



# GOLDEN CUBES AWARDS

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AWARD CATEGORY:

Institution Award

**NAME OF THE PROJECT:**

**An expanding city!**

*A project to approach children's interest in architecture*

**TEAM MEMBERS:**

Järfälla municipality / Järfälla culture

**AGE GROUP OF AUDIENCE:**

Children 6 - 16 years old

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING CHILDREN:**

Approximately 900 children

**DURATION OF ACTIVITY:**

2017 - 2019

**COUNTRY / CITY:**

Sweden / Järfälla

**NAME OF THE ENTRANT:**

Järfälla municipality / Järfälla culture

**FREE EXPRESION:**

Järfälla culture (JC) is a municipal department, with the responsibility to enable children's and youth's participation and access to culture. Both in school and on their free time. Järfälla is one of the fastest growing cities in Sweden, with projects of new upcoming districts. These include apartments, schools and playgrounds. In the light of this, JC think it is important to involve the children in Järfälla, to influence the outcome of the projects. Therefore, JC has orchestrated architecture projects in the school's curriculum, on the children's holiday break and projects on their spare time. **Educational projects** are a series of courses, financed with money from the municipality and the government, through the Swedish Arts Council. These courses involve learning about how to plan and build a city. Participants learn about detail planning, material, model construction and reasoning about what architecture is. **Projects on Holiday breaks** include building their own tree hut, with the help of a professional architect. They learn about the environment, ecological context, forestry, the right of public access. They learn cooperation and the importance of protecting nature. **Projects on their spare time** also include architecture courses. Led by an architect they build models in different forms, both with physical material and online in Minecraft. It creates an interest in architecture as a

profession. JC's role in all of this, is being the overall organizer, like a "spider in the web". JC connects the various external competences, with the internal departments and create the opportunity for the projects. The projects are a cooperation with local, regional and national institutions and actors. For example ArkDes (the national center for architecture and design), the county museum, professional architects, the local music and art school and local sponsors. The cooperation are meant to create a democratic aspect that leads to the children's impact on our city's development. The children get insights and understanding in all the different aspects in building a city. They leave their own opinions that is taken into consideration when the municipal is expanding. JC has developed a functioning operation with the three different project groups and these will continue to take place. The knowledge provided to the children encourage creative, sensitive and critical thinking in their making of different city models. They learn cooperation and how to work with all kinds of material. What elements that's essential in a city construction. The forests ecological and economic factors in both the society and in the construction profession. Knowledge about recycling and the importance of the environment. They get a say in real past, present and future building projects in their society.

**OUTCOMES & EVALUATION:**

**Network - anchoring - long-term**  
JC have the networks to proceed with this kind of projects and to integrate them into our overall operation. In the future, it is important that we think more long-term and calculate the fact that it takes time to work with the anchoring of the projects. The projects will continue, but parts of it will be taken over by other administrations.

Methods for evaluating projects through "child-impact analysis" has been initiated. An architect with solid experience of working with children, taught the method to key persons in the municipality. A new school in Järfälla is now planned and a child impact assessment has been developed together with participants from preschools and schools for the first time.

**IMAGES: Architecture courses in the school's curriculum**

**Watching glue solidify**

**A combined city**

**Models of buildings**

**City construction**

**Children's model**

**ArkDes course**

**City model**

**Building model**

**Cooperation**

**Building**

**ArkDes showing a model**

**Model of a combined city**

**Architecture course**

*"I've learned that houses need a good foundation to be steady."*  
- Girl, 8 years old.

*"I've learned that the imagination never sets any limits"*  
- Boy, 9 years old.

*"I've learned that even children can build and create drawing plans and such."*  
- Girl, 10 years old.

*"I've learned that it's hard to do a drawing of a city because you have to think about everything."*  
- Boy, 10 years old.

**Architecture courses on the children's spare time**

**A building**

**Drawing**

**A model**

**A building**

**Architecture course**

**Drawing**

**Built model**

**A landscape model**

**Drawing**

**Exploring architecture**

**Holding flowers**

*"I've learned that it is pretty difficult with architecture and that it's very fun with it."*  
- Boy, 12 years old.

*"I've learned how an architect works."*  
- Girl, 10 years old.

*"I've learned that you need imagination and balance"*  
- Girl, 8 years old.

*"I've learned what an ABC city is. An ABC city is a city that has work, housing and a center."*  
- Boy, 10 years old.

**Hut building camp on the children's holiday breaks**

**A built tree hut**

**Cutting down a tree**

**Building a tree hut**

**Examining a tree**

**Inside a tree hut**

*"I have learned about forestry and how to cut down a tree..."*  
- Flora

*"We're learning the basics of building houses. To understand the conditions of coming up from the damp ground and protection from falling things, as rain..."*  
- Stefan Petterson, Architect.

*"You have to cooperate very, very much..."*  
- Timon

*"In the future, I can imagine living in Järfälla..."*  
- Elton