Collaborative planning and design as a bridge towards children's cultural learning and active citizenship

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EDRA 39
Linking Differences/ Defining Actions –
Asumiendo Diferencias/ Definiendo Acciones
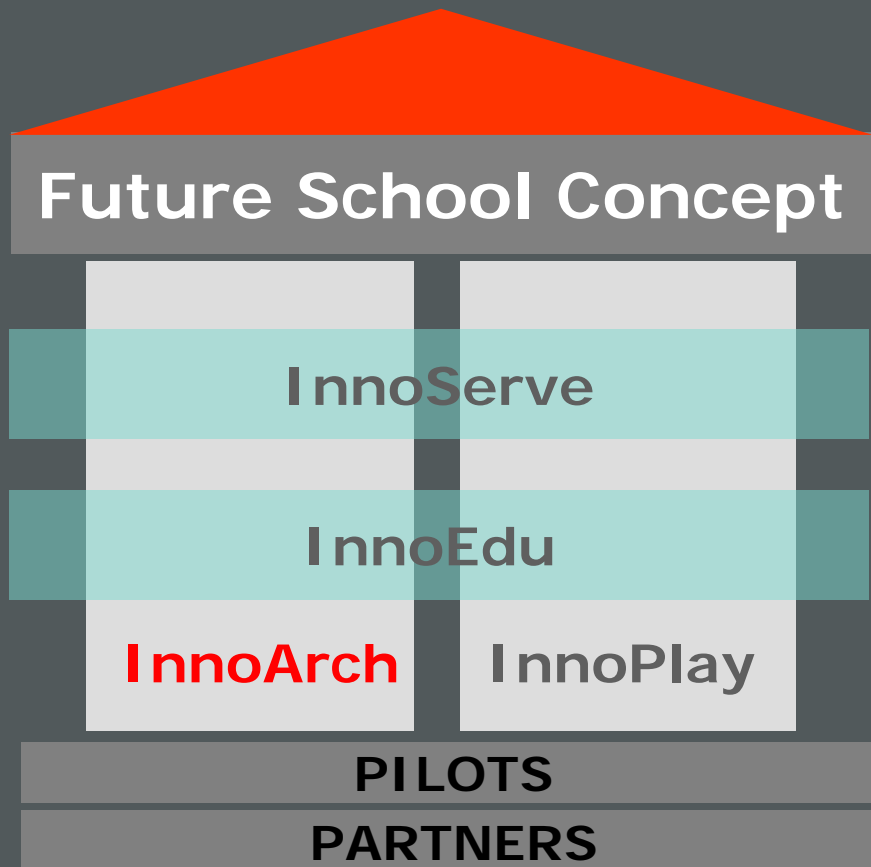**Friday, May 30th**

HELSINKI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
Department of Architecture
InnoArch: Aija Staffans & Helena Teräväinen

InnoSchool

1.1.2007-30.6.2008 & 1.9.2008-28.2.2010

Future School Concept

InnoServe

InnoEdu

InnoArch   InnoPlay

PILOTS

PARTNERS

InnoSchool consortium:

Helsinki University of Technology, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SimLab

University of Helsinki, Faculty of Behavioral Sciences, Center for Research on Teaching

Helsinki University of Technology, Department of Architecture

University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Faculty of Education, Centre for Media Pedagogy

HELSINKI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
Department of Architecture
InnoArch: Aija Staffans & Helena Teräväinen

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Places and Spaces for Learning

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Arvi Mäkitalo, Research assistant, Master´s Student of Architecture
Liisa Palasto, Research assistant, Master´s Student of Architecture

2007	2008

Indoor Studies

Field Study in Arabia School, Architectural Space Analysis → " The Intensity of Space" Spatial experiences of the school house

Usability Analysis in Arabia School → Usability Report of the school house (users' view)

Field Study in Stanford Loft: A Design project → "Creative Spaces": Qualities for the PjBLL; Teamwork supportive space

Arkki Childrens' Workshops Case Opinmäki Pilot School → Children's participation & "New School Typologies"

Observing the Planning and Design Process of Opinmäki → Improvements in Peda&Arch interaction in a practical design process

19 Schools in Finland, Space & Usability Analysis (separately funded) → Improvements in dimensioning the school

Outdoor Studies

Children as Environment Agents CEA: Field Study ... Arabia School →

Field Study in Muurola →

Field Study in Jakomäki → "Meaningful Places in Students' Every Day Environment" TSL supportive environmental qualities (children's view)

Kuninkaantie 5 Schools: Project andTeacher Collaboration → TSL supportive environmental qualities (teachers's view)

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- **Sub-study 1:Children as Environmental Agents (CEA) in Helsinki and in Rovaniemi**

- **Sub-study 2: Collaborative Workshops at Arkki School**

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Theoretical background

What?

- **Spatial thinking**
  - Human geography, space experience, identity of space (Tuan, Relph)
  - Multisensory spaces (Vodvarka & Molnar, Marks)
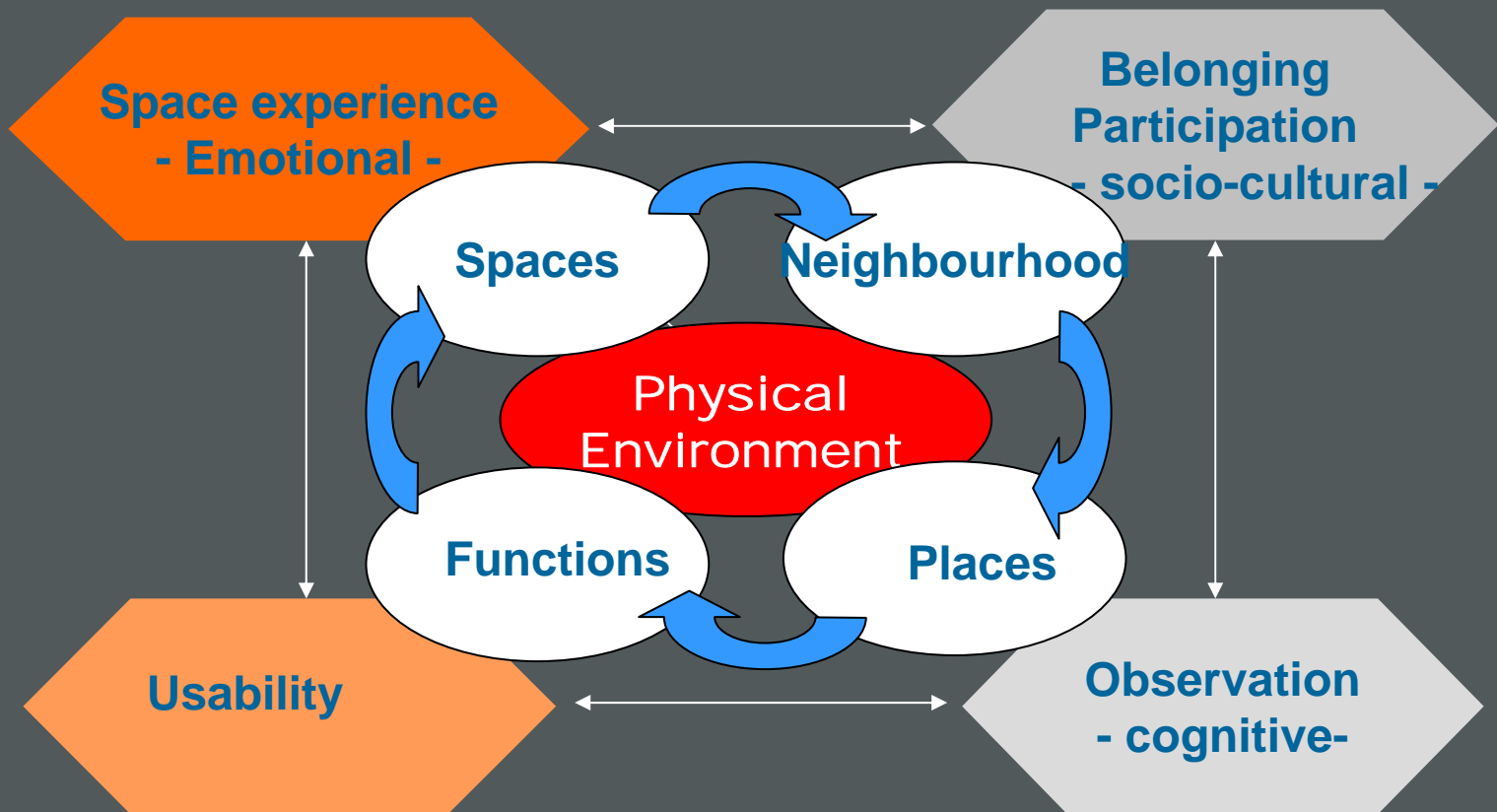 - Environmental psychology: affordances (Gibson), perceived quality

How?

- **Process thinking**
  - Communicative/transactive planning (Friedmann)
  - Collaborative planning & design (Healey etc.)

Presentation of two sub-studies

Research Questions here

1. How/ In what ways can the collaborative planning and design process with children act as a tool for active citizenship and cultural learning for children?

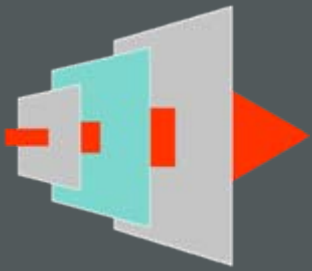*2. How/ In what ways does children's environmental local knowledge enrich urban planning?*

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In this Edra paper we present

- ## Sub-study 1:

Children as Environmental
Agents (CEA)
in Helsinki and in Rovaniemi

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Sub-study 1

Asking children about their perceptions, experiences and movement in the neighbourhood

1) **City of Helsinki: Arabia 05-2007 and Jakomäki 12-2007**
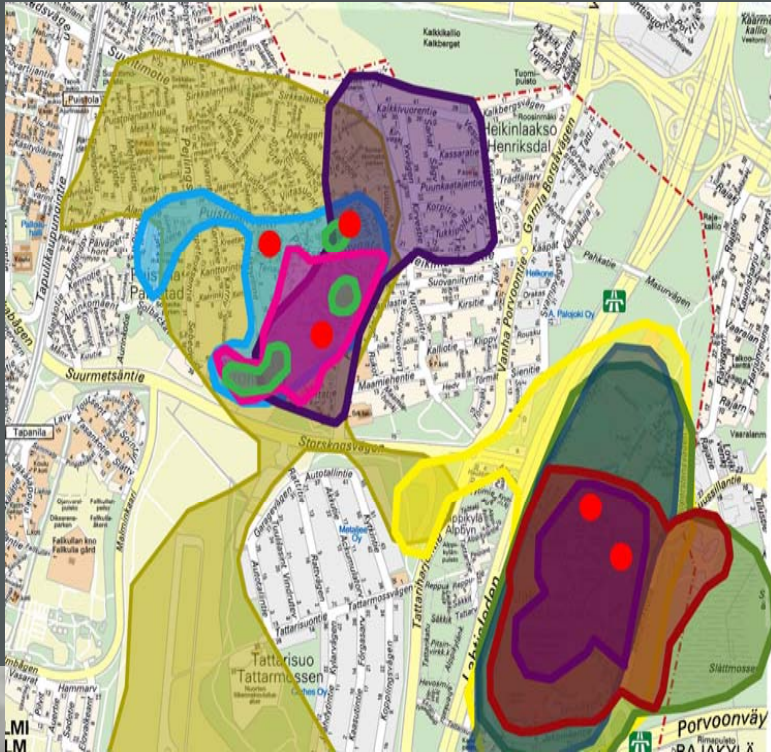
2) **City of Rovaniemi: Muurola 11-2007**

