Following the successful completion of the first International PUARL Symposium in the Fall of 2009, and its publication in 2010, we are pleased to announce the next conference in this series contributing to the burgeoning global development of new Pattern Language approaches. Our next event will be at the beautiful University of Oregon Campus in Portland in the Fall of 2011. The title of the symposium is called: “Generative Process, Pattern Language, and the Urban Challenge.”

In the Portland Urban Architecture Research Laboratory PUARL we attempt to induce and integrate wholeness and sustainability into the urban and architectural design process by conducting basic and applied research. We work on practical urban and architectural projects within the region as well as internationally.

In this context it is our intention to continue to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and discussion of research and professional practice for scholars, academics, professionals and people who are interested in pattern languages, and the general pattern language approach that has continued to develop over more than forty years featuring a rich variety of sub-topics such as living architecture, complexity theory, nature of order, emergence and unfolding, wholeness and whole systems, generative process, and sustainability, to name a few.

These and additional topics have advanced this field of investigation and professional application and have influenced the conduct of architecture and urban design nationally and internationally. At the same time, work on pattern languages in other fields (notably computer science) has accelerated and indeed has far surpassed the level of work within architecture, suggesting rich opportunities that can be developed by architce, applying the resources of interdisciplinary research.

The pursuit and investigation of open issues and questions is thus the central part of our agenda. In this year’s topic we will start to explore the nature of generative process, generative design, and their relation to pattern languages and the practical urban challenges that we are facing now and in the near future.

Generative Design, an applied topic within generative science, tries to understand and conceptualize the world and its complex structure as a generative process. Generative Design approaches design problems by formulating limited parameters, principles, and rules that interact with each other to create richness of life and behavior, and limitless variation of form, shape and place. Generative design spans a large range of applications from digital computer generated production and algoritms that generate designs and ornaments to communal design, generative urban design, and building efforts expressed in generative codes. As Christopher Alexander observes: “Generative Codes evolved from Pattern Languages but they are much more sophisticated generating systems. A generative code is a system of unfolding steps that enable members of a community to create a healthy urban neighborhood or urban district. The steps are governed by rules of unfolding that are not rigid or limiting, but depend on context, and on what came before. The rules operate organically and mimic nature’s process of unfolding an organism or landscape.”

Generative process explores the world as an emergent process at several levels of scale and with regard to different modes, including but not limited to physical, artistic, musical, and social cultural as well as economic themes. At the urban design, planning and architectural level, communal generative processes are of specific interest in this conference. How can generative processes and generative (urban) design help to solve some of the current Urban Challenges that we face in our cities, neighborhoods, streets and parks. And how can interdisciplinary generative processes help to create and maintain working neighborhoods and sustainable and whole communities, urban districts and livable streets?

SCHEDULE:
Publication of Event: April 5, 2011 (Preliminary Call)
Publication of Event: April 20 (Official)
Abstracts due: June 1, 2011
Approval of Abstracts: June 30, 2011
Papers due: September 1, 2011

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: September 30 (2010)
Conference Dates: October 28-30, 2011
Next Conference is planned at the University of Duisburg
Essen in Fall of 2013
Prof. Rajo Nels, Ph.D., Director of PUARL April 2011