

PLAYFUL LANDSCAPES

*A project report of The ELASA Conference
& Annual meeting in Sweden 2024*

December 2024



ELASA SWEDEN 2024
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& Annual meeting in Sweden 2024*

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With other support from:

*Alnarp Student Union, Form/Design Center,
Forvent Smørrebrød, Helsingborg municipality,
Klinta Trädgård, Krook & Tjäder, Liljewall, Liseberg, Mareld,
Nora Zolotov, Tidskriften Landskap, Stångby,
University of Copenhagen, Varberg municipality
& White Architects*

Cover photo: Ravidiran Botman

Layout: Amanda Freng Blümke



ELASA SWEDEN 2024
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ELASA (European Landscape
Architecture Student Association)

Contents

- 6 *Summary*
- 8 *This is ELASA & ELASA Sweden*
- 11 *Preparatory work*
- 14 *Our Partners & Sponsors*
- 20 *The ELASA Sweden Conference
& Annual Meeting*
- 39 *Achievements & Future Goals*



Upper & Lower photos: Site visit in Västra hamnen, Malmö & Klinta Garden in Höör, by Ravidiran Botman
Middle photo: The workshop "Taking place by place making" in the Landscape Laboratory at SLU Alnarp, by Amanda Freng Blümke

Summary

In challenging economic, ecological and political times international cooperation and knowledge exchange is more important than ever. In August 2024, 52 landscape architecture students from 20 European countries gathered in Sweden to attend the **Annual ELASA meeting & the ELASA Sweden Conference 2024**, with the theme “**Playful Landscapes**”. The purpose of the conference and meeting was to promote collaboration between landscape architecture students, universities, the profession and industry-specific companies in Europe. But also, to promote an exchange of ideas and inspiration, as well as to inspire and support a positive development of Europe’s future landscape architecture educations.

ELASA (European Landscape Architecture Student Association) is a non-profit student association in collaboration with IFLA Europe (International Federation of Landscape Architects) and ECLAS (European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools) that promotes support, cooperation, an exchange of ideas and inspiration between landscape architecture students, professionals and universities throughout Europe. There are usually two ELASA-meetings per year. A smaller meeting in spring and an annual meeting in late summer. The meetings are voluntarily organized in different countries each year by landscape architecture students.

The theme of the conference in 2024, Playful Landscapes, was chosen to highlight the important design of playful and inspiring landscapes for both children and adults. As well as the creative and innovative processes behind sustainable landscape architecture.

The ELASA meetings are every year organized in partnership with different landscape architecture related organizations and companies. This year’s partners and sponsors were: *IFLA Europe, ECLAS, SLU Movium Think Tank, SLU Landscape, SLU Mobility, Vestre, Architects Sweden, Kompan, Planter, Stiliom, 02 Landskap, Alnarp Student Union, Form/Design Center, Forvent Smørrebrød, Helsingborg municipality, Klinta Trädgård, Krook & Tjäder, Liljewall, Liseberg, Mareld, Nora Zolotov, Tidskriften Landskap, Stångby, University of Copenhagen, Varberg municipality & White Architects*

The event around every annual meeting can be organized in many ways but should always include landscape architecture and have a specific theme. In this year’s meeting we chose to work with the concept of a seven days long “traveling conference”. We moved from city to city exploring playful landscapes along the Westcoast of Sweden starting off in Copenhagen, capitol of Denmark followed by Malmö, Alnarp, Hör, Helsingborg, Varberg and Göteborg. During these seven days the students got to explore and experience different projects, offices, companies & organizations by attending lectures, seminars, site- & office visits, guided tours, workshops and meetings. This with the purpose to get to know some of Sweden’s best landscape architecture and learn how landscape architects and similar professions are working to promote sustainable and resilient urban & rural landscape design in a playful, creative and innovative way.



*A coffee break during the workshop
"Taking place by place making" in the
Landscape Laboratory at SLU Alnarp.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad*

This is ELASA & ELASA Sweden

The ELASA Organization

ELASA (European Landscape Architecture Student Association) is a non-profit student organization that promotes the support, cooperation, exchange of ideas and understanding between landscape architecture students, professionals and universities throughout Europe. ELASA is the student organization of IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects) Europe and ECLAS (European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools). Meetings have been held every year since 1990 (with an exception during the pandemic). Sweden has held ELASA meetings in 1998, 2001, 2005 and now in 2024. ELASA is directed by one main representative that is responsible for keeping contact with IFLA Europe, ECLAS & the national ELASA-groups, update the webpage & social media, as well as sending out newsletters about landscape architecture happenings & upcoming ELASA meetings. The main representative is also responsible to guide the organizers of the meetings in how to plan the meeting and reach out to the students. ELASA also has a broad network all over Europe with a student representative in each country that keeps in touch and shares the information from the main representative with other students in their countries.

Each year an annual meeting (usually in summer) and a smaller “mini meeting” (usually in spring) are arranged. Every meeting is organized in a different country every year by landscape architecture students of one or several universities from that country. The information about meetings, internships, landscape architecture happenings, workshops, competitions and Erasmus-exchanges is spread via the ELASA email list and WhatsApp-group controlled by the ELASA main representative. Apart from exchanging landscape architecture related information between students, ELASA also represents landscape architecture students in meetings of European & global professional & educational landscape architecture organizations such as IFLA World, IFLA Europe and ECLAS.

The two meetings arranged every year is how students get involved in the ELASA organization and how they get to be a part of representing landscape architecture students on a European and international level. These meetings are a crucial part of the ongoing work of ELASA as an organization. The hosting countries are decided through voting during the annual meetings. Usually there is a vote about who will host the meetings in two years' time. This is to assure that the organizers have enough time to prepare and in case of changed in the schedule.