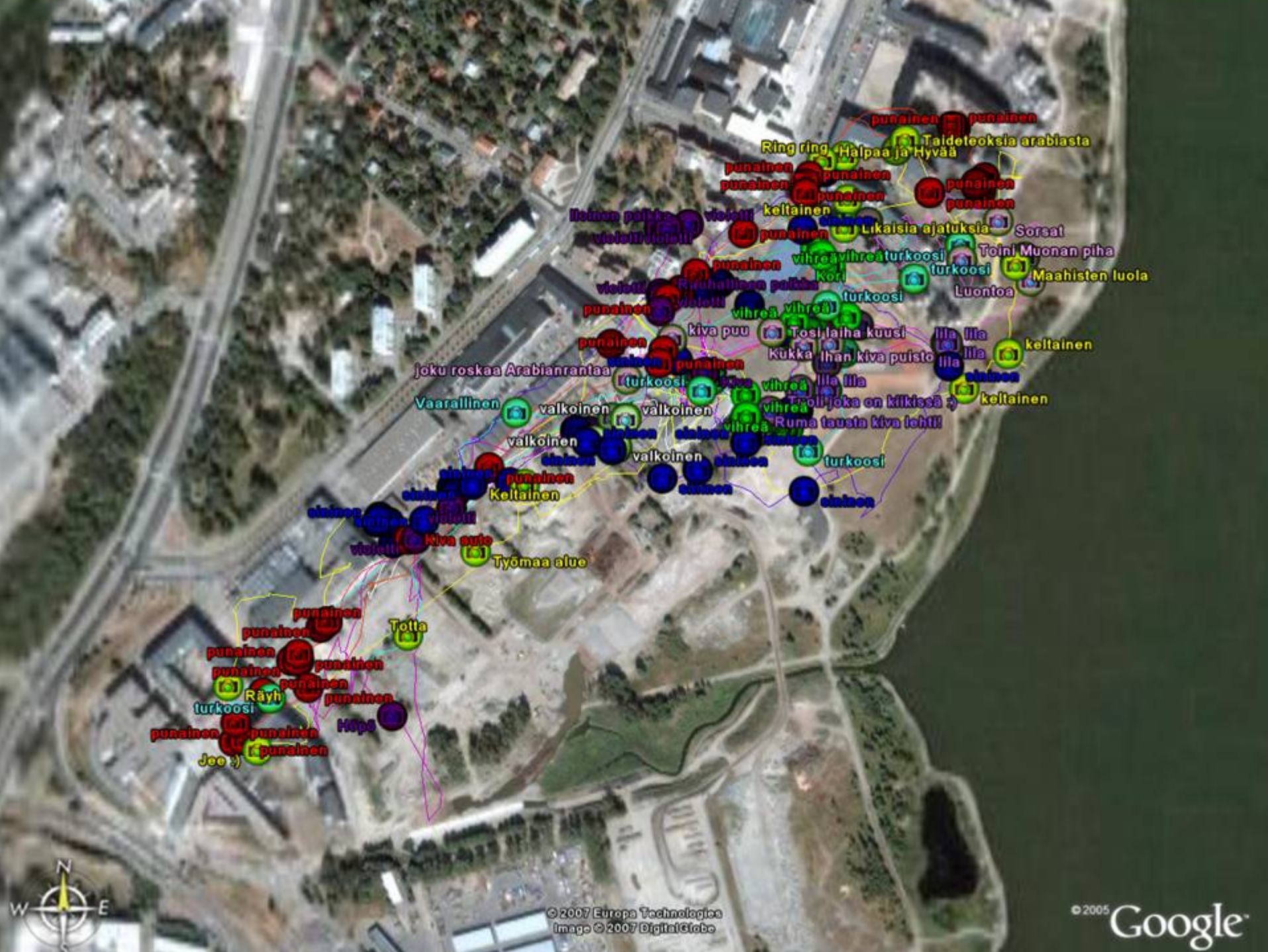1. Mind mapping

2. Mobile mapping

3. Interview

InnoArch Outdoor Studies

**Neighbourhood level environmental study
by using mobile phone,
GPS logger,
Brieftec Binder software and
GIS applications (Google Earth)**

Details…

Pets and animals…

Unique hobbies and important elements of everyday life…

Social gathering e.g. shopping malls…

Web-based tools in urban development context

▶ Local planning and design forums

▶ Local development forums

▶ Web-inquiries

▶ SoftGIS methods

▶ Using also children's local knowledge

▶ Children seen as stakeholders and participants

Kuninkaantien koulufoorumi

Etusivu   **Koulut**   **Koulutyöt**   **Kartta**

Voit hakea kartalle koulutöitä projektien
nimillä tai merkitä omia kommenttejasi
Kommentoi 📍 -työkalulla.

Hae kartalle | Etsi osoite

Koulutyöt

☐ Hylätyt paikat - Unohdetut maisemat
☐ Liikkuen loikkien
☐ Jakomäki-Puistola ennen ja nyt
☐ Tiedän paikan armahan

