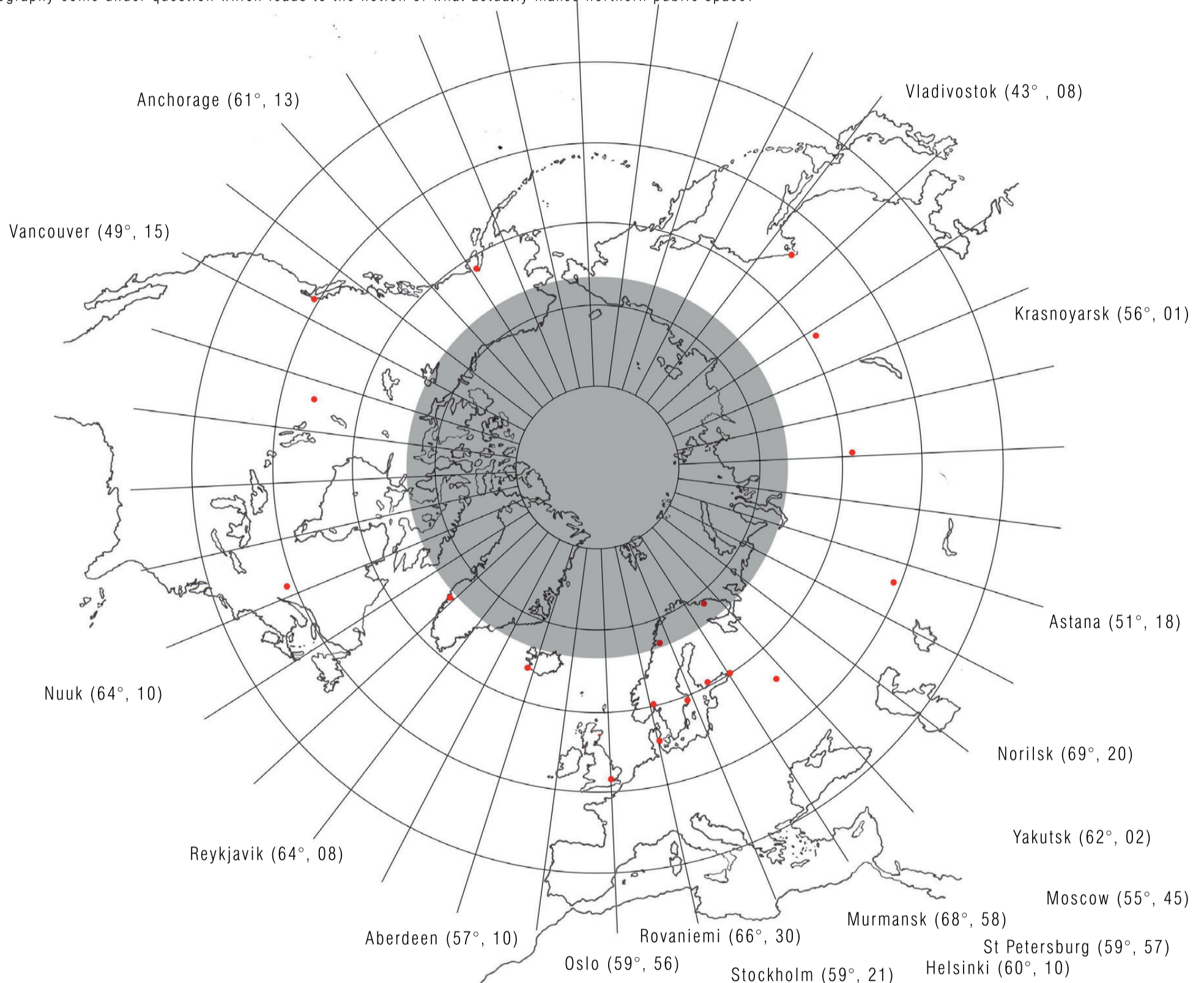


In Search Of Cold Spaces

A Study On Northern Public Space

The idea of north is one which grasps the imagination of most cities across the world, the divide between people living on the north or south bank of a river provides an identity within that city. Put on a global scale one can see the northern cities in a similar context, provided an individual character through global circumstance. However in an increasingly globalised world these peripheral settlements are under threat and visions of piazzas in the north seem inevitable with southern attitudes being applied to northern latitudes. The appropriateness of such spaces and their relationship with the local climate and psycho geography come under question which leads to the notion of what actually makes northern public space?



This study intends to investigate the nature of public space and examine the characteristic which inhabit and define these spaces within northern cities. To observe similar qualities or planning found in response to their more temperate climate and how they function within the city as a whole.

This can only be achieved through intimate research in the analysis and mapping of these spaces to give the best overall picture. I propose to explore at noon each day these public squares, streets or parks, or whichever space provides this spirit of public realm and openness within the city. To then proceed to examine the planning and situation of the space and how it works to these colder climates through topography or urban grain.

Sketching will be important in cataloguing these observations in addition to capturing the spirit and feelings evoked by these poches in the urban fabric. This will also aid in providing the aspect of time required to study the workings of public space which can all too easily be summed up by a photograph of mere face value and without the rigour of time.

The research would begin through Scandinavia and travel to the many large cities around the Baltic Sea, in addition to the large town settlements further north. To then stop at the large cities in eastern Russia before travelling on the Trans-Siberian to examine the more isolated northern settlement. To then continue through Alaska and Canada and eventually pass through Greenland and Iceland. In total it is anticipated to take between a month and a half to two months to complete this study with it taking place between August and September to catch the change in season in these public spaces.

It is the intention at the end of the journey to exhibit the finds locally to contribute a contemplated and considered research to the discussion in this local search for northern space.