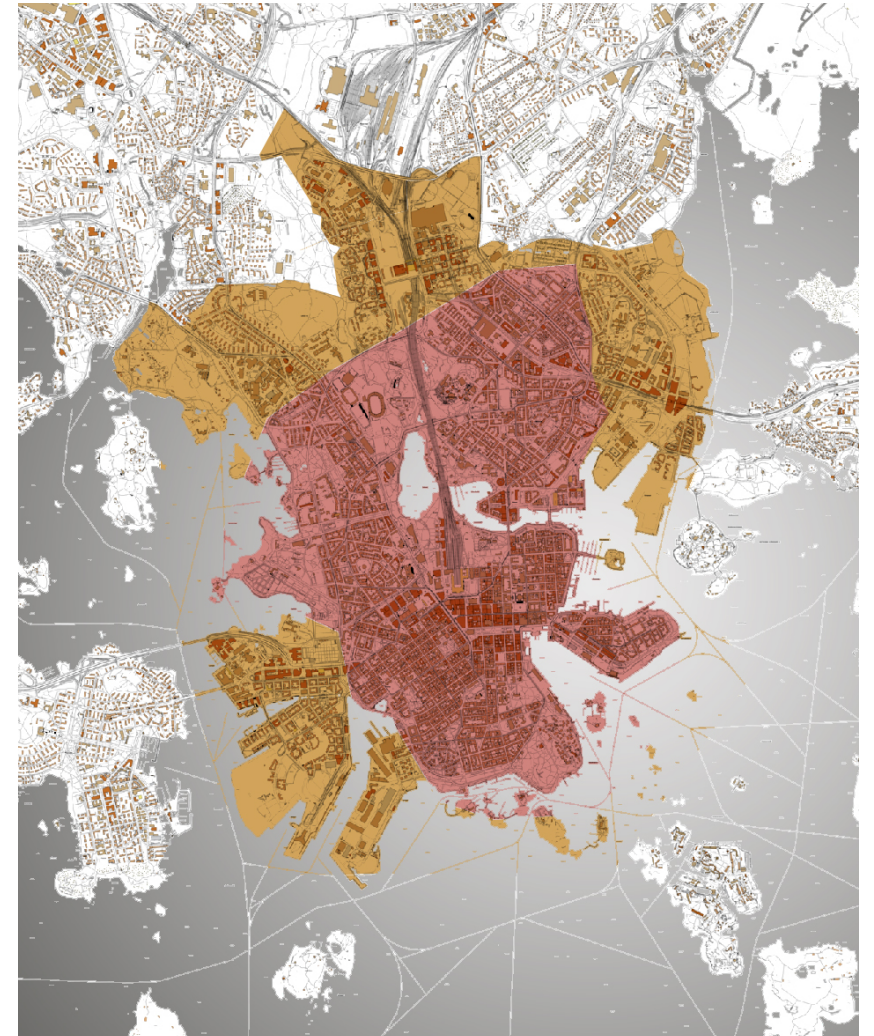
The Vision for Central Helsinki

A vision for the development of land use and transportation in the Central Helsinki area

Created at and for the Helsinki city planning office by a team lead by architect Kerttu Kurki-Issakainen.

Goal: To find key characteristics that form local area identities and to analyze citizens' needs with a wide scope

Goal: To form a background for the renewal / update of central Helsinki area plans from the 19th century



Research Problem

How do we improve people's ability to participate in planning?

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

- Jane Jacobs, kirjassa *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Communicative planning

Everyone who is affected by planning should be able to participate in it. ¹

¹ Healey 1987.

Communicative planning

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Different worldviews shaped by everyday human experiences cross paths through participation. ²

¹ Healey 1997.

² Habermas 1984, Healey 1997.