Koulut

☐ Jakomäen ala-aste
☐ Jakomäen yläaste
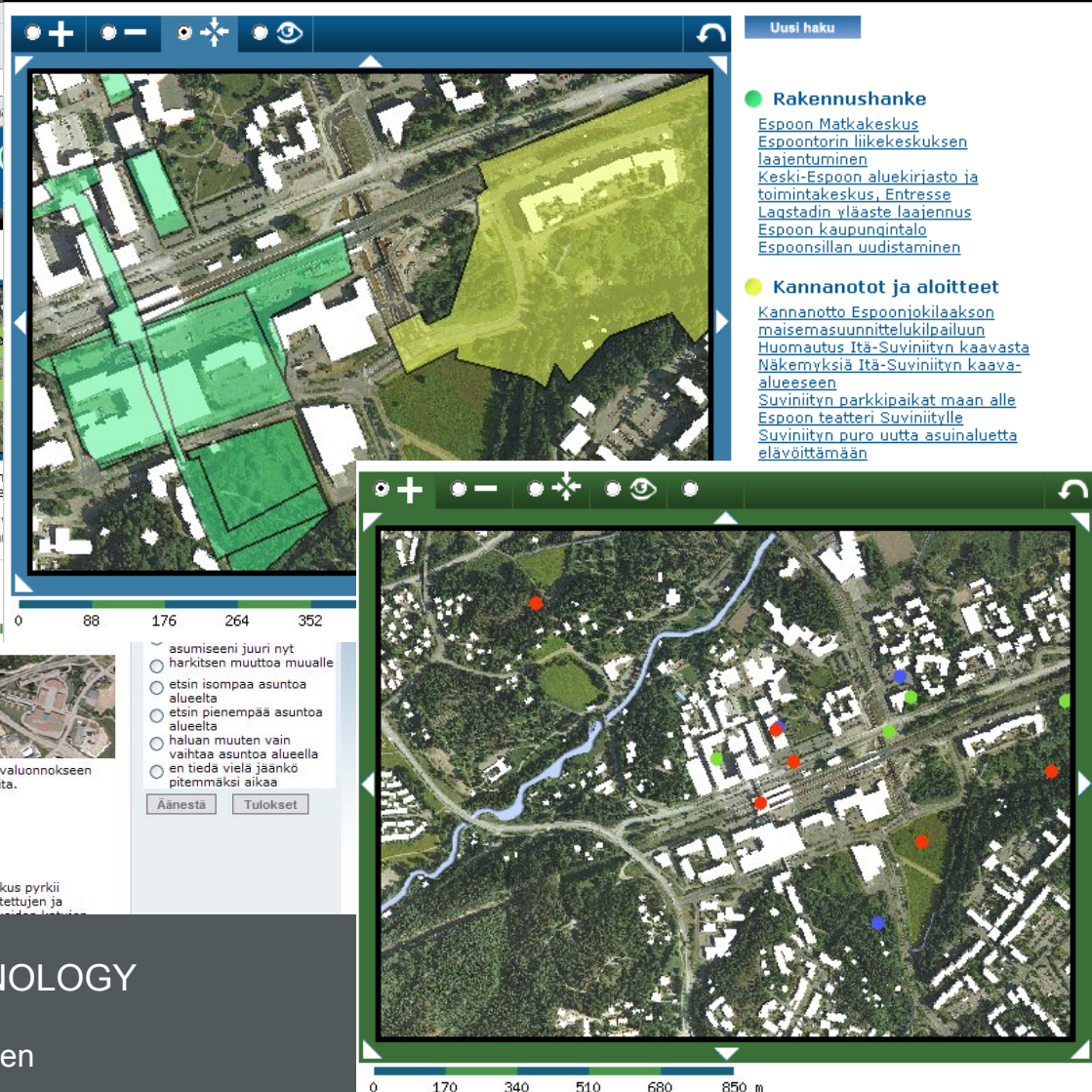☐ Nurkkatien koulu
☐ Puistolan peruskoulu
☐ Puistolan ala-aste

Kommentit

☐ Kommentit
☐ Kehittämisehdotukset

Hae kartalle >

Vantaa

Kartta | Ilmakuva

Urban development
Local development forums

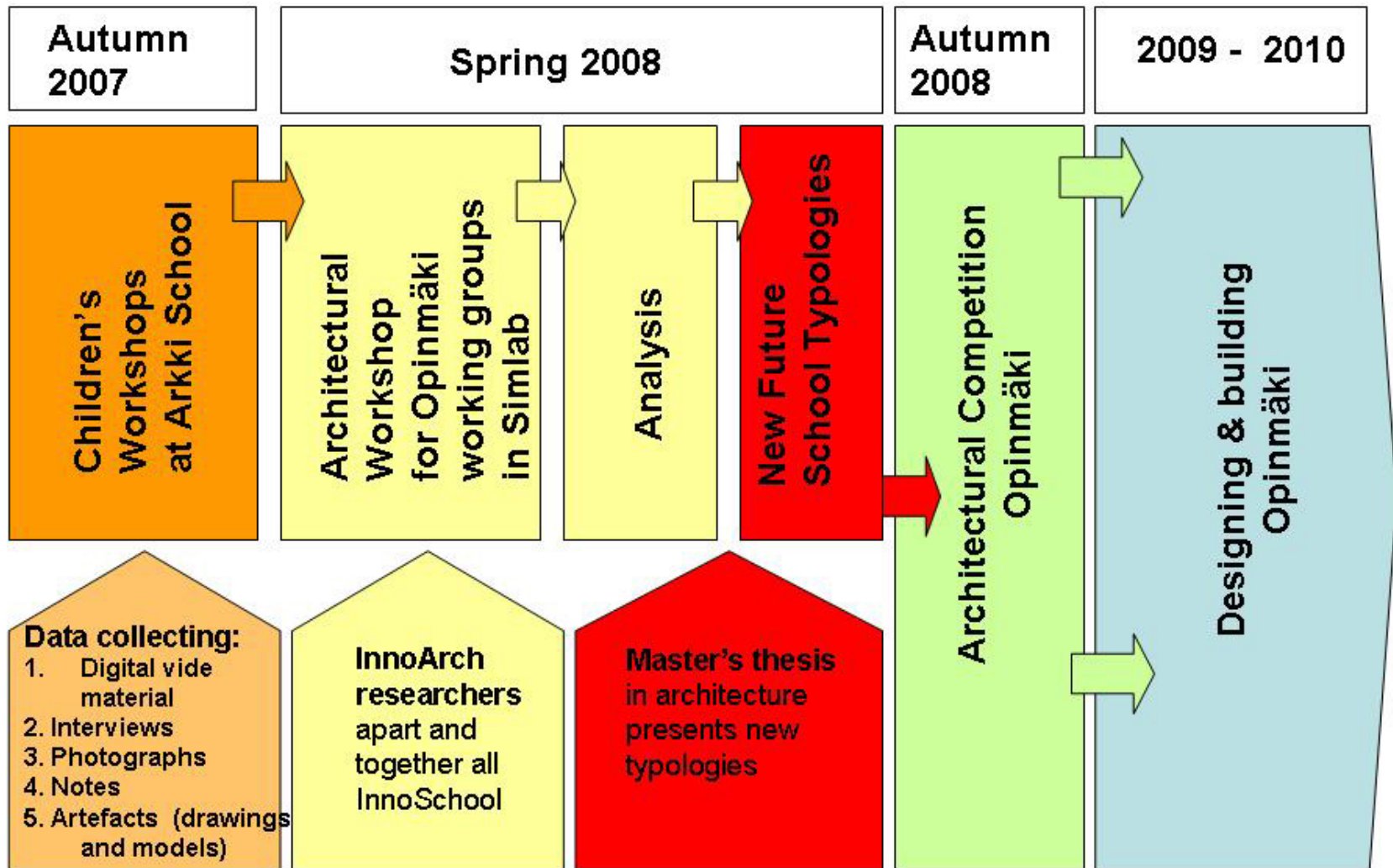- **Sub-study 2:** Collaborative Workshops at Arkki School

