



**ICOMOSin SUOMEN OSASTO r.y.
ICOMOS Finska nationalkommittén r.f.
The ICOMOS Finnish National Committee**

Helsinki, 19 November 2007

To ICOMOS Comité Internationale d'Architecture Vernaculaire CIAV

ICOMOS Finland and ICOMOS Finland's Vernacular Group proudly propose that the CIAV Award 2007 would be given to the school of Murole, its pupils, the teachers and the team of specialists, who have created a model for a participatory process that gives good results in transmitting knowledge of vernacular heritage from generation to another, from researchers to laymen and vice versa, and for raising awareness in a process, where a common goal for saving local historic heritage and its vernacular traditions are reached. The results of the activities during the whole process are of exceptionally high quality and the methods of working together universal and adaptable to other places and communities. The activities include documentation and recording, exhibitions, and educational and interpretive practices among vernacular heritage and its conservation.

Signature:

**Kirsti Kovanen
Chair person**

Background

Traditional environment cannot be maintained, repaired nor developed only with money or orders, but it is essential that the owners, users and inhabitants of the buildings understand the value of their everyday environment and can be proud of it. In a local community, the children learn to form their own opinions and express them, but very soon, in a very near future, they will be decision makers. That is why it is very important to teach different ways of getting acquainted with the immediate environment to them

and of bringing tools to evaluate it with. Also the intercourse between the researchers and the children can open doors to the homes of those villagers who are suspicious.

During the autumn of 2005, the students of architecture of the Technical University of Tampere were documenting the village of Murole and its buildings. They stayed in a school and during their stay an idea evolved that of working together with the children.

Activities in the school of Murole – Kekkonen in 2006-07

The school year of 2006-07 began in the Murole-Kekkonen school with a cultural environment camp together with architects. Children went to school ten days in a row, even during the weekend. It started with observations on their own village by making explorations into the yards and to the secret interiors of the buildings. Both, the yard and the rooms were measured using one's own body as a scale and with sketches and drawings on the most interesting places. The final part of the camp period was devoted to making models of the houses that were regarded valuable. The basis for model building was provided by the measured drawings already made by architectural students, and for building the models original materials were used – wood for wooden structures, stone for stone walls. The youngest participants did not make this documentation, but designed a dream house of one's own and made a model of it.

To take a break off, the participants made a one-day visit to the Pekkala manor house nearby. There they could find all the same elements that were present in their home and village, but built in a more impressive way.

For one day the children were archaeologists performing a regular excavation and writing real reports on the findings. The number of findings left by human culture was astonishing to both, the pupils and the adults who saw them.

At the end of the camp period all the results were exhibited in the gymnastics hall of the school. The exhibition was open for three weeks and a big audience visited it during the opening. Many classes from the neighboring school and interested teachers came to see it from further away. It was also open for visits during the European Heritage Days.

After the intensive camp period, more themes of the built environment were included in the working program of the school year as a transparent red thread throughout the year: for ex. wall papers found in a building under repair gave inspirations to designing new wall papers, new model houses were made in the handicraft classes, patterns for knitting were taken from the built environment. Conflicts that are so common in real planning work were also met when the pupils designed common buildings and functions for the village street.

The drawings made by the pupils during the camp and the measured drawings made by the students gave material for a calendar for 2007, the sale of which covered the expenses of the spring 2007 excursion to Helsinki. Built environment was one of the topics of the

excursion, the pupils made observations on the elements of the built environment, they looked for things that had become familiar during the year and compared the differences and similarities between their village and the capital city. Every pupil received a disposable camera for documenting the city. Later, in their school, they also made quick drawings of the photographs taken in Helsinki. Like earlier during the camp, the observations were written in diaries again during the excursion.

The representatives of the municipality were impressed of the results of the summer 2006 and reserved their exhibition space, housed in a two-storey log building, for the school's exhibition in August 2007. A new exhibition was now compiled, from all the work done during the previous school year and from the measured drawings of the students, as well the analyses and proposals that they had made for the village. Some objects and utensils of peasant life were also collected to be exhibited in the ground floor.

Activities inspired by the school project in Ruovesi in August 2007

The new project had received a gift of one month's time and a roof. Due to the excitement that the experiences of the previous summer had given, a new diverse program focusing on the cultural history and historic environment was arranged for whole August, where the school of Murole again had a leading role. Not only the pupils but also local adults and specialists from the whole country and abroad were acting on the floor. The school housed an international documentation camp that concentrated on the built vernacular heritage, for two weeks. The school also offered spaces for a water color camp, where local people interested in this new opportunity took part. They also painted themes of Murole village. The results of the two camps, international measured drawings and the water colours were also exhibited in the municipal exhibition space in the municipal center. The exhibition space was a stage for many performances during the month. The program included for ex. guidance from a specialist on traditional building and advice on grant applications for those who would make repair work in their houses. The provincial museum arranged a walk to the historic places of the village starting from the exhibition and on Friday evening's local amateur musicians played in the exhibition space. A one-day seminar on traditional roof structures of the countryside was also held, where the best specialists of the country presented traditional know-how. The audience consisted of both, specialists and local house owners. ICOMOS' scientific committee members also met in conjunction with the seminar.

In mid August, when the school year started, a village fair was arranged in the Murole School, and varied traditional building work, for ex. cooking of red ochre paint, making shingles, working stone and repairing windows, were on show. The pupils spent the day building huts. The huts were built in traditional techniques with materials from the immediate surrounding of the site. One more activity, inspired by the activities in Murole village, was arranged for the teachers of the whole municipality, where they dived into the depths of the colours in the environment.

The results

All these activities strengthened the impression that the children possess a passion for creative activity and ability to make precise observations. Children are important actors in everyday life and when energetic and active, they make the adults realize the value of the everyday environment. The evolving activities among the adults for a better environment are a good example on this. Inspired by the exemplary actions of the Murole School, many related happenings were arranged in summer 2007 in the Ruovesi municipality and the local newspapers wrote abundantly on the topic. True signs of raised awareness in Murole village are seen in the fresh paint of the houses. Traditional skills and traditional landscape are now regarded as an attraction in Murole village.

Participants:

Anni Tenhunen, director of the school
Minna Luomaharju, teacher
Jaana Räsänen, architect, artist
Leo Laine, chairman of the village association
Pupils of the Murole-Kekkonen school

Specialists:

Markku Mattila, architect
Virpi Mamia, architect
Kati Kivelä, student of architecture
Eini Vasu, student of architecture
Aino Nissinaho, archaeologist

Appendices:

PP presentation