Call for Abstracts:

GENERATIVE PROCESS, PATTERN LANGUAGES, AND THE URBAN CHALLENGE

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 second conference in this series contributing to the burgeoning global development of new Pattern Language approaches. Our next event will be held in the beautiful White Stag Building 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 both theoretical and applied research. We work on practical urban and architectural projects within the region as well as internationally.

In this context, our intention is 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 urban 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 architects, 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 sciences, tries to understand and conceptualizes the world and its complex structure as a generative process: it 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 algorithms 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 enables members of a community to create a healthy urban neighborhood or urban district through steps 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 to this conference. How can generative process and generative (urban) design help to solve some of the current Urban Challenges that we face in our cities, neighborhoods, streets and parks? How can we help the community to create and maintain vibrant neighborhoods and sustainable and whole communities, urban districts and livable streets?

GENERATIVE PROCESS

The nature of generative processes in the natural and human world will be investigated and their usefulness and appropriate- ness for the design process will be explored. Generative design processes will be investigated through case studies in urban design, architecture and building, and other disciplines. Theoretical explorations and experimental projects are also welcome for presentation.

Patterns and Pattern Languages

While generative processes are being explored for application in design, planning, building and development processes, patterns and pattern languages are a backbone of the pattern language approach. Recent advancements and refinements of application in design, planning, and building processes are core issues in this conference, including pattern applications in multiple disciplines.

The Urban Challenge

The urban challenge has become much larger in our lifetime with half of the increasing world population living now in cities. How can generative processes and pattern languages help to solve some of the contemporary urban problems? We will be one key question.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

After receiving a solid set of session proposals we are now ready to invite members of the academic and professional communities to send in specific paper proposals in the form of an abstract of 200 words, by June 10, 2011.

Architects, urban designers, planners, engineers, social scientists, artists, computer engineers, musicians, students and researchers and others in connected fields of inquiry are invited to submit abstracts for papers and presentations for one of the following sessions, or on an open topic:

Sessions

- The Urban Challenge
- Ecological and Natural Systems
- Case Studies: Pattern Languages and Generative Processes in Architecture and Urban Design
- Critical Views
- Interdisciplinary and Non-Architectural Applications
- Generative Coding as a Design Methodology
- Technology-Driven Applications of Generative Processes
- Digital Parametric Design
- Student Presentations

Please submit abstracts by email to puarl@uoregon.edu.

Schedule:

- Publication of Event: April 5, 2011 (Preliminary)
- Publication of Event: May 10 (Official)
- Abstracts due: June 10, 2011
- Approval of Abstracts: June 30, 2011
- Papers due: September 15, 2011
- Conference registration: September 30 (5200)
- Conference Dates: October 28-30, 2011
- Next Conference scheduled for the City of Duisburg, 2012
- Visit our website for updated information on the Fall 2011 International PUARL Symposium.
- http://puarl.uoregon.edu/docs/events.php

Prof. Hajo Neis, Ph.D., Director of PUARL, April 2011