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Sub-study 2

- **Arkki workshops in autumn 2007**, children in ages 11-18 working together /Documented in photographs and video tapes; Ideas will be utilized in programming **the Opinmäki architectural competition**

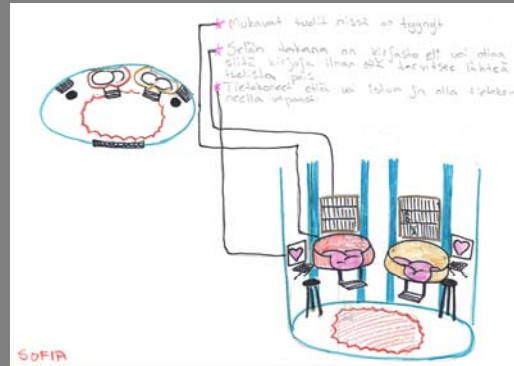- **Arkki= Architectural School for Children and Youth**

Autumn 2007	Spring 2008			Autumn 2008	2009 - 2010
Children's Workshops at Arkki School	Architectural Workshop for Opinmäki working groups in Simlab	Analysis	New Future School Typologies	Architectural Competition Opinmäki	Designing & building Opinmäki
Data collecting: 1. Digital vide material 2. Interviews 3. Photographs 4. Notes 5. Artefacts (drawings and models)	InnoArch researchers apart and together all InnoSchool		Master's thesis in architecture presents new typologies		

Arkki Workshops schedule 1

Meetings	Date/ Dates	Topics	Preliminary observations
1. workshop	26.9.2007	1. What should be changed at school?	More fun, new technology and beauty. More day light. More windows.
		2. A nice place	A café, a round places, sofas and soft chairs
2. workshop	2.10. & 3.10.	Future space (own) to work and learn (1)	PCs, smart boards, screens. Round shapes, transparent walls and cupolas, roof like the sky, green nature and bright colours, futuristic shapes in the furniture, ball-shaped chairs, sofas; separate moveable spaces, learning modules also outside.
3. workshop	23.10. & 24.10.	Common places at Future School	Halls, corridors, lunch rooms, great (festival) halls, jumping halls. Open doors and walls, glass walls, windows.

Arkki Workshops schedule 2

| 4. workshop	30.10. & 31.10.	Meeting points and routes	Entrance and centre halls and all the other big halls like for physical education and feasts. Currents of people.
5.workshop	6.11. & 7.11	The outside environment of the school	Students were longing after nature: and works of art. Places to stay were cosy and peaceful, bordered by green belts. Many seats. Water in many different elements: ponds, rivers with bridges, falling waters. Plants to see and eat. Different surfaces, different materials, labyrinths, various levels: staircases, ramps etc. Roofs as playgrounds and gardens.
6. workshop	13.11. & 14.11.	The future curriculum and the new subjects. Specific spaces.	Future subjects: physics-astronomy, design (art, craft and mathematics), technology, architecture, medicine and so called "multi creativity".

Arkki Workshops schedule 3

| 7. workshop	20.11.& 21.11.	Future Spaces to study and learn (groups) (2)	Organic shapes. Cell shape came out and also attempts to share round shape into cornered rooms.
8. workshop	27.11.& 28.11.	Future Spaces to study and learn (clusters) (3)	The big centre hall surrounded by smaller spaces (class rooms) came out several times. Rooms were very high with balconies, bridges and many levels inside. On the roofs open air living areas. Access outside directly from every class room. Nature elements like stones or water elements like fountains, ponds and brooks, were placed between the class rooms.

Arkki Workshops schedule 4

| 10. workshop	11.12. & 12.12,	modelling the school house. Photographing the models.	Stairs like Guggenheim's, rhytm like Reima Pietilä's. A lot of greenery and water. Pilotism. Bridges between houses on pillars. Multi-shaped buildings. Houses resembling rocky stones. Many interesting roof windows. Steps with lawn. Shelters and sun awnings. Round buildings divided in sectors etc.
Seminar at Arkki School	19.12.	Discussion about all topics and creations together with parents	A huge amount of fantastic drawings and models. The overall picture was cleared up to, when everything was repeated and analysed together. The students (pupils) had again opportunity to explain their solutions to the audience.