The ELASA Sweden team

The authors of this report and also the main organizers, Amanda Freng Blümke, Emelie Fröberg & Sara Hvit, all students from SLU Alnarp (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) were given the confidence and opportunity to arrange the annual meeting of 2024 during the annual meeting in Switzerland 2022. The form of the arrangements around every annual meeting can be created in many ways but should show the landscape architecture of the country and have a specific theme. Either the arrangement is in one location or moving from place to place. It could be created as a study trip, as a workshop, an event, a conference or in any other shape that brings out the qualities of the specific country or theme. During the annual meetings a larger group of students is invited with around 30-50 people. The ELASA Sweden team chose to work with the form of a traveling conference showing the landscape architecture of the western parts of Sweden to 52 landscape architecture students.

The three main organizers of this event have been working with different partners and sponsors to make the ELASA Sweden conference possible. The contact with partners & sponsors is one of the main tasks, as well as planning logistics, food & travel preparations, workshop, lecture & program planning, social media contact, economy & budget planning, web page build up and registration & contact with the participants.

The event could not have been made without the help of other students from SLU Alnarp. During the traveling conference seven "student mentors" helped the main organizers with the logistics & arrangements around the event and to keep the social media platforms updated.

The Main Organizers

*Amanda
Freng
Blümke*



*Emelie
Fröberg*



*Sara
Hvit*



The Student Mentors



*Kristina
Sundin*



*Saskia
Skogh*



*Ellinor
Dromberg*



*Anton
Wallenstad*



*Henrik
Wangsten*



*Nike
Tretonius*



*Jenny
Huthén*



*Time for play at Djungellekan in Helsingborg.
Photo: Saskia Skogh*

Preparatory work

The preparatory work for the ELASA Sweden conference and Annual meeting was a circular and dynamic process where weekly meetings moved the organizing group forward. We tried to create a timeline for all the steps in the planning process, but it's important to mention that it was not a straight line. For example, most of these steps were going on at the same time and many of them not finished until the last day before the conference. This is a summary of all the steps included in the planning process and in the timeline of when they started:

About one and a half year before the conference we started to get to know the project and find a good date. We made contact with previous organizers of ELASA meetings, created a timeline & a planning structure and had a small workshop where the theme was decided. The tasks in the planning process were all dependent on each other. To decide the theme, we started off by doing research about relevant projects, companies and organizations that would fit the different themes and set ups we had in mind. The locations of these projects would then influence the travel route for the conference which would affect the budget. The budget was dependent on what partners and sponsors we would get in contact with. This way of working was very dynamic and led to many changes along the way before putting all the pieces together.

The last year and especially the last half year before the conference was the most intensive part of the planning process. When the logo and the rough sketch of the program and budget was finished in autumn 2023, we started to look for partners and sponsors. We mainly made contact by email or phone, but also went to career fairs to talk to people in person. After getting published in the magazine Tidskriften Landskap and at SLU Movium Think Tank's news feed we also started using social media to spread our message.

In spring, we had managed to find a handful of partners and sponsors, but the difficulty to reach our budget made us change our program. This meant we would no longer make it to Stockholm and Uppsala, which was the plan from the beginning, and the collaboration with SLU Ultuna was no longer possible. This was a huge setback for the planning group, but we realized we could still make it to Göteborg if we put our hearts into it.

To arrange the big workshop, we reached out to Professor Maria Kylin at SLU Alnarp, expert on the theme playful landscapes. Together with some colleagues she planned and prepared the amazing workshop "Taking space by making place, a deadly serious playful activity". Maria also helped guide us in the planning of the conference as our mentor.

To handle our finances and payments we started to cooperate with the Alnarp Student Union (ASK).

To find a sponsor for the ELASA tree we contacted different nurseries, where eventually Stångby was the hero of the year. We were also in contact with Odlingensheten at SLU Alnarp to find a location for the tree and to help us with the storage before planting, as well as the maintenance afterwards.

Later on, our website and social media platforms were established so that the registration for the meeting could open. For this we used Google Forms. It was important that as many nationalities as possible would attend. Therefore, the first two students from each country who signed up got admitted. We then tried to contact the national representatives from each country who didn't sign up. When the registration period closed, we started to distribute the left-over spots which ended up with some countries having more than two participants. Some countries were also required to have a visa to be able to attend, which was procured through invitation letters from SLU and in contact with our embassies.

In late spring we started working on the screen print for the t-shirt and tote bag printing process with the help of the printmaker, illustrator and designer Nora Zolotov.

After the budget, the travel route and the preliminary program was set we started booking accommodation and meals for the large group.

By sending out information through different channels at SLU Alnarp, presenting the information in front of the classes and spreading the word in the corridors we managed to gather a few students willing to help us as mentors before and during the conference in august.

In the beginning of summer, we started putting together the logistic program where all the activities for the conference were planned in detail. We used Google maps to calculate the time it would take for 52 people to move around the cities with public transport, rented buss or by foot. The logistic program was made to guide the organizers, student mentors and partners during the conference so everyone would know what to do, when to do it and how to do it.

As our homepage started to fill up, we also started working on the booklet that would be handed out to all the participants and partners. The booklet included the program, contact information to all organizers and mentors, the travel route, information about our partners and sponsors and a presentation with pictures of all the participants.

A few weeks before the conference started a couple of emails was sent out to the participants with important information and details about the program, WhatsApp group and packing list etc. All of this time we also kept in contact with guides, hosts and other partners with regular meetings.

During the intensive week before the conference started, the student mentors helped us finish all the final preparations including shopping, printing booklets, printing tote bags, cooking, making goodie bags, making presents for our guides and hosts, planning the last details of the logistic program, booking the last meals, picking up the ELASA tree, preparing for the introduction meeting and annual meeting etc.



