

## Aarhus School of Architecture // Design School Kolding // Royal Danish Academy

### Laboratory Encounters

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# Nordic Encounters

## Travelling Ideas of Open Space Design and Planning

### Programme and Proceedings

10<sup>th</sup> International World in Denmark Conference, June 12, 13, 14 2014



# Colophon



## **Organizer**

The Research Group of Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism  
Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management  
University of Copenhagen  
Rolighedsvej 23  
DK 1958 Frederiksberg  
[www.ign.ku.dk](http://www.ign.ku.dk)

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## **Chair of Scientific Committee**

Ellen Marie Braae

## **Conference coordinator**

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Frederiksberg Campus  
University of Copenhagen  
Bülowsvej 17  
1870 Frederiksberg C  
Denmark

[www.windk.dk](http://www.windk.dk)

[www.facebook.com/WorldinDenmark](https://www.facebook.com/WorldinDenmark)

# Preface



## When the Nordic Meets the Global

Welcome to the 10th anniversary of the World in Denmark conference! For a decade, prominent designers, planners, and scholars from across the globe have contributed to this series of conferences, hosted by the Research Group of Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism at the University of Copenhagen. While the theme of the conference is changing each year, the concept stays intact: to build a platform where international capacities within the field can meet in Denmark to discuss a theme of current importance, to inspire a cross-disciplinary audience, and to take part in the joint professional discussions. Here, mutual exchanges between usual borders like theory and practice, disciplines and nationalities, etc. can take place and perhaps grow into travelling ideas.

At present, Landscape Architecture is experiencing a deep interest as a field of knowledge from its "professional neighbors". Responding to this interest as an institution of research and education, we want to use the jubilee of the World in Denmark conference as an occasion to investigate Denmark and the Nordic in relation to the world. Rising from periphery to center of attention, landscape architects and urbanists worldwide are currently focusing on the good city life, welfare design and site specificity as a particular Danish or Nordic phenomenon.

"Super Danish", "New Nordic", and "Scandinavian welfare design" are among numerous seductive names that coin planning and architecture practices from the North in recent years. Drawing on historic recognition of design traditions, the Scandinavian approach has recently experienced a profound revitalization.

Landscape architects and urban designers from Denmark and the other Nordic countries have increasingly become exporters of design solutions to places like Beijing, New York and Christchurch, while Copenhagen repeatedly receives awards for its liveability. Nordic planning is often promoted as particularly human, ecologically sustainable, and democratic.

However, looking beyond the immediate branding effect, what themes and values, methods and challenges are current in Nordic urban space design and planning in the early 21st century? Where are the gaps between imaginary and reality? How does the Nordicness relate to what is going on in other regions and cultures and what does it potentially have to offer? Which movements, paradoxes, conflicts and challenges exist? Where are the blind alleys? And how do these current trends reflect traditions of design and placemaking exploring site, process and nature?

The issue goes beyond Denmark and the Nordic countries. It concerns what it means to intervene in cities and landscapes in a global era. What happens when western designers work in places whose local languages are new to them? How do general ideas about improving cities migrate and mutate, synergize and conflict in the encounter with specific contexts and their traditions, narratives and politics? What are the potentials and losses of producing traditions – such as the Danish or Nordic – in open space design and planning?

Thus, this conference invites contributors from landscape architecture, urban design, heritage- and urban studies, geography, anthropology, ethnology, art history and more to discuss how design and planning mindsets travel.

*Thank you all for coming and sharing!*

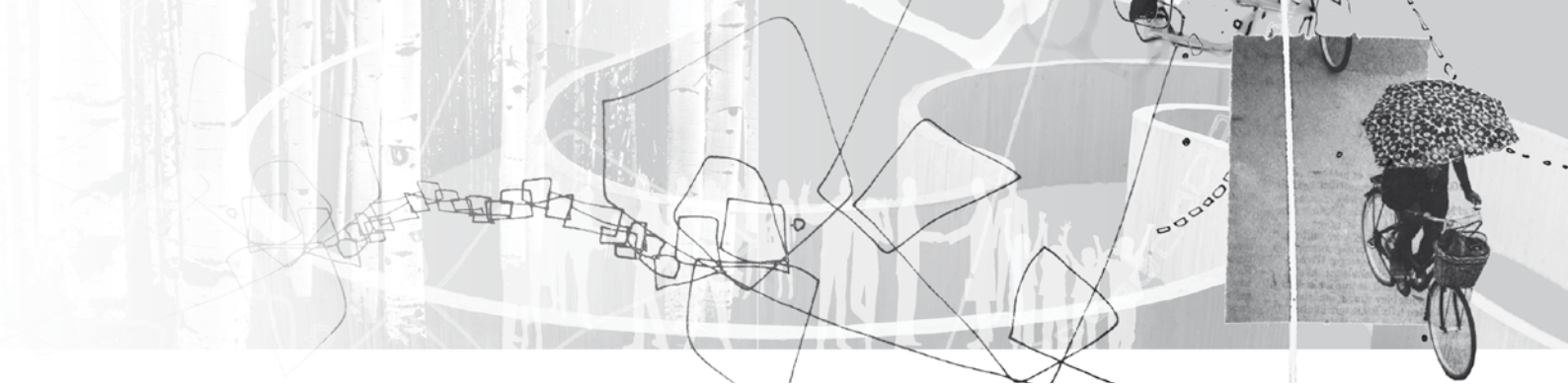
*On behalf of The Research Group of Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism, Scientific Committee, University of Copenhagen, June 2014*

*Bettina Lamm and Ellen Marie Braae*

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## The Research Group for Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism

*The academic research group's primary assignment is to provide, develop and communicate knowledge of Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism: More specifically theories and methods for analysis, design and strategies for the transformation of the urban landscape.*

In our research we are focusing on the aesthetic, architectonic, artistic language and its significance for the history, theory and methods of the profession and its representation. We regard it as an architectural skill in programming, design and planning. In particular we are interested in the transformation of the urban landscape owing to changes in production and climate. Research is carried out on methods for analysis of works, context and procedure from constructive and functional problems to societal and artistic problems and in methods for planning urban landscapes within the discipline landscape- and development-planning and all kinds of representation.

With the overall focus on the architectonic quality of space our objective is to raise the academic and professional status of Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism. Our scientific areas in focus:

- Sustainable transformation of the post-industrial, urban landscape
- Theories, methods and practices for managing change in qualitative ways, i.e. through transformation, site-specificity, temporary interventions etc.
- Language and significance in Landscape Architecture in the Western world
- Academic and artistic methodology and theory.

## MSc in Landscape Architecture at the University of Copenhagen

*UC's MSc programme in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design combines knowledge from several fields of knowledge, mainly from architecture, life sciences and social sciences. Our programme is offered in English and each year we admit 70 students.*

During the two-year MSc programme in Landscape Architecture our students work with design, planning and analysis, in order to create liveable and sustainable urban areas and landscapes, which people use actively and thus bring to life.

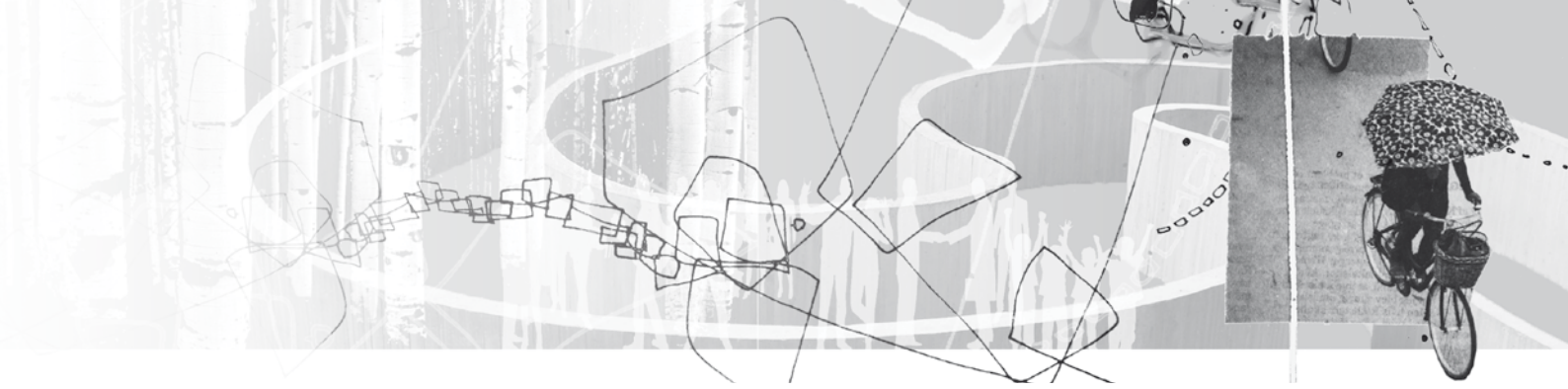
At the University of Copenhagen we offer three specialisations within Landscape Architecture: 1) Urban Design, 2) Green Space Management, and 3) Landscape Planning. Within these fields we teach our students to undertake programming, planning, design and management at local and regional scales, developing competences in architectural method, natural and social sciences.

We train our landscape architect students as highly skilled project managers who are able to handle complex and unpredictable work situations that often require new solution models. They achieve a high level of professionalism, which will benefit their future career as a landscape architect.

For more info: [studies.ku.dk/masters/landscape-architecture/](https://studies.ku.dk/masters/landscape-architecture/)

*"Copenhagen is the place to be when you study landscape architecture because the city is in front when it comes to new urban spaces and sustainable transformation projects."*

Fernando, MSc in Landscape Architecture



# June 12 – Programme



09:30 - 10:00 Arrival, registration and coffee & croissants

## Nordic narratives and traditions

10:00 - 10:10 Welcome

*Bettina Lamm, University of Copenhagen*

10:10 - 10:20 Introduction

*Keynote Moderator: Paola Viganò, l'Università Iuav di Venezia, Italy*

10:20 - 11:00 Contemporary Nordic Architecture and Urban Design

*Keynote speaker: Michael Asgaard Andersen, Chalmers, Denmark & Sweden*

11:00 - 11:15 Short break

## Site, process, landscape

11:15 - 11:45 Snøhetta Works

*Keynote speaker: Jenny Osuldsen, Snøhetta, Norway*

11:45 - 12:15 Creating Deep Forms in Urban Nature: The Peasant's Approach

*Keynote speaker: Kongjian Yu, Turenscape and Harvard Graduate School of Design, China & USA*

12:15- 13:00 Dialogue between keynote speakers

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch at the Greenhouse

## Liveability, welfare, democracy

14:00 - 14:30 People First Design

*Keynote speaker: Jeff Risom, Gehl Architects, Denmark & USA*

14:30 - 15:00 From ego-design, to eco-design towards network design

*Keynote speaker: Belinda Tato, ecosistema urbano, Spain*

15:00 - 15:45 Dialogue between keynote speakers

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee break with music by the Faroese vocal ensemble Mpiri

16:15 - 16:30 Sum up

*Moderator: Paola Viganò*

16:30 - 17:00 Plenary discussion

19:00 Conference dinner at Allehånde Café



# Keynote Speakers

## Paola Viganò, Università IUAV of Venice, Italy

Paola Viganò, architect and urbanist, is Full Professor in Urbanism at Università IUAV of Venice and at EPFL Lausanne. Guest professor in several schools of Architecture (KU Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve Belgium; Aarhus Denmark, Harvard GSD...), she is the coordinator of the Program in Urbanism at the Università IUAV PhD School. In 2005 she was among the founders of the European Postgraduate Master in Urbanism EMU (a joint program among UPC Barcelona, TU Delft, KU Leuven, Università IUAV, Venezia). In 2013 she received the French Grand Prix de l'Urbanisme et de l'Art Urbain in France. In 1990 she founded Studio together with Bernardo Secchi and has won several international competitions (among the realized projects: the park Spooroord and Theaterplein in Antwerp together with the city Structure plan, a system of public spaces in Mechelen, the cemetery in Courtrai, the public spaces in La Courrouze, Rennes (in realization), the masterplan and the hostel in De Hoge Rielen...). In 2009 and 2012 Secchi and Viganò have been one of the 10 teams selected for the "Grand Paris project" and for the "New Moscow". Together they published *Antwerp. Territory of new Modernity*, 2009. In 2011-2012 Studio has worked on a vision for Brussels 2040 and Lille 2030 and now on Montpellier Projet Urbain 2040. Studio is today part of the Atelier International du Grand Paris.

[www.iuav.it/Ateneo1/docenti/architettu/docenti-st/Paola-Viga/--short-cu/](http://www.iuav.it/Ateneo1/docenti/architettu/docenti-st/Paola-Viga/--short-cu/)



## Michael Asgaard Andersen, Chalmers University of Technology, Denmark & Sweden

Michael Asgaard Andersen is Associate Professor and Head of Division at Chalmers University of Technology, Department of Architecture. He was co-curator of the exhibition *New Nordic: Architecture & Identity* at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (2012). He is educated as an architect MAA and holds an M.Arch. from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and a Ph.D. from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' School of Architecture.

Andersen has published numerous articles in books and magazines, including *RIBA Journal*, *Architectural Research Quarterly*, *Arkkitenti*, *Nordic Journal of Architecture* and *Arkitektur DK*. He is the author of the book *Jørn Utzon: Drawings and buildings* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2014) as well as the editor of *Nordic Architects Write: A documentary anthology* (Routledge, 2008) and co-editor of *New Nordic: Architecture & Identity* (Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, 2012) and *Paradoxes of Appearing: Essays on art, architecture and philosophy* (Lars Müller Publishers, 2009).

[www.chalmers.se/en/Staff/Pages/michael-andersen.aspx](http://www.chalmers.se/en/Staff/Pages/michael-andersen.aspx)



# Keynote Speakers

## Jenny Osuldsen: Snøhetta, Norway

Snøhetta AS began as a collective practice combining architecture and landscape architecture. Snøhetta's main office is situated in Oslo and expanded in 2004 with an office in NYC. It is an international office based on the Nordic model with employees from all over the world. Since winning the well publicized international competition for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in 1989, Snøhetta has continued to establish a reputation for creating important and high quality designs with integrity and timeless character.

The equitable in-house connection between landscape architecture, architecture, interior and graphic design has allowed Snøhetta to develop a unique focus that both respects and illuminates the often ignored or unseen characteristics of context and program. Landscape and architecture have been developed into a single idea creating a new and emerging spirit for architectural practices, worldwide.

Jenny B. Osuldsen is educated as Landscape architect in Norway (MLArch) and in the USA. She has been working in Snøhetta since 1995 and is one of six partners in Snøhetta. She is also Professor in Landscape Architecture at the University of Life Science at Ås in Norway and Guest Professor at Ax:son-Johnson Institute of Sustainable Urban Design SUDes at the University of Lund in Sweden.

[www.snohetta.com](http://www.snohetta.com)



## Kongjian Yu: Turenscape & Harvard GSD, China & USA

Kongjian Yu, fellow of American Society of Landscape Architects, received his Doctor of Design at the Harvard GSD. He is the founder and Dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape. He founded Turenscape, an internationally awarded firm of architecture, landscape architecture and urbanism. Yu defines landscape and urban design as the Art of Survival and is well known for his ecological stance, which is often against the resistance from local authorities. Yu's projects received numerous international awards due to their ecologically sound and culturally sensitive design.

Yu publishes widely, his current publications include *The Beautiful Big Foot*, *Landscape as Ecological Infrastructure* and *The Art of Survival*. Through his works, Yu tries to reconstruct ecological infrastructure across scales as alternative infrastructure to solve multiple environmental problems and to define a new aesthetics (the big feet aesthetics). His ecological approach to urbanism has been implemented in over 200 cities in China and abroad, and have had significant impact on national policies aiming at improving the environment in China, for which he was recognized with numerous awards and honors by the central government. The most recent book: *Designed Ecologies: The Landscape Architecture of Kongjian Yu* (William Saunders ed., Birkhauser, 2012) explores Yu's work in eleven essays by the noted authors and extensively documents 22 of selected projects.

[www.turenscape.com/english](http://www.turenscape.com/english)



# Keynote Speakers

## Jeff Risom: Gehl Architects, Denmark & USA

Jan Gehl along with colleagues and students undertook the first 'Public Space Public Life Survey' of Copenhagen's streets and spaces in 1968. In 2000, Gehl and Sørenholt established Gehl Architects transforming Jan's 40 years of extensive research into practice, with the aim of creating cities for people. Copenhagen continues to serve as Gehl's living laboratory.

At Gehl we focus on the relationship between the built environment and people's quality of life. Gehl is an urban research and design consultancy. We address global trends with a people-focused approach, utilizing empirical analysis to understand how the built environment can promote human flourishing. We apply this analysis to strategic planning and human-centred design to empower citizens, decision makers, company leaders, and organizations.

As Managing Director of Gehl Studio – New York|San Francisco, Jeff leads the US subsidiary of Gehl Architects Copenhagen, overseeing design, planning and research projects throughout the Americas. Jeff works at the intersection of urban design, governance, business and culture to deliver projects that are economically viable and socially equitable while efficiently using energy, land and time. Jeff has worked with both public and private clients as well as non-governmental organizations in Europe, the USA, Latin America, India and China. Jeff is an active teacher and lecturer, speaking at conferences around the world and is guest lecturer at Harvard GSD, U. Penn, London School of Economics, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art and the Danish Institute for Study Abroad.

