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Master student

City of research: Stockholm

University: KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Field of studies: Sustainable renovation of Million Program Housing



With the help of Sverker Åström Foundation I had a chance to spend three wonderful months in Sweden. I appreciate this help a lot and feel very thankful for this opportunity.

Originally I come from St. Petersburg, but at the moment of my stay in Sweden, which took place from the middle of March till the middle of June 2017, I was a Master student in Leipzig University in Germany. The purpose of my stay in Stockholm was a research for my Master's Thesis.

My thesis topic is "Driving forces of renovation of post-war housing in Stockholm". The main focus of the thesis is housing built in Stockholm in 1960-70s under the governmental program called Million Homes Program, which implied construction of one million dwellings to meet a housing shortage in Sweden. During my research I tried to understand why housing of the time is renovated and in some cases even preserved in Sweden, considering that in many other countries buildings of the same period of time are demolished. I studied the process of renovation from a sustainable development perspective, investigated main renovation measures, current state of buildings and areas, learned about main problems and the ways they are solved, tried to feel people's attitude to housing of Million Program. My work was supervised by Erik Stenberg - professor from Architectural School of KTH Royal Institute of Technology and head of the Center of Sustainable Built Environment. Prof. Stenberg not only provided helpful guidelines and valuable advice for my work on the thesis, but also invited me to be a guest at his seminar classes, presented me books including the one of which he is an author and kept me informed about interesting guest lectures in the Architectural school.

As the main method of my study was conducting interviews, I met many interesting people with different backgrounds: architects, representatives of construction and housing companies, engineers, researchers, sustainability managers. As for example, I had a chance to meet Ivana Kildsgaard, a sustainability manager at LINK architectural office, Sonja Vidén, an architect and a researcher at KTH, Per Olgarsson, an antiquarian from the City Museum and many others.

Staying in Stockholm I had a chance to travel to typical areas built during Million Homes Program. I visited Akalla, Husby, Kista, Skärholmen, Fittja and some other districts. I attended an exhibition about housing in Sweden in Museum of Architecture ArkDes. Moreover, I was invited to visit Mrs. Sonja Vidén. She kindly agreed to show me her apartment, told about the history of Täby district and about the way the buildings are maintained and renovated there. In addition, with the help of my supervisor I managed to visit



1. Tensta museum apartment

Tensta museum apartment, which is an apartment in a building constructed during Million Program, restored and preserved by the City Museum. My guide was Mrs. Sara Danielsson from the City Museum who agreed to show an apartment to me and told me about its main features.



2. Täby district



3. Apartment in Täby

My time free from work on thesis I spent with student organization Board of European Students of Technology (BEST) which I joined soon after arrival and became one of the organizers of summer course for international students. Also I visited many interesting events like lectures, workshops and forums. Several examples are listed below:

- Lecture of architects Pedro Alonso and Hugo Palmarola “Perspectives on Post-War Housing”
- Lecture of Niloufar Tajeri “Small Interventions: New ways of living in post-war modernism”
- Bostadsforum 2017
- Exhibition Green Week in Dome of Visions
- Seminar of SSAB “Sustainability in practice”
- Seminar Green Urbanism
- Visit to the city archive



4. Bostadsforum 2017



5. Visit to the city archive with Erik Stenberg and students from his seminar class

My stay in Sweden allowed me to learn more about Swedish culture and traditions, to investigate its history, to explore several cities (like Gothenburg, Visby, Uppsala and Malmö), and last but not least - to meet remarkable people and to make new friends.



6. With Gunnar Johansson, his family and scholars



7. With Disa Håstad and scholars

Thanks to Hedvig Hedqvist I had a chance to live in a building constructed during the period of time that I studied. I enjoyed a lot staying at her place. She helped me a lot with contacts, gave valuable advices, recommended many interesting articles and places to see, and just was a very interesting person to talk to. I am also grateful to Gunnar Johansson for welcoming all scholars at his family places.

Finally, I would like to express special gratitude to Disa Håstad for all her help and support and to all board of the Foundation without which all of these would not be possible. It was an honor for me to be one of the scholarship holders and I would be happy to maintain connections established during my stay in Sweden in the future.