Planning and sustainable urban development in Sweden

Uppsala as an example

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Urban development strategies - is dependent on the context

- the political context
  and the mental perception of the local context
- the legal context
- the mega trends
  - globalised economy and its effects on regional development and urban transformation
  - climate threats
- market demands in the local context

- designing the process
  - the Municipal/City as the key player
Spatial planning in Sweden
– a municipal task

1. municipal self-government is part of the Swedish Constitution

2. week regional level
   • special political tradition
   • the State regional administration is focused on supervision

3. national planning mainly sectorial
   • small ministries with only staff functions
   • independent State Agencies with sectorial responsibilities
   • no national spatial planning
   • no urban policy
Self-government in Swedish municipalities is built on four pillars

- own taxation rights
  - income taxes (≈ 30%)
  - fees (water and waste water services, district heating systems)
- planning monopoly
  - only municipalities have the right to develop settlement areas
- the municipality as landowner
- broad representation of elected politicians
- own skilled working force
Swedish administrative levels and their importance for spatial development (2)

- **national**
  - all sectors

- **regional**
  - health care
  - public transport

- **local**
  - all sectors but
    - R&D
    - medical care
    - labor market
Swedish administrative levels and their importance for spatial development (3)

- National
  - Health care
  - Public transport
  - All sectors
  - Gaps between sectors

- Regional
  - All sectors but
    - R&D
    - Medical care
    - Labor market
  - Gaps between levels

- Local

Strong

Weak
Urban development only partly governed by planning and public decisions

Other driving forces i.e.

- demography
- preferences where to live
- new life styles (i.e. the use of public space)
- new consumption patterns
- business/industry/trade structures
- the need to reduce pollution and greenhouse gases
- .....
Framework for planning

the world around (global trends)

state policies

local planning and decisions

legislation

the choice of individuals
... the political context
The Political Context  
- from self-government to governance

**terms of self-government**

- own taxation rights
- planning monopoly  
  - only municipalities have the right to develop settlement areas
- urban development  
  - through adding new settlements to the existing structure
- the municipality as landowner
- broad political representation
- skilled staff

**terms of governance**

- tax equalization  
  - taxes mainly used for the welfare system
- growing competition between municipalities
- urban development  
  - through transforming the existing structure
- existing structure  
  - mostly private owned
- political professionalism
- lean production
Municipal Council
81 directly elected

Executive Board
15 appointed

- Planning
- Traffic
- Parks & nature

co-ord. body

- Schools
- Elderly care

total: 400 elected representatives
the legal context
The Legal Context

the environmental code

the planning and building act

comprehensive plan

detailed development plan

area regulations

building permit

special acts

roads

railroads

minerals

cables & pipes
the planning and building act

- comprehensive plan (CP)

- detailed development plan (DDP)

- building permit

obligatory

- conditions for deciding on DDP

the state could take action only when national interests or health/security are threatened
Detailed Development Plan
Municipal Energy Planning Act (1977)

Under the law each municipality has to erect a plan for the
• supply
• distribution and
• use of energy
in the municipality

• Anyone who use a great amount of energy shall provide the municipality with data

The act is almost obsolete today – as energy supply is more or less a pure private business
... trends in spatial development
the new context

the globalized economy has a great impact on the Swedish economy and spatial development

- metropolitan areas are the growth regions (innovation capacity and ‘home’ market)
- density in central parts in all cities is growing
- urban sprawl has come to an end in small and medium sized towns
- one dimensional areas of cities is turning into multifunctionality
the information Age

middle age

world war II

towns in network
decision on regeneration
accessibility
public space

time
… designing the planning process
# The Strategic Planning Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forum</th>
<th>Arena</th>
<th>Court</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the free square</td>
<td>the organized</td>
<td>decision-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>openness</td>
<td>meeting</td>
<td>legal force</td>
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<tr>
<td>finding the</td>
<td>partnerships</td>
<td>implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relevant context</td>
<td>agreed objectives</td>
<td>processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transforming</td>
<td>strategic choices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the mental map</td>
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- **Forum**
  - the free square
  - openness
  - finding the relevant context
  - transforming the mental map

- **Arena**
  - the organized meeting
  - partnerships
  - agreed objectives
  - strategic choices