[www.gehlarchitects.com](http://www.gehlarchitects.com)



## Belinda Tato: ecosistema urbano, Spain

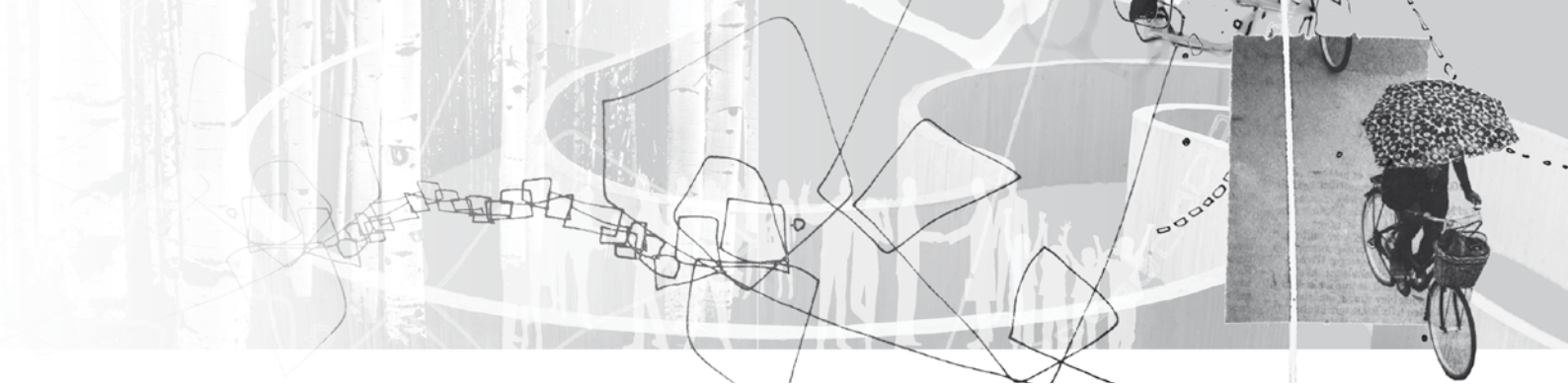
Belinda Tato is co-founder and co-director of the firm ecosistema urbano established in 2000 in Madrid. Ecosistema urbano is a Madrid-based group of architects and urban designers operating within the fields of urbanism, architecture, engineering and sociology. We define our approach as urban social design by which we understand the design of environments, spaces and dynamics in order to improve self-organization of citizens, social interaction within communities and their relationship with the environment. We have used this philosophy to design and implement projects in Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, France and China. Since 2000, ecosistema has received more than 30 awards in national and international architecture design competitions and during the last four years their work has been covered by more than 200 media from 30 countries, and their projects have been exhibited at multiple galleries, museums and institutions. Founding partners have led workshops, lectured and taught at the most prestigious institutions worldwide (2010, 2012 and 2013 visiting professors at Harvard GSD).

At the moment, ecosistema urbano is working on several urban proposals and their most recent projects include the new building for the Reggio Children Foundation in Reggio Emilia (Italy), an experimental urban playground in Dordrecht (Netherlands), the "Ecopolis Plaza" a waste to resources building on the outskirts of Madrid and the project dreamhamar for Hamar (Norway) a network design project for the redevelopment of the city's main public space.

[www.ecosistemaurbano.com](http://www.ecosistemaurbano.com) • @ecosistema • @belindatato







## The Faroese Vocal Ensemble Mpiri

Mpiri is a Faroese vocal ensemble in Copenhagen, consisting of 15 singers from the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Denmark. Mpiri was established in 1998 and has held a long series of concerts, tours, and projects all over Europe. Mpiri has released several CDs and is featured on several other recordings. We aim to perform challenging music, have experimental performances and bring new expressions to the listener. We aspire to be active in bringing new music to life. Therefore we commission new music as often as possible. Since Mpiri was founded, we have commissioned more than 30 choral pieces. Apart from creating new music, we have been involved in many projects with other artists. In 2008/09 Mpiri toured with Saga Dance Ensemble, performing a modern dance version of the famous Faroese novel, "Barbara", to the music of Trondur Bogason. Moreover, Mpiri has collaborated with the string quartet Doria and participate on recordings of Faroes artists, Teitur, Eivør and Valrav. In the fall of 2013, Mpiri worked with the FIGURA ensemble and soloists on the newly written opera, *Alverden god Nat* (Good Night, World) at the Royal Opera House.

## Pop-up Bookstore

For inspiration and further reading about the topics, presented by various speakers, we have made a temporary 'pop-up bookstore' close to the Lecture Hall where you can browse through interesting titles, reflecting the theme of the conference. We are collaborating with three leading voices within the field. From the Danish Architectural Press you can not only buy books for a special conference price, but also get acquainted with the new magazine in English *Twentyfirst*. Furthermore, you can acquire international titles from the Danish Architecture Center's bookstore. Lastly, the University of Copenhagen's own bookstore Academic Books will sell the book about the keynote speaker Kongjian Yu's edited by William S. Saunders *Designed Ecologies: The Landscape Architecture of Kongjian Yu* (Kirkhäuser, 2011) and there will probably be a rare opportunity to have it signed by Kongjian Yu.

# University Gardens

## The University Gardens

In 1856 the state bought the Villa Rolighed (in Danish: Calmness) a manor on a large piece of land, and located in what was then a spacious rural landscape. Here the main building of the Agricultural University, previously situated on Christianshavn (1773), was built. The Danish architect Gottlieb Bindesbøll designed the initial part, while later additions by Johannes Emil Gnudtzmann of 1892-95 doubled the amount of square meters, necessary for the expanding institution. Educating farmers, gardeners, surveyors, foresters, etc., the Agricultural University needed a garden fulfilling three main criteria that are still guiding today: to supply plant material to the education in botany and plant culture, to serve the research institution aesthetically, and to function like a recreational public park. The initial layout of bushes, paths, and lawns were already finished when the main building was inaugurated in 1858, while the garden was designed by the garden architect Julius August Bentzien. Plants were acquired from Danish, Dutch, French, and German nurseries. Today, many ancient trees and bushes are still found in the garden.

The scenic park with meandering paths makes the promenade through the garden into an experience, performing nature with surprises and ever new views, waiting around each corner in the vein of the romantic garden. The central part with

the small pond and the swaying lawn with its carpet of flower beds remain more or less intact in spite of transformations like the new façade towards Bülowsvej (1898), the transection of Thorvaldsensvej through the garden (1933), and the demolition of the last old greenhouse in the 1990s.

Like today the garden historically required plenty of maintenance, culminating with 14 gardener students in 1939 against 2 at present. In 1905, the first female gardener student miss Johansen raised brows, while the so-called 'weed wives' aka 'madams' or 'butterflies' worked hard, hatching weeds during the summer months.

For many years the garden served strictly as a garden for study or promenade – a place where the Copenhagen bourgeoisie would spend their Sunday. You were only allowed to sit on benches, but since 2005 the garden opened up for recreation on most lawns where professors, students, and a multitude of people of the general public now dwell on sunny days. In 2007, the Agricultural University was fused with the University of Copenhagen and the garden changed its name from the Garden of the Agricultural University (in Danish: Landbohøjskolens Have) into the University Gardens (in Danish: Universitetshaven).



PHOTO: ANNE MARGRETHE WAGNER



# Festauditoriet

## The Main Building and the Lecture Hall

With its characteristic octagonal shape and frieze of animal motives the Lecture Hall, Festauditoriet, is the 'top of the icing' of Bindebøll's beautiful main brick building of 1856-58. Bindebøll is mainly known for his remarkable Thorvaldsen's Museum, a shrine of the famous Danish Rome-based sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. The buildings for the Agricultural University are hardly with any decorations and are considered as a pre-modernist work. Previously known as the big reading room, the auditorium is the main room of the building complex. Entering through the equally impressive entrance hall with Saly's equestrian statue, you arrive into the large, bright space with tall iron windows and sliding rows of seats like a Greek amphitheater. Originally, the rows of seats were placed even more circularly around the podium with the speaker's chair, but a series of restorations in 1882, 1913, and the most radical one in 1972 changed this. In 2000, an explosion, caused by a technical accident, tragically left the Lecture Hall in ruins. Although the building is listed some opted for designing a brand new Lecture Hall. Finally, the preservationists won: Erik Møller's office got the assignment to reconstruct the original building, reopening in 2003.

In the age of Bindebøll the romantic was en vogue. The three-winged main building with the big monolithic stone columns, wrapped in vines, mimicked a North Italian manor house. The Lecture Hall continues the illusion of a space of an antique amphitheater where lectures take place under

the open sky. Hence, the ceiling resembles a big canopy mounted over the audience like the blue skies. The canopy is decorated with friezes. The outer frieze depicts a selection of birds of the forest, the garden, and the fields. The inner frieze represents 32 minutely painted Flora Danica motives of wild Danish plants. Some people perceive the ceiling as a dome, yet, this is just a trompe l'oeil – it is flat as a pancake. In the niches the artist A.P. Madsen has painted a series of domestic animals. Evolution within agriculture, studied by the modern institution, is echoed by the repainting of the cows from black/white to red. In the two big niches at the entrance doors, motives of blooming flowers on the arched wall make an illusion of reliefs. The entire room is painted in strong colors ranging from Persian mountain red to light ochre - both colors favored by artists of ancient Pompeii – a key reference of Bindebøll. All the other decorations are executed by Georg Christian Hilker, one of the leading decoration artists at the time who also collaborated with Bindebøll on the decoration of the ceiling of Thorvaldsen's Museum and who was equally influenced by Italian and particularly Pompeian art.

## References

Peter Thule Kristensen: *Gottlieb Bindebøll. Danmarks første moderne arkitekt*. Arkitektens Forlag: Copenhagen, 2013  
Kim Greiner: *From Top Hats to Wellingtons*. Borgen: Copenhagen, 2010.



PHOTO: ANNE MARGRETHE WAGNER



PHOTO: ANNE MARGRETHE WAGNER

# June 13 – Parallel Sessions

## ROOM A

## ROOM B

09:00 - 09:30	Arrival, registration and coffee & croissants	
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome and introduction to panel sessions in Festauditoriet, Ellen Marie Braae, professor	
First session	<b>Nordic Narratives Past, Present, Future</b> <i>Chair: Lisa Diedrich</i>	<b>Public Welfare Institutions vis-à-vis Spatial Context</b> <i>Chair: Gitte Marling</i>
10:00 - 12:00	Welfare Space – Modernist Nature in Shrub Thicket <i>Marie Schnell &amp; Torben Dam</i>  In Death We Are All Equal: Modernist Landscape Architecture and Cemetery Culture in Norway <i>Karsten Jørgensen</i>  Kiruna 2.0 – Urban Processes in the Arctic. The Transplantation of a Town as Open Space Design — a Case Study <i>Gerd Bloxham Zettersten</i>  Man in a Cave <i>Ole Verner Pihl</i>	11.00 Public Libraries in Transformation: The Impact of Local Strategic Management Agendas on Cultural Mind-setting <i>Nathalie Vallet</i>  Ideas and representation at Hvidovre Hospital – An analytical discussion of the semantic aspect of hospital architecture <i>Birgitte Louise Hansen</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch bags and picnic in the University Garden	
Second session	<b>Place-Making in a World of Travelling Ideas</b> <i>Chair: Catharina Dyrssen</i>	<b>Cycling in Scandinavia</b> <i>Chair: Hans Skov-Petersen</i>
13:00 - 14:30	From 'Cradle of Portuguese Civilization on the Indian Ocean' to 'Swahili Historic Urban Landscape' <i>Silje Erøy Sollien</i>  Learning from the Landscape: Greenland, Denmark and the Development of Physical Planning Approaches <i>Susan Carruth</i>  A Parametric Urban Design Approach to Urban Development in Cairo: El-Marg Elgidida <i>Nicolai Steinø &amp; Nabeel El-Hady</i>	Designing Urban Bikescares – a new Urban Typology <i>Gitte Marling</i>  Cycling Great Oslo, a Territorial Framework for an Access for All <i>Anders Hus Folkedal &amp; Giambattista Zaccariotto</i>  Cycling Supportive Environments for Children's School Transport <i>Trine Agervig Carstensen, Anton Stahl Olafsson &amp; Thomas Sick Nielsen</i>
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee/tea and cake	
Third session	<b>Process, Site and Nature</b> <i>Chair: Anne Tietjen</i>	<b>The Right to the City: Community and Public Space in Northern and Southern Europe</b> <i>Chair: Line Bruun Jespersen</i>
15:00 - 16:30	Laboratory Encounters. Rethinking Urban Habitats through Experimentation <i>Stefan Darlan Boris &amp; Martin Odgaard</i>  Open Space design, Clip-on-architecture, and the Architecture of additions <i>Regin Schwaen</i>  Key-urban-projects, local-regional planning-tools for fragile urban landscapes <i>Nils Björling &amp; Catharina Dyrssen</i>	Making places in 1:1: co-creation and local transformations through temporary projects <i>Bettina Lamm</i>  'Children of the Welfare State' versus 'Children of the Piazza': Everyday play spaces in Denmark and Greece <i>Garyfallia Katsavounidou</i>  The Failure of the Transformation of an Ancient Social Oasis. The Case of Puerta del Sol (Madrid) <i>Students of grado de Paisajismo de la UCJC. Álvaro Mingo Martín et al.</i>
16:45 - 17:00	Concluding remarks and thank you for this year in Festauditoriet	
19:00	Post-conference dinner at restaurant Spiseloppen, Christiania (optional)	

# June 13 – Parallel Sessions

## ROOM C

## ROOM D

09:00 - 09:30	Arrival, registration and coffee & croissants	
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome and introduction to panel sessions in Festauditoriet, Ellen Marie Braae, professor	
First session	<b>Welfare and Liveability</b> <i>Chair: Svava Riesto</i>	<b>Heritage and the Art of Transformation in Post-industrial Landscapes</b> <i>Chair: Henriette Steiner</i>
10:00 - 12:00	The Myth of the Welfare Architect <i>Jesper Pagh</i>  Welfare – Planned for Past, Present and Future Future <i>Rikke Stenbro</i>  Christiania's Place in the World of Travelling Ideas: Sharing Informal Liveability <i>Helen Jarvis &amp; Lise Autogena</i>  'Sustainability', 'Liveability' and the Problematics of City Ranking Indexes <i>Deane Simpson</i>	Neighboring Relations – Architectural Relations in Urban Transformations and the Architecture of Additions <i>Nicolai Bo Andersen</i>  Constructions of Urban Hierarchies: Spatial Power Relations of the Post-industrial City <i>Julia Fredriksson</i>  A Generic Heritage? - Making a Case for Younger Industrial Landscapes <i>Lars Rolfsted Mortensen &amp; Ellen Braae</i>  Proposal for a "Landscape Laboratory" <i>Rita Occhiuto &amp; Catherine Szanto</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch bags and picnic in the University Garden	
Second session	<b>Street Scapes: Urban Discussions in Street Level</b> <i>Chair: Georgiana Varna</i>	<b>Democracy, Participation and Liveability</b> <i>Chair: Ellen Braae</i>
13:00 - 14:30	Redesigning the Ordinary: New Super Spectacular Urban Spaces in Copenhagen <i>Jan Størring &amp; Torben Dam</i>  Researching the Urban Street-Level Environment – StadtParterre © <i>Angelika Psenner</i>  REDEFINING STREETSCAPES – The Dynamic Relation between Water and Streets in Copenhagen <i>Anna Aslaug Lund</i>	(Con)temporary Commons and Encounters in Transition: Local Interventions and Global Ideas Expressing Current Welfare Discourses <i>Anne Wagner</i>  Design for the Emerging Common(s)? The DEMOS by SARCHA 2013 Call for Ideas in Athens Greece <i>Maria Theodorou</i>  A Model for Savamala <i>Maja Popovic</i>
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee/tea and cake	
Third session	<b>Exploring Methodologies</b> <i>Chair: Gunilla Lindholm</i>	<b>Climate and Weather Conditions</b> <i>Chair: Trine Agervig Carstensen</i>
15:00 - 16:30	Metaphors for Urban Transition: The Precinct, the Stoeper, the Agora and the Semi-lattice <i>Niels Boje Groth</i>  Agile Urban Development <i>Anne Mette Boye</i>  Interpreting and activating latent landscape structure in Flanders <i>David de Kool</i>	The Ways of the Weather: The Nordic Condition <i>Anne Mette Frandsen</i>  Regimes of Value – Climate Change Adaptation and the Handling of Water in Urban Landscapes <i>Katrina Wiberg</i>  Coastal Conditions <i>Martin Weihe Esbensen</i>
16:45 - 17:00	Concluding remarks and thank you for this year in Festauditoriet	
19:00	Post-conference dinner at restaurant Spiselloppen, Christiania (optional)	

