A couple of months ago, I have an opportunity that some photos taken by me in Scandinavia showed. At that time, a woman told me: "Something is different from the other European countries". This "something sense" is just I have been attracted since I visited to Scandinavian countries first time. There is not so many historical architectures like Paris or Rome, crowded downtown like New York or dynamic nature like Niagara. However, I have been impressed by surrounding nature of their life and landscape with citizens itself, and I found real affluent society and a full life. One of my friends settle in Helsinki from Yokohama says she is sometimes boring here in Helsinki that has a little shopping or attraction space compared with stimulating Tokyo, but the time she spend with family in Finnish nature is quite precious and happiness, and that is the moment she really feels this is the best decision for her life.

In these interviews, I met several wonderful landscape architects. However, before making an appointment, I really worried about whom I should show in Japan. In addition, even between interviews, some landscape architects asked me "Why didn't you meet that renowned architect?" Moreover, it has not selected after I had grasped all the projects in Northern Europe. But I got a lot kinds of advices from many people, and I interviewed to the landscape architects that I felt "something sense" with a firm belief. They are not only standard projects, but I surely introduce the landscape architecture with designer that has feeling Nordic natural sense, and I shall be happy if I can be of any help that many people will be interested in the world landscape architecture including Scandinavian landscape not so much introduced in Japan.

When I continued the interviews, I was under the illusion that the Scandinavian landscape architects came into the world as human being from the nature that cannot speak with words, because their existence tightly close to the nature.

One is now working stylish in the city, but brought up with a dense nature in the countryside. One spent a lot of time with a retained gardener in one's childhood. One answered simply "It's natural!" against my question "Most of your plans are carefully considered lighting design, aren't they?" One was running with dogs in the magnificent nature. One answered "When I walked with dog in the completely dark forest in the midnight" against my question "What is the most impressive landscape for you?" One spend a night with a sleeping bag in the woods when he tired. Scandinavian landscape architects designed the landscape with a philosophy of their nature both mentally and physically. "Something sense" for Scandinavian landscape has become real after these interviews.
There is the law "Strandskyddslagen (Waterside protection law)" in Sweden. It enacted in 1951, the basic condition is that a private person must not build any new structure in the range of 100 meter from the waterside without permission (according to some municipalities, it is 300 meter). Instead of that, this area of waterside land is open to the public and everybody can walk freely. This is severe law for Swedish who wants to have a summer cottage beside the water, but it is considered as a common property for all nations than individual profits.

This condition is not adopted to the area already existing before enactment, but new construction such as a fence by private person is not allowed.

Stockholm is the biggest city in the Scandinavia and about 1,850,000 of people who likes waterside live. This city has a rich variation of the water space that is difficult to recognize canal or river, lake or sea. Actually, this city is composed by 14 islands and is float on the lake called Malaren. Additionally there is the landscape of archipelago in the Baltic Sea, so the life of people really is close to the water. In spite of such a big city, the quality of the water is kept so clean that the people can swim everywhere.

Therefore, the check for the environment is strictly. For "MKB (abbreviation for Miljö Konsekvens Beskrivning,)" enacted 90's, they need to do an Environmental Impact Assessment when they construct road, railway or housing even private house, but it depends on the size of investigation. When this idea imported from U.S.A., landscape architects was immediately interested in it and they take a leading part in the project. They study several knowledge necessary for the MKB such as botany, biology, geology etc. They are entrusted with total inspection for pollution, noise damage or influence for the human body and nature such as vegetation, ecosystem, ground water, transition of water surface, furthermore history or landscape for the site. Of course, they collaborate with the other professional, but the leadership of them is the important part for landscape architect in Sweden.

The most advanced environmental city plan is Hammarby Sjötad in Stockholm. This site was industrial area at harbor, and the plan for switching to housing estate started in 1999, now 20,000 people live in there and it will be 30,000 in 2010. Because there were numbers of industrial factories, the site itself had been polluted, so that the first step of construction for the new housing was purification of the soil. In this housing area, the waterside is also open to the public so that people can walk freely.

Sodermalm is the south of Gamla Stan in Stockholm. Sodra Arstalunden Koloniomade is beside water side. The nearest meaning of Koloniomade (=colony) may be a community farm in Japan. The origin of Koloniomade is from Kleingarten in Germany, and its culture came into Sweden through Denmark in the 30's. The origin is German Kleingarten, and its culture came to Sweden through Denmark in 30's. At first mainly potato was grown, because the purpose of colony was to supply the garden for foods to the low income families when it is middle of The Great Depression. Until 20 or 30 years ago, possessor was ashamed to say they had colony, because the image of the poor still existed, but nowadays, the rich person such an ambassador, a lawyer, or an architect competes with others in getting a colony as a status of wealthy. This colony is close to the city centre of Stockholm, so it is possible to come by bicycle. Therefore, it is so popular that the Ulla Westmann who we interviewed waited 20 years to get the colony with a nice view.

