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LearnBION

Design and Build with Cordwood

BION – Building Impact Zero Network is a group of partners active in low environmental impact building techniques with positive social impact. Our aim is to share knowledge, practices and experiences in order to contribute to built environments and our communities.

The Learn BION project aims at building and sharing knowledge across borders and involves 7 partners from 5 European countries. As part of this network, AES will organise the third workshop in Östertälje, Sweden. More info at: www.bi0n.eu or www.aesstudio.org

_ what?

Design and Build with Cordwood is a 4 week building workshop. During the workshop we will build a cordwood building to suit the needs of the newly established organic farmers in Östertälje.

Cordwood construction can be described as masonry with wood, where stovewood or left over pieces of wood are masoned together with either mortar or as in case of this workshop; with cob made from clay, straw and sand. All these materials are natural, renewable and abundant in the Swedish environment. During the workshop participants will learn this method while building a useful structure, a direct learning by doing approach.

We will investigate suitable ways of building, experiment with pattern making and detailing, how to process the raw materials, and how to organise self-building strategies and participatory building as a form of development.

Through the workshop we hope to alter the way the technique has been seen as just an ancient building method. The workshop will explore if and in what way this technique can have a relevance for today's built environment.

_ who?

Architectural Environmental Strategies is a nonprofit organisation founded in 2009, working within the field of

architecture, planning and sustainable development. The organisation is made up by a dedicated group of architects, landscape architects, educators and anthropologists.

As a small idea-driven organisation, with a strong community involvement, we explore the possibilities of architecture. New collaborations allow us to develop our practice further, and generate new perspectives on co-creating architecture.

In this project our interest lies in the process, how we, together with our European partners can exchange ideas on how to contribute to our built environment. And by revitalising the local building techniques, to suit needs of our today's communities we find ourselves in interesting architectural discourse.

Our previous work has focused on building resilience with small scale solutions. We have developed a co-creation methodology and strengthened the work with self-built structures as a strategy for development.

_ where?

Östertälje is a part of the municipality of Södertälje which is located to the southwest of Stockholm. In Södertälje you will find the basic main facilities of a town, with restaurants, shops and services. 40 min on the commuter train takes you to the central station in Stockholm, and all that this city has to offer

when it comes to sightseeing, museums and nightlife.

Södertälje has around 70 000 inhabitants and is one of Sweden's major industrial cities with large businesses such as Scania and Astra Zeneca. These industries have gone through recent changes which has led to less manual labour and fewer work opportunities. This has in turn reflected upon the community as such which has resulted in a large immigrant community with people who came to Södertälje from the Baltic region in the 60's and 70's to work for the industries. Recent transformation in Södertälje has also provided a new home for refugees coming from the Middle East. In line with this transformation, there is a need for new strategies to emerge and new desires are to be catered for.

The site in Östertälje is located alongside the train track, between the industrial area of Astra Zeneca and the typical residential area with single family housing. The surrounding land is either smaller fields or patches of forest. Here the municipality has leased their land to the cooperative, Eko-odlarna i Telje (The Eco-farmers of Telje). 2017 will be their second year of farming and development of the site. And here we have the opportunity to partake in the transformation of the site, and create a place for people to meet.

_ when?

The workshop will take place in August 2017 and it starts on the 31st of July and ends on the 27th of August. Working days are from Monday to Friday. During the weekends the participants will have possibility to explore the surroundings of Södertälje and/or Stockholm. The program is divided into four weeks and 40 working hours per week:

- Week #1:** Introduction to the technique/ Theory/ Sketching
- Week #2:** Processing the raw material/ Building structure and roof/ Construction principles
- Week #3:** Completing the walls/ Floor / Details
- Week #4:** Completing the building, with finishing materials.

Even though the program has a theoretical framework, the major focus is a hands-on approach to the cordwood building practices.

_ food and accomodation

Lunch is included in the participation fee. The meals are vegetarian. Breakfast and dinner, however, are not included. The group can organise a shared budget for meals to reduce costs. Breakfast are normally organised at home, lunches in restaurants range from €6-10, dinners from €15+. Accommodation will be in a shared house, with shared rooms. If you wish, you may bring your own tent. Other options could be available at own costs.

_ how to arrive

The town is Östertälje and is located around 40 minutes (by commuter train) south west of Stockholm. Closest airports: Arlanda, Skavsta or Bromma.
From Skavsta - Take the local bus 515 to Nyköping C (10 min), then take the train to Södertälje (40 min). From Arlanda - Take the train/airport bus to T-centralen (central station). From Central station take the commuter train 36 (towards Södertälje centrum) to Östertälje. From Bromma - Take the local bus or the airport bus to Central station, then change to commuter train to Södertälje.

Travel in Stockholm by metro/train/buses www.sl.se/en/.
Purchase an access card for multiple trips
For trains through sweden go to www.sj.se
Airport buses are provided by www.flygbussarna.se

_ fees

Entire course: **€850**. Fee includes accommodation, lunch, educational material, use of tools and insurance. If you wish to organise your own accommodation the cost is **€450** for the course. Payments are non refundable after July 5th.

Payment details:

Name of Bank: Swedbank
Address of Bank: Gullmarsplan 10
Bank Code-IBAN code: SE31 8000 0832 7992 3824 9610
Swift Code: SWEDSESS
Account Number: 8327-9, 923 824 961-0

_ application

Complete the online application form, (found on our website or link in the pdf) **Go to the application form webpage**

Do you have questions?

Send us an e-mail to: aesmej@gmail.com

In case of over registration, selection of participants will be based on motivation letter and CV.

_ calendar

Application deadline: June 16th
participant's selection announcement: June 23rd
payment deadline: July 3rd
Starting date of Workshop: 31st July

_ contact person

Anna Sundman +46 722 564 525
Aaron Nyrén +46 704 594 341
aesmej@gmail.com

BIØN coordinator:

Workshop coordinator:

BIØN partners:

