



The Hot Tub Trio

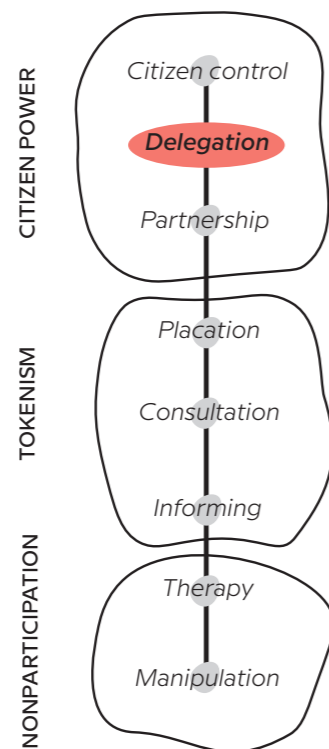
Heitu pottarnir á Drangsnesi

LOCATION

Drangsnæs, Iceland

TIME PERIOD

Since 1997



THE PROJECT

The “Hot Tub Trio” project is a public open-air space with three hot tubs and a bench. There is a public parking area by the hot tubs and a small service house with changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities. Initially, the project was only intended as a pet project and wasn’t really meant to tackle any challenges. But as time passed, it has become a tool in order to promote tourism in Drangsnæs and encouraging socialisation in the settlement.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

The town of Drangsnæs can be described as remote by its geographical location. Indeed, the first main road is 20 km away from the settlement. This makes it difficult for locals to access daily life facilities, such as medicine. Moreover, the access can be difficult in winter due to heavy snow. Drangsnæs has **very few planned public areas**. Most of them are green spaces and wild nature but there is no coherent network of public spaces or green ways that connect them together. The public spaces are scattered throughout the small community and the boundaries between public and private spaces are rather blurred.

INITIATION AND ACTORS

Two major actors have been involved in the project. The first

ones are local residents who wanted to create a pleasant place to relax and connect. The second one is the community council with its financial support and willingness to develop a social platform and attract visitors.

ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

From the very beginning of the project, the local community has been involved in each steps. When in 1997, an earth drill hit a powerful geothermal water vein, children of Drangsnæs rapidly asked for a swimming pool. With the help of a local farmer who brought three fish craters, the locals gave birth to the “Hot Tub Trio”. In this project, the financial help of the community council has been crucial. Indeed, it has allowed some improvement in the infrastructures, such as the parking lot or the service house.

More broadly, we must highlight the fact that the local community has had to cultivate creative thinking in order to find solutions to various issues that have faced them.

RESULT

With almost 25 years of hindsight, it seems that the project has exceeded its initial goals which were to make use of the hot water and create a pleasant place in the village. The “Hot Tub Trio” has indeed brought the community closer, attracted visitors and encouraged communication between tourists and locals. Consequently, there are numerous beneficiaries of the project, from the local fishermen, who can enjoy the tubs after they come home from the sea, to the local businesses which have benefited from the increased attractiveness of the village.



People in the hot pots on a windy day
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Part of the artwork which is embedded in the surrounding rocks_Samper Mireya
©Mireya Samper - photo by Júlí



The hot pots
©Regína Hrönn Ragnarsdóttir



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Drangsnæs, Westfjords, Iceland

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