The colony of the Westmann is on the slope of a small hill face to the waterside, it has wonderful view. The size of colony is 260 square meter and the small cottage is 11.5 square meter. Slope garden is surrounded hedge, and beautiful old lilac was blooming when we visited. We cut the huge birch tree because it gave shade to the garden, and the old cottage of last old lady was decrepit so we rebuilt new one. Ulla said, "The turn before us said they did not want to use because it was worn-out." It was difficult to understand for Ulla that they passed this place, because she believed it would become wonderful.

As a result, the colony became clean and beautiful after the Westmann put in a lot of time. At first, an administrator gave the colony that is only garden without cottage to test us if we could take care the colony well or not. We used there 4 or 5 years, then we moved the other site with cottage without nice view next 10 years, after that we got this wonderful view of site!

Colony is managed by the administrative union, land cost is under 30,000 yen per year although it depends on size of lot, and an addition is only water charge. When they move to the new lot, they should pay the value of cabin building. Therefore, the Westmann paid 450,000 of yen for old cabin and 3,500,000 yen for their new building when they moved. She said "We asked the architect that the new cabin should match to the landscape", so that the lovely cabin exists as it was for a long time. "We spend a lot of time here in summer but in winter water is stopped so we cannot live," she said. Municipality stops water supply in winter, because if colony becomes a housing area, they need wider road or sanitary facilities. Therefore people basically uses colony as a summer cottage or a garden a little bit far from their house. It is certain that they spend a time for colony garden diligently for a month during summer holiday.
27 square kilometer green area (8 square kilometer of them is water surface) is designated as a national park. The national park that is from 15 to 20 minutes from the city center is exception in the country. It was named Nasional City Park. This was a hunting ground for a Royal family made from 1580 to 1680 influenced by British landscape garden, and it has kept the nature for hundreds of years. Approximately 250 species of wild birds are observed, and more than 100 species of them hatch eggs here. Moreover, it is designated "Bird and Insects Protection Area" including a habitat of an endangered species. And the site is including the characteristic landscape of Stockholm such as broadleaf tree wood, a pine grove, a pasture, a prairie and a bedrock, so that it is evaluated as "Eco Park". According to investigation, 90% of citizens visit this National City Park once a year, 45% of them go once a week and 17% go more than 3 days a week. We can say this is just citizens' garden.

The life with waterfront and green in Stockholm. On the city map, water surface painted light blue is almost always next to the green area. This situation is so rich that we are apt to think no relation for us, but this is the result of efforts that they had sought affluent life as a dream. The protection for National City Park was settled after many complications as well in the long history. Also in the case of our country, each people image our ideal life and consider what our country should be like in the future. In this case, the role of landscape architect must be important.

1 We can recognize Stockholm is composed with islands when we see from the small hill of Forfegan.
2 The area with reed in Hammarby Sjostad. A diving platform designed by a sculptor is popular very much.
3 Waterfront park in the Skeppsholmen in the central part of city. Water, green and people are typical elements of landscape in this city.
4 Colony is originally for supply foods but now the place for relaxation in the beautiful water landscape with green and flower.
5 Ulla Westman's colony in Sodra Arstaunden. New cabin harmonizes with surrounding and green of garden is wonderful beauty.
6 The canal in Hammarby Sjostad. The town is composed with various space gathered around waterfront.
7 Fountain park at the end of canal (6) is the place always brimming with children’s smile.
8 The office that Nob Takei who is a supporter of this interview works in. Waterfront is also designed as public open space.
9 Waterfront promenades in Kungsholmen. It is nice place for a stroll because there are benches designed by sculptor, small bridges like photo and cafe.
10 Haga park is a part of National City Park. There are an egg shape objet made of lime stone designed by sculptor and granite guide board. This is good for meeting point.
11 Grass open space spreads out in the conical shape toward waterside in Haga park.
Oslo is a capital city of Norway and bounded by Oslo fjord 100km long. The city is a fan form between forested hills and fjord, and 60% of the city is green area. Citizens of Oslo are proud of greenery city quite near to forest, and Oslo received the European Sustainable City Award in 2003. Akerselva is a river that flows through Oslo, and it starts from Mandalsvannet Lake in the north of the city. The entire river is about 9 kilometres long, and has a difference in altitude of approximately 160 meters. In the 11th century, the river already generated electricity by hydraulic power for industry. In the 16th century, Oslo thrived on the manufacturing industry; for instance, textile, chemical, steel or glass, and on trade with especially Netherlands. This is rear situation that several kinds of industries were in the same town. The population swelled to 10 times for half a century from 1850’s, in the beginning of 19th century Oslo became a big city with a population of 20,000, but this unexpected growth over the maximum, so factories started to move from Oslo around WWI. After WWII, from 1950’s to 1960’s, big textile factories moved out one after another, and factory building was left along Arkeselva.

In this situation, the incident took place in an upriver district Brygge. This area is composed beautiful forest and stream landscape between the first fall and Mandalsvannet Lake. In the 1970’s, some artist who were attracted to beautiful potential of landscape occupied empty factories and worker’s house in this area. They not only settled but also restored to beautiful scenery of river, because they get rid of sludge or deserting lumbers. With this moment, general people were getting admit them as valid, and finally they got the right to live Brygge overturning the construction plan of newspaper company building. They could say, “That’s the Oslo Dream!” After that, this beautiful landscape has been kept, and musicians, ceramists, artists, architects and the children of pathfinders live in Brygge. Now this area was specified as Preservation District for Groups of Buildings and they cannot change appearance of the building easily. I do add that their rights are guaranteed more under this specification.

Before these social movements, Oslo city park department planed the linear park along Akerselva for the improvement of the environment of river, they attempted to improve water quality and to restore the pathway along the river for the citizens. This movement was modelled after the park system “emeralds necklace” in U.S.A. or England in those days, and it deserves special mention that the works has been continued for 70 years.

In the 80’s, Norway government took action because of these movements, Akerselva Environmental Park Projects set up by collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and Oslo city from 1986 to 1991, and the reconstruction of the area around the river had been rapidly progressing.

Embankment divided three blocks, the lower part through the central area was designed as a canal adopted 1 by 0.4m size local red granite. At the middle part embankment had been strengthened by soil-mat, granite or vegetations. Upstream area was carried out to preserve the natural situation as it is. The result of these efforts, the water quality of Akerselva has been recover as salmon swim upstream to spawn again (But people must bring salmon to the upriver area by truck because they cannot climb up dams), and activity of people has been also return to the river.

Oslo National Academy of the Arts and the Oslo school of architecture and design, which located downtown, have moved along the Akerselva, and a granary building has moved and restored for a student dormitory, and it became a landmark in this area. Professor Ola Bettum talked smilingly that the students make the city safety because they study through the night before deadline and it means the city was defended by crime. Now he designs landscape plan around Norsk Form (Norwegian Centre for Design and Architecture) along Akerselva. Several kind of offices moved into the old brick factory buildings, and restaurants and bars lined up on the ground floor along the river. In some part, they are completely renewed to modern building.

In the 1990’s, artists, architects and the children of pathfinders live in Brygge. Now this area was specified as Preservation District for Groups of Buildings and they cannot change appearance of the building easily. I do add that their rights are guaranteed more under this specification.

Upper photo: Waterfront of Foss area. Lower photo: Akerselva length 9km. Upper part of map is Mandalsvannet lake that is the source of river. Water surface of the southern part is the base of Oslo fjord. The mouth of Arkeselva is buried in the ground for Oslo central railway station. There are 5 area along the river. From northern part, Brekke, Nystadalen, Sagene, Foss, and Sentrum.
Norwegians has a strongly relationship with local forest or nature from their childhood. Elementary school has a forest class once a week at the most, and they spend all day in the forest studying about woods, vegetations, animals, how to pitch a tent, and so on. Between school and forest, there is an open space that children can use freely, and they spent a lot of time there (Upper left photo).

In the kindergarten, they have a GAPAHUK like shelter close to the forest (Lower left photo). Most of kindergarten has this shelter, and parents made it by fallen timbers from Havard Pedersen who is a caretaker for forest. They also make the ship equipment (upper right photo) or the lookout platforms on the tree.

We can often see the people with baby carriage in the woods and the green area linked to the forest. In this country, people used to be in the nature and they realize the atmosphere with their skin, and the environmental education carries on the importance of nature.
National Tourist Route Sognefjellet

National Tourist Route was founded by the Norwegian Public Roads Administration in 1994 as a nationwide tourist project that makes the best use of spectacular and varied Norwegian nature. Tourism is one of the most important industries in the country after fishery and petroleum, and it also needed to enrich from the international point of view. At that time, 4 route was carefully selected, and architects, landscape architects and artist who was invited of competitions gave full play to their abilities for design of important points, for instance, Information board, rest spot, picnic spot, view point, service facilities and so on. This project was complete at a cost of an 8 million yen in 3 years, and it created a great sensation. The 2004-2005 session of Diet approved "National transport plan 2006-2015" for further evolution. Eighteen sections of highway including present 4 routes are scheduled to be designated National tourist routes until 2015.

Sognefjellet is the longest fjord in the world and it’s one of the most popular tourist routes for Japanese. The projects has been already proceeded from 1994, several spots are placed in the magnificent view, for instance, a magnificent view and round shape platform, information board made of corten steel, a crash barrier piled up granite or huge stone sculpture. In this interview, Mr. Werner Harstad who is a landscape architect and a general manager of this Sognefjellet project showed the highlight and encouraged to accompany to the briefing for the new walking pass.

New walking pass is a part of ancient road started at Sognefiellet Hythe which was approximately 1400m height above sea level. This ancient road had been used for trade since nearly 500 years ago, and they are going to add as a new attraction for Sognefjellet project. The landscape of this area is part of Jotunheimen National Park, with several of the highest mountains and largest glacier in Norway. Ancient road which is going to be base for new walking pass was lead to Bergen, which was a center for trade, and the people walked with horse loaded meat and corn from inland, fish and salt from seaside. There were winter road and summer road, and each had "Verde", which was the landmark stacked of stones 1~1.5m height and stuck wooden pole on the top. Verde come into view successively is just the landscape of which is also in front of the ancient people.

The member of the briefing was landscape architect, architect, archaeologist, biologist and tourist consultant. Their talk went on limitlessly, for instance, which scene is most beautiful and impressive? how long pass is the best for the tourist? or whether the pass should be circulated or not? They also discussed how to remove stone signs built carelessly in recent years. The archaeologist who investigated every Verde last year explained the feature of them, and the biologist told about the vegetation. The architect put some sample of sing for the new pass, and everybody exchanged their frank opinions. In this situation, landscape architect Harstad played a leading role for putting various opinions together and chose direction of the project.

While Mr. Harstad guided several projects already constructed, he emphasized "Confront with Nature". The round platform made of concrete also faces up squarely to Mother Nature. Shape and material is never indecisive. If we use stone or timber for the materials, the people imagine the things came from nature, but in the final analysis they can't possibly overcome the real nature. If so, we should create the landscape confronted with nature by our technology.

The planning report of this project indicates the attractions should be constructed from the beginning, not using existed one. Every quality of architecture, art, information system or technique of road construction aims the top of global level, and they emphasize the necessity of harmony and consistency. That's why; the number of designers for each route is minimum. The collaboration work of experts from diverse fields is the basics through the project, and the quality is checked every working level. In this situation, the person in charge is a landscape architect. Of course, there is some who design and draw in the projects, but the professional landscape architect who can capture the landscape by extensive knowledge, broad outlook and aesthetic sense occupies an important supervisory position of a national project.
The assignment of Norwegian landscape architects is wide-ranging. One is the comprehensive role of a project in Administration like Mr. Harstad, another works mainly for design running an office, and also the others join a team of engineer and architecture like Snohetta.

According Mr. Harstad, Norwegian landscape architect is involved in the works for highway, tunnel, dam for hydroelectric power generation, protection for a mudslide or platform for ferry, of course engineer is a main person for technical detail, but the landscape architect takes part in project for total influence of environment, landscape or human being and sets up the route for the project. Incidentally, investigation and design for cemetery is also their regular work.

Last of all, I asked him “Which country would you like to visit for your vacation?”

He answers immediately “Of course Norway!”

1; Typical type of “Verde”. Log is set up for guide from a distance.
2; Sign inscribed on the stone wall of a rest station.
3; Road of “Verde” continues in landscape. Summer route and winter route were existed, and the photo is for summer. In the winter, they skied four meters deep snow.
4; Objet on the round view platform. Information write down on a disc.
5; A large stone sculpture hollowed out in the middle part. we can see a distant view of the glacial landscape through the flame of hole.
6; Information board on the round platform series. On the board, there are information of the mountain and the feature of the nature pointed by axis, for instance, fish mark shows fishing area, moreover berry mark and reindeer mark.
7; Concrete bench shows also parking area.
8; Information board made of corten steel appears often on the route.
9; Black line on the middle of map is Sognefjellet route between Lom and Gaupne. South part of this route is Jotunheimen National Park.
Gretel Hemgard who is the landscape architect in Finland says, “I spend almost all my holiday in the nature.”

She says that she learns a system required for a landscape design from nature. She is not necessarily going to make model of nature. From observing how relevance of great nature is existing and functioning, her landscape design starts.

Araboarannan Puisto is located in the Arabia area facing the beach on the eastern part in Helsinki. Arabia ceramic factory leading in Finland was in this area until 70’s. Several years passed after the factory moved the other area, the redevelopment was planned in 90’s, there are various projects are in progress now, such an art centre with University and companies, housing districts and parks in the site 85ha. The construction will be accomplished until 2012 when Helsinki becomes Cultural Capitals of Europe.

