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Alla helgons dag.

The 6th of November. This is All Saints' Day in Sweden. My Swedish friends and me. Skogskyrkogården (The Woodland cemetery) in Stockholm-we are going there as the real Swedish. There are so many people in the metro, hard to imagine that actually so many people living in Stockholm. Near the Skogskyrkogården t-bana- you can buy the most important stuff for this day-candles, coffee, kanelbullars, sausages). So cold. So dark. And we are going to the Asplund cemetery.

You can't see this but you feel the unlimited space of the night, of the perspective, of the haze. And candles, thousands of glittering candles are everywhere! And you just following their lights ...you are going to the hill then to the graveyard then to the buildings where the choir is singing and you feel the smell of the candles and warmth.

You see these beautiful blonde Swedish women, these Swedish bearded men. Children and dogs (which are wearing clothes because of the cold as well) are equipped with the flashlights not to be lost in the dark-it is so cute...Smiles...and I can't say exactly who will win in the quantity - people or candles.

We are lighting up our candles in front of the Asplund's tomb. Real architects!

You are breathing and steam goes out of your mouth. You can't feel your legs but it is such a cool feeling. Smelling the wet soil I started to imagine how happy I was if I could have been a horse...but still, I was Zhenya and I was so happy this day.

I guess it is not so difficult to make God smile-just to have darkness of the night, music, candle in your arms and warmth in your heart.



Skogskyrkogården (The Woodland cemetery)

Hello. My name is Zhenya Sidorova and I have been the scholarship holder of this foundation for two years.

I decided to start my story from the swedish holiday-ALL SAINTS` DAY and this is the text from my diary-the text that i have written that day. I hope it sounds a little bit like fairy-tale...as Sweden is a fairy-tale for me. It was and always will be.

I was born in Kaluga-a city situated on 2 shores of the Oka river. To navigate you more clearly – if you will chose the south direction from Moscow - in 3 hours you will be in Kaluga.

From the very childhood drawing was my passion. So I was attending an art school and afterwards – design studio. After the high school graduation I entered Moscow Architectural Institute. After completion the bachelor degree there I became the participant of the workshop “First Russian-Swedish school of Architecture and Engineering”, where I got acquainted with the Swedish professor of art. He sent me the information about the Foundation for the furtherance of Swedish-Russian Relations. And here I am)

Thanks to Sverker Astrom foundation Sweden became such an important part of my life. I will try to illustrate this with some photos I have made during my small 2-years Swedish life.



It is better to say that Stockholm penetrates into the nature than nature is penetrating into the city.





Kungsträdgården

Stockholm is beautiful in any season of the year. But autumn and winter seems to be the longest seasons here...nevertheless i have never seen any other people (swedish) to be so happy with the sun!



Bagarmossen



Sunny day on Kappala

Swedish families are something amazing. It is usual to see fathers playing, going for a walk and shopping with children. It looks so cute, especially for Russian people. We used to see mothers taking care about the child.





School of Architecture. Ostermalmsgatan, 26

This is my school. KTH School of Architecture - Royal Institute of Technology. I was lucky to spend two years here. When I entered I was one person, but it was completely another person who was graduated from it this summer. I have seen so much, have learnt so much, have met so many talented and outstanding people that changed me forever. Thanks to them I started to think about architecture from another angle. I was trying to travel as much as possible as it is very important for the architects-to see and judge architecture by our own eyes, feel its scale beauty and context.