Communicative planning

Everyone who is affected by planning should be able to participate in it. 1

Different worldviews shaped by everyday human experiences cross paths through participation. 2

With their choices, planners either strengthen or question existing hierarchies.³

1 Healey 1997.

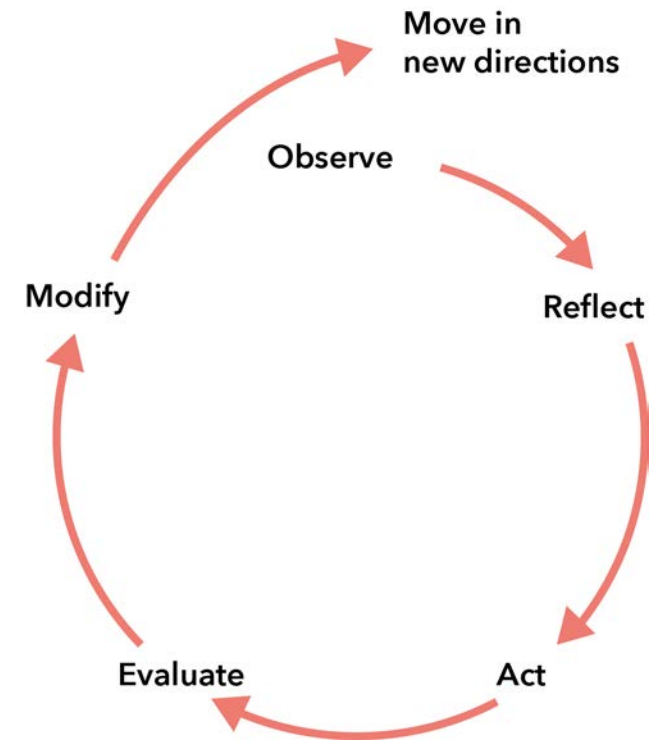
2 Habermas 1984, Healey 1997.

3 Sager 1994.

Action Research Methodology

Focuses on *development*

Cycle of action research, McNiff & Whitehead 2009

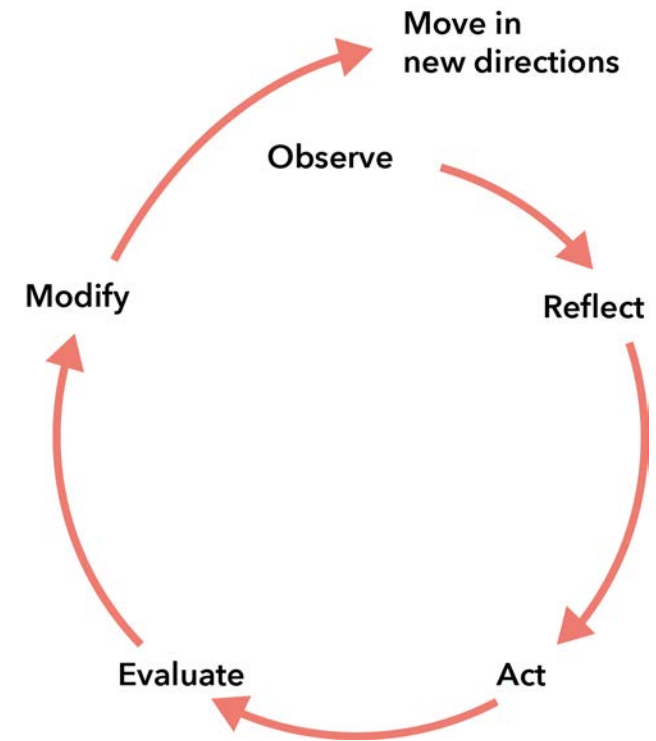


Action Research Methodology

Focuses on *development*

The researcher actively impacts the process being researched, and reflects on their actions

