after2014 / a week of talks and roundtable discussions about the development of umeå and norrland after the year 2014 / organized by the laboratory of immediate architectural intervention and uma2 at umeå school of architecture in collaboration with bildmuseet / with lectures and performances by örjan wikforss, lars westin, björn forberg, olle forsgren, catharina thörn, isabella forsgren, erik persson and lars mikael raattamaa / and with the participation of ana betancour, adria carbonell, carl-johan westerlund, roemer van toorn, yiorgos papamanousakis, aida sanchez de serdio, sergi serrat, per nilsson, björn yllinenpää, joshua taylor, hanna ivansson, love lagerkvist and malte dahlberg / curated by alberto altés, karin berggren, ana jara and anton shramkov / UMA CityTalks 1

Monday 26th to Friday 30th of January 2015
9:00h - 16:00h
after 2014 proposes a week of talks and discussion about the development of Umeå and the territories that make it possible beyond the culture capital year.

The symposium is conceived as a pedagogical experience for us and our students but also as an encounter with local and national researchers and experts, artists, activists, architectural critics as well as other key actors from the region which is open to the public and will be held at Bildmuseet (Flexhallen) from Monday 26th to Friday 30th of January 2015.

The week is organized around the three themes of regional development, city planning and civic life, although it is founded in the idea that conceptualizations and organizations of the city and its life cannot be separated or divorced from the territories and the land that make that life possible. Planetary urbanization, not in terms of the increasing amounts of people that live in cities but in terms of the relationship(s) between anthropic processes of inhabitation/transformation and the territory, makes notions of scale relatively obsolete, and demands alternative value systems and forms of organization that are much closer to matters of concern and care than to apparatuses of measure and benchmarking.
Björn Forsberg has a PhD in political science. Over the last twenty years he has done extensive research in the area of sustainable development. His main focus has been on the local political level and how policy implementation is affected by present ideological frameworks and dominant economic growth policy. More recently, Forsberg has published on and been involved in the public debate on sustainable development and transitions. He has written the books Omställningens tid – tillväxtens slut och jakten på en hållbar framtid (“Age of Transition”, Karneval, 2012, first and second rev. edition) and Tillväxtens sista dagar – miljökamp om världsbilder (“The Last Days of Growth”, Run, 2007 and second rev. edition 2009). Both of these books have reached out to different spheres of the Swedish society (academicians, policy-makers, NGOs as well as the broader public) and they have also influenced the discussion on economic growth, sustainability and transition.

Olle Forsgren, city architect in Umeå municipality since 1999. He has participated in the making of the Förbipassad översiktsplan för de centrala stadsdelarna (General Plan for the city center of Umeå) that was rewarded with the Planning price from the Swedish association of architects in 2012. The plan shows a strategy for the development of the city until 2050 based on ideas of culture driven growth.

Erik Persson is a writer and political activist born and raised in Umeå. He’s engaged in the extra-parliamentary left organization Allt åt Alla (“Everything for Everyone”) and writes in various publications, including local newspaper Västerbottens-Kuriren, mainly concerning urban struggles, critical economy and democracy-issues.

Lars Mikaël Raattamaa, born 1964, author and architect, lives at Vallå torg, close to Årstäfältet south of Stockholm. He published his first collection of poetry in 1989 with ”Ur krakars gäld”. He has received several prizes, among which Sveriges Radios Lyrikpris and Aftonbladets litteraturpris. His last book, Kommunismen, has been published by Albert Bonniers förlag in 2014.

Isabella Forsgren, has a MSc in Environmental Planning and Urban Design, and was the head of the planning department at the Municipality of Umeå 2004-2011. She has been responsible for the new Comprehensive plans in Umeå, and has coordinated the city’s interests during the construction for Bothnian Link including the planning of the travel centers. She has also for many years and in different positions been involved in the new road system around Umeå. Currently working at INAB an infrastructure company owned by the Municipality, and involved in the project of designing a new RoPerry.

Catharina Thörn is a senior lecturer and researcher in cultural studies at the University of Gothenburg. She has a PhD in Sociology and an interested in questions on urban governance, access to public space and democracy. Since 2010 she has been working with an international reference group on gentrification with the goal of creating an exhibition in Gothenburg. Catharina has also been involved in research projects with artists and architects on the role of art in urban change.

Lars Westin is a professor in regional economy and the director of the center of regional science, CERUM, at Umeå University since 1997. He has a PhD in national economy from 1990, and has since then conducted research on urban and regional economy, on transport and infrastructural economy, on urban system analysis and also on the role of research, education and culture in the spatial development of cities. He has been actively involved in the promotion of and debate around ‘Umeå 2014’, advocating creative cities and culture driven growth, and transition.

