

11.027 City to City

Session 2 Notes

PART I: Presentation of Student Ideas

Presentation Filming:

This course uses video recording to provide students an opportunity to improve their presentation styles through class discussion and 1-on-1 reviews with Professor Abbanat.

Tips for Capturing Audio on Film:

- Use a clip-on microphone
- Hide the wire beneath clothing

Ruth Millers' Presentation

Ruth Bio: Ruth is from a small town in Georgia about 1 hour outside of Atlanta. In her lifetime, the area where her town was located developed quickly, which caused the town's identity to move rapidly from rural to urban. Ruth is primarily interested in understanding sprawl and transportation in studies at MIT.

"Planning Issues of Boston and Copenhagen"

- 1) Density
 - a. Similar populations
 - b. Boston is larger
 - c. Copenhagen is significantly smaller
 - i. Why?
- 2) Transportation and Sprawl
 - a. Comparing the management of density within urban core between the two cities
 - i. Public transportation
 1. Use of bicycles
 - ii. Choosing to live in the city (housing availability)
 - iii. Growth Control
 - iv. Transportation for suburbs
 - v. Attitudes toward transportation
 - vi. How do people decide where to live/work?

Matthew Cibbo's Presentation

Matthew's Bio: Matthew is a sophomore at MIT from Easton, MA, in the Boston area. He has lived near Boston for his entire life, in a few different communities. He wanted to be a civil engineer and became an urban planner.

"Arts Sites and Districts"

- 1) Favorite sites to visit:
 - a. Opera house
 - b. Gardner Museum
 - c. JFK Library and Museum
 - d. *USS Constitution*
 - e. Museum of Fine Arts

- 2) Boston is seen as an educational/ cultural center for New England, but there is not a lot of continuity to its cultural sites.
 - a. The Freedom Trail: links historical sites;
 - b. Theater District: encompasses most of the entertainment venues
 - c. Museums are scattered.

- 3) How do Copenhagen's cultural sites compare with Boston's?
 - a. How are they arranged?
 - b. What is the quality of the cultural sites?
 - c. How are they planned to work together as a system?
 - i. As a tourist attraction?
 1. In Boston, they are the largest draw for tourists.

- 4) Background of Interest
 - a. During course 11.001, with Susan Silberberg; the class visited the Back Bay; the Fens; and the ICA in South Boston;
 - i. Boston plans areas for arts and culture as it develops different areas of the city.
 - b. How are areas of arts and culture developed in Copenhagen?
 - i. In 2002 Copenhagen was crowned the cultural capital of the world.
 - ii. It is a major hub for jazz in Europe.

David Lallemand's Presentation

David's Bio: David is a Junior majoring in civil engineering and urban planning at MIT. He comes from Paris, and has also lived in Thailand for 8 years, the Congo to 2 years, and Boston for about 5 years.

“Urban Issues: Comparing Boston and Copenhagen”

- 1) Three Primary Urban Issues:
 - a. Harbor Redevelopment
 - b. Pedestrian Areas
 - c. Urban Bicycling
- 2) Harbor Redevelopment:
 - a. Both on the ocean and in the harbor
 - b. Relationship between cities and waterfront
 - c. If/how they are changing it
- 3) Pedestrian Areas:
 - a. Copenhagen is famous for its pedestrian streets
 - b. Has been reclaiming land for pedestrians over time
 - c. How has it gone about doing that?
 - d. What is happening with the pedestrian areas in Boston?
 - e. Could the same reclamation happen in Boston?
- 4) Urban Bicycling
 - f. Bicycling is important in Copenhagen
 - g. Boston has some, but not a lot
 - h. Other cities also have varying levels of bike use (Shanghai, Thailand, etc)

Lucia Vielma’s Presentation

Lucia’s Bio: Lucia is from a little town in Texas called Eagle Pass, on the border of Mexico. It is not near anything except Mexico, which is about 1 mile away. It has a population of about 20,000 people. Urban planning is not a priority.