Cycle of action research, McNiff & Whitehead 2009



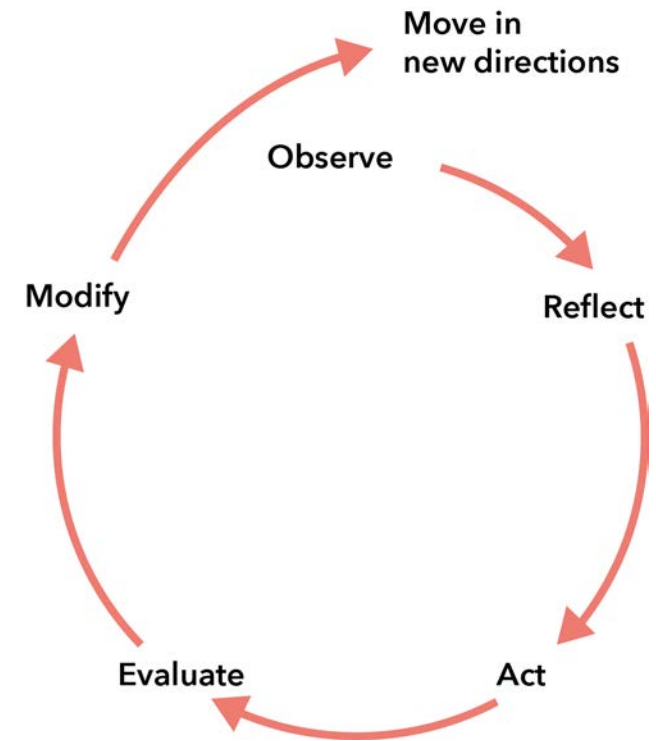
Action Research Methodology

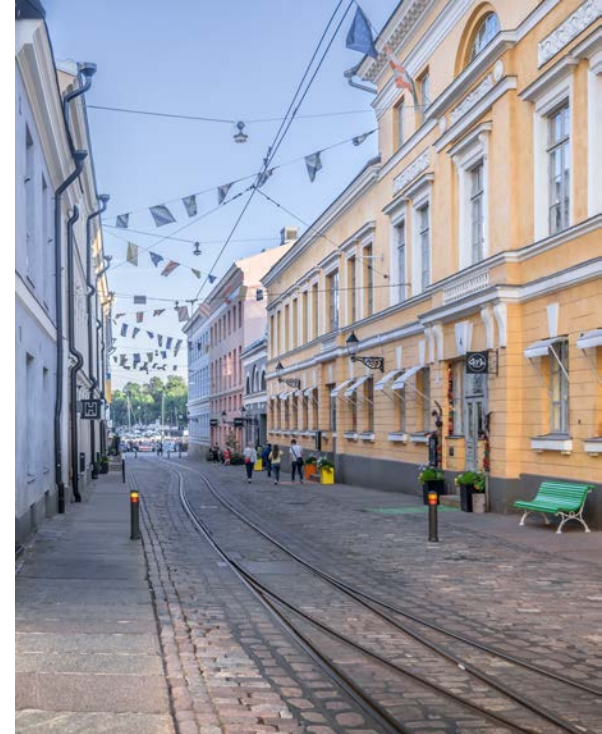
Focuses on *development*

The researcher actively impacts the process being researched, and reflects on their actions