# June 13 – Parallel Sessions

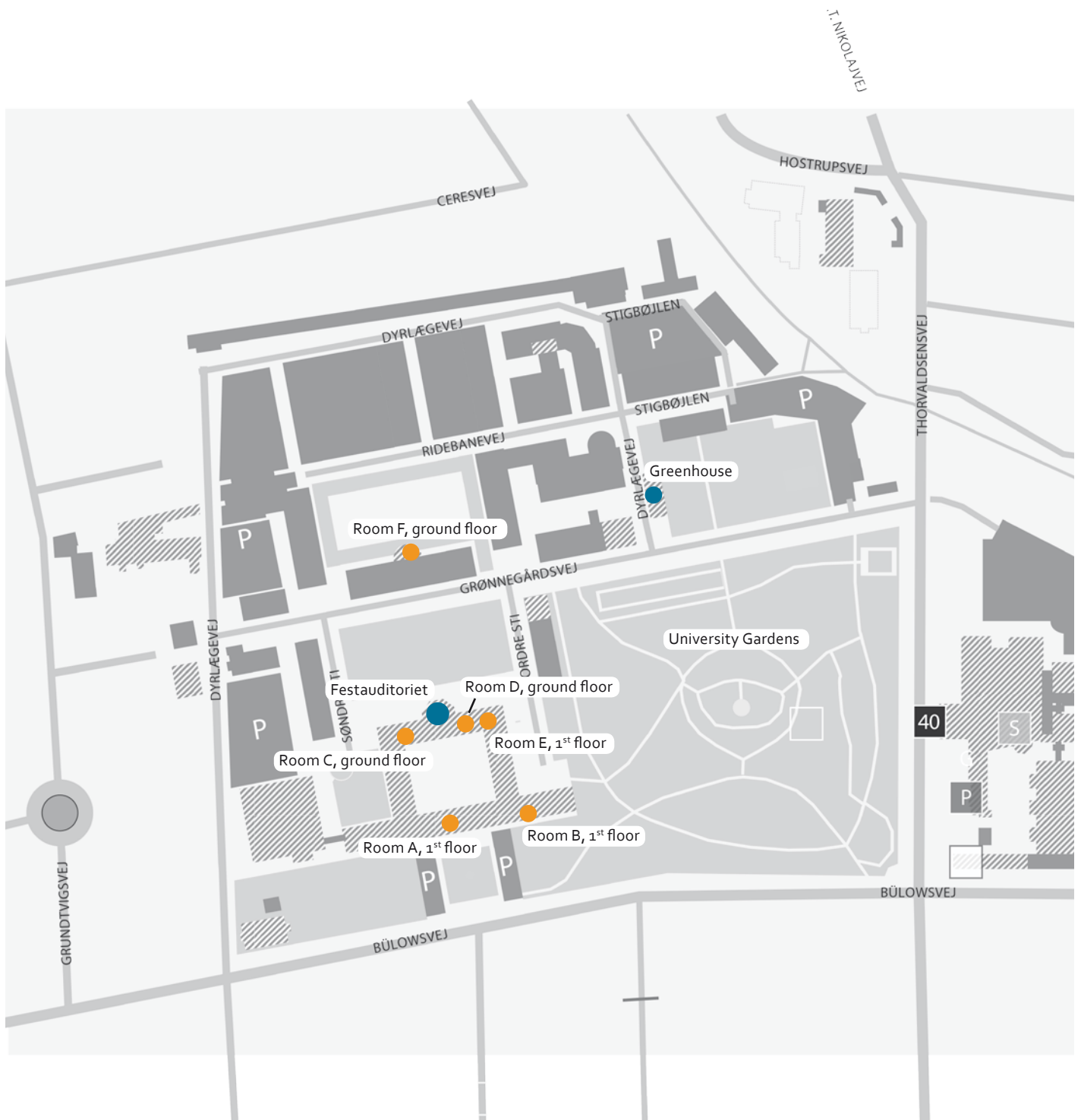
## ROOM E

## ROOM F

09:00 - 09:30	Arrival, registration and coffee & croissants	
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome and introduction to panel sessions in Festauditoriet, Ellen Marie Braae, professor	
First session	<b>People, Places, Politics: Public Spaces in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b> <i>Chair: Bettina Lamm</i>	<b>Making Sense of Place: Narratives, Aesthetics and Representations of the City</b> <i>Chair: Maria Hellström</i>
10:00 - 12:00	Big Cities – Quiet Places: exploring possible links between immaterial and material qualities of place <i>Errik Buursink &amp; Hanne Wiemann</i>  Playscape as Landscape: Joining Natural and Human Needs to Make Urban <i>Ana Kučan</i>  Certifying Park Politics — A Rooftop View <i>Maria Hellström</i>  Post Millenium Urban Space Design in Denmark – A Survey on 100 Danish Projects from 2002-2010 <i>Hans Kiib</i>	We Can Do It Better – From New Babylon to Archigram <i>Jens Brandt</i>  Temporary Encounters <i>Signe Brink Pedersen</i>  The Dynamic Gaze: How film can be used to represent and conceptualise ambient qualities <i>Mads Farsø</i>  In Search of Atmosphere through a Literary Approach: the Writingplace Initiative <i>Klaske Havik &amp; Mike Schäfer</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch bags and picnic in the University Garden	
Second session	<b>Renegotiating Sustainability and Urban Landscapes</b> <i>Chair: Torben Dam</i>	<b>Identity, Ideals and Art in Public-cum-Neoliberal Space</b> <i>Chair: Bettina Lamm</i>
13:00 - 14:30	Beyond Best Practice: Habits of mind for sustainable urban development in the Öresund urban landscape <i>Lisa Diedrich, Andrea Kahn &amp; Gunilla Lindholm</i>  Cities of Biodiversity – Practice and Perspectives <i>Martin Odgaard</i>  Evaluating the Thermal Reduction Effect of Low Maintenance Plant Layers on Rooftop <i>Chin-Yu Chang, Chin-Hsing Wei &amp; Hsiao-Hui Chen</i>	Public Art and the Local on a Global Stage <i>James Dixon</i>  Urban Nature Sculpted by Art: The Hybridity of the Ekeberg Park in Oslo <i>Liv Bente Belsnes</i>  A Tiny Bilbao in the Province? Experience Economy and Cultural Planning in Small Communities <i>Line Marie Bruun Jespersen</i>
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee/tea and cake	
Third session	<b>Urban Regeneration and Nature Restoration – Reevaluating Site and Heritage</b> <i>Chair: Ellen Braae</i>	<b>Travelling Ideas – a Comparative Perspective</b> <i>Chair: Svava Riesto</i>
15:00 - 16:30	Harmonizing Subsoil Management with Spatial Planning and Design <i>Lidewij Tummers, Fransje Hooimeijer, Linda Maring m.m.v. Jenny Norrman, Jaan-Henrik Kain, Kaat Touchant, and Steven Broekx</i>  Pluralizing Nature: Skjern River <i>Thomas Juel Clemmensen</i>  Sustainable Transformation of Building Heritage in Rural Denmark <i>Morten Birk Jørgensen</i>	Conceptualising and Modelling the Publicness of Public spaces: The Scottish and Finnish Experiences <i>Giorgiana Varna</i>  An Urban Green Comparison of China, Russia and Sweden <i>Erik Skärbeck, Lu Wen, Silviia Aleksandrova</i>  Stockholm, Paris and New York: Questioning the Authority of Nature <i>Virginie Le Goffic &amp; Torben Dam</i>
16:45 - 17:00	Concluding remarks and thank you for this year in Festauditoriet	
19:00	Post-conference dinner at restaurant Spiseloppen, Christiania (optional)	



# Venue Map



## Venue

Festauditoriet  
Frederiksberg Campus  
University of Copenhagen  
Bülowsvej 17  
1870 Frederiksberg C  
Denmark



# Conference dinner

**Time:** Thursday June 12 at 19:00

## Venue:

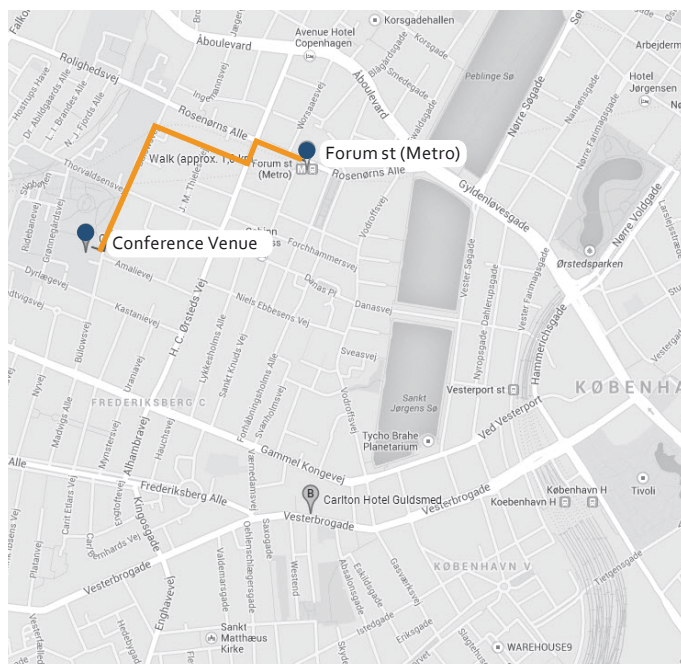
Allehånde Café, Havkajakvej 16, 2300 København S

## Allehånde Café

We will dine at the café boat Allehånde at the beach park Amager Strandpark. Allehånde Café prepares most of their food from scratch the old fashion way through pickling, preserving, baking, slow cooking and braising in order to concentrate flavors. Allehånde is promoting social responsibility through creating new possibilities for the young deaf community in Denmark. If the weather permits there will be drinks and later marshmallows over bonfire at the rooftop terrace of the boat café with great views to the beach and waters.

## Amager Strandpark

Amager Strandpark is a beach park situated just five kilometers from the center of Copenhagen. The beach was expanded in 2005 with the construction of a two kilometer long artificial island connected to the mainland by three bridges. The bathing beach serves a densely populated area and is extremely popular in the summer. Design, planning, architecture and landscape design: Haslov and Kjaersgaard Planners and Architects 2005.



## Practicalities

From the conference venue you can catch a metro at Forum (Metro Line 2) towards Kastrup Airport (15 minutes, leaving every second minute). Get off at Femøren station and walk approximately 15 minutes to Allehånde Café, situated at the waterfront of Amager Standpark.

To get a more thorough impression of the visionary Amager Strandpark planning project, you can also choose to get off at Amager Strand metro station or Øresund metro station and walk along the waterfront to the cafe.

Please note that you have to buy your own metro ticket in the machine at Forum metro station. For an alternative mode of transport you can also do like the locals and rent a city bike (Bycyklen) at Forum metro station: [www.bycyklen.dk/en](http://www.bycyklen.dk/en).

## Swimming Opportunities

If weather and mood permit you are welcome to bring your bathing suit. The restaurant is situated right next to the sea in case you want to try out Copenhagen's famously clean swimming water first hand.



# Post-conference

## Dinner – Spiseloppen

**Time:** Friday June 13 at 19:00

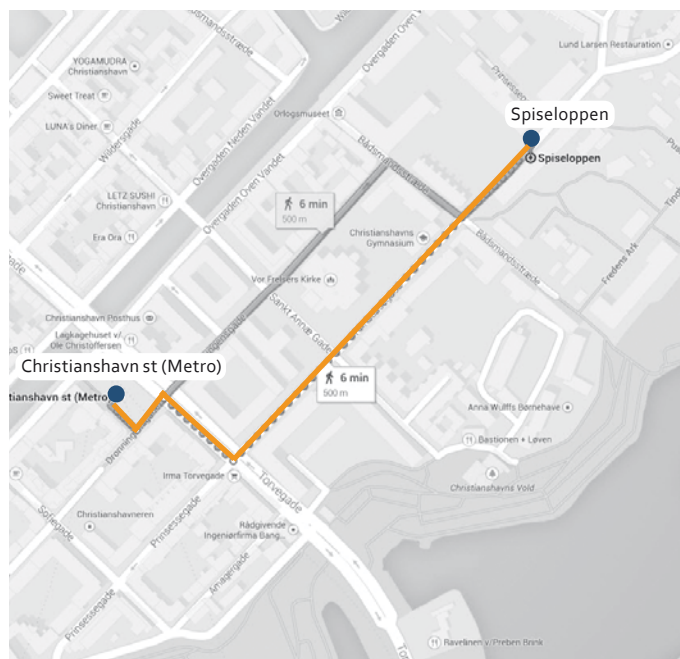
### Venue:

Spiseloppen, Bårdsmandsstræde 43, 1407 Christiania CHP

We have reserved a table at Spiseloppen for those who decide to stay an extra night or just want to take the opportunity to network further with colleagues. The restaurant is situated in the Freetown Christiania, a bottom-up urban experiment from the 1970s. Initially a product of hippie 'slum stormer' squatters, appropriating an abandoned military area, Christiania has developed into an urban community with much autonomy, various self-build houses, and transformation of historical structures. Accommodating approximately 850 people in the center of Copenhagen, the Freetown has become a 'city within the city', causing much public debate about urban planning and citizenry.

### Practicalities

From Forum metro st. you can catch the metro to Christianshavn st. (6 min., every 2<sup>nd</sup> min.), the line towards Copenhagen Airport (you can both take metro M1 and M2). It is a short walk to the restaurant Spiseloppen and the Freetown Christiania. You can buy a ticket in the automat at the metro station.



## Bicycle tour – Liveable City

**Time:** Saturday June 14 at 10:00-14.00

### Venue:

We meet in front of the conference venue at Bülowsvej 17. There will be bikes and helmets for all registered participants.

Along this gentle bicycle tour we travel through some of Copenhagen's inner districts to explore how the urban fabric has been adapted and transformed towards what the municipality defines as the "liveable city". We will visit the cemetery Assistens Kirkegård that now functions as Nørrebro's public garden as well as the contemporary public spaces Ny Nørrebro Park and the widely published Superkilen by BIG.

We will travel along the main bicycle route that is superimposed on the former railroad passages and exchange visions for a bike friendly city. Going through the recently renovated Fælledparken we will experience how this large public green meadow has had new layers of recreational active settings added. This tour will also take us to the area of Skt Kjelds where we will hear about the visions for climate adaption of the neighborhood.

Along the tour we hope to share and discuss what makes a good city, how (and if) the public spaces supports urban life, and who these spaces accommodate?

Lunch is served during the tour

### Guides

Bettina Lamm, University of Copenhagen  
Lasse Skou Andersen, Sharing Copenhagen



# Proceedings



## Proceedings

*Researchers and practitioners from 20+ countries, representing different academic disciplines, institutions, and offices, have submitted abstracts, reflecting the overall theme of this 10th World in Denmark conference: Nordic Encounters. Travelling Ideas of Open Space Design and Planning. In the following you will find 58 abstracts dealing with the many embedded aspects according to the three conference tracks that will also frame the discussion during the day of keynote presentations:*

### Process, site, and nature

Danish and Nordic planning and urban space design is often presented as particularly site-specific and in line with nature. The practices of designers and planners are culturally grounded and imply certain habits of thought. The way that we understand site, nature and identity has deep roots and colours our daily working approaches. How does interpretation of site, nature and identity influence design and planning? And what happens when certain mindsets encounter and negotiate between different professions, regions and cultural spheres?

### Liveability, welfare, and democracy

Liveability, democracy and citizen's participation are often associated with welfare planning as practiced in Scandinavia and Northern Europe. And yet, such concepts are not indigenous to this part of the world, neither necessarily constant. How are such concepts defined and practiced by different actors in the design and planning of open spaces? How are the spaces of the heydays of welfare urbanism in the 1960s and 1970s handled today? The financial crisis has been much less severe in Scandinavia than in many other regions. Is the Scandinavian idea of liveability and welfare planning relevant in other parts of the world? Are notions of liveability and welfare universal? What is democratic planning in Scandinavia and in other countries – historically and in the present?

### Traditions, narratives, and politics

Behind the construction of an architectural movement, like the Nordic, there is always someone, and there are always certain agendas. In this track, we ask who produces and promotes a certain planning tradition – why, for whom and with which implications? How come that a certain formal language becomes connected to a certain set of values? How are design and planning approaches appropriated, reproduced, and altered in specific contexts? How do the construction and deconstruction of narratives influence our cities? In this track we will look into questions about subjectivity, and power.

All published and presented abstracts have been selected through a double blind peer-review process.

After the conference a limited number of abstracts will be selected to be published as full papers in a special edition of *Nordisk Arkitekturforskning/Nordic Journal of Architectural Research*. For Danish contributors: NA is classified in the best rated bibliometrical category.

## Neighboring Relations

### Architectural relations in urban transformations and the architecture of additions

*Nicolai Bo Andersen, NicolaiBo.Andersen@kadm.dk, Architect, associate professor, TRANSFORMATION, Master's Programme in Architectural Heritage, Transformation and Conservation, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation, School of Architecture*

**Keywords:** Architecture, Cultural heritage, Transformation, Conservation, Research by design

There is at present a renewed interest in the field of transformation. But even though buildings have always been transformed (Perez de Arce, R., 1978) methods and strategies for how to put new to old seems sparse.

This paper is about the relationship between new and old with special emphasis on architectural additions. Based on architectural relations, that describe the degree of similarities / differences between two or more elements, the question is asked: Which building elements help to constitute architectural relations – and how can they be used to create different degrees of relations, spanning from the coherent to the separate?

First the relation of three well-known additions from the 20th century to the host building is described (Figure 1). It is shown how the examples are spanning a scale from the very coherent to the quite separate.

Then, a project for an addition to a building in the city, designed as part of the research (Figure 2), is used to describe the building elements that help to create architectural relations (shape, color, geometry, material, etc.)

Finally, this empirical material is discussed by the use of theoretical lenses: Contemporary transformation theory points to the need for a nuanced view of the relation between new and old (Scott, F., 2008) manifested in the concepts of 'weaving' (Bollack, F.A. et al., 2013) or 'bricolage' (Scalbert, I. et al., 2013).

Following the analysis the concept of 'Neighboring Relations' is proposed as a strategy to create a nuanced play of relations through specific architectural elements establishing a high or low degree of architectural connections – described by the concepts blend, dialogue and contrast.

It is suggested that 'Neighboring Relations' may constitute a strategy - not just for additions in the city, but for transformation in general - in urban and landscape architecture.

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# Proceedings

## Urban Nature Sculpted by Art

### The hybridity of the Ekeberg Park in Oslo

*Liv Bente Belsnes, liv.bente.belsnes@gmail.com/liv-bente.belsnes@hioa.no, PhD-Student, Oslo and Akershus University College for Applied Sciences (HiOA)*

**Keywords:** *Urban nature, landscape, art, hybridity, recreational economy*

The Ekeberg Park opened in September 2013. It is a sculpture and heritage park situated close to the city centre of Oslo. The park is financed by the CLRS foundation, established by the real estate developer Christian Ringnes. Places of historical significance are presented next to renowned art works. The area is publicly owned however and the development of the park has sparked a loud debate concerning land use. The debate has been dominated by oppositional opinions and, as I see it, is lacking in nuances.

The concept of hybridity was an important part of the postmodern critique of modernism, as it helped illuminate the complexity hidden behind modernist alleged categorical mindset.

