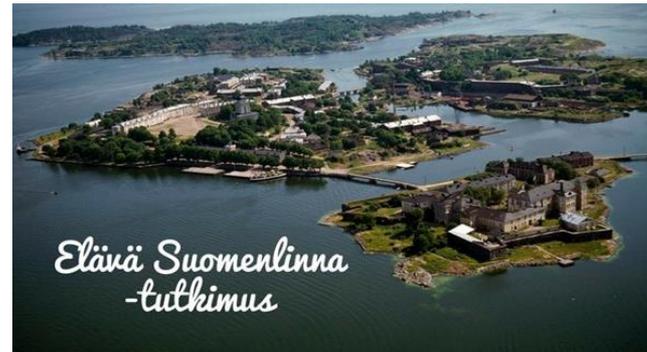


Living in the World Heritage Sites in Finland: Cases Old Rauma and Suomenlinna



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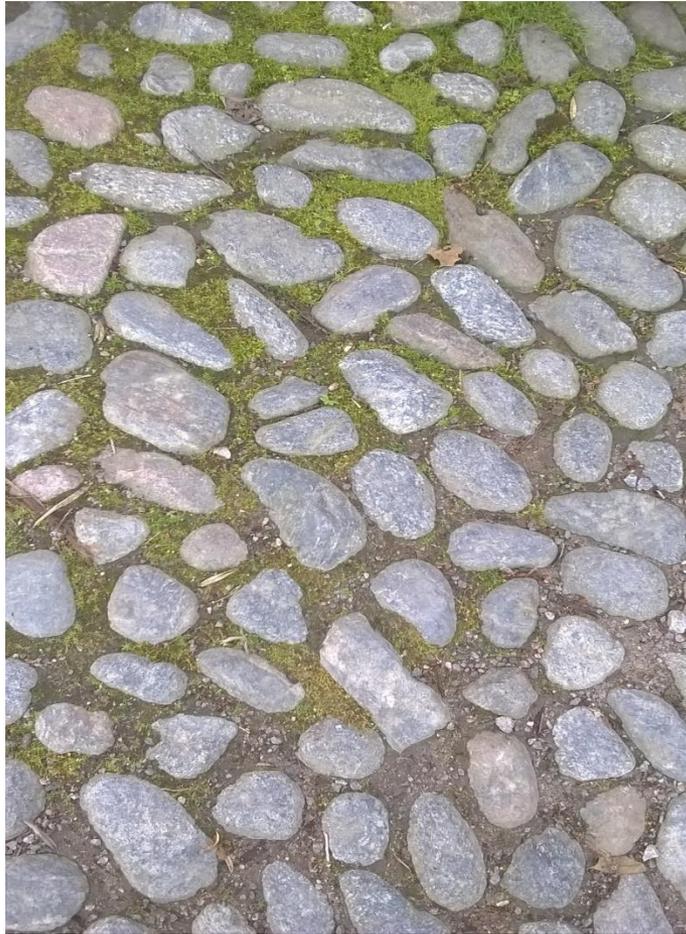
The Nordic World Heritage Conference in Rauma 12.9.2017

Agenda

- Introduction: Heritage as Process
- World Heritage site Old Rauma
- Fieldwork in Old Rauma: objectives and results
- Analysing the Concept of Heritage Communities
- On-going fieldwork in Suomenlinna fortress
- Social and Cultural Values
- Summary



Heritage as Process (Smith 2006)



Old Rauma (Unesco 1991)

- Unique example of a vibrant and well-cared for old Nordic wooden town
 - conservation and protection of the buildings in the area
 - continuation of life and the safeguarding of the area's natural urban activities – housing, services and business



Photo: Kalle Saarinen

- Conservation of the Old Rauma World Heritage site runs on two parallel paths:
 - on the one hand, the local community members contribute to the day-to-day conservation of the buildings that are still mainly privately owned
 - on the other hand, the local and national heritage authorities, jointly with ICOMOS Finland, monitor and outline the conservation and development activities in the Old Rauma World Heritage area and its buffer zone

Objectives for the fieldwork in Old Rauma 2016–2017

- 35 property owners were interviewed during the field courses
- The objective of the field course was:
 - to investigate Old Rauma as a living community
 - to explore the perspectives of residents on the experiences and challenges of living in a World Heritage site and in an historic environment



Photo: Kalle Saarinen

Varying perspectives of the residents

- the residents are interested in the area`s history, its built heritage and architecture
- values of the built heritage is a part of their everyday life
- the importance of the old handicraft skills

The most important buildings in Old Rauma are the church and the town hall and our outbuildings is the third.





- restoration choices are based on enabling residents *comfort, convenience and practical uses* of buildings
- conflicts with the authorities?
- motivation for preserving is not the status (WHS), but rather one`s own life

It`s that I have been watching life through this kitchen window for my first 20 years.

Photo: Eeva Karhunen

- modern living?
- business
- hobbies

- too cramped
- low ceiling
- difficult to keep clean

This is a residential area with a wide variety of people and people with different thoughts. There are people who are very committed to protection. Then there are people who are in between. And then there are people who just live here like in any place. They just happen to live in a World Heritage site.