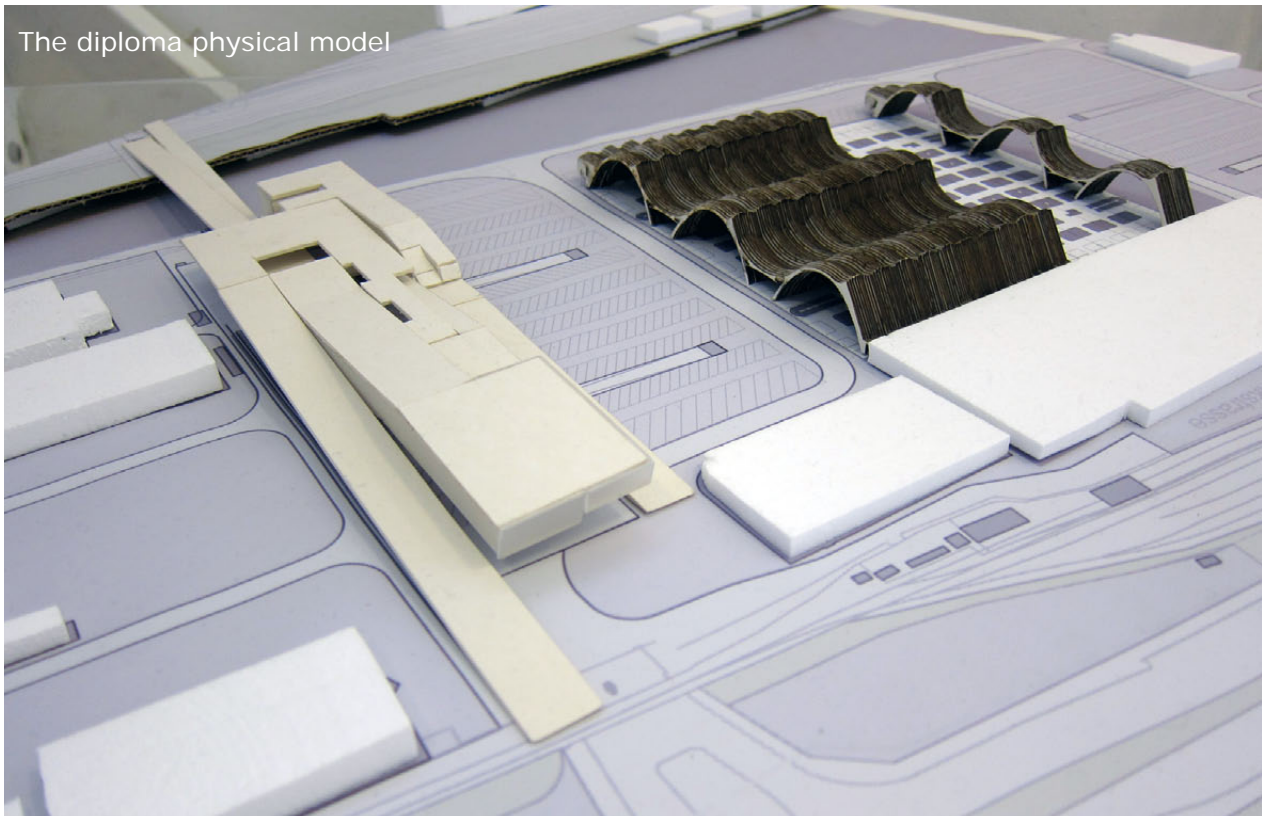
The winter view from my studio



My final thesis presentation in Stockholm

I have been in the Urban Design studio, where we were discussing sustainable urban development in terms of globalization, climate changes, mega cities and urban strategies - transformed into new typologies and innovative urban design.

In my thesis I deal with advanced architectural task, the development of complex project as the synthesis of social, spatial and technological considerations.



The diploma physical model



Student accommodation

The first year i have been living in the just built student accommodation in Flemingsberg. I enjoyed staying there. It was a modern district with the library and many other facilities.



Flemingsberg



Autumn view from my window



Winter view from my window



Evening view from my window

My second year i spent on Gamla Stan - the Old Town-the heart of Stockholm. The town dates back to the 13th century, and consists of medieval alleyways, cobbled streets, and archaic architecture. North German architecture has had a strong influence in the Old Town's construction. I was lucky to have a walk to the school at least twice a day - crossing the old streets, beautiful squares...watching the Royal Palace. Waking up every morning listening the bell of the old church. It was something unbelievable for me.