The process is cyclical

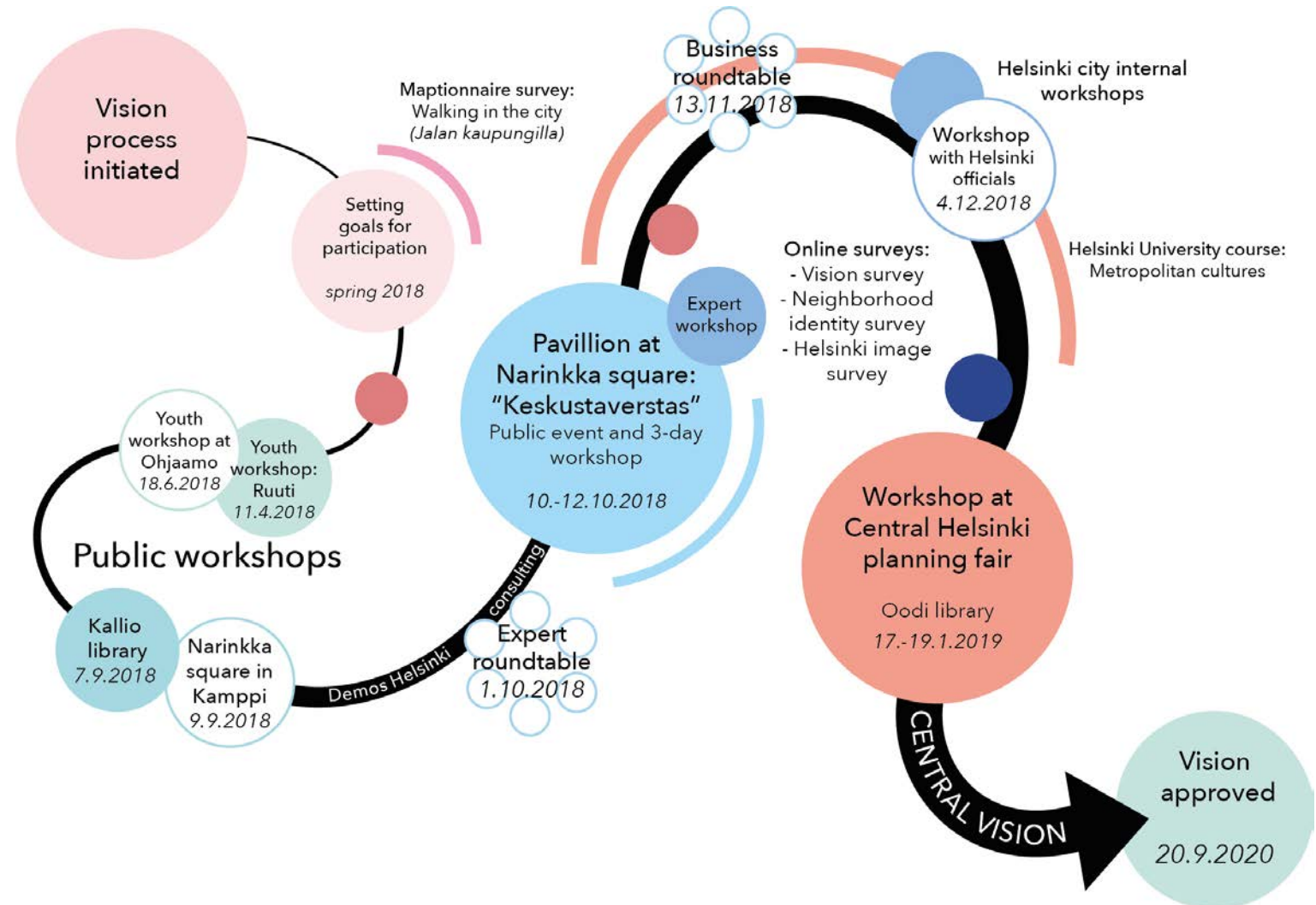
Cycle of action research, McNiff & Whitehead 2009





PART 2: The Participation Process

The Participation Process





Workshop at Narinkka square, summer 2018



Workshop at Kallio Library, summer 2018



3-day event and workshop at a pavillion erected in the middle of Narinkka square, fall 2018