Arabiarannan Puisto is a 45ha seaside linear park united with the shoreline between residential area and Helsinki bay. This park will be the biggest in the Helsinki, and green belt will be carried out whole area in the city when this park completes. Panoramic landscape with several island and reed along the shore in front of the site reminds the archipelago, and it is the typical scenery of waterfront in Finland.

However, the soil is unstable because the site was originally used for a processing plant, moreover, new embankment was only allowed under 50 centimetres and also structure has restrictions. Water edge is sinking about 7 centimetres every year and the original plan estimated the ground level would sink 80 centimetres.

Her idea makes use of the unfavourable condition. She designed formative banking that is protection for the subsidence, and it makes that the new shape of beach will come to their surface with the progress of subsidence from existing artificial water edge.

Gretel Hemgård never used solid structure like concrete under the unstable soil condition, and only selected the material such as plants, soil and water which can be matched off against natural movement. She looked the system of archipelago feature of Finnish landscape in her design. She thought out a new original waterfront section based on the prototype for nature restoration. She examined the position of geo-textile over and over again to deal with water movement or pressure of ice in winter.
Because it is dry around the waterside in summer in the beginning, she did not plant hygrophyte but planted low bushes of pioneer plants characteristic of this area. This plant’s design expected pioneer plants will change over hygrophyte as land subsidence, and in the future, abundant vegetation will grow up in a long term. Birch grove arranged as geometric pattern on the plan protects the housing area from northern and southern cold wind, moreover, the layout of trees was considered from the view of each room. Birch tree is proof against water flooded, and sunlight passing through the birch leaves has special beauty of brightness. Simple glove consisting of birch tree is one of the most beautiful forest landscapes from the bottom of Finnish heart.

The Group for the Special Protection Area for Wild-bird bordering the site requested to make the imitation of nature as it should be. However, Gretel declared positively that the nature made by human being in the area lived by people should be like artificial landscape. The meaning of her words appeared in reality last winter. When the overflow of the sea level happened in a ratio of once in 10 years, the surface of water and the topography of embankment designed by her overlapped each other, and fantastic landscape came into existence. “I designed the topography would appear by rising of water surface with soil subsidence, but I didn’t expect this big scale.” It was the dramatic landscape made by harmony between nature and human being.

On the other hand, the southern area that is far from the housing estate was prepared for environmental education. The pond in this area accidentally appeared because an artificial bank burst. And hygrophyte has spread around the pond, therefore many species of natural birds is coming around there. She creates the idea like enjoying a happening or problem on the site. Landscape designed by her looks natural and simple, so it sometimes may not feel so-called “design.” However, at the bottom of her design, there is a composition of landscape elaborated and a future landscape thoroughly for a long span.

Her family’s summer cottage is on the archipelago. Archipelago reminds just a primitive landscape that is the process of formation of Finnish land. Some part of land in Finland is still rising about 9mm per year because of momentum after glacier melting. Landscape of archipelago reminds the situation of forming land from island in old time. This is the moment that they feel of existing in a gentle flow of nature. Hemgard took a stone and moved the suitable place. It is the first stage of landscape design for her.

1 Plan for Arabiarannan Puisto
2 Landscape of archipelago in the southern Finland
3 Scenery from the housing district through the park. The fence made by gabion on the border of housing area looks rough material, but this design gives an idea of artificial a landfill and make a harmony with a vast landscape.
4 From the housing area to see waterside. A grove of soughing birch tree makes the image of wind.
5 The area can be used for environmental education. Accidental pond in the reclaimed land revives nature.
6 Waterside after construction. A shore looks just like nothing to design.
7 Green networks in Helsinki. It functions as not only natural eco-system but also recreation area for citizens.
8 Last year, the flooding called once in ten years happened, and the landform designed by Hemgard appeared clearly. The man who happened to be there took a picture.
The characteristic of Danish Landscape is the length of the coastline which is 7500km produced by aggregate of an island, flat land and the marine wind. Nowadays, Denmark is known as a wind-power kingdom in the world from these natural features.

Landscape architect Frode Birk Nielsen whose office in Aarhus is one of the pioneers proposed how the wind turbines should be constituted in the landscape. It was unexpected for me, because I had only knew his beautiful landscape designs in the city before interview. He already investigated how was the influence of a wind turbine in the landscape and wrote a thesis 25 years ago, and visited a lot of wind farm in the whole country to analyze the feature of scenery between wind turbines and the landscape. Then, he had continued to study based on this thesis, and "Wind Turbines and the Landscape" was already published 10 years ago, and this book has still existed as a bible in the trade. Before publishing this bible, layout of wind turbines was decided by elimination under the condition of the shape of site or line of road, but in these days, they must fulfill the obligation that is a part of environmental impact assessment (VVM=Vurderingar av Virkningar pa Miljoe) for the landscape after construction. Nowadays there are a few landscape architect do this work besides Frode Birk Nielsen.

