
BIOGRAPHY

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form follows fun



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Juhani Karanka was born January 9, 1963 in Hattula, Finland. He matriculated from Pohjois-Helsingin Lukio in 1982 and carried out his military service in the Swedish speaking artillery in Dragsvik. In 1983 he began his studies at the Department of Architecture at the Tampere University of Technology (TUT). During his student years, Karanka excelled in his studies and was also active in the Student's Guild. He was twice given the award for the best academic work and he was successful in architectural competitions. Already as a student, he was interested in teaching and it came as no surprise, that in 1988 he was invited to teach part-time at the Department of Architecture. In the most hectic times of 1990's, Karanka was teaching architecture and art in different academic institutions, running his private architectural studio and studying architecture. You can say, that he payed his way through the University by teaching architecture to children and youth for ten years. Finally, in 1999 Juhani Karanka made his Master's Thesis "Play, Creativity & Architecture 1:1" and qualified as an architect (Master of Science in Architecture with Distinction) on August 25, 1999.

The next day from graduation, Karanka was invited to teach Urban Planning and Design as a part-time tutor at the Department of Architecture at the Helsinki University of Technology (TKK). During the academic year 1999-2000, he worked in a newly formed teaching team lead by professor Kimmo Lapintie. One of the aims of the team was to develop Urban Planning and Design education into a top subject at the Department. Next year Karanka applied for the full-time position of Lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning, which he was appointed to in August 2000. During years 2000-2011 Karanka successfully taught Architecture and Urban Planning at the Department of Architecture at the Aalto University. In 2011 Karanka continued to teach as Planning Officer at the Aalto University Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (YTK) until he was invited to Sito consulting company. Between years 2012-2013 Karanka worked as Project Manager in urban planning & design and architecture at Sito.

Currently Karanka is working as a Freelance Architect, Urbanist and Educator in Germany, and making his post-graduate research into creative expertise for the degree of Doctor of Science in Technology at the Aalto University. His topic is "From Novice to Expert - Constructing Expertise in Urban Planning Education".

Karanka's field of interest is in creativity (creative processes, talents, innovative products & ideas and in environments that promote and/or destroy creativity) and in international collaboration projects in architecture, urban planning and design. At the moment he is researching into the concept of "SlowFlow" as a pragmatic and philosophical way of slowing down, focusing on quality and achieving good flow in creative working.

Juhani Karanka's personal quote is "form follows fun", which describes his approach to architecture - and life in general.