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Is it possible to use design when relocating a city?

In the northern part of Sweden the mining industry continues to expand and, in certain areas, the ground is crumbling under entire cities. This poses enormous challenges to the survival of such cities and may force their populations to relocate. But is it possible to relocate whilst safeguarding and transferring parts of, or entire societies? How can this be done effectively? This is the challenge set for City Move Interdesign 2009.

SVID, Swedish Industrial Design Foundation believe that better solutions can be achieved by using modern design methods. City Move Interdesign 2009 is the main activity in a project about how to move a society in a positive way, whatever the reason is. The project will look at new possibilities to create new spaces for people both in a more humane and creative way where homes, workplaces, tourist attractions and meeting places have to be left behind or relocated. City Move is focusing on the importance of involvement from the local community and collecting ideas and thoughts from the people involved in the relocation. City Move is an Icsid Interdesign - a two-week workshop where an international team works to solve problems that has both local and global relevance.

The Workshop will take place in Gällivare far up in Sweden, north of the polar circle, from March 22 to April 3, 2009. The program will be exiting with a lot of work but also exiting visits and activities, such as skiing or dogsled. Approximately 35 persons will participate in the workshop, and in order to participate, you should have an interest in building social structures and the development of societies.

- Design processes and design competences are important sources of creativity and constructive new thinking, says Claes Frössén, Project Manager SVID, Swedish Industrial Design Foundation. A combination of different design competences and other specialists can together create solutions of great value. The user focused design process is a creative way of finding solutions from a holistic point of view.

In order to participate in City Move Interdesign, a formal application is required. The application period closes on July 31, 2008. Details on the application and a preliminary program are available at www.svid.se/citymove

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SVID, the Swedish Industrial Design Foundation aims to improve the awareness within the private and public sectors of the importance of design as a competitive tool and to encourage the integration of design methodology into their activities.