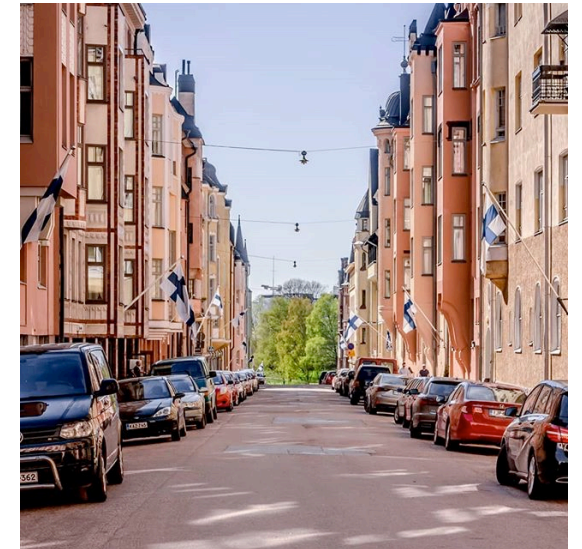
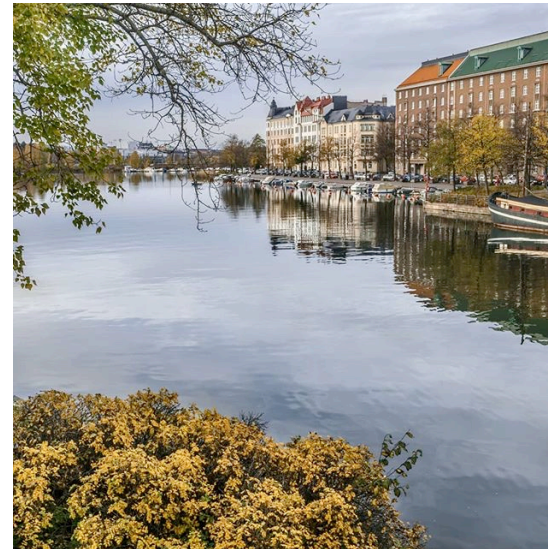
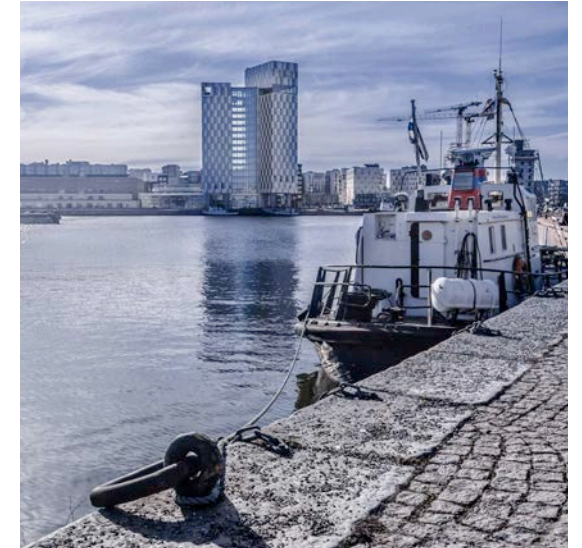
3-day planning info event and workshop at Helsinki Central Library Oodi, winter 2019

PART 3: What did we learn?



Findings

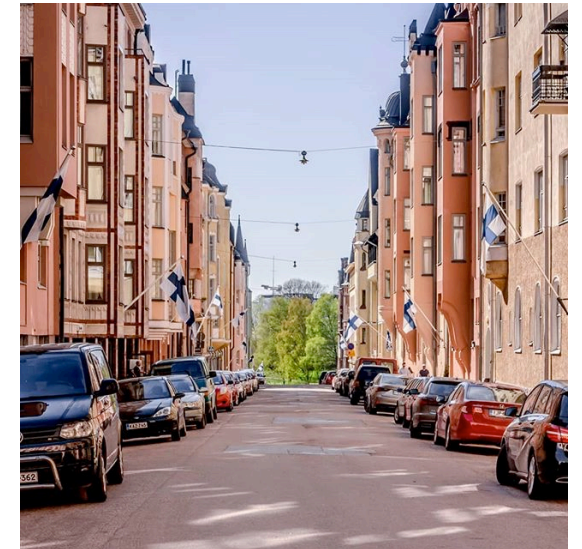
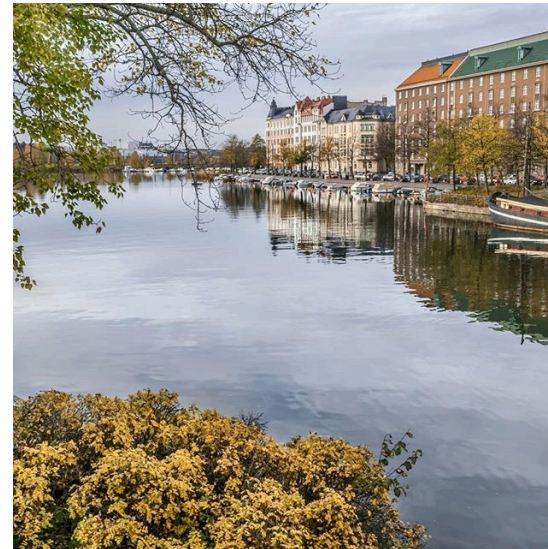
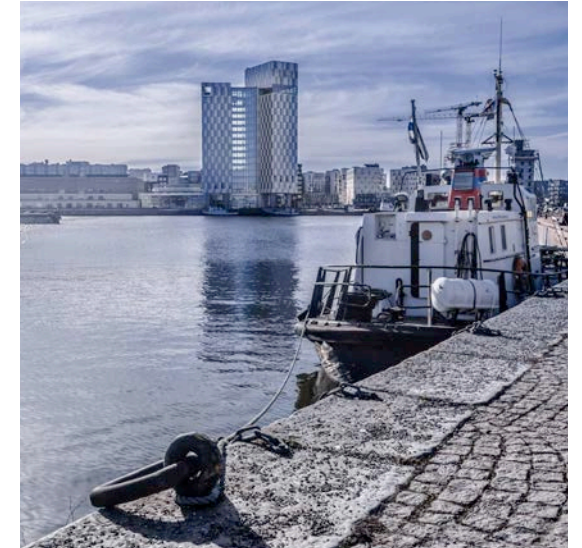
Experiencing nature is also important to people in the inner city