"Clusters, glass corridors and atriums" (a)
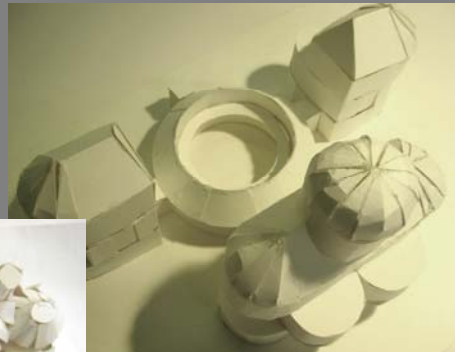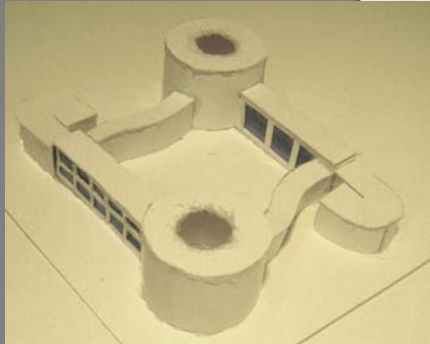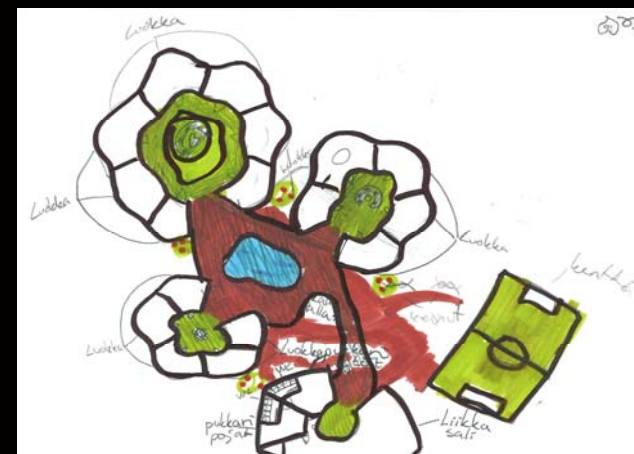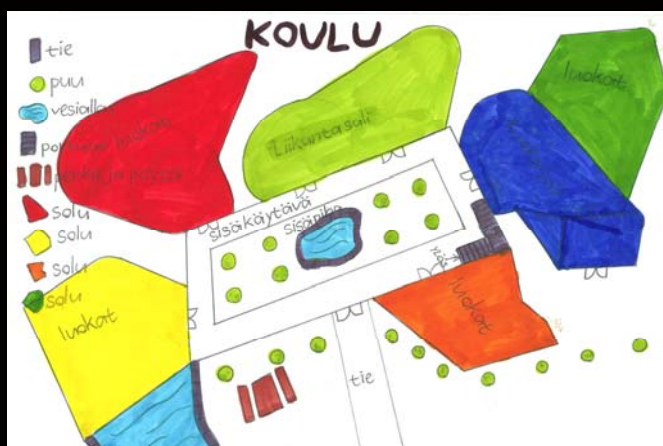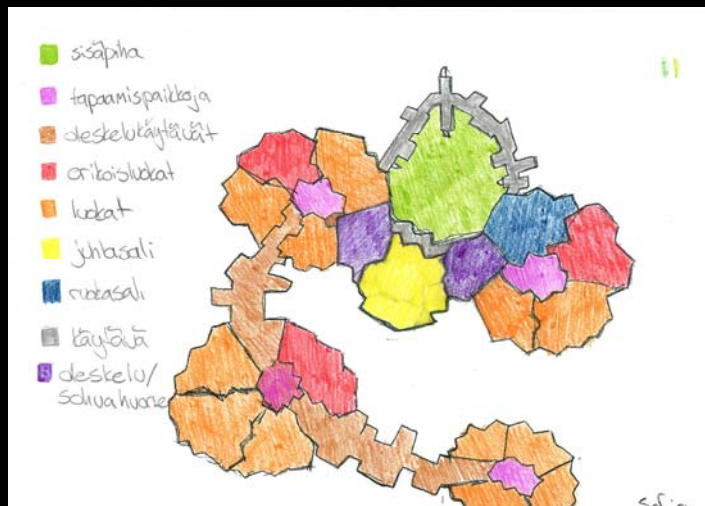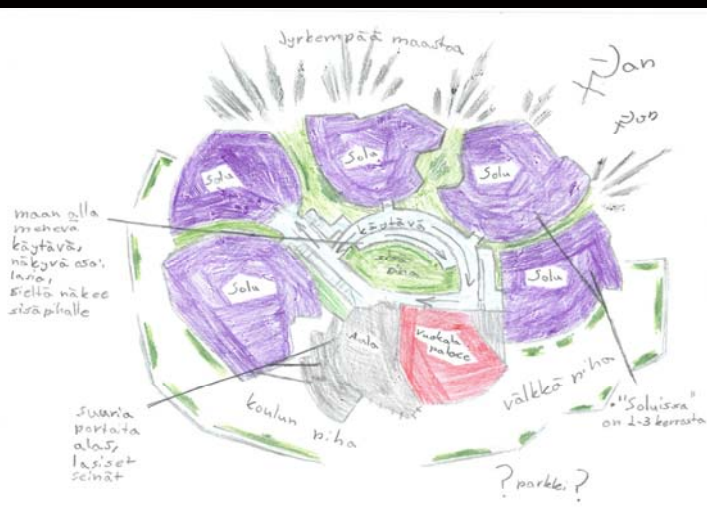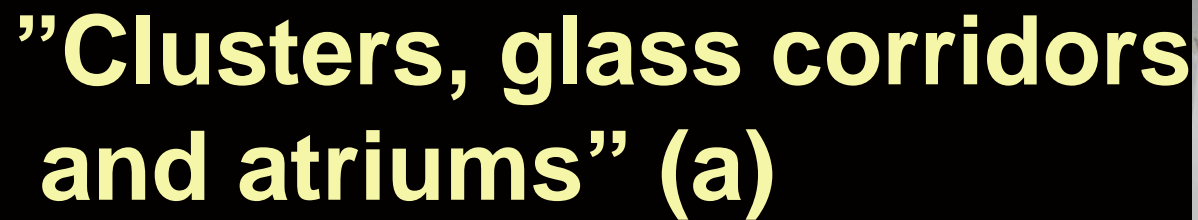
"Clusters and bridges" (b)