Students looking for shiny rocks in the art installation "Diamonds are Everywhere" by Sigurdur Gudmundsson along the coastline of Malmö, Västra hamnen. Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

Our Partners & Sponsors

Main Partners & Sponsors

Architects Sweden, Sveriges Arkitekter, is the collective trade union and professional organization for all architects in Sweden. “Our mission is to develop the architectural practice for our 14,000 members from all professions, through trade union work as well as to promote professional and architectural issues through better policymaking”.

Vision: Architects who meet contemporary and future needs – well-designed, purposeful and sustainable architecture.

End goal: Architects have a broad and leading role in community building.

Architects
Sweden

The European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools, ECLAS, is an association of university

teachers and researchers in landscape architecture, whose main membership consists of university departments and faculties where landscape architecture teaching and research is the main focus of activity.

ECLAS exists to foster and develop scholarship in landscape architecture throughout Europe by strengthening contacts and enriching the dialogue between members of Europe’s landscape academic community and by representing the interests of this community within the wider European social and institutional context.

ECLAS
**EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SCHOOLS**

IFLA Europe - The European Region of International Federation of Landscape Architects. IFLA Europe is a not-for-profit

organization that represents, supports and promotes the unique and stand-alone profession of landscape architecture across Europe recognizing excellence in educational courses and promoting best practice operations in all member countries.



IFLA EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

SLU Landscape (Swedish University of Agricultural Science) operates as a cross-campus network that collects, galvanizes and animates university resources in the landscape architecture field with members from Department of Urban and Rural Development (SOL), Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management (LAPF), Department of People and Society, the Movium Think Tank and the SLU URBAN FUTURES research platform (approximately 170 colleagues).



SLU Movium Think Tank works on the mission to strengthen sustainable urban development by disseminating research-based knowledge and facilitating needs-driven knowledge development.

"We operate at the interface between research and practice, with a goal strengthen collaboration between these parties."



Vestre have been creating social meeting places for over 75 years. Believing in the power of pleasant and attractive places where people can meet, we take pride in being one of Scandinavia's leading producers of sustainable urban furniture that brings people together.

"Everything we do stems from our dedication to sustainability, quality, and design. That is why we use local raw materials and strive to minimize our environmental impact. Our production is based in Norway and Sweden, across three facilities: The Plus, the world's most environmentally friendly furniture factory, in Magnor, Norway, and our steel and grinding factories in Torsby, Sweden."



Other Partners & Sponsors

02 Landskap are landscape architects based in Gothenburg whose work is based on a holistic view of the relationship between building and landscape.

02 Landskap is involved in the early stages to shape the basic idea and ambition of the assignment in close collaboration with the client and carries out architectural assignments both in urban planning as well as parks, gardens and smaller buildings.

02LANDSKAP

Alnarps Student Union (ASK)

“is your support during your time here at Alnarp. We provide you with social activities and a helping hand if you run into any problems regarding your education. We have student representatives that speak up for you in most of the decision-making boards at the university.”

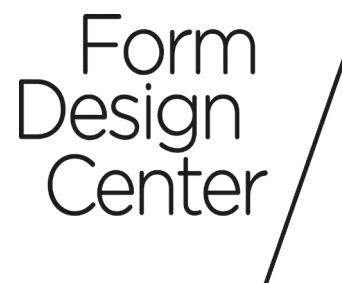


Forvent Smørrebrød is a new sandwich shop in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen that makes high quality classical Danish smørrebrød with fun toppings and interesting flavor combinations.



Form/Design Center in Malmö is the leading platform for architecture, design and crafts in southern Sweden. As an open and inclusive meeting place, we target a broad public of all ages and at the same time form a central hub for the industry.

Form/Design Center started in 1964 as part of the non-profit association Svensk Form and is today run with the support of the Ministry of Culture, the City of Malmö, Region Skåne and the Swedish Arts Council.



Helsingborg - “The city for you who want something” is a city and municipality in the southwestern parts of Sweden. Helsingborg is well known for its good landscape architecture and is working a lot with sustainable & structures and of course playful landscapes.



Klinta Trädgård AB design, consult and build perennial plantings in public and private spaces.

“We both teach at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Alnarp. Our vision for the future however, is to make Klinta into a meeting place that connects people in the field of horticulture with landscape architects, universities, ecologists and other people with great expertise and insight into the interaction between humans, nature, garden and landscape. With the aim to help implementing sustainable and beautiful environments in public and private green spaces.”



Kompan is one of the best-known brands within commercial playground equipment, outdoor fitness and outdoor furniture with more than 50 years of experience.

Kompan design and build playgrounds for children, sports arenas for teenagers, effective outdoor fitness equipment for adults, and stay fit solutions for active seniors. We are motivating, magical play and invigorating outdoor activity for all ages.



Krook & Tjäder is one of Scandinavia's largest architecture firms, with established offices and experienced teams in eleven cities. This gives us the geographic reach, creative diversity, and pool of expertise to ensure high quality in both large and small projects.

"We are a full-service architecture firm working in the fields of comprehensive and urban planning, landscape design, architecture, interiors, visualization and product design, and a project partner for clients in a wide variety of sectors."

**KROOK
& TJÄDER**

Liljewall is a creative, coaching and sustainable architectural office.

"We spend every day making life a little smoother, more fun and more beautiful. Together we are around 240 colleagues in Gothenburg, Stockholm and Malmö who develop and have fun together."



Liseberg runs the amusement park with its 42 rides and attractions, games, games of fortune, music stages, dance floor and many restaurants and cafés – all set in green parkland. The park offers adventure, music, games, good food and hotel accommodation, beautiful gardens and camping.