Örjan Wikforss is an architect; SAR/MSA, PhD and professor. His main interest and clear thread is communication in architecture, planning and construction. Today he is working as an architect and researcher at Arkitekturanalys sthlm AB. As a practitioner he has been head of Wikforss Architects Office in Upplands. He has been working at White Architects and FFNS Architects, an architect’s office with 300 employees where he was managing director. He has also been head of IT and R&D at Sweco AB. He was appointed professor in Project Communication at Royal Institute of Technology, KTH in Stockholm 2007. Since 2012 he is professor emeritus at the School of Architecture and the Built Environment. He is also a member of Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences, IVA and member of the board of SVID, Swedish Industrial Design Foundation.

Monday 26th /INTRO
09.30h - 12.30h / Seminar with LiAi and UMA 2 students
13.40h - 15.30h / Introductory lecture by Orjan Wikforss: Consequences of non-existing regional planning: On asymmetries in geographical division, actors, tasks and responsibilities.

Tuesday 27th /REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
09.30h - 10.30h / Lars Westin: The Role of Umeå in the Future Norrland
10.45h - 12.30h / Björn Forsberg: The End of Growth – What’s Next?
12.30h - 13.15h / Lunch Break
13.30h - 15.30h / Roundtable with Lars Westin, Björn Forsberg, Adrià Carbonell, Carl Johan Westerlund, Karin Berggren and Björn Ylتينپا (Moderator: A. Altés)

Wednesday 28th /CITY PLANNING
09.30h - 10.30h / Olle Forsgren: Visions within Ongoing Planning
10.45h - 12.30h / Catharina Thörn: Urban Frontlines
12.30h - 13.15h / Lunch Break
13.30h - 15.30h / Roundtable with Olle Forsgren, Catharina Thörn, Roemer van Toorn, Sergi Serrat, Yiorgos Papamanousakis, Joshua Taylor (Moderator: A. Altés)

Thursday 29th /CIVIC LIFE
09.30h - 10.30h / Isabella Forsgren: Umeå - An Attractive Node in the North
10.45h - 12.30h / Erik Persson: The Neighbourhood City - From Urban Branding to Class Politics
12.30h - 13.15h / Lunch Break
13.30h - 15.30h / Roundtable with Isabella Forsgren, Erik Persson, Ana Betancour, Aida Sánchez de Serdío, Ana Jara, Hanna Ivansson (Moderator: A. Altés)

Friday 30th /CLOSING
09.30h - 10.30h / Lars Mikaël Raattamaa: Geography is Nothing but the Crossing of Economy and Identity
10.45h - 12.00h / Performance by Lars Mikaël Raattamaa Fantasierna, a crown of sonnets from his book ‘Komunismen’
12.00h - 13.00h / Lunch Break
13.00h - 16.00h / Final Roundtable with all the participants (Moderator: A. Altés)
17.30h - 20.30h / Closing Dinner with all participants and guests
Yiorgos Papamanousakis, studied architecture in Liverpool, Paris and Stockholm, and practiced in Paris and London before qualifying as an architect in France. The founder and director of Urban Transcripts, based in London, he has directed international collaborative projects on the critical exploration of cities, exhibitions, workshops, and conferences. Currently he is working towards the development of Urban Transcripts into a network of experts on the city, developing projects with a strong participatory approach that span urban design, architecture, and research. Yiorgos is passionate about the relationships between the spatial structure of cities and their socioeconomic and cultural life. He has a keen interest in empirical research and the application of quantitative methodologies for understanding cities.

Aida Sánchez de Serdio is a lecturer at Umeå School of Architecture. Her fields of specialisation are Visual Culture, Collaborative Art Practices, Arts Education, and Cultural Politics. She has coordinated the MA in Visual Arts and Education at the University of Barcelona, where she is also member of the research group ‘Esbrina, Contemporary Subjectivities and Learning Environments’. Besides her work at the University she has collaborated with several cultural institutions and organizations such as La Virenta Centro de la Imatge, Transducers, or Artibarr.

Sergi Serrat is a registered architect in Spain. He studied architecture and building engineering at the ETSAV in Barcelona (Spain) and at the University of Texas at Arlington (USA). He has taught at ETSAV School of Architecture and ELISAVA in Barcelona, at Sint Lucas School of Architecture in Brussels and Ghent, and at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has also worked as a professional architect in several practices and the work of his own practice, GRNDDB2, has been published and praised internationally. Currently he holds a position as lecturer at Umeå School of Architecture, where he coordinates the 1st year of the bachelor program.

Anton Shramkov is an architect graduated from the Moscow Institute of Architecture, State Academy (MARKII) in 1996. He conducted 4 years of post-graduate studies at the MARKII with the dissertation topic “Architectural aspects of transportation problems in a big city”). From 1997 to 2008 he was teaching architectural design and representation at the Department of Industrial Architecture at MARKII, as a senior lecturer and associate professor. From 1995 till 2001 he was also working in several architectural offices in Moscow as an architect. In 2002 he founded Architectural bureau “A-line-B” where he worked as chief architect. In 2006 he moved to Neringa, Lithuania, where he founded UAB “Shramkov & co.” Since 2011 he lives in Umeå, Sweden, where he teaches design, technology, graphic skills and representation in the BA program at Umeå School of Architecture.