In this context hybridity has been discussed by geographer Edward W. Soja (1996), amongst others. He introduces hybridity as part of the «third space», the space that appears when for instance the ideological or discursive space of a site merges with an altered material space, as is the case at Ekeberg. I wish to re-actualize hybridity as a thought-provoking concept in the discussion of Ekeberg to help detect possible contemporary dichotomies and investigate the role of nature as both physical landscape and ideological construct.

My aim is to discuss the hybridity of Ekeberg through the following lenses:

- The nature/culture relationship: Saving the forest or hailing the tycoon?
- The conceptual theme of the park: Artful nature or a nirvana for sex-addicts?
- The Ekeberg hill's relationship with the Bjørvika waterfront area: Friends or enemies?

I conclude that an interesting osmosis appears between culture and nature as well as art and landscape, and that the park is a crystallization of the recreational economy at the city's original waterfront.



# Proceedings



## Key-urban-projects

### Local-regional planning-tools for fragile urban landscapes

*Nils Björling, nils@a-i-m.se, Architect SAR/MSA, PhD-candidate, Department of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden.*

*Catharina Dyrssen, dyrssen@chalmers.se, Architect SAR/MSA, Professor in Architecture and Design Methods at the Department of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden.*

**Keywords:** Key Urban Projects, Fragile Urban Landscapes, network-city, planning-tool, planning-method

In Sweden, cities are promoted as drivers of economic growth and solutions for decreased climatic influence, resulting in a dominant focus on development of large cities in the planning debate and sustainability discourse. As discussed by Harvey (2006), Massey (2007) and Tietjen (2011), this increases differences between growing and declining cities and regions, and escalates uneven geographic development. The process produces fragile urban landscapes, i.e. local situations short of resources, skills and mandates to handle change and deal with in-lock of sense-making structures, thereby concealing actual site specific possibilities and the potential of development of small towns and rural areas. This renders the need for new relevant planning tools with onset in a relational perspective on space (Harvey 2006, Massey 2007), urban ecologies (Guattari 1989, Banham 1971) and design-based, proformative approaches (Solà Morales 2008, Bunschoten 2001, Cuff & Sherman 2011).

This article argues for key urban projects as a relational, place-specific, operative planning tool that can open and lock urban transformation, secure and guide implementation and reveal strategies to develop fragile urban landscapes, with ability to: handle centre-periphery and urban-rural as dynamic contingencies; combine the capacity of different urban ecologies; relate the formation of urban landscapes to different scales; optimise combinatory potentials of local-regional resources; secure forms of operative collaboration; trigger critical negotiations; and integrate spatial implementation to the planning process.

These abilities are tested through design-based research-methodology with onset from works in progress in five Swedish contexts of practice that outline a spectrum of important characteristics of fragile urban landscapes.

Key Urban Projects are identified and developed through a mapping process iterating between identification of specific issues and the outline of their relevant contours, a process that both visualize and establish assemblages (DeLanda 2006). Key Projects gain their potential through stepwise change of the existing material landscape and its urban ecologies.

# Proceedings



## Laboratory Encounters

### Rethinking Urban Habitats Through Experimentation

*Stefan Darlan Boris, stefandarlan.boris@aarch.dk, Assistant Professor, Cand. Arch, Ph.d. in Landscape Architecture and Martin Odgaard, martin.odgaard@aarch.dk, Research Assistant, Cand. Arch. in Urbanism & Landscape Architecture. Both Aarhus School of Architecture, Platform for Urbanism & Landscape*

**Keywords:** *Landscape Laboratory, Landscape Architecture, Landscape Ecology, Green Infrastructure, Didactics*

During the last century there has been a tradition within Nordic landscape architecture, of using the garden as a laboratory for experimenting with new landscape architectural design, as exemplified through G.N. Brandt's own garden, C.Th. Sørensen's Scrap Playground, and Sven Ingvar Andersson's Marnas Garden.

This concept of experimenting through landscape architecture corresponds with the intentions of the landscape laboratories developed by SLU/Alnarp, from the early 80's and onwards. They were initially established in Sweden, but have today expanded to other Nordic countries and are now also present in Norway and Denmark. This growing network of landscape laboratories enables Nordic encounters between different ways of experimenting with new methods of establishing and managing urban forests and green infrastructure.

The Aarhus Landscape Laboratory, which is being planned at the Aarhus School of Architecture, is a new member in the network of landscape laboratories. In the proposed paper, we examine what makes this landscape laboratory different from the others, and how it can contribute to new knowledge on urban forestry and green infrastructure.

The key difference between the Aarhus Landscape Laboratory and other laboratories is the fact, that it will be integrated in the curriculum of a school of architecture. It will function as the site for experiments on architectural interventions in dialogue with time, change and natural processes. The laboratory will have sivicultural elements, but has a much broader architectural approach. This corresponds with the experimental nature of earlier mentioned works by Brandt et al. It will be a learning space, where experimentation is conducted by teaching researchers and students in collaboration, which will correspond with a change in learning situations within the Aarhus School of Architecture.

Furthermore, the Aarhus Landscape Laboratory will from its beginning be planned and monitored in collaboration with biologists in order to experiment with ways to create new urban habitats resulting in an increase in biodiversity. Biodiversity thus becomes part of the experimentation.

## Agile Urban Development

Anne Mette Boye, [anne.mette.boyo@aarch.dk](mailto:anne.mette.boyo@aarch.dk), teaching associate professor, urban design and landscape, School of architecture in Aarhus.

**Keywords:** Urban regeneration, place construction, landscape architecture, urban design, urban leadership

De-industrialization has created brown field sites near the urban core in many Danish cities. Though the change is not new it was proven to still be a relevant urban challenge when eight Danish municipalities presented their sites for an UrbanLAB – a laboratory concerning the future open spaces. Among the many issues presented two stood out: the need for working with agile transformation strategies on brown field sites -and how these can meet the challenge of uncertainty and long time frames- and the need to discuss what is an open space in these development areas.

This article uses three of the sites presented by the municipalities to identify some of the key challenges of brown field development in mid sized cities. Through interviews with planning staff and mapping the site and context the article is highlighting common challenges, and challenges related to the specific sites. These are placed in perspective with similar national examples.

The second goal of the text is to create an archive of some of the more acknowledged national and international approaches to the issues of uncertainty, time and public spaces in brown field areas. With the acknowledgement that no approaches are "pure" a theoretical framework of place construction is used to categorize the approaches in an overview:

- Approaches related to a physical layout e.g. strategic plans where the structure seeks to address uncertainty like Melun Senart
- Approaches staging a new identity of the site e.g. through landscape, art or heritage e.g. Emscher park in Ruhr
- Approaches that change the use of the site e.g. through culture like NDSN in Amsterdam, temporary use or rain water collection

With theory from strategic design like – e.i. realtime innovation and prototyping – the article reflects on how this archive can contribute to the development of agile planning and new conceptions of urban spaces in brown field development.

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- Www.urbanlab.dk UrbanLAB is common laboratory initiated by eight Danish municipalities supported by the European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017.

## We Can Do It Better – from New Babylon to Archigram

Jens Brandt, [jens@citybee.dk](mailto:jens@citybee.dk), CiTyBee. Urbanist and Architect MAA. Founder of CiTyBee, a Community Tool Box

**Keywords:** *Jorn, New Babylon, Archigram, representation, depoliticization*

During a Constant Nieuwenhuys lecture in 1960, future Archigram founder Mike Webb told Peter Cook: “We can do it better.” What did Webb mean by this?<sup>1</sup>

This paper will examine how Constant’s New Babylon, based on the Situationist concept of “unitary urbanism,” influenced both the work of Archigram and Richard Rogers’s later notion of “Urban Renaissance.” I will argue that Archigram and Rogers co-opted Constant’s form of representation, while emptying it of its political content.

Constant and Danish artist Asger Jorn, with whom he collaborated within the CoBrA group and the Situationist International, developed ideas on architecture and unitary urbanism that criticized the Functionalists (especially Le Corbusier) for ignoring “the psychological function of surroundings.”<sup>2</sup> Jorn argued that cities have “a function that is separate from their practical use.”<sup>3</sup>

Inspired by the imagery of Constant’s New Babylon, Archigram combined it with pop culture to communicate an architectural vision of cities and technology (The Walking City or Plug-in-City). Richard Rogers developed his work in response to the same ideas, and they later influenced his concepts of an “Urban Renaissance”<sup>4</sup>.

Concepts of the Urban Renaissance such as the compact city, good public transport, and the beautiful square are similar to the “practical use” approach to urbanism, i.e., the same functionalist approach that the Situationists criticized for its lack of attention to “psychological functions.” But how could these ideas – originating in Situationist (and anti-functionalist) thought – be used in an argument for a functionalist view of the city?

This paper will use Constant’s New Babylon - Ten Years On (1980) to discuss problems of representation. Constant claimed that “New Babylon” was wrongly perceived as “a collection of aesthetic or even technical objects, devoid of intelligible content... without understanding anything of the magical significance, but nonetheless fascinated by the form which starts to lead a life of its own.”<sup>5</sup> In other words, Archigram and Rogers’s focus on the aesthetics of Constant’s project was based on a fundamental misunderstanding and led to the depoliticization of Constant’s ideas, a process that transformed his approach to the city into its opposite.

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<sup>1</sup> Cook shared this with Lebbeus Woods, who wrote about it in a text from 2009: <http://lebbeuswoods.wordpress.com/2009/10/19/constant-vision/>

<sup>2</sup> “On the current value of the functionalist idea” By Asger Jorn 1956: <http://www.notbored.org/functionalist.html>

<sup>3</sup> “Architecture for Life” by Asger Jorn, Potlatch #15 (22 December 1954) <http://www.cddc.vt.edu/sionline/presitu/forlife.html>

<sup>4</sup> “Towards an Urban Renaissance” The Urban Task Force, Chaired by Richard Rogers, 1999.

<sup>5</sup> “New Babylon - Ten Years On” by Constant from 1980, <http://www.notbored.org/ten-years-on.html>



# Proceedings



## Big Cities – Quiet Places

**Exploring the possible links between immaterial and material qualities of place and their importance for sustainable urban planning**

*Errik Buursink, e.buursink@dro.amsterdam.nl, Amsterdam DRO and Hanne Wiemann Nielsen, hwn@ign.ku.dk, PhD student, Research Group of Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism, University of Copenhagen*

**Keywords:** *Livability, Material and immaterial qualities, Existential space, Democracy*

Urban planners, urban designers and landscape architects along with citizens will often think in terms such as well-being, livability, quietness, balance and harmony as denominators of places or spaces where they feel at ease and are able to 'recharge their energy'. On a global scale there is a strong focus on sustainable urban development, and an increasing understanding of the importance of immaterial qualities and how spatial qualities are perceived as a premise for the concept of well-being. Relation between dense urban structures and stress-related illnesses seems well-documented, but is it only through the use of 'green' that the city can promote a healthy environment?

Some of the most important aspects of the urban environment are immaterial; the memories that a space may inspire, the way layout of a space can influence where people choose to go or the moods they tend to feel. How may we understand possible links between immaterial and material qualities of place and their importance for sustainable urban planning?

Learning from Amsterdam and Copenhagen we will explore possible links between immaterial and material qualities of place, while looking into new planning agendas such as co-creation and citizen's participation. Is it possible to conceptualize existential space, and how do changing premises play a role, when it comes to ways of stimulating harmony and balance in relation to the physical environment?

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## Learning from the Landscape

### Greenland, Denmark and the Development of Physical Planning Approaches

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**Keywords:** *Greenland, Planning, Landscape, Resilience, Colonisation*

This paper discusses physical planning in Greenland, focusing on the relationship between the imported Danish approach and the 'un-planned' indigenous culture. Intersecting a review of the implementation of a 'modern' planning system in Greenland with recent fieldwork in Nuuk, Sisimiut and Kapisillit, it is argued that an analysis of the Greenlandic landscape – landscape understood here as a natural-cultural construction – could inform a revised contemporary approach to physical planning in Greenland, further proposing that such a perspective holds relevance for broader planning discourses in other regions.

Since Danish colonisation in 1721, the physical planning of Greenland has closely resembled that of Denmark (Skjelbo, 1995). As the two countries differ so dramatically – climatically, environmentally, culturally, geopolitically etc - this has led to many challenges, many of which continue to this day (Riis, 2012). As Greenland strives for full independence, a renewed outlook on its physical planning becomes increasingly pertinent, and the indigenous Greenlandic landscape – its practices, attitudes and tactics - points towards a more sensitive, sustainable approach, one aligned with emerging schools of planning like resilience theory and co-adaptive management (Dietz et al, 2003).

The paper is composed of three parts: the introduction, drawing on the work of Lise Lyck, Per Skjelbo, and Thomas Riis amongst others, sketches the historical process of implementing a Danish-style planning approach in Greenland, and the challenges this has brought. The second describes the results of fieldwork – including interviews, photographs and lived observations – drawing a series of characteristics and tactics that Greenlanders employ to live in and with the landscape. The last section reflects upon how such traits could be translated into a Greenlandic physical planning approach - using renewable energy infrastructural planning as an example - and draws ideological and practical parallels with emerging international planning interests.

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## Cycling supportive environments for children's school transport

### Exploring the interlinks between parents and the local social and built environment

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**Keywords:** Transport cultures, urban design, urban form, distance, everyday life

The democratic vision of the Nordic welfare society offers children a distinctive position in society. Children are conceived as actors in own right that benefit from a high degree of self-determination and independent mobility.

This is reflected in a long tradition for designing urban environments that support soft transport and ensures high accessibility and short distances to central places in children's daily life (school, sports, leisure). Such urban environments do often support active transport. Lately cycling has had a renaissance all over the world. Cycling is intrinsically linked to liveable urban space and a sustainable and healthy alternative to car-driving. Furthermore is cycling as school transport beneficial for children's concentration and learning.

In Denmark cycling plays a significant role, but children's cycling is challenged as its preconditions are changing. Changes in parental practices with more escorted travel combined with parents' own car-based transport have decreased children's independent mobility all over the world, including in the Nordic countries. More car dependent travel patterns will deteriorate the local traffic environment and constrain children's independent mobility – here among cycling – and may have negative impact on children's daily welfare and urban liveability.

We know much about how urban design and urban form correlates with adults' transport behaviour but studies on children are still few. This paper investigates what constitutes cycling supportive environments for children. It analyses how parents and the local social and built environment shape children's daily transport and supports cycling.

The paper uses in-depth interview data from the region of Copenhagen among families with children of 10 to 14 years of age (N=24) supplemented by field studies of the design of the local environment and mapping of school routes.

The paper concludes that parents' priorities and supportive agency are key to cycling children but also that the local social environment and neighbourhood design constrain or enable children's cycling. Parents' roles are especially crucial when the local environment is non-supportive, but less important when the local environment supports children's cycling.

This study provides insight in contemporary social and spatial conditions for the shaping of children's cycling to school. It informs an ongoing debate on the impact of changes in urban form, job and retail localization and school district planning as children's cycling is highly distance sensitive.

## Evaluating the Thermal Reduction Effect of Low Maintenance Plant Layers on Rooftop

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**Keywords:** Green-roof, Energy saving, Low maintenance, Succulent, Heat island effects

In the context of subtropical areas, such as Taiwan, the effect of lowering urban air temperatures and mitigating the heat island effect are particularly emphasized among the advantages of green roof. Due to high density of buildings and limited green area in cities, heat island effects are more obvious in urbanized areas in Taiwan. Strong solar radiation in summer increases the heat load of urban buildings and increases air conditioning usage. Introducing green roof reduces energy consumption. In addition, water shortage has been a serious problem in summer in Taiwan. Water used for irrigation can be reduced by using drought-enduring and heat-resistant low maintenance plants. This study aims at testing the cooling effect of low maintenance plants. An experiment was conducted on the flat roof of a university building in Taichung, where the climate type belongs to subtropical monsoon climate. Ten low maintenance plants were selected and planted in the same size of rectangular containers filled with 10 cm thick lightweight medium. Temperature under the planted containers and temperature of the roof surface without plant containers were measured and compared from noon to evening on the hot days in summer. The cooling effects of different plants were also compared. The results showed that, the temperatures were reduced by the ten selected succulents by more than 30°C. The vine creeping *Sedum mexicanum* reduced the temperature by 38.4°C. The tufted *Graptopetalum paraguayense*, *Crassula argentea* had better cooling effect among upright plants. This study proves that short and low maintenance plants for rooftop thin layer greening actually reduce rooftop temperature. Low maintenance plants with high green coverage, dense branches and leaves, small gaps, large and thick leaves, short plants, short branches between knots and branches and leaves on ground layer significantly improve the cooling effect.

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## Pluralizing Nature – Skjern River Restoration Counterfactual

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**Keywords:** Nature Restoration, Dissonant Heritage, Landscape Transformation, Landscape Architecture

Denmark is widely recognised for its democratic approach to planning and the idea of planning for the common good. This interest in the common good and common values seems also to be reflected in the way which nature restoration is planned and managed – one common nature directed by the public authorities. But nature restoration is far from being a neutral undertaking. Just like any other type of heritage production it can be the source of dissonance – ‘our’ nature is not necessary ‘their’ nature. Often this dissonance is managed in ways, which are not particularly sensitive to site-specificity. As exemplified by the Skjern River Restoration Project (1999-2003), one interpretation of the landscape sometimes suppresses other valid interpretations neglecting its diverse history. However, evidence from Switzerland suggests that planning for the common good, in the case of nature restoration, does not necessarily mean planning for a one common nature. As exemplified by the River Aire Re-naturalization Project (2002-2015), landscape architecture might provide an alternative approach to nature restoration that is more site specific and allows for multiple interpretations to coexist. In the presentation, this idea of ‘pluralizing’ nature will be unfolded by three student projects, which explore how the Skjern River with a more landscape architectural approach could have been restored without jeopardizing its diverse history – Skjern River Restoration Counterfactual.



