



Sari Tähtinen

Dr, postdoctoral researcher Sari Tähtinen is currently working in Aalto University in an urban planning research group at the Department of Real Estate, Planning and Geo-informatics, School of Engineering. The group makes action research in the areas of urban planning & design processes, architectural competitions and neighbourhood development. The research interests of the group are systemic change, interpretations and implementations of sustainability in planning practice and ICT-supported platforms. Tähtinen is especially engaged in working in ABE (Aalto Build Environment Laboratory) project.

In her thesis work Tähtinen proposed to present a textual research approach in the context of architectural research. Within this context, three mutually interacting threads could be singled out as the aspects of focus. These were: 1) the textual approach, 2) the question of image and 3) Euralille as a complex urban project. None of these by itself could form the major line of investigation in the sense of dominating the others. One of the noteworthy suggestions of the work is that image is no simple issue: rather, what could be called textual image shows that it presents a more complex field. Tähtinen suggested that a more complex understanding of image and its functioning in the context of architecture is needed.

In her current work Tähtinen is studying how images and visibility function in participative city planning process that is working out new ways to approach planning by engaging all stakeholders. Images and visibility offer here tools for communication in order to find a common ground.