Wind turbine in Denmark has a long history, but it was originally developed for a grinder same as Netherlands. It is only 20 years before that they start to set up as an aggregate called wind farm. The total number and each capability have improved rapidly in about 10 years, and the rate of electric power in Denmark is increasing 20% now. They already abandoned nuclear power generation and their target is 50% energy supply by wind power generation before 2025.

"Finally, the visual balance between artificial elements and nature decides the beauty of a synthetic landscape". This is his basic idea. Even then various factors make conditions for a plan, such as symbolic value or looking of wind turbine or consideration for historical landscape and the natural world, he has clearly "Aesthetics of Space" as a landscape architect. He confronts the artificial beauty and landscape of a turbine. When a wind turbine sets up in the flat land which easily catch a wind, unprecedented cultural landscape appears because wind turbine standing vertically in the sky is accentuated with the horizon each other.

In recent years, establishment at the sea that is more efficient and less influence on environment is on the increase. Although a huge wind power turbine like 150m high is installed, it is small existence in the landscape with only sea and the sky. In this case, the composition of a repetition or a line and especially the viewpoint from a distant view are important. Because there is no visual obstacle at sea, we can see from every direction by good visibility and the condition of light, and the figure of the white wind power turbine appeared beautifully on the blue sky and the blue sea when it is a good weather. In the cloudy sky, the turbine itself tones down a grayish colour fits into the landscape. Marine wind turbines can be a characteristic of seascape in the Denmark from now on.

His extensive technique from the proposal of scenery to the design of beautiful details stands up on the conscientiously in contexts of analysis or investigations and on enormous accumulation of image sketches for the design. "I would like to design wind turbine itself" gently pioneer talked still more possibility with a smile.
Vesa Honkonen’s office is in Helsinki and he is an architect but also he has a talent for extraordinary lighting design and for landscape architecture. “I don’t care the difference between architecture, landscape and city planning, and I try to make a plan for whole space across this border. Lighting design by our office is widely noticed but we just win the architecture competition for housing estate in Taivalahti, and our landscape design for Vantaa is invited one in five.” He told me with bright eyes.

Raisio City is located 15min by bus from Finnish ancient capital Turku, and it’s small city with population 25000. This area was a part of Viking road, and the main road from Sweden to Russia went through here 700 years ago. City had grown with this historical road, but the city centre was completely sliced in two to widen a street for highway in 1966, and it lost an identity of human scale in the city centre. The essential of this project is to give back a city centre to the people by his daring plan.

Mr. Honkonen picked out his first sketch for this project and smilingly said “Some architects show a finely rewrite of sketch as a first one, but this is a real first sketch! This means the two parts getting together like before.”

When he began this project, he went to meet the politician of Raisip with this sketch above all. After arrangement, Finnish casual style “Sauna meeting” was opened. Most of Finnish companies have a conference room with a sauna, and they continue to talk frankly with light meal. While they spent a sauna time, the politician delightfully said with tears “We want to restore our town before dividing as your drawing”.

In this way, this first sketch started as an actual project, and the central square was created after demolished pedestrian bridges at the first phase. The width of road was reduced two thirds of before, and wide square was designed along the road. The concrete pedestrian bridge, which was hundreds of meters and height 5 meters awkwardly connected two divided towns was taken away, and the people of Raisio has got the ground back. At first the officer of road section against this plan and continued a lot of arguing back and forth, but Mr, Honkonen proposed the map which the road of central Raisio lay on the top of the crowded one the capital Helsinki. “Don’t you think it is strange that the road of this town with 25,000 population is wider than the capital road with tens of thousands of people par a day” he said. This presentation led to achievement.

There are many devised ideas for gathering the people in the new central square. In order to soften the noise of cars, the linear fountain was planned along the road, and the spotlight falls on the symphony of a sound of water at night.

Novel net light was replaced to a concrete pedestrian bridge on the historical road that remade to a human scale and recovered its identity, and it is the symbol of new city centre. Net light enveloped the city centre and 220 small light hanging from the cables appeared like stars coming from the sky in the night. On the other hand, in the daytime fixtures project their shadows and make impressionable scenery on the blue sky. The base of this idea is from the scene of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”. The small of detail such a singing bird is Nightingale or Lark expresses the story coming in the night or day. He thought it is possible that such small details
and small fragments affects the urban scale and create the variation of landscape between night and day. He said "small scale things creating large scale space." The small fixtures giving lights to the darkness in the night and the shadow to the sky in the daytime was linked with his future of sensitivity of light and darkness.