Liseberg

Mareld takes a holistic approach to architecture and deliver thoughtful and sustainable solutions which emerge from place.

"We work in dialogue and bring our substantial knowledge within landscape architecture, city planning and urban design to the table. We have developed a sensibility for drawing out the poetry of place, and pride ourselves on our ability to handle complex challenges with heart and courage."

MARELD

Planter is an effective and time-saving tool making plant design easier. To ensure the right functions and a user-friendly interface, Planter is developed in close collaboration with people active in landscape and garden planning and design. The plant database currently contains close to 5,000 plants and more will be added.



SLU Mobility - "Studying abroad is a good way for you to broaden your knowledge, develop your language skills and make new contacts in a totally different culture. SLU has partnerships with over 100 universities around the world, so there are many possibilities to find an exciting country or a higher education institution tailored specifically to you and your studies."



Stiliom has, since 2010, provided Sweden with durable and high-quality play and park equipment for public environments. Our goal is to inspire to dare to challenge old truths and with all our knowledge support those who want to explore and create the best possible conditions for well-being and play in a sustainable society. For everyone, regardless of age, conditions and needs. The cornerstone of our philosophy is to create natural, interesting and pleasant environments, and a large part of this is to use consistently natural materials and the endless possibilities these provide. The aesthetics are harmonious and the functions are clear with a view to long-term durability and easy maintenance.



Stångby Plantskola (nursery) works with innovative product development and tailored solutions to meet the unique needs of the green industry. We have a wide range of high quality plants. We specialize in producing and breeding park trees, avenue trees, solitary shrubs and larger fruit trees. We always quality control the plants before delivery to give you the best possible product.



Tidskriften Landskap:
"There is a great need for knowledge and inspiration among everyone who works in the creative field of the horticulture industry. Tidskriften Landskap is an initiated and qualified journal for the green sector in Sweden. A magazine for everyone who works with all kinds of design, planning and maintenance of outdoor environments"



University of Copenhagen:

“Driven by intellectual creativity and critical thinking since 1479, researchers and students at the University of Copenhagen have expanded horizons and contributed to moving the world forward. With its 5,000 researchers and 37,500 students, the University boasts an international research and study environment and is highly ranked among the world’s best universities.”



University of
Copenhagen

Varberg is a city and a municipality along the west coast of Sweden with almost 70 000 residents.

In Varberg “the design perspective is included throughout the entire process from idea to finished construction. We always look for quality in the whole project, in different perspectives and make sure that the conditions are right for good design.”



**VARBERGS
KOMMUN**

White Architects “is one of Scandinavia’s leading architectural practices. We work with sustainable architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and interior design for current and future generations. Our mission is to enable sustainable life through the art of architecture.”



Zolotov, Nora is a Malmö based printmaker, illustrator and designer with a bachelor degree in Visual Communication. Except from her different printing skills she has also been active in designing album covers & merch, illustrations for municipalities, brochures, logos, handbook graphics and much more.

NORA ZOLOTOV

The ELASA Sweden Conference & Annual Meeting

This chapter describes what we together with our partners and the 52 participating students have achieved during the ELASA Sweden Conference & Annual meeting in august 2024. On the 17th of august 2024 we started off in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, followed by a weeklong journey together along the Swedish westcoast, full of interesting discussions, workshops, site visits, meetings and much more.





Arrival at the hostel. Photo: Ravidiran Botman

Day 1.

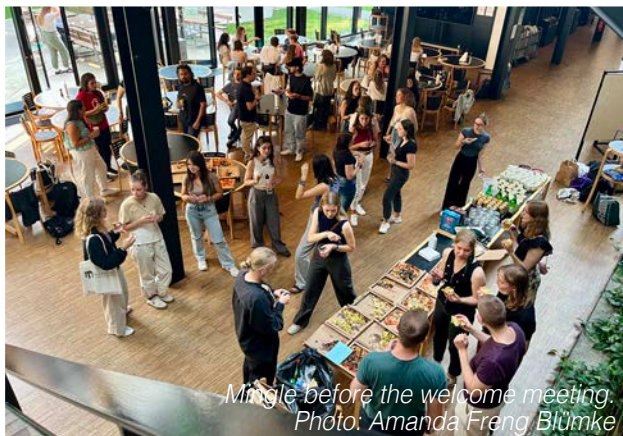
Arrival Day - Saturday 17/8

- 13.00 - Gathering at A&O Hostel Nørrebro, Cph.
- 17.00 - Pizza dinner in The Common Area, University of Copenhagen
- 18.00 - ELASA x IFLA Europe x University of Copenhagen: The ELASA Sweden 2024 Introduction Meeting followed by snacks & mingle.



Some Swedish "fika" while waiting for everyone to arrive. Photo: Saskia Skogh

On the 17th of August 52 landscape architecture students from all over Europe gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark to attend the annual ELASA meeting and the conference ELASA Sweden 2024 - Playful Landscapes. After a walk through Nørrebro and a few slices of pizza at the **University of Copenhagen** the conference started with an introduction meeting describing what ELASA is, connections to IFLA Europe and ECLAS, the program of the year and a presentation of the volunteering organizers, mentors, partners & sponsors making this event possible.



Mingle before the welcome meeting. Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

Elzelina Van Melle, representing **IFLA Europe** as a Danish delegate, presented how IFLA Europe work over the national borders and together with other organizations such as national associations, ECLAS, ELASA, IFLA World, the European Union etc. Elzelina's presentation gave the students insight in how these organizations work, the importance of working across borders inspiring one another to develop the landscape architecture profession and education in a positive direction. She also advised the students in keeping track of IFLA Europe's interesting happenings and youth competitions on their homepage and finished with some inspiring projects from the past year.



Elzelina presenting IFLA Europe. Photo: Ana Pilko

After a few questions and big applause the afternoon continued with mingle and snacks together with our hosts from the University of Copenhagen. Assistant professor, **Megan Lynn Maurer** gave the students a very appreciated tour around campus, which gave the students insight in what an exchange in Copenhagen would be like.



Megan showing us campus. Photo: Ravidiran Botman



Upper & lower photos: Students arriving at KU, by Ravidiran Botman
Middle photo: The introduction meeting, by Saskia Skogn



Jeremy presenting the Opera Park.
Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

Day 2.

Copenhagen & International Dinner in Malmö - Sunday 18/8

- 10.00 - Guided tour in the Opera Park, Cph.
- 12.00 - Smørrebrød & site seeing through Superkilen Park, Cph.
- 14.30 - Train ride to Malmö, Sweden
- 18.00 - International Dinner at Form/Design Center, Malmö.

The second day of the conference brought a lot of new inspiration as the group visited two interesting and playful projects in Copenhagen and much more along the way.

In the morning, landscape architect **Jeremy Dennis** (DEAS), presented **the Opera Park**, designed by Cobe, located outside the Royal Danish Opera House along the harbour. A green oasis with a large diversity of trees, bushes and perennials and a variation of spatiality as well as forms and details. With printed out plans and schemes he told us the interesting story behind the Opera Park and what inspired the landscape architects to play with music as their painting brush forming beautiful color schemes and forms. He went into detail and described both what was successful with the project and what was less successful, as one of the most important things to do as an architect is to learn from your own and other peoples mistakes. Very appreciated among the young landscape architecture students.

We then continued our day with a metro ride to the **Superkilen Park** where the students got to enjoy the very famous dish of Denmark; Smørrebrød, sponsored by **Forvent Smørrebrød**. After lunch, Superkilen was presented with a guided tour by landscape architect students from SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Science), **Diego Mascareño Suárez** and **Kristina Sundin**. An inspiring tour showing all the playful details of Superkilen.

The day ended with a trip across the bridge to Malmö, Sweden where we enjoyed the traditional international dinner together at the beautiful **Form/Design Center**.



The green house inside the Opera Park.
Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke



The lush Opera park
Photo: Ravidiran Botman



Kristina & Diego in Superkilen. Photo: Saskia Skogh



International dinner. Photo: Saskia Skogh



Upper photo: Group picture at the Opera park, by Ravidiran Botman
Middle photo: Superkilen, Cph, by Ravidiran Botman
Lower photo: Preparing for International dinner at Form/Design Center, Malmö, by Saskia Skogh



Waiting for the presentations to start at SLU Alnarp. Photo: Anni Schlarmani

Day 3.

SLU Alnarp - Monday 19/8

- 10.00 - ELASA x SLU Landscape x ECLAS: presentations at Campus SLU Alnarp
- 11.00 - Planting the ELASA tree together sponsored by Stångby
- 13.30 - Workshop with SLU Landscape: "Taking place through place making"
- 19.00 - Dinner at Kårhuset, sponsored by ASK (Alnarp Student Union)



Maria welcoming the group at SLU Alnarp. Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

Day number three was spent at **SLU Alnarp** (Swedish University of Agricultural Science), the home university for the organizers and student mentors.



Lunch break in front of the castle. Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

We started off with a train ride early in the morning to reach Campus Alnarp. **Maria Kylin**, professor in landscape architecture and member of **SLU Landscape**, welcomed everyone and presented the agenda for the day together with a small inspirational lecture on the theme "Playful Landscapes". **ECLAS** was also attending and was presented by **Anders Larsson** from the Executive Committee. Him together with **Linn Osvalder** talked about the master programs at SLU and exchange possibilities for the students. Maria Kylin then continued by presenting the big workshop for the afternoon "Taking place through place making".



Planting the ELASA tree. Photo: Anna Pilko

While the professors were preparing for the workshop the students were gathered in the park to plant the traditional **ELASA-tree**. **Alexandra Nikolic & Mari-My Bergquist** from **Odlingsenheten** at Alnarp had prepared the perfect spot for it. The ELASA-tree was sponsored by **Stångby** and is a *Cladrastis kentukea* (Kentucky Yellowwood). A beautiful, lush tree with yellow autumn colors and scented flowers during warm summers. The planting process was as usual informative and inclusive, where many people helped to dig the hole, put down the tree, water it in stages and finally add the protection net.



The SLU Landscape workshop. Photo: Anton Wallenstad

After finishing the planting process, the students enjoyed a hot lunch at the campus restaurant, preparing for the upcoming workshop. The workshop was situated in the Landscape Laboratory at Alnarp where the professors **Maria Kylin, Arne Nordius, Barbara Mathiasson & Dennis Andreasson** waited with tools and



The SLU Landscape workshop.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad



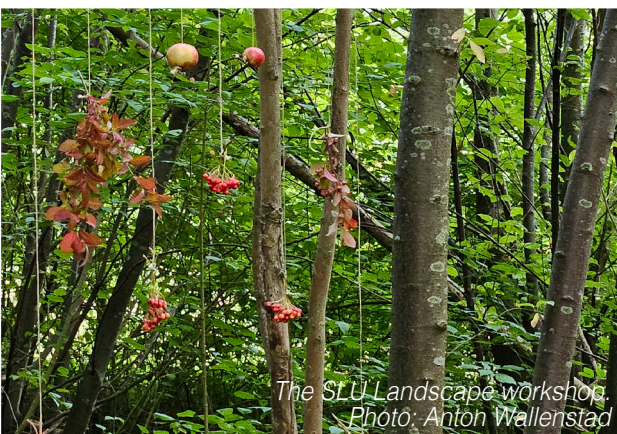
The SLU Landscape workshop.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad



The SLU Landscape workshop.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad



The SLU Landscape workshop.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad



The SLU Landscape workshop.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad

materials. The students were split up in groups of six with the task to build and construct with loose, natural materials in the Landscape Laboratory woodland. This with the aim of using the design process as a base, starting off with analyzing the space using all senses to understand the functions and the atmosphere of the site, organizing a discussion with other groups off where to build and finalizing the construction work. The instructions were described as followed:

Taking space by making place, a deadly serious playful activity:

“All over the world children, make more or less elaborate constructions marking the crossline between their bodily self and the external world. Making dens, forts or just crossing two sticks together is deadly serious playful activities; the external construction and shaping a place fo one’s self can be seen as a reflection on the internal construction and shaping one’s self.”

“It can also been seen as the start of a human culture into a piece of land. As our ancestors created settlements in nature and started to organize and cultivate a space in nature for living and survival.”

Objective

“To build or construct, elaborative or simple, dens, forts or artwork that in some way can enhance, change or affect the space where the constructions are made. The individual constructions should also communicate with each other as in a settlement or village of some kind.

The groups built astonishing creations and constructions working together and communicating with each other. The woodland was filled with creative ideas and as we walked from group to group we realized how unique every single project was, yet still joined together with patterns and roads on the woodland floor and a common map in the center of the “village”. Some groups chose to work with sound effect, while others used tactile materials or scents to create a special atmosphere or feeling of the place. Some created an open and inviting design, while others wanted to hide and enjoy the quiet. Some had a clear artistic approach, while others focused on functions and details. Together the students created a sense of place in the middle of the woodland by using play as design tool.

The evening ended with dinner at Kårhuset, sponsored by ASK (Alnarp Student Union).



Upper photo: Students constructing the huts, by Amanda Freng Blümke
Middle photo: Group picture after finishing the workshop, by Ravidran Botman
Lower photo: Planting the ELASA tree, by Anton Wallenstad



Day 4.

Malmö by foot - Tuesday 20/8

- 10.00 - Site seeing through Bo01, Västra hamnen
- 12.00 - Smörgåstårta at Stapelbäddsparken
- 13.00 - **Open schedule** in the afternoon to discover different projects in Malmö.
- 17.00 - **Falafel** dinner in Folkets park.

The fourth day started with a guided tour by **Saskia Skogh** through **Bo01**, a neighborhood along the western harbor of Malmö. Bo01 began as a part of the **European Housing Exposition** in 2001 and is known for sustainable development, high-quality living and water management. The group was guided through parks and along canals showing both large and small scaled landscapes together with the many different types of housing. Following the crooked street system the group discovered small and unique spaces between the buildings with places for rest, shelter or play. . The tour ended with a walk along the coastline promenade discovering the art installation “Diamonds are Everywhere”, by Sigurdur Gudmundsson.

After having the famous Swedish Sandwich cake (Smörgåstårta) for lunch at Stapelbäddsparken the students had the whole afternoon to explore Malmö by themselves or together with the mentors, while the organizers and some of the mentors were printing T-shirts. The students were provided with a map with locations of some of Malmö's best landscape architecture.

We then met up again for falafel dinner in Folkets park (“The park of the people”). One of the oldest parks established by social movements and nowadays a park full of activities and playful environments.



Upper photo: Students exploring Malmö, by Saskia Skogh
Middle photo: Swedish sandwich cake for lunch at Stapelbäddsparken, by Saskia Skogh
Lower photo: A walk through the Bo01 neighborhood, by Amanda Freng Blumke



Peter & Julia welcoming the group
Photo: Saskia Skogh

Day 5.

Along the Westcoast - Wednesday 21/8



Klinta Garden. Photo: Anton Wallenstad



Klinta Garden. Photo: Ravidiran Botman



Charlotte presenting Planter
Photo: Saskia Skogh



Students exploring the H+ neighborhood
in Helsingborg. Photo: Saskia Skogh

- 8.00 - Rented bus in the direction of Göteborg with stops along the way.
- 9.30 - ELASA x Klinta Garden: Guided tour around the garden & nursery, Höör.
- 12.15 - ELASA x Helsingborg municipality: Presentation of their projects and playful landscapes at the municipal hall.
- 13.15 - ELASA x Planter: Presentation of the Planter tool.
- 14.00 - A stroll together to Dockanparken & Djungellekan, Helsingborg.
- 17.30 - ELASA x Kompan: Presentation of their projects & dinner together at one of their playgrounds in Apelviken, Varberg together with Varberg municipality.

With a bus full of landscape architecture students, we traveled a whole day along the west coast of Sweden to reach our final city on this trip, **Göteborg**. The bus ride started off with a visit at **Klinta garden** founded by **Peter Korn** and **Julia Andersson**, both teachers at SLU Alnarp. Peter and Julia showed the students around the nursery and the garden in full late summer bloom. We were all amazed by the species diversity, detailed design and hard work behind every single planting. And the way Julia's more moist and shaded part of the garden merged with Peter's dry and steppe like rock garden.