“Green Space”

- 1) Locations
 - a. Boston: The Common
 - b. Copenhagen: Tivoli Square
- 2) Issues
 - a. Weather (dealing with it)
 - b. Winter, snow, grayness
 - i. Frog Pond Ice-Skating in Boston
 - ii. Fountains, Skating rinks in Tivoli
- 3) Differences
 - a. Private Green Space
 - i. Boston’s Back Bay: small plots of green space
 - ii. Copenhagen: no private green space in front of the houses.
 - iii. Houses are along the channels.
 1. This could potentially be interesting.
- 4) Primary Interest – Housing
 - a. Public housing

- b. Affordable housing
- c. Housing types
- d. Private housing
- 5) Secondary Interest – Education
 - a. Bi-lingual education
 - b. English as a second-language
 - i. Tutored at a bi-lingual school in Boston

Tejus Kothari

Tejus's Bio: Tejus is a Senior and 1st year student in the MCP program at MIT. He is an engineering and city planning student. His primary interest is in transportation and how the city functions. He would like to use this research as a starting point for a thesis.

“Transit in Copenhagen and Boston”

- 1) Overview:
 - c. Transit systems:
 - i. System Age: Boston is very old (1890s + incremental expansion)
 - ii. Copenhagen much newer: 1st lines 2002, 2003.
 1. A line is under construction currently
 - d. Ownership:
 - i. Copenhagen: Private
 - ii. Boston: public
 - e. Ridership/Statistics/Headways:
 - i. Boston: 2-3 minutes up to 15 minutes.
 - ii. Copenhagen: Headways in peak are every 90 seconds.
 1. This system is much smaller than Boston's.
 2. Fares based on zonal system depending on how far you travel.
 - a. Fares within city = \$3.
 - b. 10 trip card yields 40% discount.
- 2) Research Areas:
 - a. Mass transit and auto ownership:
 - i. Incremental costs of modal shifts
 1. Expansion of ridership yields gross savings in economy
 - b. Transit governance:
 - i. Federal provision of capital costs, maintenance left to municipalities.
 - c. Financing
 - i. Value-capture techniques
 - ii. Using the increase in land-value that follows building of subway to help fund the project.

Overall Presentation Comments:

- 1) Focus Your Thesis
 - a. Narrow the focus of your presentation based on your primary interests;
 - b. Look for topics that have held your interest for quite a while;
 - c. When going through the ideas, think about which one resonates most with you.
- 2) Use Body Language
 - a. Use your hands to help create emphasis
 - b. Point to visual elements on the slides
 - c. Do not fidget or move in ways that distract the audience
- 3) Know Your Audience
 - a. Use terms that your audience will understand, or take the time to explain the terms you use if they might not be familiar with them
 - b. In a small group, make eye contact with listeners to keep them engaged
 - c. In larger groups, look out into the audience; make eye contact with some people to make the presentation feel more intimate.

PART II: Presentation by Denmark Expert, Jacob Friis

Jacob Friis Bio: Mr. Friis' wife is an alum and currently the Chair of Visiting Committee for MIT/DUSP. He is an alum of the MIT Sloan School and an Honorary Danish Consul in Boston. One role he has as a representative of the Royal Danish Government is to promote tourism, education, and interaction. He has done a lot of public speaking, especially recently, around the 200th anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen.

“Copenhagen and Denmark: A land of fairy tales and great design”

- 1) Presentation Structure:
 - a. Overview of Denmark with focus on Copenhagen
 - b. Links to research and background sources
 - c. Photos
 - d. Study Themes
 - e. Q&A
- 2) Overview
 - a. Site Context:
 - i. Copenhagen is connected to Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. Many bridges have recently been constructed, so it is now possible to drive between Sweden and Denmark. It maintains a stable population, which is small. The mainland peninsula is called Jutland and is mostly farmland and forest. The major cities include Copenhagen, which is located on the Scania Island. Both city and farmland are maintained

through very strict zoning, which means that developers cannot make a lot of money, but also that open spaces remain open and cities remain dense.