Sometimes the other town’s officer asked him to make the same one because of beautiful light, but there is a promise not to make light to the other place in 10 years between Raisio city and Mr. Honkonen. He said "I don’t like to make copy of myself" and show me the fixture for the other town. There are hopping fixtures like dancing for the square; he said "I created the movement of light in the air".

While his friend waited for the traffic light to change under the net light, an old woman who knows Raisio town before 60’s spoke to him. “I’m proud of this new city centre”. This episode is that Vesa Honkonen was confident of his real success of this project.

1. Drawing of a light. When he plans the master plan of central square, he already has detail ideas of light fixture.
2. Before this project, pedestrian deck on the trunk road was only access between divided town for the people of Raisio.
3. Fixtures give off dim light to the night. Fixtures itself are under cover of darkness, and only light is floating in the night sky.
4. Fixture in the daytime. Dots and lines are drawing graphically on the blue sky landscape.
5. After sunset, Fixtures against the sunlight put a lot of dot-shadows to the red sky. Lighting fixture originally giving a light directs the landscape, and moreover, an aggregate of small scraps make a impressive scenery.
6. First sketch drawn by Vesa Honkonen. It was definitely described to unify the divided town in one.
7. Night scene plan for new square and reduced trunk road. Upper side is road and lower is square. Network of lights is express black dots. The line shining between road and square is a lighting fixture within the fountain structure.
8. Redevelopment master plan for Raisio city centre.
9. The fountain with fixture is designed along the clouded road and the sound of water soften the noise.
10. Stage and stands with roofs are constructed in the square.
11. The pole for cable with hanging small lights unify a streetlight and lights the both of road and pedestrians. It has both function and beauty.
12. The lights designed a substitute for a request of the same net light as Raisio city centre. They bright the night sky as dancing.
Västra Hamnen Sundspromenade

Just after this promenade accomplished, a businessman with a tie walked to the sea on the wood steps. When he approached waterside, he removed his tie and suit, and jumped into the sea. Confusing caretaker asked Jeppe Aagaard Andersson who designed the promenade "how should I do?". Jeppe immediately answered "All you have to do is arrange a towel".

Västra Hamnen (means western harbour) is seaside reclaimed land in Malmö which is third largest city in Sweden face to Denmark across the sea. Although it was a heavy industry area mainly dockyard, city planning is advanced as a sustainable ecological town with relocation of factories. It takes 35 minutes from Copenhagen capital of Denmark by train after Oresund bridge opened at 2000. This promenade is also designed by Danish landscape architect.

Bo01 area including this promenade was set a reconstruction plan at the beginning, and held the biggest housing exhibition in Europe "City of tomorrow" in 2001. The purpose of this housing area is sustainable city. But basic idea is not only ecological city, but also convenience and economically, profitable and suitable, happily and exciting, and moreover the beautiful city. Under this idea, public competition was held and the architects in charge of each four area were elected. Jeppe Aagaard Andersson is one of the winner of the competition for this promenade from many enrolment.

First impression of site for him was that one meter height stone embankment kept people at the distance from sea physically and visually. However, removing these stones was out of the question. This structure was conflict problem for the idea of competition that is making connection between people and sea. Nevertheless, he took advantage of his own statement and succeeded that people lead to sea by clever way.

His design covered embankment by wood steps and people can climb up and walk on the wooden walk easily and safety. This step makes the space widely because the step looks as an extension of a square, so that the person walking on the square feels an impulse to climb up the steps. Because they can see magnificent seascape, beautiful line of Oresund bridge and the landscape of the land of Denmark beyond the steps when it is good weather. People can sit down or stretch out on the steps kept widely. The steps on the seaside designed two sizes, and they divided person who wants to sit and see the seascape and to step down to the sea naturally. Because concrete steps on the water’s edge can serve as a shoreline, people extend a hand to the sea pleasantly.

Wooden steps are made of 205mm width and 70 mm thick Azorbe timber from Africa called Bongoshi in Japan. They are of course expensive compared with normal thin timber for wooden deck, but they keep their condition as they are in 100 year without any preservative treatment by chemicals. Because he designed as simple as possible and entrusted professional craftsman with detail as the position of catches, the wooden steps completed speedily and beautifully.