- **Court**
  - decision-making
  - legal force
  - implementation processes
## Creating a Vision: Uppsala 2020

a three year long process - involving 3000 citizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>the role of the city:</th>
<th>urban development:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an attractive city of knowledge</td>
<td>a city of diversity with balanced districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>the economic perspective</td>
<td>a beautiful city close to nature</td>
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<tr>
<td>a city for everyone</td>
<td>.. with environmentally friendly urban traffic</td>
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<tr>
<td>the social perspective</td>
<td>and ecocycle-based technical systems</td>
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<td>a sustainable city</td>
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<td>the environmental perspective</td>
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- Urban development:
  - A city of diversity with balanced districts
  - A beautiful city close to nature
  - .. with environmentally friendly urban traffic
  - And ecocycle-based technical systems
The Process towards a Common Vision: process design as tool for governance

The world around

The native place

A ‘re-cycling’ society

Analysis

Synthesis Vision

Consultations
... giving concrete form

Vision → Comprehensive Plan → Three equally important structures

- built-up structure
- green structure
- traffic structure

Secure a parallel process and implementation
Focus on the urban fabric

- Compact and green
- A regeneration process - more than infill projects
- Attention to the different implementation prerequisites between the east and west part
Boländerna – an old industrial district in fast transition into a modern commercial area
Revitalization of housing areas from 1960-70

premises for new businesses
expanding the local centre
using the threefolded road system for new developments
less green zones and more quality parks
Extension of the local centre

including theater, library, public bath, youth centre
City center - cooperation issues*

- renewal and widening of the business area (accessibility issues)
- the railway station area
- the river area

____________________
*cooperation between the city and the city-center companies
New business demands in down town areas mirrors changes towards a knowledge and information society.
Down town areas in Swedish towns

1985:
- 10% (blue)
- 12% (red)
- 23% (light blue)
- 39% (purple)
- 8% (green)
- 3% (yellow)
- 1% (orange)
- 1% (light yellow)
- 1% (light orange)

1995:
- 10% (blue)
- 12% (red)
- 23% (light blue)
- 45% (purple)
- 6% (green)
- 4% (yellow)
- 1% (orange)
- 1% (light yellow)
- 1% (light orange)

2005:
- 10% (blue)
- 12% (red)
- 23% (light blue)
- 46% (purple)
- 6% (green)
- 4% (yellow)
- 2% (orange)
- 2% (light yellow)
- 1% (light orange)
City centre expansion
from a back street to a first class shopping street
new building rights pay the transformation of the street into a low speed area with priority for pedestrians
the street configuration today

the new concept of the street
–a diversity of attractive public spaces
Down Town street

before

after
carefully design of open spaces with well-balanced configuration and artworks
the railway station 1875-2005
A new railway station: better accessibility, priority for public transport and new housing
a new lane opens up the city centre for bikes and pedestrians
strategies aiming at bridging social barriers and segregation
Advanced architecture adding new values to the old city
Three equally important structures ... Secure a parallel implementation
Nature reserves owned and erected by the municipality
Summarizing:

managing growth in a sustainable way

...the Uppsala experience
dense urban space

- make use of existing investments in infrastructure
- facilitates district heating/cooling systems
  - renewable energy in efficient plants
  - electrical power production
- promotes further development of waste water treatment plants
- reduces
  - car ownerships
  - car dependency (walking and biking distances)
- promotes public transport
urban healing

- gives priority to multifunctional districts (reduces risks of segregation and increases security)
- enhances specialization of private service sector
- creates meeting places (serendipity)

But urban healing increase the challenges for urban planning
- securing and upgrading of the green structure
- noise abatement
- participation (social agreements)
Urban Management → implementing policies

• **built-up structure**
  - land purchase policy
  - housing policy
  - city centre development plan
  - trade and commerce programme
  - innovative clusters strategy

• **green structure**
  - nature conservation policy
  - park maintenance policy
  - allotment/gardening policy

• **traffic structure**
  - traffic strategy
  - public transport plan
  - traffic management
Horizontal Cooperation

A foundation between
● the city
● the universities
● the chamber of commerce
● the county

Aim
promoting innovation
green growth

World Wildlife Fund, WWF appointed Uppsala to Swedish climate city in 2013. in the Swedish part of the global challenge Earth Hour Capital
Regeneration needs design of new processes in the context of urban sustainable development.

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<th>Area</th>
<th>City Centre</th>
<th>Industrial Area</th>
<th>Housing District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approach</td>
<td>Cooperation on equal terms</td>
<td>Private initiative</td>
<td>Public initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>Attractiveness</td>
<td>Freedom for each business</td>
<td>Be taken care of</td>
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Urban planning cannot be implemented by the municipality alone. ‘Vertical’ and ‘horizontal’ cooperation and public private partnerships need vision and strategies giving a new context – a story that allures and convinces.