Suomenlinna sea fortress (Unesco 1991)

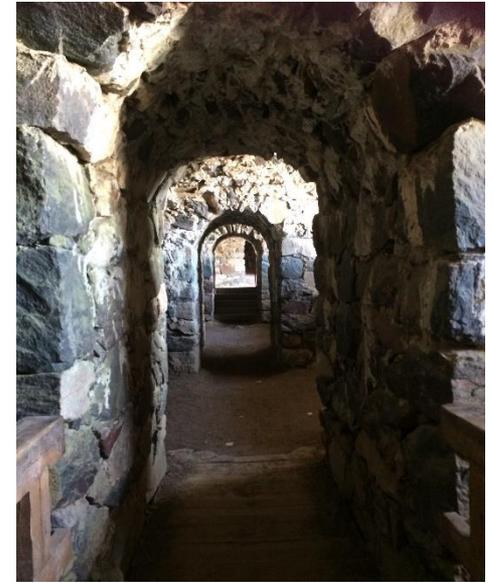
Originally *Sveaborg/Viapori*:

An outstanding example of general fortification principles of the 17th and 18th centuries (the bastion system)

The buildings and fortification works are protected by the Antiquities Act.

May 2017: Broad Proposition for Safeguarding Suomenlinna (The National Board of the Antiquities)

Suomenlinna constitutes a district of Helsinki with 850 inhabitants.



Objectives for *The Living Suomenlinna* - research

How Suomenlinna is made of as personal, communal and public place?

Unofficial heritage level



Experiences

Narratives

Meanings



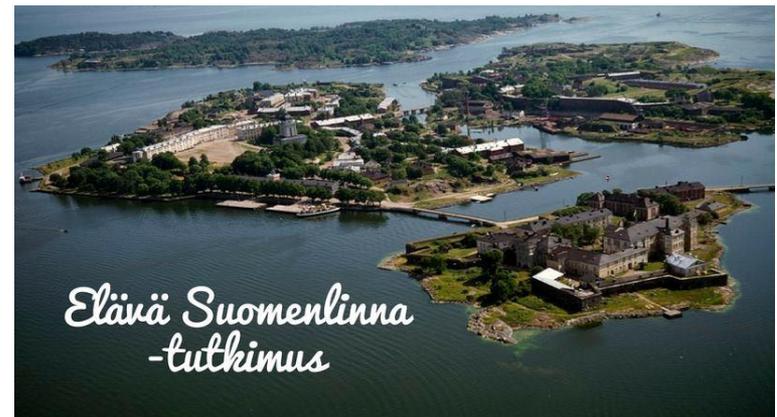
*Cultural
heritage
processes*

Official heritage level



Ethnographic fieldwork in Suomenlinna in 2017–2018

- *Decades of Suomenlinna*: open, recorded **oral history events** organized **in the local library**
- **Individual interviews**
- **Observation** in local festivals etc.
- **Online survey** on the presence, meanings and representations of history in Suomenlinna
- **Oral history -group** *Memories from Suomenlinna* in **Facebook** (68 members: ex-residents and residents)



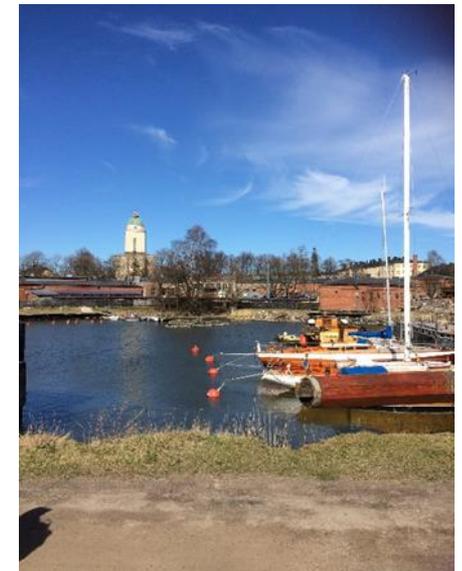
The ownership of heritage (as home)

”All of this is mine. All of this, the sea and the sky and these trees and bushes. This is mine, of course this belongs to many others, too, but this is also my home and my landscape.” (Interview, May 2017)



Old photo:
Finna

“Tää kaikki on mun. Tää kaikki, tää meri ja tää taivas ja nää puut ja pensaat. Tää on mun, onhan tää tietysti aika monen muunkin, mutta tää on myös mun koti ja mun maisema”



Impressions of a place

- *As Suomenlinna*
- Refers more personal than public

Beautiful

Safe

Cosy and Warm

Mystical

Profound

Precious

Unique Impressive Historical Marine

**Noisy Expensive Congested Run-out*

**"Self-evidence, Home"*

- *As the World Heritage Site*
- Refers more public than personal

Commercial

Advertised

Royal

Safeguarded

Awesome

Free

Unique Impressive Historical Marine

**Distant Shallow Busy Too small*

** "Does not mean anything to me"*

“What themes concerning everyday life of the residents should be recorded and studied?”

- “Garrison and industrial communities living side by side”
- “Sounds and photos”
- “Residents relationship to the sea”
- “Oldest generations’ oral history”
- “Everyday life and dwelling: horses in the 60’s”
- “The Ice Road”
- “The phases of the dry dock”

Social and Cultural Values of the Sites

- Local residents are eye-witnesses to the changes of the world heritage sites: what makes heritage communities ‘living’?
- Recognition of the personal and local experiences
- Visibility of heritage communities, dialogue between agents
- Strong place attachment
- Social and cultural values of the home(place) as important as of the sites



Summary

Why are the personal and local experiences relevant?

- The residents give faces to the WHS and its visitors
- The variety of meanings and values > important to understand the context and reasons behind even ambivalent views
- Sense of place includes different aspects and have many impacts
- Official Criteria (Outstanding Universal Values) and Unofficial Criteria (Values of Heritage Communities) does not always match 100% > listen and ask for opinions
- Residents provide unique interpretations on local identity for the development work > tourists appreciate seeing local way of life
- What are the possible futures? Look for the positive and negative images of the future!

Thank you very much!