Roemer van Toorn is Theory and Media Professor at the Umeå School of Architecture, Sweden. From 1993 till 2010 he was in charge of the History and Theory program, and was Head of publications at the Berlage Institute (NL). He was guest lecturer at the Delft School of Design (DNL), while at the same time pursuing a career as international lecturer and editor of the annual publication Architecture in the Netherlands, as well as an advisor of the magazines Volume, Hunch, Domus and Abitare. As author and photographer he contributes to many publications. In 1994 he published ‘The Invisible in Architecture’ in collaboration with Ole Bouman. His photography has been exhibited in Winnipeg, Los Angeles and was part of the exhibition ‘Cities on the Move’ curated by Hou Hanru and Hans-Ulrich Obrist. Forthcoming is his photobook ‘The Society of The And’, which includes his own texts and articles by Stefano Boeri and Bart Lootsma. www.roemervantoon.com

Carl-Johan Vesterlund is an architect and lecturer in architecture, planning and urban design at the Umeå School of Architecture. Together with Antén Architects he is a co-founder of the practice Urban + Architecture Agency and the master studio Urban + Architecture Design Laboratory at Chalmers School of Architecture. His work focuses on the relationship between city and nature, exploring new ways of working for a sustainable future.

Alberto Altés is a registered architect in Sweden and Spain. He studied architecture in Valladolid, Barcelona and Delft, and Critical Theory in Barcelona. He has worked as an architect for the Department of Housing and Environment of the Catalan Government and for several professional practices including his own. Currently he works as a lecturer and a researcher at Umeå School of Architecture, where together with Oriol Lieberman he co-directs the Master’s Programme “Laboratory of Immediate Architectural Intervention”, exploring and making architecture as a relational practice that unfolds in the making of the world in/through “intraventions”. Alberto is about to finish his PhD dissertation entitled “Dissenting City Narratives: Interplays of Space, Film and Politics”, in which he interrogates the loss of critical and utopian impetus in architecture and explores the possibilities of the moving image as an apparatus of spatial critique.

Karín Berggren is a registered architect with a master’s degree from Chalmers university of technology in Gothenburg. Since has a particular interest in the future of the Swedish modernist suburbs, as well as issues of citizen participation in suburban environments. She has published the thesis ‘Stories, Images and Architectures – real and fictional accounts of the fabrication of the Swedish suburbs’, that focuses on the media image of stigmatized areas within the million program. She has been involved in the course Social Inclusion at the Centre for Urban Studies for Chalmers in Harnmakkullen, and she currently holds a position as lecturer at the Umeå School of Architecture, working with the second year course ‘Inhabiting the Hinterland’.

Ana Betancour is rector at School of Architecture, UMA, Umeå University, and Professor in Urban Planning. She founded A + URLA/ Architecture + Urban Research Laboratory and the Urban + Architecture Agency. Her work spans between art, architecture and urbanism. In her research she is focusing on urban theory and planning, and an expert on urban and community planning. The research projects focus on sustainable futures and participation. She is involved as partner and coordinator in different international programs (Erasmus, Marie Curie, ALFA) and is part of research networks in Europe and Latin America. She was the program director of the Masters of Architecture and Urban Design, Chalmers 2010 – 2014, the Director of Programme board, School of Architecture, KTTH/ Stockholm (2003 – 2008). Ana Betancour is widely published, exhibited, and is a member of various international reference groups, networks and organizations, nationally and internationally.

Adrià Carbonell is an architect currently working and living in Umeå, where he holds a lecturer position at the Umeå School of Architecture (UMA). He graduated in Barcelona in 2005 (URL) and subsequently received a Postgraduate degree in Architecture and Writing and a Masters in Architecture and Urban Culture (UPC). Since 2008, he has combined his own professional practice in architecture and urban design with research and teaching. He has been awarded by the Official College of Architects of Catalonia with the AIACT prize for young architects in the category of theory and criticism five times. Between 2011 and 2013 he lived in the Persian Gulf, where he was a visiting professor at the American University of Sharjah (AUS).

Ana Jara is an architect, scenographer and currently a lecturer at Umeå School of Architecture. She graduated in architecture from Lisbon Technical University in 2000 and in 2003 she finished her MA degree in Scenography at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Since then she has been involved in the practice of both architecture and scenography independently and within several collectives in Portugal, Spain and Poland. Since 2011 she is the founding member of Lisbon based studio Antén Architects. Jara is currently working on developing urban renewal projects within a transdisciplinary framework, working the social, cultural and artistic dimensions of architecture, through the direct involvement of communities in the production of its own intervention programs in the territory.
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flexhallen at Bildmuseet
Östra strandgatan 30 B, 903 33 Umeå

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