

PhD Course Nordic Light and Colours

held at NTNU in April 2012

Our visual experience of space is formed in an interaction between light, colour and human perceptual ability. Even in a worldwide perspective there are, however, very few research projects or educational initiatives that investigate this interaction as a coherent field of knowledge. In April 2012 a unique PhD course on light and colour was held at NTNU, with funding from NordForsk and participants from four Nordic countries.

The PhD course was initiated from the large Nordic research project SYN-TES: Human colour and light synthesis (www.konstfack.se/SYN-TES), which was carried out during 2010-2011 by an interdisciplinary group of researchers and practical light and colour experts from Nordic universities and companies. In this, Professor Barbara Matusiak from the Light and Colour Group at NTNU had an important role with special emphasis on daylight. One of the aims of the project was to enhance collaboration and understanding between different professions and disciplines working with colour and light; education at the PhD-level is a very suitable arena for this.

The course in Trondheim was led by Professor Barbara Matusiak together with docent Karin Fridell Anter from University College of Arts, Crafts and Design (Konstfack) in Stockholm. The approach was genuinely interdisciplinary, with as much emphasis on light as on colour and involving a diversity of approaches such as physics, architecture, perception psychology, performance art, lighting design and health and care sciences. Apart from lectures, the course included workshops where participants could investigate different aspects of colour and light in the Room laboratory and Daylight laboratory of NTNU and at interesting indoor and outdoor places in Trondheim. The final step of the course is the writing of scientific essays that are to include both light and colour issues. In total the course gives 7,5 ECTS.



Not only the lecturers but also the course participants represented a very broad competence. The course was open to PhD candidates at Nordic universities, with the demand that their thesis work should deal with light and/or colour. The seventeen participants were active in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland and belonged to professions and disciplines such as civil engineering, art, architecture, nursing, design, environmental psychology, and architecture. This opened for many possibilities to learn from each other and to develop valuable professional connections for the future.

The Light and colour group at NTNU hopes to be able to give the course again in spring 2014.

Barbara Matusiak

Karin Fridell Anter

Lecturers and workshop leaders

Professor Monica Billger	Architecture, Chalmers Univ. of Technology, Gothenburg
Professor Alex Booker	Artist, Light and colour group, NTNU, Trondheim
Professor Jan Ejhed	Lighting design, KTH lighting lab, Stockholm
Docent Karin Fridell Anter	Leader of SYN-TES project, Konstfack, Stockholm
PhD Cecilia Häggström	Artist and interior designer, Gothenburg University
Associate professor Ulf Klarén	Perception studies, Konstfack, Stockholm
Professor John Mardaljevic	Daylight Modelling, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK
Professor Barbara Matusiak	Architecture, Light and colour group, NTNU, Trondheim
Associate professor Karin Søndergaard	Kunstakademiets Arkitektskole, Copenhagen
Professor Arne Valberg	Biophysics, Light and colour group, NTNU, Trondheim
Docent Helle Wijk	Health and care sciences, Gothenburg University