ii. City Center

1. 150/200 years ago, lakes and fortifications built, which were never used. They now act as lakes for recreation.
2. The Center is home to Parliament, the Opera House, Queens Castle, and other cultural destinations.
3. Appearance:
 - a. Building height is restricted in the city center.
 - b. Red roofs (tiles) are common very few asphalt singles, a similar material to bricks.
 - c. A few windmills are visible in the background.
 - i. 20% of Denmark is covered by wind energy

b. Population

- i. Stable population over the last 100 years.
- ii. About 5.1 million people live in Denmark.
- iii. Greater Copenhagen has a population of about 1.7 million.

c. Climate

- i. Copenhagen's climate is similar to Boston's, but the summers are cooler. Winters are less extreme than in Boston.

d. History

- i. Founded in 1167.
- ii. Harbor History:
 1. The city was built on the entrance of the Baltic Sea.
 - a. Could require customs for ships trying to pass through.
 - i. Important source of income for the royal family.
 2. Major Changes:
 - a. Ships used to come into the harbor and stay for many days.
 - b. Now, container ships stay for an hour or two.
 - c. Warehouses were no longer needed, and many of them have been converted.
 - d. The notion of the canals and inner harbor has changed dramatically.
 3. Cultural Uses:
 - a. They built a humongous opera house (gift from a large shipping company) across from Queens Castle on the harbor side (access via a boat or a road).

- e. Infrastructure
 - i. Public transportation is very great
 - ii. Public bathrooms are clean and functional
 - iii. Many people commute via bicycle. Streets have dedicated bike paths.
 - 1. Rights of way
 - a. Pedestrian
 - b. Bicycle
 - c. Car
- f. Politics
 - i. Democracy, but with a Royal Family and a Queen.
 - 1. The Queen does not have any parliamentary power.
 - a. They have 2 sons.
- g. Standard of Living
 - i. People like living well, recycling, having well-designed things.
- h. Public Space:
 - i. Stroegtet is a pedestrian street in Copenhagen. It acts as a large public gathering space.
 - ii. Old buildings are juxtaposed against new buildings.
 - iii. Canals
 - 1. Built by war prisoners from years ago.
 - 2. It was an area focused on commerce and trade.
 - 3. 20 years ago, they became an entertainment center.
 - 4. Now the canals are becoming very upscale.
- i. Safety:
 - i. Copenhagen is a very safe city
 - ii. Strict gun control: hunting rifles are legal, it is an elite activity;
 - 1. in general guns are difficult to obtain
 - iii. Major crimes:
 - 1. Bicycle thefts;
 - 2. Drug users doing small break-ins.

3) Research and Background Sources

- a. www.sk.kk.dk
- b. Bicycle Account, 2004.
 - i. Statistics on Bicycle use: 30% of people bike to work.
 - ii. People are somewhat less formal in their work dress
 - iii. Bicycle theft: one of the big crime statistics
- c. Planning Goals:
 - i. Designer public furniture: phone booths, park benches, waiting areas, etc.
 - 1. Competitions will be held to develop designs for these things.
 - ii. Excellent Lighting:
 - 1. Danes love light

2. Improve light and illumination of both the streetscape and historical landmarks
3. Branding: “City of Cyclists”

d. Weblinks

- i. Architecture Course:
http://homepage.mac.com/bogronlund/3_316_2005.htm
- ii. *Scale* organizes tours for visiting architects:
<http://www.scaledenmark.dk/site.html>

4) Possible Study Topics

- a. Oerestaden (mixed use development between the airport and Copenhagen)
- b. Neighborhood Revitalization
- c. Affordable Housing
- d. Harbor Frontage
- e. Transportation:
 - i. Small changes: ticket for both bus and train (zone tickets); bridge construction; traffic calming – interstate for long distances and then country-wide standards for speed.
- f. Commune:
 - i. There was a small army barracks in the city of Copenhagen.
 - ii. In the 1960s and 1970s, a group of hippies occupied it.
 - iii. It still exists.
 - iv. Residents are starting to want more amenities, and it is getting somewhat more civilized.