This promenade became popular soon beyond expectations. When the temperature of the water in the sea rises and the weather is good, the promenade is crowded with many people. Malmö city immediately requested Jeppe to design new swimming area, and he made a plan of 2000 square meters wooden deck made by same material beside Bo01. He designed three piers with 75 meter long to the sea.
1. Wooden steps covered over the stack of stones as embankment and make the square in front of apartment widely.
2. Embankment before covering by wooden steps makes the site separate from the sea.
3. The promenade is crowded more than expectation and is popular place in Malmo now. People sit down not only against the sea, but also against the square of housing estate.
4. The whole view of promenade. 300 meter length of wooden deck is good for the seaside walking along beautiful landscape.
5. Concrete steps reminds the water edge of beach.
6. The size of wooden steps is decided for easy construction, and the design tried to fit with various active pattern such as sitting, standing, walking or stretching.
7. Concrete steps makes a sense of distance shorter, and add safety.
8. Whole plan. Stick light made of glass is embedded into the pavement.
9. Lookout platform in Dania park next to the promenade. Young people dive into the sea when weather is good and warm.
10. New swimming area designed soon to control the congestion. Length is 70 meter and three piers lead the people to the sea.
Monica Gora is landscape Architect and also an artist who works in Malmo in Sweden. Her works are centripetal and attract a lot of people like a black hole.

When she suggests her ideas one after another, she appears to be enjoying what happen will be aroused by her projects and by surroundings of her works. People gather at her spatial art, fill and start to have a talk with another. Her works give an opportunity to see our society and surroundings from different points of view, because they realize the space as if we saw in the dream.

GLASS BUBBLE

"When I sketched my idea, everybody like it and they said OK, Let's do it." In this way, the organic form glasshouse looks like a dinosaur divides the ground into the new town bristling with box buildings. The baby-boom generation already began to retire in Sweden, that situation is as same as in a few year in Japan, a lot of housing estates have been built for the aged, and this glass bubble appeared in the courtyard in that kind of housing.

The courtyard surrounded by buildings like a big U-shaped does not get much sunshine but a sea breeze blows into from the opening. I asked how did she get this idea of glass bubble when she was asked to design this courtyard, she talked me with a beautiful smile "I asked to change the direction of building, but it's not accepted, then I did consider how I can make a big and rich garden, that’s it!".

Outside of glass bubble, she designed with plants that grow vigorously on a bleak land in northern Swedish landscape, but inside rich exotic abundant plants inhabited in the Mediterranean climate like Greece. We can see familiar plants like camellias, big blue lilies and @lily turf mondo grass in the inside, and the method taking the landscape of southern Europe into the garden is similar to way of “Shukkei (it means shrinking a longing landscape)” in Japanese traditional garden. The contrast of plants between outside and inside emphasis its characteristic each other. In the dark winter, this glass bubble becomes a warm luminous body. The space protected the glass skin is always full to the warm light, feeling a vitality and giving a peaceful time to their life.

TWO PIERS

Two pedestrians piers were accomplished on the gently slope face to the lake view. The people stopping at parking area of highway step forward to pears to look at the scenery, but it does not easily come into view because of structures. When they sense they are near to the piers, they take a step forward faster like the plane taxing down the runway. At the top of pears, they unify the dramatic landscape and marvel at the fantastic sight. Two pears is an encounter space for connecting the people and the landscape of beautiful lake.

JIMMYS

Jimmie was quietly crouching under the big tree. But they begin to stir by and by, and are romping around in the gentle park which has a lot of big trees like woods. Jimmie is the
sculpture feeling this kind of motion and energy. Malmo city needs the space for a day-care centre or a kindergarten because of increasing a birthrate these days, so that the city park is good openair space for childcare. Children play with Jimmie like friends. In the night, if you find Jimmy lit up, you must be under the illusion that you will find the big jewellery or encounter with E.T.

GARBAGE MUSEUM

Monica sometimes started digging garbage. She has an experience to reach 70’s garbage! Newspaper, films of travel tour or leftover hand cream to the time of those days has sealed up in the layer. All of any expensive things or the things with all someone’s heart are tied up a word “garbage”, and they are merely sleeping, without knowing whether they not to return the natural world or not. “Everybody hide garbage like concealing with soil and plants, but there are existing.” Monica said with an acute look on her face to face up to reality. This project done with an artist Gunilla Bendin, and this exhibition went around all over Sweden with a trailer truck as an environmental tour for high school students. Visitor can touch the garbage in the glass case with gloves or go through the an excavation site of garbage by virtual reality.

COMMON GROUND

Monica designed the shinning pink chairs for the glazed hall in the a university hospital. It may be possibly irregular using this energetic colour in the hospital which should be the space filled with gentle atmosphere, however, we surely understand a feeling which we were going to lost a passion in the depths of soul while eating lightly-flavoured food in the light colour room. Monica’s chair let the people excite and this lighting chair giving the energy to the bottom of heart is not only in the hospital but also outside of the building, and let the people’s heart open.

Landscape architects create the public space and it’s sometimes for relaxing or it sometimes serve as a stimulus. We can always look her own unshakable philosophy in her design. Landscape architecture’s work for her is not only aesthetically excellent but also carry out their duty for the happening by their works while they really consider the importance of designing space for the society.