Findings

Experiencing nature is also important to people in the inner city

Old buildings shape the area identities, new buildings offer facilities for citizens' activities

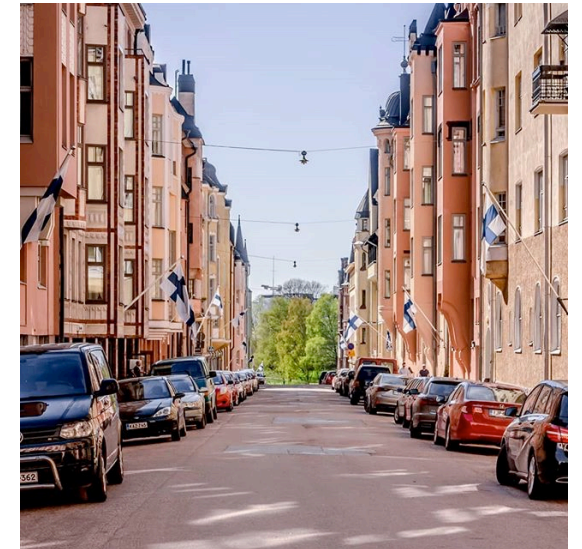
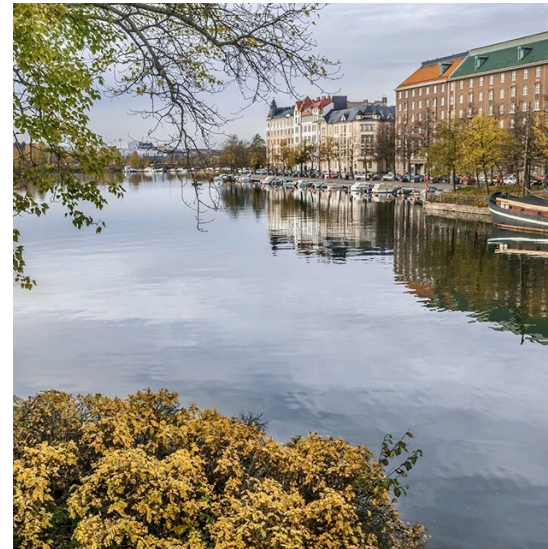
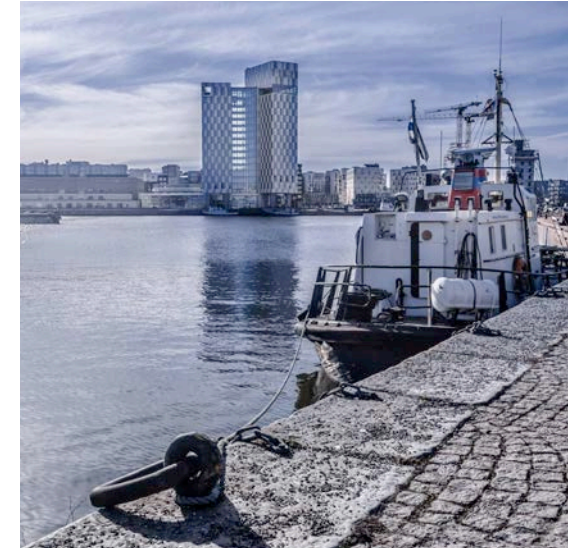


Findings

Luontokokemukset ovat ihmisille tärkeitä myös keskustassa

Old buildings shape the area identities, new buildings offer facilities for citizens' activities

Key conflicts related accessibility of central Helsinki with different modes of transport (cars vs public transport vs walking & cycling)



How to foster citizen involvement?