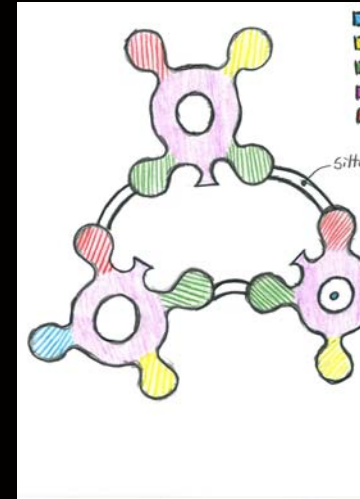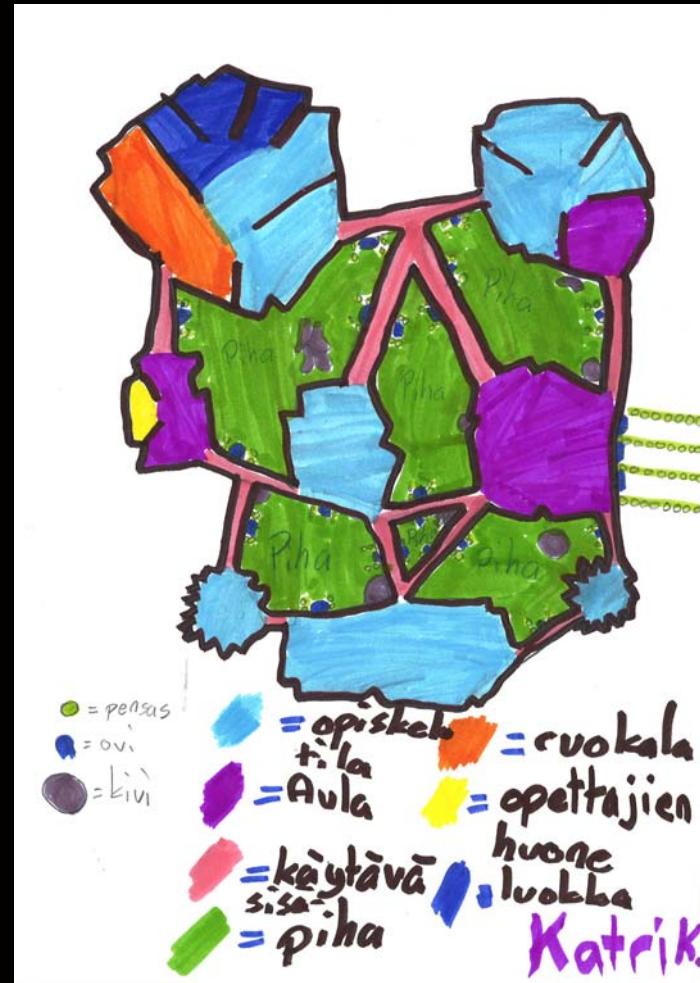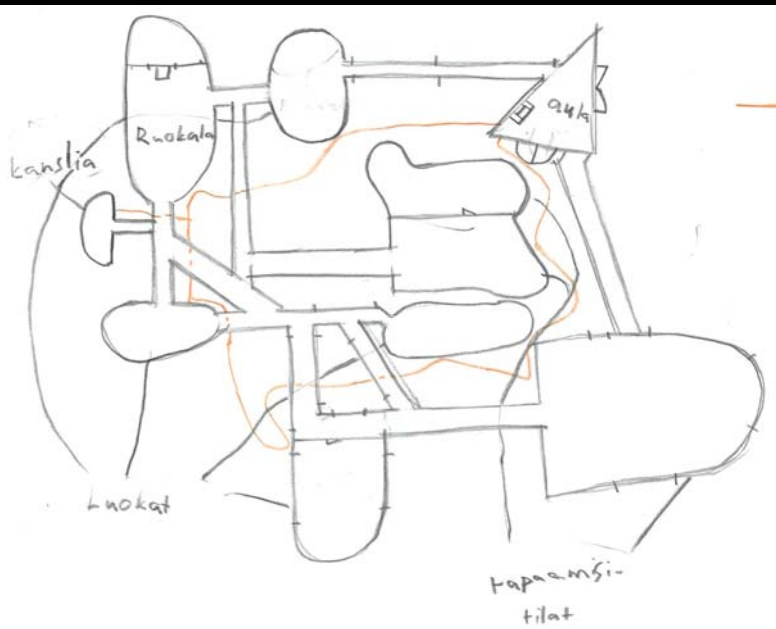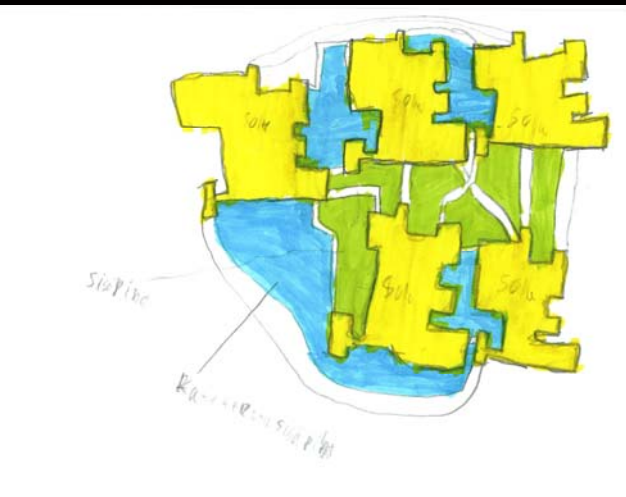
"Roof garden/ court yard as roof" (c)
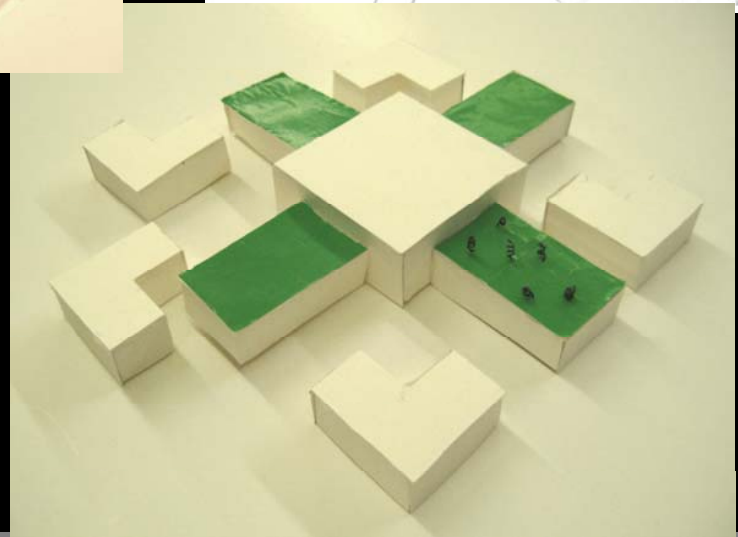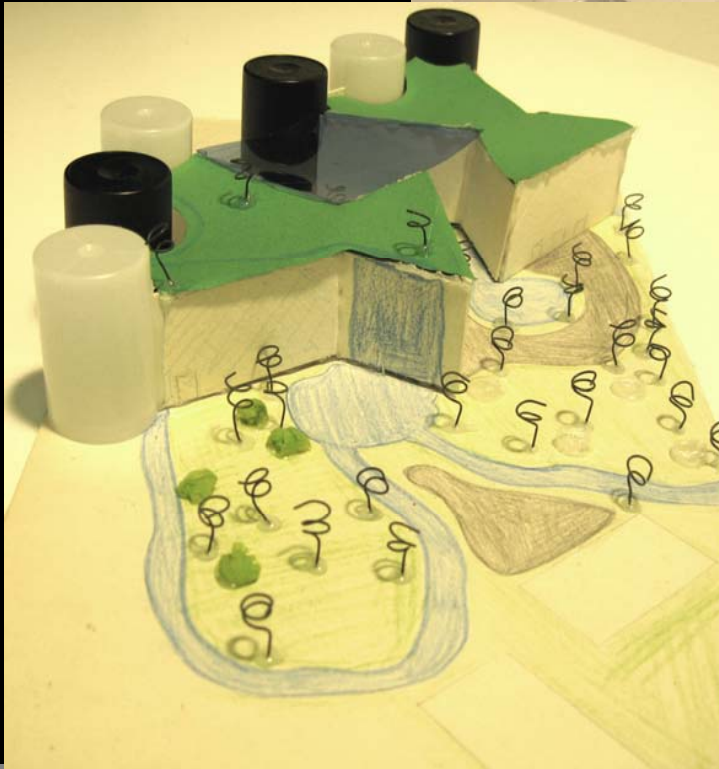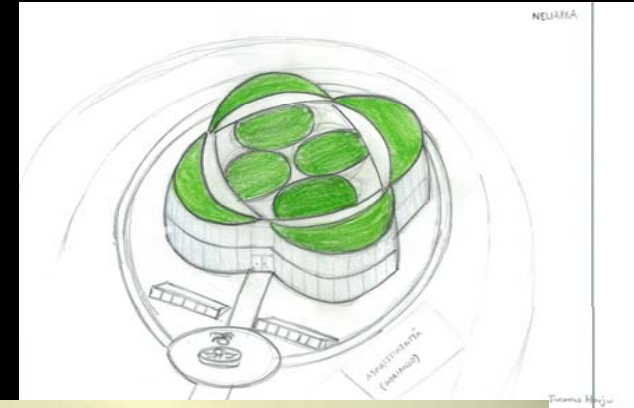
The preliminary analyses of the methods used in Arkki School workshops indicate usability at least on two different levels:

- **1) Video taping useful "in making notes" of what and how children described their ideas and drawings for the future school. This would not have been possible by analyzing only the pictures students created. The possibility of documenting their speech, of listening to their intentions and explanations, and of reviewing this material several times in different groups, has turned out to be fruitful.**

- **2) The TSL (teaching studying learning) method used at Arkki School and generally in Finnish architectural and environmental education for children has its ground in "learning by doing" (John Dewey) and also experiential and reflecting learning, as well (see Kolb 1984).**
- **Hence it was extremely important to give each student a chance to present his/her own work; while explaining they also learned to clear their thinking and to know their rights as members of society. This is very important when raising children's epistemic agency.**

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And what then?
Next phase…

Breaking boundaries through collaborative and mediating spaces

Theme

Schools as Platforms of Services and Well-being in Their Communties

Schools as Multifaceted Learning Environments

Schools as Integrators for Learning Resources and Networks

Schools as Platforms for Life-wide and Life-long Learning

Expected Results

Developing collaborative planning methods for the school with stakeholders in all user and age groups

Qualities for collaborative and mediating spaces for TSL processes

Local forums as mediators between the neighbourhood and the school; international collaboration

Collaboration, mediation and sustainability guiding the planning process of the school

Thank You!

Happy to answer any questions and have some conversation…