



**get involved**

International Symposium 19th and 20th October 2012  
architectural & built environment education for young people  
International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia

**Session Pihla Meskanen**  
sweet city

Children are builders of our future in all the senses of the phrase. In this workshop the idea is to inspire the participating children to learn more about the built environment and provide knowledge about city planning.



What are the city's necessary ingredients for us to feel comfortable living in it? How can people of all ages take part in making small and bigger decisions? Essential is to know something about the structure of the city, and of course be interested in it! Everybody has an opinion about their environment, but how to bring it up? Usually the typical way is to make a complaint about an already existing plan, which is not very constructive. The alternative way is to plan the environment together with the inhabitants. In order for citizens to be able to voice their opinions, they need tools for expressing their opinions.

The professional architect facilitating the workshop opens the workshop by providing the participants with information of the history of city planning and showing a broad range of different types of cities throughout the history.

Sweet Architecture –workshop utilizes 3D working methods, which have proven to be very effective in learning to understand the built environment and architecture. By hands-on building the participating children can discover answers by themselves in a playful way, instead of being told the answers by adults.



Play is the way children explore the world and the means by which children learn naturally. In Sweet City workshop children investigate and play together as city planners, communicate and learn from other children as well as from the adults. The communication between the professional and the participating children is essential to the success of the workshop. The professionals provide their expertise to the children in an enjoyable environment, in the middle of experimentation and creation.

An essential part of the workshop is play and pleasure. This carefully planned project guides children through an individual learning process. A feeling of success leaves a pleasurable memory and encourages the child to find out more about the subject themselves.

The workshop "Sweet City" gives people an inspiring way to explore the secrets of city planning and tasteful architecture, and easy tools to express their opinions, if used in a real participatory situation. The process of creating Sweet City is fun and sweet - you can actually taste the flavor of architecture!

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