Face to face discussions between planners and participants

"When you ask my opinion face to face, I feel I can make an impact. In an anonymous online survey I don't feel I can make a difference."

- A young participant at Ohjaamo

How to foster citizen involvement?

Face to face discussions between planners and participants

Clear communication of the goals of the participation and how the results will be utilized

*"If young people feel that the city also belongs to them, they will participate more eagerly."
- A young participant at Ohjaamo*

How to foster citizen involvement?

Face to face discussions between planners and participants

Clear communication of the goals of the participation and how the results will be utilized

Accessible participation events and appropriate participation tools & methods

*"If young people feel that the city also belongs to them, they will participate more eagerly."
- A young participant at Ohjaamo*

Accessibility of participation

Place - The participants' everyday environment

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Time - Flexible scheduling, acknowledges different lifestyles

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Time - Flexible scheduling, acknowledges different lifestyles

Method - Discussion, background material provided when needed. No prior knowledge required.

Atmosphere - Informal, casual and even playful. The participant does not need expertise or power.

Communication - Participation is publicised or organized through the medias that people use.

The planner's role

For successful participation, the planner must...

1. Act as a mediator and facilitator in the participation

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3. Attempt to recognize existing hierarchies and dismantle them, so that discussions may be equal.

The planner's role

For successful participation, the planner must...

1. Act as a mediator and facilitator in the participation
2. Organize the planning in a way that the results can truly be utilized in planning
3. Attempt to recognize existing hierarchies and dismantle them, so that discussions may be equal.
4. Resolve conflicts both in participation and in planning, and communicate clearly and honestly about how different wishes and points of view have been prioritized in planning.

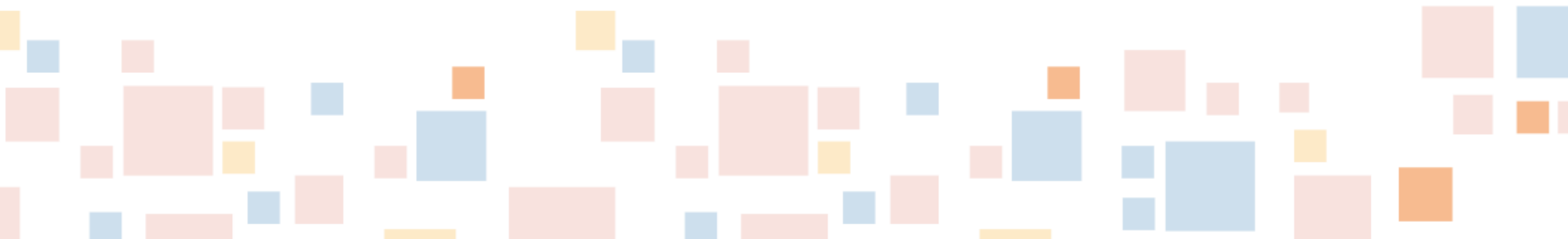
Thank you for participating!

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Sources

1 Healey, Patsy. (1997). *Collaborative planning: Shaping places in fragmented societies*. Basingstoke: Macmillan.

2 Habermas, Jürgen. (1984.) *The Theory of Communicative Action, vol. 1. Reason and the Rationalization of Society*. Boston: Beacon Press.

3 Sager, Tore. (1994). *Communicative planning theory*. Aldershot: Avebury.

Image sources

Helsinki photography:

Henri Kallio,
Instagram: @HenrifromHelsinki

Photos of participation events:

Saana Rossi, Anu Hämäläinen,
Krista Keltanen photography

Graphs:

Saana Rossi