## Welfare space – modernist nature in the shrub thicket

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**Keywords:** *Process, site and nature*

The Nordic welfare housing 1930 – 1970 focused on light, air and green spaces (Hansen 1989). The perimeter block opened facing south and west. In this landscape, four spatial components facilitated the out-door recreation: built entities, terrain, trees and shrub thickets.

Since 1900 housing areas have embodied shifting styles of plant species and –compositions (Stahlschmidt, 1985). These styles relate differently to eco-systems, biodiversity and sustainability – subjects of high priority on recent societal agenda. A conversion to a nature-based management is taking place in forestry and parks, and perennial ecosystems have growing attention (Nielsen 2006, Hansen & Stahl 1993, Hitchmough, Oudolf & Kingsbury). A similar attention has not yet been paid to shrub plantings. Yet, renovation, preservation and climate adaption programs for the suburban welfare housing areas with wide-spread shrub plantings call for focus.

How did the Nordic tradition encounter the planting design from 1930 - 70? Are shrub-thickets still after 1970 an important part of the spatial composition? What can specific plantings tell about the knowledge in the professional body and how does contemporary nature and sustainability match the design of shrub thickets?

The objective is to qualify the encounter of the Nordic tradition in regard to shrub thickets in a case study of 5 Danish welfare housing areas. To discuss how temporary ideas of nature and biodiversity have influenced the planting design, and ask whether the knowledge to do so has been and still remains in the Nordic tradition.

The paper studies 5 information oriented paradigmatic cases (Flyvbjerg, 2006). The cases are analysed through “drawing and reading”-method (Hauxner, 2003) and a literature review relate the Nordic modern breakthrough in social housing, and subsequent periods to the cases. The conclusion will draw upon the Nordic tradition, nature perception and the horticultural knowledge and skills available in the 5 periods, and will provide a clear understanding of the spatial in the period and today.

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## Beyond Best Practice

### Questioning habits of mind for sustainable urban development in the Öresund Urban Landscape

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**Keywords:** *Best practice, sustainability, habits of mind, sitequalities, Öresund*

In this paper the authors challenge an underlying assumption of many current sustainable urban development manuals -- that importing previously tested planning and design formulas, "best practices", yields success. Contemporary results instil doubt: Barcelona-style open spaces in Hamburg; Amsterdam typologies in Copenhagen's Sydhavn; Danish streetscapes in New York City. Therefore we ask: when proven ideas about building form and urban morphology travel the knowledge gained seems at first to offer proven solutions, but what about the knowledge lost?

Urban transformation activities driven by imported ideas rarely appreciate existing site potentials; their 'site-blindness' runs counter to the ethos of sustainability. Any sustainable project must actualize the real value of its distinctive, time and place-based conditioning circumstances (physical, social, ecological, political, etc.). At the same time, to attain professional and theoretical significance – to be sustained as successful practice models – a travel-worthy project must produce adjustable concepts and processes applicable in more than one place, over time.

The paper outlines an approach to sustainable urban development 'beyond best practice'. It investigates how relational site thinking from a landscape perspective can foster the necessary mindsets to align urban transformation processes with the complex configuration of every specific urban landscape. Focussing on two case studies devised in collaboration with Malmö City (the Nyhamnen harbour transformation and the Malmö green grid) the paper treats the Öresund urban landscape as a test field. The cases aim to deliver site-specific urban transformation techniques that foster 'habits of mind' fundamental to sustainable urban planning and design. Three arenas of knowledge production will be discussed: 'situated actions' to allow acknowledgement of site scales, values and potentials (dialogue between idea and location); 'communication processes' critical to successful urban transformation (dialogue between players); and 'informed practices' to build bridges between diverse modes of knowledge production (dialogue between theory and practice).

# Proceedings



## Public Art and the Local on a Global Stage

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**Keywords:** public art, site-specific, politics, multi-scalar, place-making

In a contemporary world where politically-engaged art dominates we see a potential problem emerge when the art developed in response to development in specific, local places at specific times has to be communicated at national and international scales. This problem occurs equally when an artist is being commissioned to do site-specific work on the basis of their work elsewhere, and where an international developer seeks to 'transfer' their development experience and ethos from one place to another.

Durational engagement with changing places by artists can reveal much of the nature of local politics, hopes and fears. My recent five year project with the public art programme of a large shopping centre development in Bristol, UK, brought into sharp relief the benefits of bringing art and the social sciences together in uncovering what change and development means for local people (sometimes to the level of the individual) and, further, what it means when artworks based on this engagement are placed back into the contexts that inspired them. It also revealed the tensions that arise when national and international factors come to bear on individual sites or when locally-derived concerns and politics are transferred to the macro-scale.

Contrasting work in Bristol with recent public art projects in Denmark and Sweden this paper will discuss how specific local identities have been examined and represented in and through the art of urban development and planning, and how these site-specific ideas can travel within the international project of Nordic or Scandinavian urban design. Can the local and the international ever really work together at the level of personal experience of change?

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# Proceedings



## Coastal conditions

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**Keywords:** *Coastal planning and architecture, Danish Planning Act, Place and the Local, Critical Regionalism*

The open Danish coasts are often regarded as our last true nature; a nature that has to be protected from tourism, settlements and urbanization through the strict Danish Planning Act for coastal areas. The visual and recreational consumption of the coast has due to the strict planning, led to a great pressure on the existing coastal cities, towns and settlements. Here the increasing urbanization and the changes in people's life style and mobility have challenged the traditional coastal conditions. These processes are generally perceived as undesirable by the coastal population, since they destabilize and disorientate the identity of the local community (Green, 2010, p. 6 – 12). It has created a renewed focus at the meaning of 'place' in coastal planning and architecture.

Based on studies of the small Danish island Fanø at Jutland's West Coast, this paper will examine what planners and architects on the one side and the local community on the other perceive as being of particular value of a place. The studies are inspired by the theoretical framework developed by landscape architect Raymond James Green's studies of Australian coastal towns in his book *Coastal Towns in Transition* (Springer, 2010). The findings will be considered in a Danish context by a comparison with other similar Danish studies such as the writings of Lea laursen, Anne tietjen and others on the surfing phenomena "Cold Hawaii" at the West coast of Jutland.



# Proceedings

## The Dynamic Gaze

### How film can be used to represent and conceptualise ambient qualities in surroundings

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**Keywords:** Film, landscape, ambient, time, representation

We travel through many landscapes daily. But we have little tools that show the qualities in landscape coming from or established by our movements. Here film may provide landscape architects with a tool that represents space as a vibrant surrounding defined by time, movement and sound as well as form the basis for a new aesthetic language of ambient characters and qualities in architecture. A short film portrait of the city of Lausanne from 1982 is my point of departure to show how the film media can be used to develop a sensoric, dynamic gaze on landscapes and cities as well as unfold new concepts for their ambient qualities. I relate and concretise this dynamic gaze through a Swedish documentary film and my own film experiments.

In the ten minute long pilot film *Lettré* a Freddy Buache the French Nouvelle Vague Director Jean-Luc Godard explored relations between film and architecture in Lausanne. Partly inspired by the Danish literate Frederik Tygstrup analysis of Godard's film I develop five concepts that may describe the by Godard filmed ambient nature of space. I name these Unstable moments, Repeated sequences, Dramatic banality, Diffuse horizon, Objectless essence. Then the operational value of the new concepts is investigated in the opening garden walk short found in Swedish director Micheal Ljusår (*Lightyear*) film from 2008. Ljusår may represent the qualities embedded in a more dynamic filmic gaze on landscape - in the case a garden - and possible new aesthetic concepts connected to time, movement, sound and the ambient. In this sense, the art forms of garden and film become related through the experiences of time and space. With such sensoric perspective, landscape architecture becomes cinematic and the different kind of film experiences becomes, perhaps, relatable to travelling in different kind of gardens.

I discuss and relate this dynamic gaze and concepts through my experiments with the film camera. Especially, how a dynamic camera perspective can help landscape architects to catch the special ambient nature of a space. The studies show that, what the camera represents, starts to be more than merely a representation of space, as its also points towards a discussion of our 'way of seeing' and to new aesthetic 'point of views' and conceptualisations. It points to the need for a less 'in-between architecture' concept of space and a more time- and sound-related concept. As part of this, I propose to use surrounding as an alternative concept for a space that is understood as a time-space, a four dimensional space. Through the three films I expect to exemplify how alternative concepts such as Unstable moments, Repeated sequences, Dramatic banality, Diffuse horizon, Objectless essence may describe aesthetic values related to a dynamic gaze of ambient sonic time-spaces. Such dynamic gaze could be suitable for redefining aesthetically the surroundings that appears today to be defined by increased commuting, a more global economy and visual culture and a distanced body relationship to our physical environment. We do not only distance ourselves by travelling in higher speeds through the landscape. We also write new meanings into it through our spatial journeys. In this sense, film can as a visual sonic media give new attention to spatial qualities coming out of an embedded gaze; the surrounding, the local, the haptic, an ever-changing weather, something unexpected, or a sequence in time. The sonic visual media becomes a representation of landscape architecture as a field of time-based dynamics around a bodily experience.

I find film is a powerful tool for landscape architects to represent and express spaces as ambient, dynamic surroundings. Using film in a landscape architecture points towards the need of developing new concepts in landscape theory that are related to a different kind of landscape aesthetics based on ambient surroundings and time, movement and sound. The film media can help us to exemplify and explore these concepts in a dynamic gaze of landscape: How specific qualities in our Danish, Nordic or global landscape architecture become defined through a body, context, duration and ambience. It is our landscape surroundings defined through the journey, the potential cinematic.

# Proceedings



## The Ways of The Weather – The Northern condition

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**Keywords:** Weather, Senses, Urban space, "Outscape"-culture, Conditioning

Weather was always the most important thing at our home. It could mean long working hours, saving the hay from rain, leaving our nostrils, ears, eyes and hair completely filled with hay-dust. It could mean planting blackberry-plants for three days straight, leaving everything smelling like blackberries. It could mean sweating like an ox, loading "storm harvest" of fallen tree-trunks on to wagons. It could also mean waiting for the trout in continuous rain, at the side of the stream, ignoring both drenched feet, itches and aches in anticipation of the grilled fish. It could mean eating all visible strawberries within one hour, before the rain would smash them to unrecognisable red mush. It could mean the bright and white thrill of skiing to get the newspaper.

Weather was everything. You could say that being subject to weather is a parameter that is carried by the shared landscape, the shared urban space – the shared "outscape". The quality of the "outscape", greatly depends on how it lets you encounter the weather. If the only activities we have outside is the playground, the stroll and the picnic – then the "outscape" diminishes to being backdrop for our leisure. The consequence of this is not only empty streets and local social spheres, that our ability to understand, experience and perceive nuances becomes smaller, with the danger of eventually only understanding "warm and sunny", hereby reducing the urban settlers' outside experiences to the occasional latte on a sunny day. Northern cities are not necessarily good places for the exquisite Nordic rain - however they should be.

At the core, the qualities of our public realm rely on people using and inhabiting them. Because of the poor ability of the "outscape" of handling weather conditions and climate changes, a problem of empty streets and squares where people have retreated to their private sphere occur. The weather is not a service - it is our circumstance – and the single phenomena that have had the largest impact on our DNA, and therefor the grounds of our very existence. The weather is atmospheric space that we inhabit. When weather makes us leave the city empty, our society is robbed from possible weather-gains, as a shared northern condition that affects our physical surroundings, on bodily, personal and social levels. The flamboyance of this Northern "outscape" lies in the delicacy of birds, the multitude of ashy nuances and the durability of crops. The northern landscape is a resilient one. Every winter it is slain, withdrawn to the earth. Every spring, it grows as lavish as the temperature and moist lets it. Nothing wasted, nothing excess, all in simple symphony.

Could it be that the Northern "outscape" is important for us in order to understand and develop solutions for a resilient inhabitation of the northern weather? Could it be that the discovery of subtle nuances of the distinct northern weather, can aid us in the invention of forms of inhabitation that bring forth these qualities? Could it be, that instead of waiting for sunny days, a study of the northern condition, can let us appreciate, enjoy and celebrate the ways of the weather? A careful understanding and thorough study of the phenomenological, esthetic, symbolic, and existential consequences of the Northern condition might point to new ways of interplay between atmospheric states and cultural states. Practicing the development of the weather-tainted experienced qualities of our urban habitats, could lead to the exploration of new qualities of the known urban forms. An integration of this in the planning, forming, framing and staging of the physical environment could result in a new place-bounded form of inhabitation, create possibilities for a revitalisation of the less dense cities and realise much needed potentials for new paradigms of quality in our surroundings.

Weather-practices starts with the acknowledgement of the fact that weather is not only "outside" – but that weather is everywhere, and that it is the largest and most influential context that we inhabit.

# Proceedings



## Constructions of urban hierarchies

### Spatial power relations of the post-industrial city

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**Keywords:** *city centre development, discourse theory, meaning of space, power, relational space*

Given the increased interest in city centres, both in Swedish and European planning practice and discussions on cities, this project provides a critical elucidation of Swedish town centre development, seen in a European context. Focusing on the relationship between urban space and power, the project deepens central themes from my doctoral thesis *Constructions of a City Centre: Spatial power relations of the post-industrial city* (Swedish title: *Konstruktioner av en stadskärna. Den postindustriella stadens rumsliga makthierarkier*), especially examining mechanisms of spatial inclusions and exclusions. The aim is to analyse what discursive constructions of the city centre means in respect to how spatial power relations are created and consolidated in contemporary Swedish town centre development.

The theoretical and methodological framework is based on a discourse theory approach which is combined with a relational perspective on space. This perspective emphasises how discursive constructions of the city influence urban space and the relationship between urban space and power, as well as the production of urban space as a political process where the meaning of space is constantly constructed and reconstructed through concrete action.

The study demonstrates that the form of town centre development studied can be regarded as a planning strategy which brings about spatial inequality by creating and consolidating differences and hierarchies between centres and peripheries. This occurs when the city centre is constructed as a bearer of future opportunities in the post-industrial era and as a generic place which can represent universal ideals, while the periphery is constructed as an exception which is located at a societal and spatial "outside". At the same time, the planning is characterized by a post-political tendency, where power dimension in the shaping of the urban space is rendered invisible by neutralising political choices.

# Proceedings



## Metaphors for Urban Transition

### The Precinct, the Stoeppen, the Agora and the Semi-lattice

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**Keywords:** Urban Space, Urban Design, Urban Transition, Precinct, Stoeppen

Redesigning urban space has become integral to urban planning as a means of knitting together what has become fragmented by urban restructuring. It is about design. But also, it is about the meaning of urban space - replacing former meaning that has become obsolete. In this paper the exodus of retail shops from urban centres forms the background for searching new meanings and designs of urban space. For planners, the market has always played a prominent role in the formation of urban identity. Retail, however, no longer cares about the urban environment in small towns and medium sized cities. Only large cities are endowed with urban milieus strong enough to sustain the mix of shoppers, tourists, street subcultures and voyeurs as the constituent elements of the appreciated urban marketplace. At the other side of the urban continuum, the centres of small towns and medium-sized cities have experienced a decline of shopping opportunities as part of an urban restructuring. Thus, the decline of retail shops in the centres of medium-sized cities occurs along with the construction of shopping arcades and shopping centres; and in small towns, the loss of retail shops on the main street is accompanied by new discount stores at the edge of the centre, prioritising logistic milieus at major crossroads. Taking the 'divorce' between the retail sector and urban milieu as a point of departure, this article discusses the new design and new meaning of the urban centres. Rather than trying unsuccessfully to keep retail functions at the heart of the urban milieu, this paper proposes a transformation of obsolete urban centres into residential usage. Four traditional urban elements are suggested as metaphors for a new hermeneutics of urban restructuring: The British precinct, the Greek agora, the Dutch stoeppen and the 'Alexanderian' semi-lattice. This paper presents the four elements in their respective historical contexts and re-considers their use in a modern context of urban restructuring as concepts for urban design of places for living, meeting and connection.

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## Ideas and representation at Hvidovre Hospital

### An analytical discussion of the semantic aspect of hospital architecture

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**Keywords:** Imagery, meaning-making, representation, hospital architecture, agency

This paper discusses the semantic aspect of hospital architecture. The assumption here is, that cultural products like buildings, interiors and garden designs have semantic (meaningful) context. They communicate values, norms and ideas which are related to the people who define the meaning-making process.

The departure point for the discussion is Hvidovre Hospital which was developed between 1962 and 1975 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Interviews, talks, articles, reports and visual material are used to understand the narratives of the designers (the ideas behind the design). But the hospital architecture can also be read as a manifestation of who was in charge of the development of the project; in this case the municipality of Copenhagen. Hvidovre Hospital was a socio-political project and should be understood in relation to the political paradigm (thought pattern) in which it was made. So what kind of formal language did the municipality choose for itself in selecting the architect for their hospital project? What kind of ideas did they read into the design? And how does that relate to their political agenda? The jury report from the architecture competition in 1962, as well as other texts by the municipality and their representatives will be used to depict their view point.

The analysis of Hvidovre Hospital will illustrate the importance of imagery, ethos and agency and address the intentionality of the architecture profession today. What is more, the analysis will demonstrate that architectural history is not linear. Ideas that informed Hvidovre Hospital have travelled through time from one architect and (hospital) project to another internationally, recurring in our present moment in history in the design of one of the new 'Super Hospitals' in Denmark.

