



HOW DOES HAMAR VIEW ITSELF AND HOW DOES IT WANT TO BE?

The redesigning of Stortorget Square aims for citizens to question themselves about their city and work together to improve it.

Hamar's Kommune decided to take a pioneer approach to the construction of the new Stortorget Square. Instead of handing the residents a finished square, the residents will be able to participate in a collective brainstorming process that will determine Stortorget's new configuration. The project name is dreamhamar, and Ecosistema Urbano is the architecture firm and think tank which created the network design process. Ecosistema Urbano will be in Hamar from August to December to share with Hamar's citizens how they see the city and what they dream for Stortorget Square. All Hedmark residents are invited to join the free on-site workshops that will take place on weekdays and weekends from September to November at the Basarbygningen, facing Stortorget Square and say how they want this main space to become.

For Belinda Tato, partner of Ecosistema Urbano, dreamhamar combines two social and urban trends, "*The local municipality (Kommune) is giving it's residents a wonderful opportunity to have a say in how they want a public space to be and work together with the architects. Also, dreamhamar will transform Stortorget in a meeting place where online interactions related to thinking about the new main square and the interactions that physically take place on the square will combine into new ways of using and understanding Stortorget.*" She has a clear objective in mind: "*I want to be able to look at a Lonely Planet book and see that they have changed their description of Hamar.*"

Dreamhamar has three working areas that will take place simultaneously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. Hamar's residents know the city, the square, and what they want the square for. During 3 months their knowledge and ideas, dreams and aspirations, will be put together in order to design and build the new Stortorget Square. It is a creative, open and transparent way of conceptualizing Stortorget Square by inviting everybody to participate in the design of the new square. Citizens are invited to participate in the public events and 10 workshops led by Creative Guests, Community Activators and the Local Lab Team (the people from Ecosistema Urbano working from Hamar). These workshops will focus on 5 general topics related to public space: Technology, Activities, Environment, People, and Seasonal Strategy.

DIGITAL HAMAR. Stortorget will become a digital square by means of a large and international system of integrated communication and participation tools that open the project to a global network. Anybody interested in dreamhamar will be able to follow the process on dreamhamar.org, and participate in the online workshops.

URBAN DESIGN. From research to design, a multidisciplinary team of professionals – architects, urban designers, sociologists, engineers, artists... - will identify the needs expressed by Hamar and Hedmark's residents, and develop creative solutions for the construction of the square. The urban design will finish in June 2012.

Ecosistema Urbano is already working on dreamhamar from their office at the Kommune. From mid September on, they will have an office open to the public located at the former bike shop in the Basarbygningen, facing Stortorget Square.

Opening event: **September 17th**

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Belinda Tato, please call Noa Peer at 953 00 988 or send us an email at dreamhamar@gmail.com