ECOLOGIES OF STONE
SEMINAR 1 – AARHUS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Dato:
25.04.2023

The first "Ecologies of Stone" seminar, held at Aarhus School of Architecture on April 24th and 25th, marked the start of the three-year D.F.F. exploratory network project. This interdisciplinary seminar brought together a diverse group of experts to explore aspects of stone within architecture, construction, and environmental sustainability. Partner institutions, including the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norges Geologiske Undersøkelse (NGU), Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), the University of Waterloo, The Royal Academy in Copenhagen, and industry partners Lundhs (Larvik, Norway) and Webb Yates Engineers (London), actively contributed to the two-day event, integrating lectures, debates, and workshops.

Day 1: The New Stone Age
The seminar commenced with a presentation by Steve Webb, highlighting the significance of stone as a constructive material. The lecture inspired a discussion where various experts from partner institutions and industries shared their findings and observations - shedding light on stone's technical, aesthetic, and environmental attributes in an intersection between architectural design, geology, and landscape. The discussions gravitated toward stone's durability, sustainability, and resilience.

Day 2: Multi-disciplinary workshop
The second day of the seminar focused on quarries, waste reuse, post-extraction landscapes, and environmental implications. Participants engaged in two brainstorming sessions, where they collectively answered two questions, "What is a quarry as an ecological landscape?" and "What is stone as a 21st-century material?" These discussions fostered a diverse interexchange of ideas and enabled the participants to create an inventory of knowledge as a basis for the future development of the project.

Conclusion: The “Ecologies of Stone” first seminar brought together a wide range of expertise and perspectives in the field. The participation of partner institutions and industry partners from multiple disciplines added richness to the discussions, enhancing the understanding of stone as a constructive material and its ecological implications. The seminar provided a platform for multi-disciplinary collaboration, encouraged dialogues and set the stage for future research and exploration within the D.F.F. scientific network project.

Moving forward, the insights and ideas generated during the seminar will serve as a foundation for the project's continued efforts in exploring sustainable practices related to stone. We look forward to building upon the outcomes of this seminar and continuing the journey toward establishing ecologically responsible approaches to the utilization of stone in the built environment.