The next bus stop was the city of Helsingborg where **Martin Hadmyr** and his colleagues from **Helsingborg municipality** invited us to an inspiring presentation about their many playful landscapes and approaches. **Charlotte Ljungblad** from **Planter** was also there to greet the students and to present their Planter tool and how to use it when working with biodiversity. Landscape architects from Helsingborg municipality then guided the group through the exciting new projects of Helsingborg harbor called "H+" ending up in the award winning park and playground **Dockanparken** and **Djungellekan**. A project designed by **Krook & Tjäder** in collaboration with the municipality. The park is located



Helsingborg municipality guiding us around. Photo: Ravidiran Botman



Testing the playground equipment at Djungellekan, Helsingborg. Photo: Saskia Skogh



Kompan & Varberg municipality welcoming the students. Photo: Ana Pilko



A stroll by the coastline of Apelviken, Varberg. Photo: Ravidiran Botman



Time for some play at Apelviken, Varberg. Photo: Ravidiran Botman

inside and around an old dry dock and is inspired by the history of the site. The jungle theme was selected as the winning theme of a competition where the children of Helsingborg could vote, which inspires the whole playground with large animal sculptures, jungle like vegetation and playful equipment.

The last bus stop along the west coast was an invitation from **Daniel Johansson & Amanda Erixån Kompan** together with **Varberg municipality** to visit their new playground in **Apelviken, Varberg**. A huge climbing web landscape located in between patches of coastline meadows. The project was inspired by the sand dunes and fishing equipment typical for the area and is supposed to work as one of the main attractions along the coastal walk for children of different ages. Before continuing our travels towards Göteborg we enjoyed one last climb for the day and a dinner together with the Kompan team in the evening sun.



Upper photo: Peter presenting Klinta Garden, by Anton Wallensted
Middle photo: A swing break in the Circle, Djungellekan, Helsingborg, by Tamara Kalman
Lower photo: Climbing the Apelviken playground tower, by Ana Maier



Day 6.

Gothenburg with Vestre - Thursday 22/8



- 10.00 - **ELASA x Mareld:** Guided tour through Jubileumsparken, by Mareld, followed by a short visit to their office.
- 15.00 - **ELASA x Vestre x Krook & Tjäder:** Office visit, mingle and presentations by Vestre & Krook & Tjäder.
- 17.30 - **ELASA x Vestre x Liljewall:** After work with pizza, presentations, mingle and a flower design workshop.



The day started with a guided tour through **Jubileumsparken**, designed by **Mareld** in collaboration with **Göteborg municipality**. The park was made in celebration for the city's 400th anniversary and the construction of **Älvstaden**. The whole park could be viewed as an experimental area and started off with prototypes with temporary parks and installations along the harbor which was built in collaboration with the Gothenburg citizens. After a long and interesting process, the last part of the permanent park was built in 2024 leaving a green coastal corridor to keep growing along the harbor line of the future city neighborhood behind it. **David Gough** at Mareld showed the students around and talked about the interesting processes together with the citizens as well as plantings and material use. We then took the ferry "Älvsnabben" to the other side of the harbor to visit Mareld office followed by lunch in the area.



In the afternoon **Carina Charalambidis & Håkan Lindh** from **Vestre** together with **Robert Törnqvist & colleagues** at **Krook & Tjäder** invited the group for "Swedish fika" and interesting and inspirational presentations and talks at Krook & Tjäder's office. Krook & Tjäder showed a few of their playful projects including Dockanparken and Djungellekan which we visited the day before. They also gave the students a tour around the office showing their way of working as landscape architects together with the large number of other professions at their office. Vestre introduced their factories in Sweden and Norway where "The Plus" is considered one of the most sustainable furniture factories in the world. They





Elin Andersson giving the students a tour around Krook & Tjäder's office. Photo: Ravidiran Botman



Carina & Håkan representing Vestre. Photo: Carina Charalambidis



Jonna Olsson & Kristin Falk presenting Liljewall. Photo: Ana Pilko



The flower workshop at Liljewall. Photo: Ana Pilko



The winning team & the three flower creations. Photo: Carina Charalambidis

also inspired the students with some of their projects around the world.

After a short tram ride to the city center, we continued the Vestre-afternoon at Liljewall's office for some pizza and afterwork. Liljewall is as well as Krook & Tjäder an architect firm of many different professions including landscape architects, with the aims of making life smoother, more fun and beautiful for everyday life. Stina Antesson with colleagues from Liljewall inspired the students with showing some of their most playful projects with a focus on exercise and movement, followed by a creative flower making workshop. The group was split up in three teams, where every team were supposed to create a landscape of paper flowers together. You could see how the different groups took inspiration from the sites and projects seen in the last couple of days. And the final winner was: The Flower Flynausor, a playful landscape in the form of a dinosaur sculpture made of flowers.



Upper photo: Presenting the winner of the flower workshop, by Amanda Freng Blümke
Middle photo: Creating flowers for the "Flower Flynausor", by Amanda Freng Blümke
Lower photo: Group photo at Jubileumsparken, by Anton Wallenstad



Liseberg from above.
Photo: Elvira Tabaković

Day 7.

Hiking day & The Annual ELASA meeting - Friday 23/8



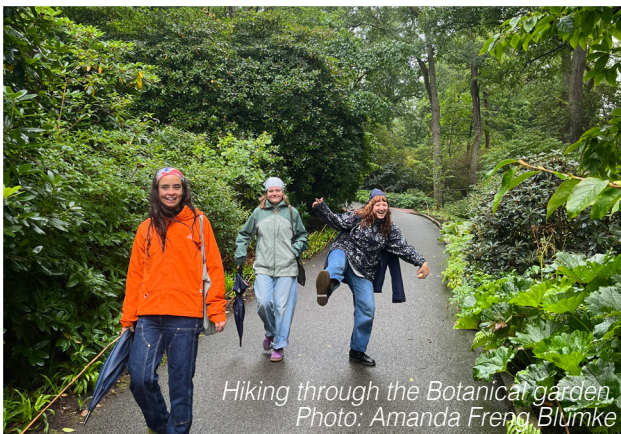
Liseberg talking about the plant design of the park. Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

- 9.30 - **ELASA x Liseberg:** Guided tour around the amusement park.
- 11.00 - A tram ride and a hike together through Änggården, The Botanical Garden & Änggårdsbergen with “fika” stop along the way.
- 14.00 - **ELASA x 02 Landskap:** Guided tour through Brf Viva, by 02 Landskap.
- 16.00 - **The Annual ELASA Meeting at White Architects**



Henrik guiding the students through Änggården. Photo: Anton Wallenstad

On the last day of the conference Göteborg truly lived up to it's reputation of being a rainy city and brought the student some real Swedish summer. We started off with a guided tour in the amusement park **Liseberg**. A special amusement park in the form of a green landscape garden with interesting changes in topography mixed with attractions and themed playgrounds. Our guide **Henrik Ehrlington** taught us about availability in landscape design and how to work with different materials and contrasts for everyone to move more freely around Liseberg.