## In Search of Atmosphere through a Literary Approach

### The Writingplace Initiative

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**Keywords:** place-making / network / literary methods / atmosphere / transsubjectivity

Until recently the word „atmosphere“ was hardly present in the discourse on architecture, landscape and urban planning. Currently, we can see a growing interest in the atmospheric quality of places and landscapes, especially in the Northern part of Europe. Recent initiatives include the PhD seminar “Researching Atmospheres” in Aarhus in April 2013, the issue Building Atmosphere of Dutch-Belgian journal OASE (2013), and the seminar “Architecture and Atmosphere” in June 2014 in Helsinki. The term atmosphere is crucial to understand the intense relations between subject and object in regard to the experience of place. This paper proposes a literary approach to the “reading” and designing of atmospheres, since indeed, precisely in literature, the reciprocal relationship between the subject and object is at stake.

In this context, the paper describes the initiative of Writingplace, an international collective based in The Netherlands, that experiments with literary writing in relation to architecture, and calls for a sensitive attitude and acknowledges the importance of the (trans)subjectivity within the design practices and their discourse. In short notes, reflections and poems on its website, the group of young architects and academics contemplates on the evocative descriptions of architectural and urban atmospheres in literature, the poetic power embedded in landscapes and places and the possibilities for a literary approach to architecture and place-making.

Writingplace acts on two levels: first, it works as a laboratory for architecture and literature, investigating how themes such as atmosphere can be addressed through a literary approach; second, it reaches out to a larger audience of (landscape) architects, and planners to enlarge the circle of knowledge in this field. The paper will bring to the fore some of the conclusions of the conference “WRITINGPLACE, literary methods in architectural research and design”, held in Delft in 2013.

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## Christiania's place in the world of travelling ideas

### Sharing informal liveability

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**Keywords:** *Christiania, non-capitalist, informal, inspiration, affect*

The self-proclaimed 'Freetown' of Christiania has occupied prime real estate in the Danish capital of Copenhagen since 1971. More significantly, since the first squatter activists 'liberated' this abandoned military site from the Danish state, the ensuing social experiment has occupied the public imagination as a place that motivates non-capitalist subjects to reproduce intangible attributes of living well in a sustainable and caring way. In this sense, Christiania is widely perceived as the unruly offspring of the 'liveability' exported by Danish landscape architects (Hellström Reimer 2011).

Every year an estimated 300,000 visitors walk or cycle through the eclectic jumble of barely legible 'neighbourhoods' that comprise idiosyncratic self-made homes; legal, informal and illegal businesses; and numerous community-run welfare institutions intended to cater for all income and age groups (Thörn et al., 2011). Some tourists do not see past the intimidating reputation of Europe's biggest hash-market; others are inspired by the playful 'shabby chic' that thrives on a landscape stripped of commercial logos and formal planning intervention. If limited to these encounters, Christiania's 'place in the world' might be explained through orthodox 'creative cities' narratives that highlight a profitable paradox in 'environments and events that are simultaneously organised and yet felt to be spontaneous' (Ellin 2006; Pløger 2010: 849).

This paper articulates a more ambitious geography of influence by drawing explicitly on a language and theory of urban informality more usually associated with the so-called developing world (AlSayyad and Roy 2003). The empirical content draws attention to less familiar visitor groups and 'emotionally charged' network relationships exposed by taking specific account of the Christiania Research in Residence (CRIR) programme (Autogena 2014). CRIR has hosted more than 80 visitors (activists, architects, artists and academics) since 2004. The analysis explores 'how and what' questions concerning the people and ideas that 'connect' in Christiania and 'travel' to other groups and sites. It extends existing research by shedding light on multi-scalar micro-social processes (Jarvis 2013). Christiania's informal liveability is embedded and emergent: it grows not only from the bottom up but also evolves in cycles of enchantment, through colliding relations with the wider world.

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## A tiny Bilbao in the province?

### Experience economy and cultural planning in small communities

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**Keywords:** Culture Planning, Regional Development, Experience economy, Public Art, Site-Specificity.

In the 2000s, along a booming economy, the ideas behind the experience economy and the creative cities inspired policy makers and city planners throughout the western world (Pine and Gilmore 1999, Florida 2004, Klingman 2007). This resulted in urban development and regeneration projects where the utilization of cultural institutions, creative industries and the demands of the creative class were drivers in the development of the major cities, i.e. the "Bilbao Effect". From the major cities these ideas spread to smaller cities, which raised questions about critical mass, etc. This "second wave" of experience economy driven planning in a Danish context has been discussed by, among others, Marling, Kiib and Jensen (2009) and Andersson (2010).

The paper asks if the local and regional cultural planning in Denmark continuously are inspired by the experience economy, and is also asking what implications the size of the province communities have in relation to the application of experience economy thinking in cultural planning. The paper presents a reading of the current 13 Danish "Culture Agreements" made between the ministry of culture and the cultural regions (Kulturstyrelsen) The reading has a special interest in the projects that focus on art and cultural activities in public space.

The 13 examples show that two main rationales guides the agreements: a) the experience economy, which informs cultural planning even in small scale cultural projects in province areas today, and b) the cultural planning of the welfare state, which focus on accessibility, a democratic and inclusive approach expressed in the form of culture projects that will enhance the quality of life and liveability in the local community.

The paper discusses how and if the two rationales can be executed in the same projects: economic growth is desirable and needed, especially in declining areas, but when it is considered to be a success parameter in cultural planning it holds the potential of excluding certain projects or user groups.

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## In death we are all equal

### Modernist landscape architecture and cemetery culture in Norway

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**Keywords:** Cemetery Design, Post-war Modernism, Monotony, Karen Reistad

Design of cemeteries in Norway has changed radically in the last hundred years. In the early 1900s graves framed by stone or concrete, and small cast iron picket fences and tall tombstones were common. Towards the end of the century this picture was changed. The frames had disappeared along with the large tombstones. Today the cemeteries are more monotonous than before; a lawn with long rows of similar tombstones in uniform size is what meets the visitors.

Cemetery authorities in Norway, The Norwegian Social Democratic Party – Arbeiderpartiet – who has had a leading role in the development of Norwegian post-war society, and especially modernist landscape architect Karen Reistad (1900 - 1994), who was the State Cemetery Consultant from 1954 – 1970, have been accused of contributing to a politically motivated uniformity and impoverishment of cemetery culture. Is this allegation justifiable?

This paper analyses the background to the development. Reistad's rich archive of drawings and other documents, along with documents from the Ministry of Church, and other relevant sources have been investigated, using discourse analysis. The findings generally give a different picture than the popular perception.

The paper thus nuances the prevailing notion that modernist Norwegian cemeteries represent a politically motivated impoverishment of an older and richer cemetery culture. The development towards a simplification of burial monuments in Norwegian cemeteries which began before Karen Reistad's time was related to general design trends and tendencies in society rather than signals and regulations by the authorities. The paper compares the situation in Norway with the similar developments in Sweden and Denmark, and concludes with a note on the shifting values of design in relation to shifting political environment.

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## Sustainable Transformation of Building Heritage in Rural Denmark

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**Keywords:** Rural exodus, Cultural heritage, Transformation, Sustainability, Planning

Rural exodus has led to a surfeit of housing in Denmark's rural areas. The Ministry of Housing, Urban and Rural affairs has launched initiatives with economic support for demolition of buildings. However, the knowledge of the consequences of the numerous demolitions is poor.

This abstract describes a protocol for a PhD project aiming to discuss architectural consequences and potential planning strategies for demolitions in villages and landscapes.

The project will be divided into three parts, 1) a literature review 2) an empiric study and 3) an experimental study.

- 1) In relation to current issues of rural exodus, a systematic literature review of cultural heritage, transformation theory and sustainability in decentralized settlement will be conducted.
- 2) An analysis of ministerial initiatives and actual actions with respect to rural exodus will be conducted to describe the justification behind the initiatives as well as the actual demolitions and compare these. The comparison aims to reveal whether the initiatives have the desired consequences.
- 3) An experimental study of potential future scenarios based on the current conditions of rural exodus will be conducted through drawing, models and text. The analysis will reveal possible alternatives to the current planning strategies and discuss perspectives if these.

This protocol aims to position the project within the scientific field of rural exodus and cultural heritage. It informs fellow researchers about the project and asks to discuss the research design in order to achieve a beneficial study.

The PhD project will provide a thorough base for the discussions on public initiatives in areas of rural exodus. The thesis is expected to be published primo 2017.

## “Children of the state” versus “children of the piazza”

### A comparison of everyday play spaces in Denmark and Greece

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**Keywords:** *Children, Play, Photography, Neighbourhood, Institutionalization*

The method of volunteer-employed photography (VEP) as a tool for documenting users' experiences of the built environment is a particularly fruitful one in the case of ethnographic research on children's favourite spaces for open-air play. In contrast to drawings, a photograph is “an image without a code,” as Roland Barthes argues, and conveys the authenticity of lived experience. Combined with interviews about and/or written commentary on the photos, the material thus collected can be a valuable source for understanding how children use everyday spaces, which places they prefer for their play and, thus, inform Landscape Architecture and Playground Design. In an extensive field documentation using VEP, Danish researchers Rasmussen and Smidt (2000) investigated the process of institutionalization of childhood, which has been taking place in the last decades in the Nordic countries. In a recent (2012) research, a similar methodology (VEP) was used for documenting children's play spaces in a medium-sized city in Greece.

This paper examines the Greek results side-by-side to the Danish data, on the basis of the reciprocity between urban design and notions of welfare. The research showed that the attributes of everyday life of children in urban neighbourhoods are much less influenced by state welfare than in the Danish example, which is not surprising, given the different historical social characteristics of the two cultures. In contrast to the Danish tradition of organized play spaces, that has become, through the years, a design trend of highly nuanced playground planning, the Greek urban culture is lacking in welfare about children, a fact with several repercussions, mostly negative, for the quality of living in urban areas. There are, therefore, lessons to be learnt from the apparent differences between Denmark and Greece, both in the design of playspaces and childhood culture itself.

## Post Millennium Urban Space Design in Denmark

### A survey on 100 Danish projects from 2002 - 2010

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This article is based on an evaluation of 100 Danish open space projects from 2000 - 2010. The projects were initially proposals from Danish municipalities for the Campaign on Better Open Spaces (Bedre Byrums Kampagne) run by Realdania starting in 2002. These projects are all proposed just after 2002. Based on the quality of the projects including the goals for the proposal, the quality of the proposed design, and finally to what extent the projects contributed to new concepts and perspectives in open space design, 24 proposals were selected for further development. These projects were developed in the period from 2003 - 2007 with support from consultants.

The evaluation has been carried out in 2011. It categorizes the initial 100 projects in relation to location, goals, concepts, scale and means. This evaluation is partly based on analysis of documents and partly on a comprehensive questionnaire survey to all Danish Municipalities. The evaluation of the 24 projects with special qualities is partly based on qualitative data and partly on observations on site. The results from this part focus on the development proposed by the consultants, including special focus on change of goals, direction of design development, changes of implementation strategies.

All the results from the evaluation are put into a broader context of traveling ideas. The findings are related to international agendas on Public Space Design in the period up to the development of these 100 projects. These provide interesting patterns related to the goals and the means of well known European projects. The patterns show a clear movement from classic design inspired from Southern European cities to a more context related Scandinavian design. In this you find a strong relation to specific values of the welfare city – among others a strong focus on community feeling, sports and bodily exercises, and it documents that the aesthetic qualities of the projects include a close relation to city landscape design.



## Interpreting and activating latent landscape structure in Flanders

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**Keywords:** Housing, Landscape, Flanders and Scenario Design

Belgium has vast suburban territories areas, which are supposedly undesirable, but may have to adapt to a spatial strategy that is more in harmony with culture and landscape as the only viable way forward. Although spatial policy is striving towards 'compactness' and an 'open Flanders', additional developments are at best bubbly additions to villages and infill of ribbons instead of compact towns. This discrepancy can be partially explained by a path dependency of consistently facilitating dispersed housing, but it is also culturally grounded in ideas and expectations of the inhabitants and the power of local governments. The deconcentrated bubbles and infills do not adequately address imminent challenges such as flooding or congestion. Furthermore, they decrease the existing spatial qualities: a coulisse landscape with a resilient mix of agriculture, dwelling, nature and business activities is gradually transformed by monotonous patches that replace or hide the mosaic characteristics.

Might a 'Nordic approach' as described by the conference brief offer a solution? It is stated that a Nordic approach addresses issues from within a site specific reading of nature and culture. In our interpretation, structures such as relief, soil, forests, or infrastructural ribbon developments, can be used to redistribute the quasi-clusters into configurations that address the mentioned challenges. A typological specific densification alongside a slope could, for example, preserve the wetter grounds lower in valley; contribute to the maintenance of adjacent nature, while providing equal access to the matrix of local and regional amenities. The paper explores this approach with three case studies that redistribute the expected housing development to an ordering based on the forest structure (Case: Brasschaat), the relief (Heerentals-Kasterlee) and the anthropological landscape layer of an infrastructural bundle (Temse-Willebroek).

Referring to current developments and this approach as 'Nordic' is probably a stretch; however, the common denominators of cultural and natural embeddedness are definitely a positive connotation that might help to steer away from the image of 'the ugliest county in the world'.

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# Proceedings



## Playscape as Landscape

### Joining Natural and Human Needs to Make Urban Space

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**Keywords:** *Public Space, Nature in Cities, Designed Landscapes, Homo Ludens*

The presentation addresses the contemporary relationship between man and nature as manifested in public space. It demonstrates how landscapes can be conceived within and informed by two basic theoretical themes: by the social construction of nature and by the idea of play. It is precisely nature or its representations as a cultural and aesthetic construct that is the most defining factor of our work which at the same time comes to life only by its social dynamics. The presentation will demonstrate how the design process of inventing and creating a landscape is rooted in collective constructions of nature and social realities. It will show how these constructions define our view and condition the recognition of the design problem in question. It will at the same time demonstrate how the design process grows out of the phenomenon of play as the key factor of the creation of culture. The findings are based on the observation of a substantial portion of the production of public space in Europe in last 10 years and on some practical experience through my own practice. Using some selected examples it will juxtapose various characters of public space by focusing on those allowing for play to develop. Thus the presentation will identify some of many ways in which play is allowed to develop in urban space and argue that play can be understood as a form of a free speech and that at such is essential for the generation of urbanity. The presentation takes Huizinga's definition of play as the utterly free act as its starting point and exposes the possibilities which the un-coded, empty spaces (empty in the sense of the Agamben's term *inert*) offer for the interaction between people and therefore for the development of urbanity.

## Making places in 1:1

### Co-creation and local transformations through temporary projects

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**Keywords:** temporary use, co-creation, handcrafted space, learning, transformation

In 1931 the Danish landscape architect C.Th. Sørensen first introduced the ideas of the adventure Playground<sup>1</sup>. His ambition was to create play areas filled with scrap building materials from which children could create their own environment as a way to "to stimulate the children's imagination and their potential for self-expression"<sup>2</sup>.

While the visual expressions according to Sørensen were not the most appealing, the transient visual aesthetics of the DIY (do it yourself) movement, has become apparent in the contemporary western city. The phenomena of co-creating environments by hand from what is available has emerged in urban design as a way to utilize vacant sites and as a process to involve citizens in the production of space in 1:1<sup>3</sup>.

At the University of Copenhagen we have explored methods of creating new public domains through making and building temporary small scale spaces in 1:1. We have initiated projects involving both children from a youth club and with our own landscape architecture students. The drafting table was replaced by a strong presence on site developing projects in an almost hand crafted process that allowed for adaptations and alterations to be made in the moment.

The initial aim was to investigate how relatively low budgets and simple physical alterations could set transformation in motion reprogramming and redirect the discourse of a place. We experienced how the method also had some interesting implications for the design process and particularly for learning about space through the act of hand crafting it. The making itself seemed to embed spatial knowledge into the students and children on a much deeper level than had we worked in a more classical representational mode through drawings and models.

This phenomenon of embodied learning is backed up the anthropologist Tim Ingold and his theories around "thinking through making"<sup>4</sup>. As Ingolds states "in the art of inquiry, the conduct of thought goes along with, and continually answers to, the fluxes and flows of the materials with which we work [...]. Here, every work is an experiment: not in a natural scientific sense of testing a preconceived hypothesis, or of engineering a confrontation between ideas "in the head" and facts "on the ground", but in the sense of prising an opening and following where it leads." It seems that these small scale hand crafted spaces suggests a process that points towards alternative design and production methods through which we can learn about space itself.

In this paper I will investigate how our empiric observations of hand crafting spaces can be examined as a didactic tool through the lens of Tim Ingolds theories on making. Also I want to explore if Sørensens ideas of the adventure playground from 1931 still has something to teach us about the pedagogy of building places from scrap.

<sup>1</sup> Sørensen C.Th.: *Parkpolitik i Sogn og Købstad, 1931*

<sup>2</sup> Sørensen C.Th.: „*Etagehusets Have*" in *Arkitektens Månedshæfte, 1935, p. 61*

<sup>3</sup> Oswalt P, Overmeyer K, Misselwitz P, *Urban Catalyst: The Power of Temporary Use*, DOM publishers Berlin, 2013

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## Stockholm, Paris and New York, Questioning the Authority of Nature

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**Keywords:** *Stockholm School, models of nature, dichotomy, design, plantings*

In 1938, Holger Blom, leader of Stockholm Park Department, introduced a new approach for the planning of urban spaces, increasing accessibility to parks and gardens. Parks became a part of the city's green network. By bringing a synthetic and simplified view of the wildness into the city, he revealed the Swede's meaningful and subconscious relation to nature. This new approach has truly been inspiration for the conception of parks in Scandinavia and Europe in the 40's. It is known as the "Stockholm School of Landscape Design" bringing all together ecological, functional, social and urban aspects in landscape architecture.

"That looks as if it were planted; it is supposed to look like it grows!" Sven Hermelin, a landscape architect working at Stockholm Park Department with Holger Blom expressed the challenges of creating plantings reflecting the untouched nature. The discussion took also place among Danish landscape architects: Boye opposed the wildness and the growth to the cultivated (1972). Hauxner reinterpreted later these two notions as the pastoral and horticultural model (1992). This paper is questioning the relevance of these two models of nature in contemporary landscape architecture. Is the dichotomy still valid nowadays?