Gamla Stan

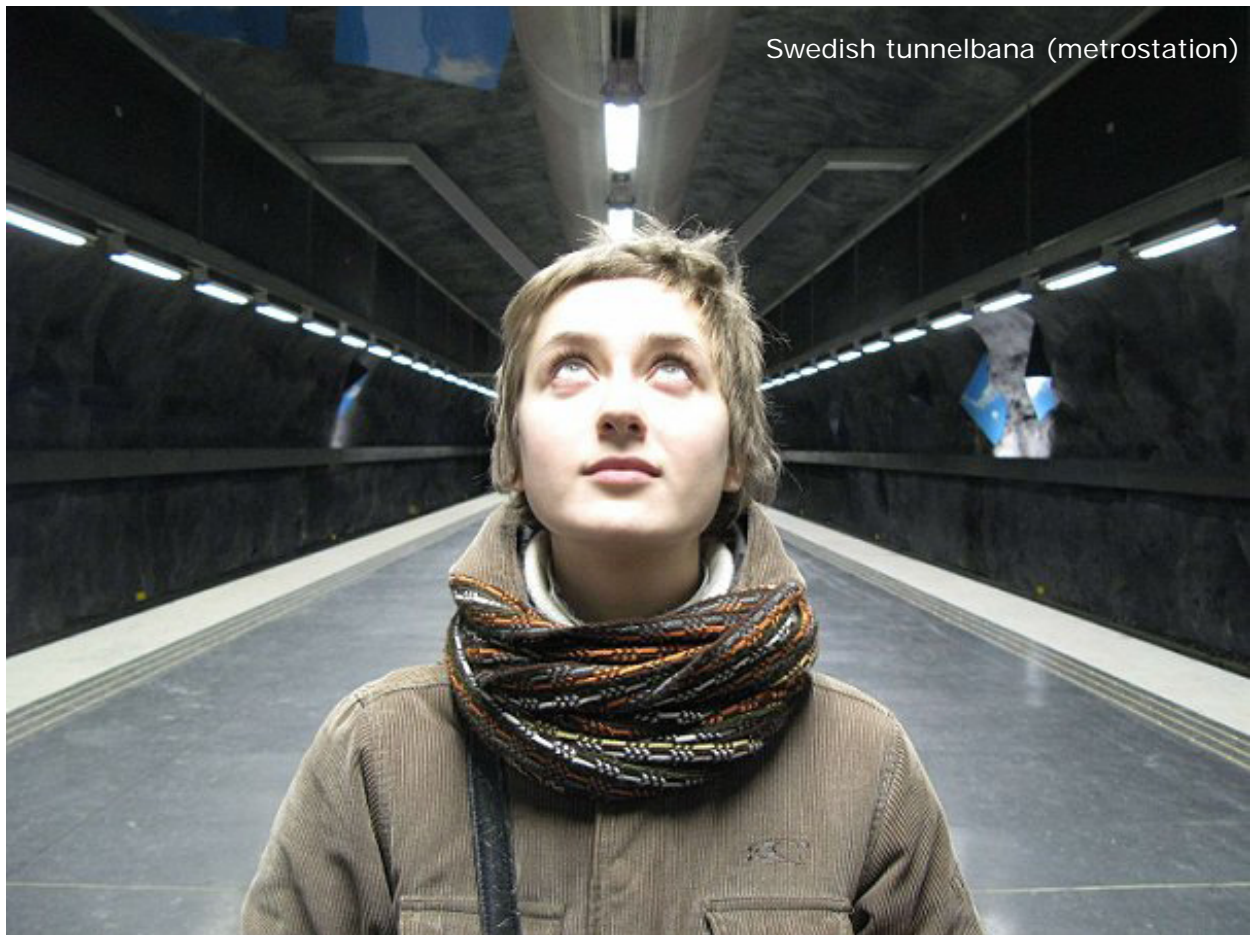


Lappis international dinner

Friends from all around the world! Unforgettable moments of getting acquainted with new people, new cultures and new points of view. I would say that we are still keeping in touch with them - swedish, spanish, swiss, french, italian friends...



Birthday of a japanese friend



Swedish tunnelbana (metrostation)

During the studying in Sweden my Russian friends came to visit me in Stockholm and i was trying to present best of Stockholm. I was a little bit nervous and had a feeling as i was showing my native city. And even now few weeks ago I was trying to give all possible information about Sweden to a friend who was going to travel around Stockholm.



Summer time in Stockholm

Now I am planning to apply all the baggage of knowledge to my future work. I appreciate the Nordic minimalistic design in architecture. I will try not to forget all the peculiarities of Swedish culture, art, way of living and behavior i have been inspired by. So I would like to thanks Sverker Astrom Foundation one more time for all the opportunities i have got.

After every dinner with Disa and other members of the foundation I was so inspired by these people, I was thinking how many things I need to do, to meet, to change in me to become like they are - so clever, so simple, open , friendly, intelligent and with such a great sense of humor.

Thank you. Spasibo. Tack sa mycket.

With kind kind regards,
Zhenya Sidorova