Hiking through the Botanical garden.
Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

After a short lunch break we separated the group into “hikers” and “city dwellers”. And while the city dwellers were enjoying **Göteborg Art Museum** the hikers took a tram to **Änggården** and **Änggårdsbergen** to visit the neighbourhood, a small part of the nature reserve, the arboretum and the **Botanical garden**, guided by **Henrik Wangsten**. Since Göteborg is located in a very rocky landscape many parts were left unexploited and is now being used as high quality recreation areas for the citizens. The Botanical garden is home to thousands of plant species and is separated into different habitats forming a very interesting landscape of colors and textures.



Göteborg Botanical garden.
Photo: Amanda Freng Blümke

The hikers and the city dwellers finally merged together again for a guided tour by **Sabina Richter & Carl Hillinge** around the award-winning housing area **Brf Viva** designed by landscape architects at **02 Landskap**. A magical woodland yard merging into



Students exploring Brf Viva in the rain.
Photo: Amanda Freng Blumke



Brf Viva.
Photo: Amanda Freng Blumke



The Annual ELASA meeting 2024.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad



Our last dinner together.
Photo: Anton Wallenstad



The organizing team receiving the thank you gift. Photo: Anni Schlarman

bedrock and natural elements in between the buildings. The whole project is a result of many years of research about sustainable housing and has been designed in collaboration with the Göteborg Botanical garden to match the existing flora and play with new species. The rainy weather created a magical experience.

Last but not least, the group gathered in the city center at our very kind host's office **White Architects** for the final part of the whole conference; **The Annual ELASA meeting 2024**. The main topics of the meeting concerned voting for the upcoming host countries of future annual meetings, discussing our way forward as an organization, the meetings of 2024, economy, how to reach more countries and how to simplify and announce the new logo, homepage and visual identity.

In the evening we enjoyed a last meal together looking back at what we had achieved and learned during this intensive week together. As a thank you to the organizers and student mentors the participants had created a book with a collection of instructions of playful games from all countries childhood memories. A beautiful way to join our European countries and cultures with something that comes natural to all of us; play.



Upper photo: Group picture at the top of Änggårdssbergen, by Anton Wallenstad
Middle photo: Sabina & Carl presenting Brf Viva, by Amanda Freng Blümke
Lower photo: Henrik welcoming the students to Liseberg, by Amanda Freng Blümke

Achievements & Future Goals

This conference gave us and the participants the opportunity to meet, connect and share knowledge between landscape architecture students, universities, the profession and landscape architecture related companies & organizations in Sweden and Europe. It has given us new insights in how landscape architecture universities in Europe differ from each other, as well as the profession. It gave us the possibility to discuss our cultural differences and share how we view playful landscapes differently, both in the view of a child and as an adult.

The workshop “Taking space by making place, a deadly serious playful activity”, taught us about children’s perception of place making and how humans naturally create structures that form societies, even from a young age.

By attending several interesting lectures, presentations and guided tours along the way, we achieved new knowledge about accessibility & material use, children’s perspective, place-making & play, maintenance of parks and playgrounds, plant knowledge, material knowledge, tactical urbanism, the landscape architect’s design process, urban planning, innovative temporary solutions, excursion playgrounds as integration strategies, stormwater management, etc. Added to the list we also learned about creating playful landscapes through our different senses by using textures on surfaces, scents, soundscapes, moving objects and visual effects.

By visiting different offices and municipalities we got to experience the way landscape architects work in Sweden and at the same time get inspired by the many projects presented during the conference.

The Annual meeting during the last day of the conference included many interesting topics on how ELASA as an organization should develop and be more involved in IFLA Europe’s and ECLAS’s work in how to promote high quality education for all landscape architecture students in Europe.

By making this conference come true we not only managed to keep ELASA alive, but we also managed to expand our contact network in Europe and Sweden. ELASA is continuing its close work with IFLA Europe and ECLAS and sends new representatives to these meetings every year. Together we are working to improve the field of landscape architecture in Europe. We are creating more opportunities for landscape architects and students to work or do internships abroad. Thus, making it possible to move more freely in Europe to work where there is a need and where there are opportunities within our field.

We hope that this conference has brought a better understanding about ELASA and how the organization works. In the future we wish to include student from countries not actively participating in the ELASA meetings where the goal would be to have an active representative

of every country in Europe. There is also potential to improve the newsletter and information about all the landscape architecture schools in Europe to create a better understanding for people going on exchange programs in Europe. Students from Asia have also gotten the knowledge about ELASA and it will be interesting to see if they decide to adapt the same concept for Asian countries under the IFLA Asia federation.

As organizers of this event, we feel very proud of our accomplishments and to have created an opportunity for so many interesting discussions, fantastic collaborations and last but not least, to have brought all these creative, beautiful and playful minds together.



A group picture from Djungellekan, Helsingborg.
Photo: Saskia Skogh