To discuss the point, two high-profile projects are analyzed: A library's garden in Paris, and the High Line in New York. The paper aims at discussing the theory of "Third Landscape" (Clément, 1997) and revealing the fragile boundaries between these models of nature.

The paper concludes that this dichotomy is still valid today, but should anyhow be addressed according to two phases in design: The design phase expressing the intentions and motivations of the designer, and the realization phase, result of a design, showing that the different models of nature, regardless of the original intentions, can at any given time evolve and reverse.

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## Redefining Streetscapes

### The dynamic relation between water and streets in Copenhagen

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**Keywords:** *Copenhagen, stormwater management, streetscapes, politics, history*

Throughout the history of Copenhagen the street network and urban drainage have been interconnected (Dam 2008). The global climatic challenges is now gradually changing the framework of this relationship and thus pulling the mindset of the Copenhagen streetscapes towards a new common ground of values.

The majority of all historical cities have grown from a human reading of the landscape through interaction with topography and natural processes including water drainage. In Scandinavia rainwater drainage has historically functioned as a design parameter of the urban street layout, as rainwater has been directed through streets to receiving water bodies. Since the construction of sewer systems in the western world in the 1800s, the water cycle of cities has been detached from our awareness of urban space (Lindegaard 2001). The capacity of the Scandinavian sewer systems is today disproportionate to the predicted heavy cloudburst events caused by the climatic changes. As a reaction we are currently witnessing the formation of a new interdisciplinary discourse pointing at landscape-based stormwater management as a solution (Backhaus, Jensen and Nørgaard 2010). This new discourse is affecting the relation between streetscapes and water drainage in Copenhagen since political plans draw attention to the surface of streets as essential in climate proofing the city to changing precipitation patterns.

Through studies of Copenhagen as case-area this paper will explore how the convention of streets has changed over time around hydrological aspects. The paper will look into the historical and present relation between water and streetscapes in Copenhagen, and additionally ask how the future integration of landscape-based stormwater management in urban streets may function as a vehicle for revealing new spatial and social values of streetscapes. Furthermore it will be discussed how this emerging change of values may reflect or reproduce the idea of the Scandinavian approach to urban design.

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## Designing Urban Bikespaces – a new Urban Typology

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**Keywords:** Urban Bike Spaces, Urban Design, Urban Architecture, Liveability, Public Domain

*"A young girl is sitting on the top of the black hill. She hardly moves, as she is very occupied sketching and writing in her notebook. Now and then she looks down over the square below her. Down the hill some children are playing with a ball – around and around it goes. Others are experiencing a play-sculpture. They climb on, into and out of the huge black octopus, while a woman with a scarf is watching them from a nearby bench. The atmosphere is relaxed and lazy.*

*Commuting bikers are crossing the eastern part of the square. They have just left the Red Square. They are in a hurry. Some are looking around. On the move they get a quick glimpse of the black octopus, the scarf and the girl sitting on the top of the hill. The tiny body forms a fascinating silhouette against the blue sky like a beautiful little sculpture.*

*After a while, the scenery changes. The girl's father is approaching the hill and is shouting her name. She smiles, slowly rises and walks down towards him" (observations, Copenhagen August the 14th 2013)*

This article presents analyses of the 'Nørrebro Bike Route' as an 'urban bikescape' consisting of a mixture of lanes and coupled urban places and small parks. It is a place to sit, to play and to relax, but at the same time it also a place for mobility. It is a social-technical assemblage (Urry 2007, Latour 1996), or a zone for social interaction, where commuters meet local everyday life. In this respect the research relates to theories of 'the mobility turn' (Urry 2000, Vannini 2012, Lassen 2011, Jensen 2013, 2014, Olesen 2014).

It is the thesis that 'urban bikespaces' such as Nørrebro Bike Route can play an important role in the future welfare city, not just as infrastructure bringing citizens from A to B in a sustainable way, but also as an new urban typology providing citizens with diverse urban cultural experiences. The aim of the research is, through analyses of cases, to investigate how to design bike lanes in dense cities in such a way that they open up the city and function as new zones for social and cultural interaction, or as new public domains (Haajer & Reijndorph 2001).

- The article presents the theoretical approaches and results of the mapping in relation to following research questions:
- What role does the layout & the connections play in this regard (Lynch 1960; 1995, Cullen 1971/1996, Hvattum 2010)?
- What effect do the programs have for urban life (Waltzer 1995, Sennett 1995, Haajer & Reijndorph 2001)?
- And last but not least, to what extent are urban architecture (scale, rhythm, content) & aesthetics developed (Thies- Evensen 1992, Venturi 1972, Rasmussen 2003, Thrift 2004, Merleau-Ponty 2009, Pallismaa 2005, Pink 2009)?

Finally the article addresses the travelling ideas of 'new urban bikespaces' and Nordic urban space design.

## The Failure of the Transformation of Ancient Social Oasis

### The case of Puerta del Sol (Madrid)

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**Keywords:** Urban areas, Minimalism, Way of life, Spain (Madrid)

Overall, the concept of “plaza” is a public open space where the people socialize. They are democratic, crowded spaces, in which everyone is related. It’s an important part of the Mediterranean tradition where the people spend most of their time outdoors.

In the final decades, there arose an architectural trend that follows a concept of clean lines and minimalist tendencies. It breaks spaces with continuous pavement, minimizing green and shaded spaces. The resulting spaces are more exposed and easier to maintain and control. The social oasis spaces are being transformed into places without content, uninhabitable deserts in the middle of the city.

The derivative spaces affect the quality of life of the citizens. In recent times, designs have not attempted to make spaces suitable for public interaction, but instead have been designed according to maintenance criteria and so police control can be facilitated.

This space is an important reference in the city. It is a controversial square due to the huge amount of public uses in relation to its size and scale. This versatile space has been employed for a wide array of uses, including: protests, celebrations, government acts, a key meeting point within the city, transportation, shopping center, tourism and more.

In December 2013 Madrid municipality opened an ideas competition with the end of remodeling the square. The winning proposal maintains the same model and confirms the lack of landscaping and related items, which makes it an uninhabitable space. Its structural characteristics make it ecologically and economically unsustainable and thus, clearly undemocratic.

Conclusively we reject the imposition of this model. We will study the past, present and future of the Puerta del Sol, analyzing the actual design and the proposed remodeling.

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# Proceedings

## A generic heritage?

### Making a case for younger industrial landscapes

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**Keywords:** *New Heritage, Industrial Landscapes, Site-specificity, Photography*

The majority of industrial buildings in Denmark are from 1945-1989 (Tietjen et al, 2010), coinciding with the societal and built expansion of the welfare state. Situated within the fragmented conurbations of the *Zwischenstadt* (Sieverts, 2003), these industrial landscapes are either perceived as anaesthetic and incompatible with ideals of a dense, mixed-use city, or – conversely – accepted or even embraced as is (Vicenzotti, 2011). Lifting them into a heritage perspective reveals similarly opposing positions: on the one hand they fail all recognition criteria of ‘authorized heritage discourse’ (Smith, 2006), yet on the other hand they comply with the all-encompassing New Heritage concept (Fairclough et al, 2009) supporting Koolhaas’ claim of a growing preservation empire (2010). This paper proposes a third position through the hypothesis that a new aesthetic perception can contribute to revised assessment strategies within a dynamic heritage concept and support architectural transformation rooted in already present structures.

The focus of this paper is to bring the assessment of younger industrial landscapes into a heritage domain using the rigorous photographic method of Bernd & Hilla Becher (Lange, 2006). Their work constitutes a vital part of *New Topographics* (Salvesen, 2009), which offers extensive bodies of work investigating spaces, structures and phenomena of equivalent subject matter. Applying photographic typologies as a systematic tool to identify and visualise characteristics in our environment, younger industrial landscapes appear as families of distinct building types, infrastructure, borders and expanses. These fundamentally general characteristics are at odds with the dominant focus of heritage assessments, e.g. SAVE, and question the hegemony of the site-specific and the outstanding.

The empirical findings, spanning across Denmark, suggest acknowledging the site-commonplace alongside the site-specific, to work with resemblance of structures and spaces rather than focusing on outstanding qualities only, and to recognize characteristics often associated with globalization as partly constitutive of places. Discussing these findings in relation to Fairclough et al and Smith points towards clarifying a dynamic heritage concept with attention to material and aesthetic characteristics and, further, to challenge Koolhaas’s proclamation: “There are no ideas for preserving the mediocre, the generic.” (2010)

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## Proposal for a "Landscape Laboratory"

in the Meuse Valley in Liege (Belgium)

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**Keywords:** Meuse valley, Liège, Post-industrial sites, Landscape laboratory, Landscape acupuncture

In an article untitled „Landscape Laboratory as a Scandinavian Concept“, R. Gustavsson describes the experiment he set up in the 1990s at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp. The Landscape Laboratory is an ongoing full scale afforestation experiment that brings together the different theoretical and practical traditions of forestry, ecology and landscape architecture. It is based on the epistemological paradigm of case study analysis, and involves “slow learning”, combining design and management, in phase with the living processes it studies. As such, it is necessarily open, responsive to the site-specific dynamics that it started and accompanies through time. By introducing the idea of “creative management”, it proposes a time-based conceptual framework that can be used in the on-going study and experimentation of different urban and landscape issues.

The idea was taken on in projects in different contexts in Scandinavia and elsewhere in Europe. The research led by the unit “Ville-Territoire-Paysage” (LabVTP) of the Faculty of Architecture at the Liège University for the requalification of industrial sites in the Meuse valley offers an opportunity to confront the laboratory approach to yet another context, that of a post-industrial urban site in search of (landscape) meaning. The aim of LabVTP is to set up a permanent landscape observatory, aimed at regaining “landscape literacy” through a series of iterative, local landscape projects throughout the city, that articulate small-scale landscape elements with long-term place- and time-contextual investment. Each of these interventions can turn into a small “landscape laboratory” involving local stakeholders, and supporting teaching and research on themes such as vegetal reuse of industrial sites, participative urbanism, time-based design and “creative management”. Through the landscape laboratory approach emphasizing the spatial understanding of living environments through ongoing creative involvement, our aim is to help rebuild the coherence of the apparently chaotic territory, and thus imagine a vision for its future.

## Cities of Biodiversity – Current practice and future perspectives

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**Keywords:** Biodiversity, Urban Planning, Landscape Design, Landscape Planning, Ecological Urbanism

Global discourse on biodiversity is gaining political momentum on UN- as well as EU-level, as policy makers are agreeing on ending the global decline in species- and biotope-diversity, often referred to as the sixth mass extinction (Rockström et al., 2009). At the same time, the concept of an ecologically founded urbanism has experienced a newfound interest with the emergence of landscape urbanism and its apparent successor ecological urbanism. Also the German Zwischenstadt-approach has emphasized landscape as the key agent in urban design and –planning. Common for these approaches, besides their landscape-centricity is, that they operate with overlapping spatial and functional layers, that they view the territory as a whole, downplaying city-landscape dichotomies, and that they incorporate a processual, multi-scalar thinking into the realm of urbanism. (Mostafavi & Doherty, 2010 and Sieverts, 2008). Current Danish landscape architectural practice seems to neglect this processual, multi-scalar landscape ecological approach (Odgaard, 2014) despite global political discourse and the mentioned academic paradigms. To remedy this, the obvious question thus seems to be: how to integrate biodiversity in urban- and landscape design? To answer this, I would like to bring to attention the notion of time & process. The idea of a static ecological state in a given habitat is false, just like the freezing of a static landscape architectural image is counterproductive from a biodiversity point-of-view.

To showcase how to work more fruitful with time & process in practice, and thus improving biodiversity-potential, I would like to draw on two Swedish projects: Filborna Skogspark in Helsingborg and elements of the landscape laboratory at Sveriges Landbruksuniversitet at Alnarp. Both projects display the practice of experimentation, and because they are experimental in their setup with an adaptive management setup, they contain the essence of improving biodiversity in urban contexts. (Gustavsson, 2010 and Wiman 2014) To contextualise further, I will draw on the representational techniques of reference-projects primarily by the American landscape architect office, James Corner's Field Operations. The perspective is to showcase a synergy that lies within an urban-nature ecological framework, thus investigating how different interpretations of the concept of biodiversity can lead to a larger degree of diversity in landscape architecture within the urban planning-realm. This leads to concrete recommendations, which attempt to bridge the gap between landscape ecology and urban planning in order to reduce the unacceptable loss of biodiversity.

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## Narratives on architecture, community and the market in the Danish welfare state

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**Keywords:** architecture history, welfare state, planning, neoliberalisation

In the literature, the development of the welfare state and what is often referred to as a golden era in Scandinavian architecture is inextricably linked (Creagh et al 2008; Dirckinck-Holmfeld et al 2007; Faber 1978; Mattsson & Wallenstein 2010; Pagh 2013b; Pagh 2013c; Thomsen 2013; Vindum 2010). Arne Gaardmand (1993, p. 13) simply asserts the era as one of high hopes for the impact of housing and planning on the democratic development of the nation, thereby strengthening the narrative of the socially responsible architect without whom realizing the Scandinavian model had not been possible. With this outset another strong narrative has been created, namely that since then, architects in general have turned their attention from community to the market (Dirckinck-Holmfeld et al 2007; Kvorning 2010; Vindum 2010). While this market turn may be an empirical observation hardly contestable, oftentimes it leads to nothing more than a blame game between practitioners, theoreticians and critics.

The aim of this paper is to suggest an alternative analysis of the architect's role in the post-war development of the Danish welfare state as a means to understanding and explaining contemporary developments in architecture differently.

First the architects' central position in developing the welfare state is challenged based on empirical studies of the debate of that age (Pagh 2013a; Pagh 2013c). Secondly – suggesting that the architects actually always worked for a market – it is discussed whether the architects' market turn might be understood also as a change in the social, economic and political structures defining the market rather than only a change in the architects' approach. Thirdly it is proposed how the changing character of the market during the past 30-40 years of neoliberalization (Harvey 2000; Harvey 2009; Ibelings 1998) can be understood as the basis for the changes in the architects' practice.

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# Proceedings



## Temporary Encounters

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**Keywords:** temporary art, urban planning, curatorial practice, Situationism, Fluxus

In the Danish urban development strategies the use of temporary artwork plays an important role and its ability to illuminate new uses and opportunities of a place is often put forward. Furthermore, temporary artwork is more and more often described as a valuable engine catalyzing the urban development and enabling vibrant environments to emerge.

However, the use of the temporary art in public spaces as an encounter is not a new phenomenon. Temporary art has been practiced in the artistic field in the last century by performative movements such as the Situationists, who staged interventions in the urban context with the aim of disrupting the on-going spectacle of society by bringing life, politics, and art together (Debord 1958). Disruption and intervention in real time were used as mouthpieces to juxtapose a critique of or an alternative to the existing society. Nevertheless, it is a rather new phenomenon in that the qualities of the temporary artwork seem to be of certain interest for the urban planning realm.

Andrea Phillips claims that public art is slipping away to be replaced by diverse forms of participatory, networked, collaborative and/or discursive practices. She proposes that this is a paradoxical situation which can be received both as egalitarian positively and entirely destructive of artistic infrastructure, and she questions the critical potential of the practices which are orchestrated by the planning realm (Phillips 2011).

This paper addresses, with the outset in the relation between the emerge of temporary artwork today and the intentions of temporary art interventions in the 1950's-1970's, the notion of travelling concepts as the comparison of Situationist and Fluxus art interventions with recent temporary art in public space, which seem to address the idea of travelling ideas across time, in order to discuss the agencies and agenda temporary artwork in public space are serving today.



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## Man in a cave

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**Keywords:** *Genius Loci, Dwelling, landscape and phenomenology.*

When Jørn Utzon bought a piece of land outside Porto Petro at Mallorca, it was a rock plateau 20m above the sea level and beneath it was a cave. Before Jørn Utzon built his house, he went down in the “Cuevas La Luna” every day to meditate and get inspiration and that is the origin of Can Lis.

First, this paper is a phenomenological investigation based on Heidegger, and Bachelard. Asking through their point of view, how does interpretation of site, nature, and identity influence Utzon’s design processes and architecture, exemplified through four cases: Can Lis, Mallorca, Jeita Theatre, Lebanon, Silkeborg Artmuseum, Silkeborg, compared with Sverre Fehn’s Ivar Aasen Center in Orstad.

Second, the cave is a paradox: it is empty inside, but outside it comprises the entire globe. The cave is not an architectonic object, but a recognizable space. It can even contain fragments of a dwelling with walls, floors, and ceilings. It is a womb; it is a mythological, metaphorical, and archetypal space.

Third, Heidegger focuses on the true nature of dwelling, as not dwelling within a building, but in a broader sense of dwelling on earth. Man can only locate his dwelling on this earth by figuring out the enclosure that contains the earth, an enclosure delineated by the sky. Heidegger calls it the “fourfold”: earth, sky, divinities and mortals. This fourfold Bachelard is called the “poetics of space”, and to investigate this, we must use Bergson’s intuition.

Finally, this paper analyses, through a phenomenological approach, the relation between site, nature, and architecture. Man is the center, as Utzon claims: “We relate everything around us to ourselves”, things as light, structure, materiality, and its interaction between landscape and architecture define how we dwell. To investigate and explain this, I use drawings, paintings, and photos.

# Proceedings



## A Model for Savamala

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**Keywords:** *Neglected city quarter, Revitalization, Welfare planning, Transparency, Belgrade*

The scope of my survey examines the impact of western initiatives on the process of revitalization and urban development in the urban historic centre of Belgrade, Serbia. Parallely it observes the influence of the local politics and administration on applied approaches such as welfare planning, cultural projects, and performative strategies.

