

The students started the trip at the UIA, the World's Congress of Architects in Copenhagen, Denmark where they listened to Bjarke Ingels speak before seeing his projects in person. They then visited the historic housing that Ingels credits as inspiration for his work, the Potato Row Houses.



NJIT Students Sean Jaeger and Jacob Swanson sit in the courtyard of Bjarke Ingels Group's 8 House. Photograph Carrie Bobo



Dhruvi Rajpopat, Jacob Swanson, and Maegan Santos along with other students sketch the Potato Row Houses in Downtown Copenhagen. Photograph Carrie Bobo

The students visited an exhibition on sustainable materials, Copenhagen Contemporary's [Reset Materials](#) and listened to a private impromptu lecture by one of the exhibition's contributors Frans Drewniak from the Royal Danish Academy.



Frans Drewniak from the Royal Danish Academy speaking about his tea house installation.  
Photograph Carrie Bobo

The students then visited [Havnen's Hander](#) on the recommendation of David Lewis of LTL and Martha Lewis, head of sustainability at Henning Larsen. There they listened to an incredibly in depth presentation on the nature and specifics of bio-based materials. This emerging field offers the promise of a plastics free construction and Scandinavia is at the forefront of its development and implementation. Hempcrete, clay wall surfaces, and straw insulations are becoming more mainstream.



On the way to Gothenburg from Copenhagen students toured the art museum Louisiana including an exhibit by [Cave Bureau](#), in their words, a Nairobi based bureau of architects and researchers charting explorations into architecture and urbanism within nature.



*Cave Bureau on view at Louisiana. Photograph Carrie Bobo*

In Gothenburg, students had the opportunity to visit [Södra's](#) new [CLT factory](#) that opened in March, where they learned about sustainability metrics and technical performance criteria before touring the production process. CLT, or Cross Laminated Timber, is becoming a sought after expertise and is of the primary components for building contemporary timber buildings.



Students on the CLT Factory Tour at Sodra. Photograph Carrie Bobo

The group visited [Egnahem Fabriken](#), literally The Own Home Factory, or more descriptively an organization providing knowledge and space for individuals and organizations to build housing using both standard and traditional building techniques, where we helped them with some of their ongoing construction and gardening projects. They have a pretty incredible program working with students in the community that have left school to build and sell small buildings in order to reintegrate them into society and provide useful life skills.



Students doing construction work at Egnahem Fabriken. Photograph Carrie Bobo

[Per Bornstein](#), a local Gothenburg architect, invited the group into his home, once featured on the cover of Dwell Magazine, which the students said was the nicest home they had ever seen, a timber box expressed inside and out. Bornstein also led the students on a tour of Merkurhuset an newly completed office building in Central Gothenburg.



Students photographing and sketching Merkurhuset in Gothenburg. Photo Carrie Bobo



Lisa Wegbrant, provided a tour of [Göteborgs Stadsbibliotek](#) the city library. She wrote her masters thesis on the necessity and strategies for renovation and then joined a firm to lead the design competition which resulted in an encasing of the original building with a contemporary shell that provides community and social spaces and externalize the public life of the library including a cafe with balcony.



Students enjoying lunch on the balcony at the city library with the art museum beyond.  
Photograph Carrie Bobo

Students toured [Jubilieums Parken](#) with the owner of Mareld Landscape Architecture. Mareld means bioluminescence. Mareld spoke about the integration of landscape into public space as well as how nature's structures serve to protect cities and create more enjoyable public spaces. Part of the park includes a swimming pool that pulls sea water from the strata of the river with clean water into a basin for swimming and a freshwater pool without chemicals filtered by a fountain in the park constructed of layers of sand and gravel.



Student Elizabeth Stoganenko with Sauna and Pool beyond at Frihamnen. Photograph Carrie Bobo

Anna Braide provided a lecture and tour of the architecture school by Chalmers Institute of Technology. The visit establishes a collaboration between the two universities, both looking ahead to next summer and during the regular school term through cross institutional projects.



[Konstepidemin](#), was homebase for the students during their time in Gothenburg, a studio within a complex constructed in 1886 as an infectious disease hospital for the Cholera epidemic, now an artist's collective. Artists [Patrik Andine](#) and [Roland Boren](#) invited students into their studios. Here they presented their design work to local artists and architects as well as the head of Gothenburg's Climate Transition office. The reception provided a nice closure to the month spent in Gothenburg.



Meagan Santos presents work to painter Patrik Andine at Konstepidemin. Photograph Carrie Bobo

The group then traveled to Stockholm for 10 days of tours and site visits. This started with a lecture on housing typologies and walking tour through a few of Stockholms neighborhoods led by [Secretary International](#) - starting with fully traffic-separated suburbs constructed just before the beginning of the Million Program, visiting a neighborhood labeled as vulnerable and discussing the realities of how this vulnerability is being addressed through public space interventions, seeing newly constructed, Stockholmshusar, standardized architectural design responses for infill throughout the city, as well as a self-built, Egnahem neighborhood, and ending at a new high-rise with sweeping views over the city.



Secretary International lectures on urban housing. Photograph Carrie Bobo

Johan Johnsson of [White Architects](#), a specialist in contemporary applications of traditional, largely bio based building materials - timber and clay - led two days of tours, visiting timber houses still-standing constructed in the 12th century as well as contemporary timber buildings.



Medieval timber housing with straw roofs at Skansen. Photograph Carrie Bobo

All of these experiences - along with seeing the Stave Churches, the Oslo Opera House, many incredible works by the architect Gunnar Asplund, and the overarching experience of living in cities constructed with a focus on the pedestrian rather than the automobile - made for an incredible trip.



Students sketching at the stave churches in Oslo. Photograph Carrie Bobo