ARLIS/Norden – Arkitekturgruppen – Architectural libraries group, Meeting 2012

Time: Thursday 9th of August, 16-18.

Place: The Museum of Finnish Architecture (Kasarmikatu / Kaserngatan 24)
http://www.mfa.fi/frontpage?

Present:

Leena Kärkkäinen/Helsinki City Planning Department, Library, Helsinki (chair of the meeting)
http://www.hel.fi/hki/ksv/sv/Verkets+service/Biblioteket
Marja Paakkonen/ Aalto University, Department of Architecture, Library. http://arkkitehtuuri.tkk.fi/engl/library.htm
Ditte Jessing/ Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of architecture, Design and Conservation, Library, Copenhagen http://www.kasb.dk/dk
Camilla Ryan Sørensen/ The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of architecture, Design and Conservation, Library, Copenhagen http://www.kasb.dk/dk
Sara Nässén/ Architecture Library at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg http://www.chalmers.se/arch/SV/organisation/arkitekturbiblioteket

1. Welcoming words were given by Leena Kärkkäinen and all the participants presented themselves. Kaisa Sjövall took minutes of the meeting.

2. It was decided to handle the parts 2., 6-7 of the programme before the presentations.

The summary of the previous meeting (in Oslo) was well done and had some topics that were discussed this time also, for example the questionnaire, annual reports, webpages and social media.

In the beginning of the meeting it was concluded that the formulation of questionnaire forms is very time consuming. Annual reports given by each library is a good way to get the general picture of what is happening in different libraries. The updating of webpages was discussed. Contact-people should be appointed and their contact information updated.

There was discussion about Facebook visibility. It was considered to be a good way to be in touch. There it is also convenient to ask the opinion of colleagues. All were of the same opinion that face to face meetings are still vital. The name of the Facebook-group could be rethought. Different contacts could be more widely utilized. Student exchange programs could be a way to pass on information.

There was also discussion on how architectural libraries differ from general libraries, and how life is different for university libraries compared to others.

The next meeting is going to be held in Denmark, Copenhagen. The format of the meeting was discussed. People wanted more time for the meeting. Ditte and Steen are the next year’s meeting’s contact persons. Everybody agreed that the annual reports should not be put to the internet.
3. Finland

Leena summarized Finland’s architectural libraries. There are only three libraries in Finland specialized in architecture: the library of the Museum of Finnish Architecture, Aalto university architectural library and Oulu university architectural library. There are also architectural collections in other university, special and public libraries and archives. The important architectural book collection was moved, when University of Helsinki, department of art history library fused into the campus library during the year 2012.

Kaisa told some general facts about the library of the Museum of Finnish Architecture. They are open to all and have for example a magazine related survey as an annual way to get response from the library users. New art history- and architecture students are being invited to visit them in autumn. They are planning to organize happenings where writers come to present their books in the library.

Marja explained the situation in Aalto university architectural library. In the future the present Library of Architecture as an independent library will no longer exist. Their library will be merged together with the Aalto University Library of Art and Design and the future library of art and architecture will be within the new Aalto ARTS-building. Meanwhile, (Feb. 2013), the Department of Architecture (including library) has to move to temporary premises for 2-4 years, because the present building is going to be renovated.

4. Denmark

Elisabeth and Steen presented the recent expansion of Danmarks Kunstbibliotek with 1.100 m2 for closed stacks, in use since 2010, and 170 m2 for a new study room for the collection of architectural drawings, open to the public since autumn 2011 in the Copenhagen suburb of Herlev. The new facilities secure the maximum of safety for the library’s collections and comfortable access and working conditions for both staff and guests. They also mentioned the ongoing digitation of drawings and models as well as the project for digitation of photoes, exhibition- and other catalogues.

Camilla and Ditte presented the merger between architecture, design, conservation and performing arts. It is now called Library at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation with a staff of 13 persons. It was a huge effort, and at the same time their classification system concerning design was changes and Primo (Integrated search) implemented as a part of Aleph. Also RFID-chips were introduced (change from barcodes to RFID-chips).

5. Sweden

Sara Nässén from the Architecture Library at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, started at her current position in June and is a new member of the architectural libraries group. At the meeting she provided some general information about the Library and it’s collections. The Library’s most important mission is to be a central resource for information support to Chalmers students, researchers, teachers and other staff, but it also a public research library. The Library provides print and electronic material in subjects such as the history of architecture, design and technology, urban planning, town and traffic, design and media, built environments and sustainable development. During the meeting Sara also presented a recently published book in architectural sketching called “Den sökande skissen”, written by architect and designer Arne Branzell, former teacher at the architectural department at Chalmers.

After the meeting there was a possibility to visit the current exhibition and the library premises of The Museum of Finnish Architecture and The Helsinki World Design Capital Pavilion outside the museum building.