It covers 2 years experience in Savamala, a unique yet severely neglected city quarter. The survey was performed as a case study, in which I had a chance to act in the area through the means of scientific and artistic research, workshop activities and cultural and community activism.

It ultimately focuses on an intensive 8 month trajectory (The Urban Incubator Belgrade), initiated by the Goethe Institute in which, in order to stimulate revitalization of Savamala, it gathered 11, mainly foreign projects groups, that lived, worked and engaged with the area for this period of time.

As one of 2 authors of A Model for Savamala (UIB project) from the Netherlands, I approached the area with a proposal that emphasizes on transparency and citizen's participation.

Together with the local team of architects we build a physical model, a database that represents the current condition of the area, its potential upcoming developments, existing urban morphology and typology, the property and social structure, the intensity of commercial activities.

The goal was to target the public awareness of it (together with citizens, visitors, developers, politicians and investors) and to discuss on potentials and issues this area has.

Along the process, Belgrade political administration changed. This led to a minor support to the Model for Savamala and eventually it will affect revitalization of the whole area.

This experience gave me the chance to think about the power of analytical approach when applied in countries like Serbia. Countries without resources, where political and legal frameworks are constantly changing.

## Researching the Urban Street-Level Environment – StadtParterre©

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**Keywords:** Urban Street-Level Environment (StadtParterre); Urban Space Research; 3D model of Virtual Visualization

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*One interesting feature of Copenhagen is that it is a 'one-storey city'. (...) Everything important happens at ground-floor level, which helps concentrate urban activities. (...) This streets cater to a great variety of functions: small shops, restaurants, galleries, workshops and more. In sum, the network of little streets is one of the most charming features of central Copenhagen.*

Jan Gehl (1996): *New City Spaces*, Copenhagen, pg: 11, 27.

There is a strong and direct relationship between urban street space and the structures and uses of the buildings' ground floor. When addressing urban development issues the necessity to consider the street-level-environment – a holistic urban zone of public, private, and semi-private spaces – must therefore be emphasized. In consequence the spatial representation of the street-level environment 3D ZPA is covering both built-up and non-built-up areas, it includes the street as well as the adjacent houses and courtyards.

Vienna's ground floor crisis is a key focal point for city administration: Although the rapid population growth (around 23.000 people per year) has created an urgent need for additional (living) space, ground floor vacancies are still spreading. On the other hand the environmental impact generated by individual motorized traffic has become so critical that it can no longer remain a secondary debate. The current mono-structural form of street space use – while understandable in terms of its historical evolution – does not do justice to urban space with respect to the public and cultural good.

Since urban maps usually end at the building perimeter, little is known about the concrete interrelations between built-up structures, ground floor use, and street use. Therefore the objective of the study is to both retrieve and generate data that helps understanding the (historically altered) relationship between public space and the life inside buildings. Based on the morphological analysis of the StadtParterre – by developing and applying the three-dimensional comprehensive street-level model 3D ZPA – the study intends to provide a strong argument towards a radical rethinking of street space and ground floor use.

While having been developed for a special street in Vienna, the analytical instrument 3D ZPA will be applicable in different contexts and cultures. Thus the study aims to evolve a methodology transferable to any urban situation.

## Park Politics – A Rooftop View

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**Keywords:** value based planning, environmental certification, environmental gentrification, green growth, climate responsibility, cosmopolitics

As the respiratory device of breathless industrialism, the urban public park has ever since its first appearance been a site for the ideological bargaining about resources and responsibilities. Mostly celebrated and mythologised, but also operationalized and exploited, the Scandinavian urban park is no exception. In the spirit of the Stockholm School, it has provided fundamental public service, both literally and metaphorically distributing breathing space and sustaining orders of energy supply.

Yet today, as a long-term commitment in an increasingly short-term economy, the urban park has acquired new mediating and sustaining functions. The paper will scrutinize these new roles, and this primarily through the case of the Emporia Rooftop Park at Hyllie Centre in Malmö, Sweden; a six acres undulating, publically accessible restorative refuge and green investment, sitting on top of one of Scandinavia's most extensive shopping facilities. This park does not only present an environmentally certified eco-engineering peak performance. It is also a competitive actor in a global economic and bio-political power play. Publically sanctioned but privately managed, the green rooftop offers a possibility to trace the negotiations concerning eco-systems services, social sustainability and "green growth" characterizing the contemporary production of environmental value.

A multi-perspectival analysis, it calls for composite methods, taking into consideration not only the significance of the finalized park, but furthermore the municipal and mediating processes prior to and parallel with its realisation. With the point of departure in politically oriented materialist aesthetics and urban theory, the paper develops a critique of an increasingly compliant planning practice, which, instead of developing the urban park into the cosmopolitical clearing that it could be, reduces it to a greenish pardon, covering up for an ever-more precarious and paradoxical climate race.

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# Proceedings



## Open space design, clip-on-architecture, and the architecture of additions

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**Keywords:** *Additions, suburbia, transformations, site, scale*

How can open space be nursed and designed in harmony with an existing constructed environment, and how can this be adjusted to embrace a better understanding of site, landscape, and nature? How can one intervene in the design and growth of an existing city without eliminating space while maintaining the scale and character of its neighborhoods? Since Rodrigo Perez de Arche wrote *Urban Transformations and the Architecture of Additions* in 1978 there were very few improvements made to open space design and architecture in modern suburbia. With higher energy costs and shifts in global climate, *Urban Transformations and the Architecture of Additions* suggests how designers can improve existing cities by transforming suburbia, making it more dense. How can this be done without eliminating open space and qualities within?

This paper presents a domestic dwelling constructed in 1919, then transformed in 2010 with two additions. The building follows the suggestions of Rodrigo Perez de Arche, but also alters and merges them with Scandinavian architectural practices. This particular house is located in Fargo, North Dakota with an extreme cold weather climate and short humid summers. The building underwent a total refurbishment, was insulated to a very high standard, and has become a project that is both adapted to and helps mitigate future climate change. This paper demonstrates how an existing building in a cold weather climate became a design example for a city with a typical suburbia lacking density. The impact on the site, the relation to sunlight, landscape, open space, views, materials, and the urban scale of the additions are addressed with "Super Danish" sensitivity. This paper will not only explore a constructed example of how to approach open space design in urban context, but will also present a project that has a more theoretical approach.

# Proceedings



## ‘Sustainability’, ‘Liveability’ and the Problematics of City Ranking Indexes

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**Keywords:** City ranking indexes, Sustainability, Liveability, Copenhagen, city size problem

This presentation will be directed toward an examination of Copenhagen’s leading status within international sustainability and quality of life indexes such as the Siemens Green City Index or Monocle’s Liveable City Index. This is supported by means of an Atlas<sup>1</sup> – a research format in this case directed toward the demystification of the mechanisms, dynamics and agendas of such indexes. Such a project engages, by definition, in the contestability of two related terms: firstly, what constitutes the ‘city’ as an object of measurement, in this case Copenhagen; and secondly, what constitutes urban ‘sustainability’ and ‘quality of life’. The discussion of the first term engages in the problematics of urban borders and their corresponding role in the production and measurement of cities as distinct objects. This will involve a discussion of the increasing regional and global dynamics attached to what has previously been loosely described as the ‘city’. The discussion of the second set of terms is directed, not toward arriving at definitive definitions of ‘sustainable urbanism’ or ‘quality of life’, nor toward undermining the terms altogether, but rather, toward an engagement of their social construction, their controversies and problematics. In this context, the presentation of the Atlas will touch upon what will be referred to as the ‘city size problem’, along with eco-technical biases and recurring ‘social-sustainability’ blind-spots within the construction of existing city ranking indexes.

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<sup>1</sup>The Atlas of the Copenhagen is a collaboration between co-editors Deane Simpson, Kathrin Gimmel, Anders Lonka and Marc Jay, Dutch graphic designer and architect Joost Grootens, and fifty students from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Architecture over three academic years.

## An Urban Green Comparison of China, Russia and Sweden

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Research from the Öresund Region has shown that eight perceived characteristics of outdoor environments - Serene, Wild, Lush, Spacious, the Common, the Pleasure garden, Festive/centre and Culture - correspond to basic needs for wellbeing, that people are more satisfied with their neighbourhood when more of these characteristics are present, and that Serene is most effective in reducing stress. The present article compares young people's preferences for the eight outdoor environmental characteristics.

Two Master's students at the Landscape Architecture programme, SLU Alnarp, Sweden have distributed a web questionnaire among networks in their respective homelands, China and Russia. In their respective home towns, Huanggang City Hubei province and St. Petersburg, they have also analysed the city green structure using the eight characteristics method and compared the method with their own national standard for classification of green areas.

The Russian questionnaire resulted in 161 responses and the Chinese in 148, in both cases more than 83% of respondents were 18-35 years. This limited statistics may be seen as indicating future trends, as the respondents are young and communicative. The two cities gave similar results. Both cities showed the highest preference for the characteristic Serene. Also highly preferred was Pleasure garden, Lush and Space. The characteristic Wild was not preferred by women or respondents age 36-45 years. In cities, Wild can be perceived as lack of park management, whereas Wild in rural landscapes may be seen as untouched fascinating nature. Culture, the Common and Center/fest were not preferred by the majority of respondents. Young people seem to seek peace and silence in green areas.

The presentation will show statistics and a map analysis of the eight characteristics related to ordinary comprehensive planning and green planning documents.

## From 'Cradle of Portuguese Civilization on the Indian Ocean' to 'Swahili Historic Urban Landscape' by way of Nordic development cooperation and World Heritage: Urban heritage narratives in Ilha de Moçambique

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**Keywords:** World Heritage, urban planning, Mozambique

The history of planning in the historic island city on the African Indian Ocean coast, illustrates shifts in intercultural heritage narratives in the 20th century, which continue to be part of the struggle for access to resources and urban planning today.

The little island of 15.000 people has witnessed a history of trading between African, Arab, Asian and European peoples for at least a millennium, as well as Vasco da Gama's conquest in 1499. From the 1950s the historic city gained symbolic importance for an increasingly threatened Portuguese Empire and efforts to renovate the island as a 'tourist historic city'<sup>1</sup>, gained momentum. After independence in 1975, "cooperantes" from Denmark volunteered in the new republic of Mozambique, and with participation of Professor Johannes Exner, produced documentation of the urban heritage in 1985<sup>2</sup>. In 1991 Ilha de Moçambique entered the World Heritage List and plans for sustainable development were made, including partnerships with Nordic development agencies<sup>3</sup>.

Today the island is often referred to as "Swahili", referring to hybrid urban Islamic cultures in the region, like Zanzibar. Increasing focus is given to intangible heritage and cultural tourism. A large part of the population lives in poverty without clean water and sanitation in the southern part of the island. A struggle for modernization, ad hoc international development projects and property investors, lead to different agendas championed by different authorities.

This paper, based on current Ph.D research, shows how the different heritage narratives are played out in planning processes and the built environment today and relating this to current urban heritage planning norms<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Ashworth, G. J, and J. E Tunbridge. *The Tourist-Historic City*. London; New York: Belhaven Press, 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Aarhus, Arkitektskolen, and Secretaria de Estado do Cultura. *Ilha de Moçambique : Relatório - Report 1982 - 1985*. Aarhus, 1985.

<sup>3</sup> Mutal, S. Coordinator. *Ilha de Moçambique World Heritage Site: A Programme for Sustainable Human Development and Integral Conservation*. Paris/Amsterdam: UNESCO and UNDP, December 1998.

<sup>4</sup> Bandarin, Francesco, and Ron van Oers. *The Historic Urban Landscape : Managing Heritage in an Urban Century*. Chichester, West Sussex, UK; Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2012.



## A Parametric Urban Design Approach to Urban Development in Cairo: The Case of the El-Marg Elgidida

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**Keywords:** urban design, participation, parametric design, rapid urban growth, Cairo

Participatory urban design has a long tradition in Scandinavia. Yet when it comes to scenario building, participatory processes have traditionally relied on premeditated design scenarios, prepared by architects and planners. Such design scenarios can be difficult to modify in the course of participatory processes, as the consequences of changing different parameters cannot easily be evaluated by means of traditional design tools.

In recent years, new parametric design tools have opened up new possibilities for dynamic scenario building in urban design. By way of a parametric design approach, different urban design parameters can be modified and new urban space scenarios can be rendered three-dimensionally in almost real time. In short, this is parametric urban design. It opens up completely new possibilities for participatory design, as both lay stakeholders and non-designer professionals can provide input and evaluate the spatial effects instantly in the context of participatory design processes.

Cairo, Egypt, currently experiences rapid urban growth, while planning traditions are weak, resulting in large scale informal and unplanned development. A parametric urban design approach in combination with a more bottom-up planning approach as it is commonly practiced in Scandinavia, may be the best response to this condition. The El-Marg El-Gedida area is located at the northern edge of the Cairo metropolitan area and comprises one of the largest areas of informal settlements in Cairo. In recent years, development in this area has accelerated due to the construction of line one of the metro, and the area's connection to the northern part of the Cairo ring road.

Using the El-Marg El-Gedida area as a test case, this paper aims to investigate the potential for the application of a parametric urban design approach to urban space design in Cairo as a lever for bottom-up planning. While the paper will examine what parameters are relevant to include in this particular urban setting, it also discusses the potentials of a parametric urban design approach for analyzing current problems and exploring the implications of different expansion scenarios as a basis for more concrete discussions and involvement of different stakeholders in the context of urban design and planning in Cairo.

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## In the Outskirts of Heritage

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**Keywords:** *Architectural landscapes of welfare, architectural competitions, site analysis*

Radical architectural interventions made during the construction of the Norwegian welfare society, changed Oslo's urban tissue of for good. The upkeep and change of these build structures represent both major societal challenges and opportunities. When we look at the most comprehensive architectonic manifestations of the Norwegian welfare state situated in the periphery of city centre—infrastructural networks, suburban housing complexes and residential neighbourhoods—they are still relatively untouched by official heritage management initiatives. This is quite remarkable since these architectonic superstructures can be said to be the most substantial and concrete result of large scale decisions taken on behalf of citizens by planners, architects and politicians in the 20th century. Apparently they are too vernacular, too big, too young or too tainted to be grasped with the heritage instruments that are at hand and were produced in the same era.

Taking departure in Tveita, one of Oslo's many new-towns, this paper will investigate why the vernacular urban landscape found here, is almost invisible to established heritage management criteria and practices. The paper draws together perspectives on the architecture of the welfare era. The theoretical and methodological approach is inspired by critical theory, landscape theory and document analysis (public debate in local newspapers). The theoretical and methodological approach will along with a diachronic investigation of a spectrum of source material help to uncover the complex relationship between materiality, practice and ideologies in the urban landscapes of the welfare era related to Tveita.

## Redesigning the Ordinary

### Constructing spectacular urban spaces in Copenhagen

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**Keywords:** Site specificity, Copenhagen, Urban space, pavement, Superkilen

The recent years' focus on improving the quality of urban life in Copenhagen has led to the construction of several new urban spaces, including the design of entirely new kinds of pavement. This new pavement design contrasts with older sections of the city, which appear as dilapidated areas representing a bygone era. This paper presents an architectural analysis of one such designed space, the prize-winning 'Superkilen' in Copenhagen, designed by the Danish architectural firm BIG. It describes the leading design motifs with special attention to the pavement design. Using the Superkilen case, we pose the general question: 'What is the role and significance of pavement in the contemporary design of urban space?'

'Superkilen' is explored by means of on-site analysis using the methods of morphology, syntax and significance as described by Hauxner in her *Reading and Drawing* (2009). The analysis focuses on the initial completion proposals and competition briefs as well as the broader significance of site specificity as 'place of action' as proposed by Mari Hvattum.

It is commonly recognized that the last decade has seen a shift in the Danish architectural paradigm toward a bolder idiom of conceptualism under the influence of Dutch architects such as Rem Koolhaas, a shift that expresses a reaction to a stagnant and self-referencing tradition, have taken place during the 2000s.<sup>1</sup> During the same period, urban design in Copenhagen has evolved toward a projects initiated by architectural competition. Placing the case of Superkilen alongside comparative studies of similar new urban spaces in Copenhagen, the paper concludes that the shift in paradigm and the lack of an overall coherent design strategy in the city of Copenhagen has turned the pavement into a prominent design feature in contemporary urban design. That, which was once ordinary, is now an object of design and redesign.

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<sup>1</sup> Kristoffer Lindhardt Weiss argues that the Danish contribution to the 2004 Venice Biennale, entitled 'Too Perfect – Seven New Denmarks', curated by Bruce Mau and the Danish Architecture Centre, together with new design technologies and globalization, marks the beginning of a new paradigm. See K. Lindhardt Weiss, 'The pragmatic turn', In K. Lindhardt Weiss & K.

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## Design for the emerging Common(s)?

### The DEMOS by SARCHA 2013 call for ideas in Athens Greece

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**Keywords:** city common(s), Re-assembling the city, self-organisation/self-government, demos/a-demia

Since the 2008, and due to the financial collapse in Greece, there has been an ongoing mobilization of the Athens inhabitants; they reclaim disused open spaces and buildings and work to transform them into gathering places to meet and debate. Alongside political mobilization that seeks to invent a new type of living 'in common', a trendy new age activism of the 'love your clean and safe city' type is on the rise shadowed by brutal neo-nazis' 'hate for immigrants' racist cleansing. The official (state) response to such mobilization – including architectural commissions/competitions for public spaces - is falling short in providing a 'vision' for the city based on the emerging potential of assembling the city 'in common'.

Taking into consideration political mobilization in public spaces/squares (occupy movement, indignatos etc), the independent School of Architecture for All (SARCHA) launched the DEMOS international open call for ideas, in the context of the 2013 London Festival of Architecture (LFA). The task for participants was to experiment, bring forth and materialize current aspects of the concept of demos (the people as the political unit of demo-cracy) and invent a 'structure' that gives shape and activates the transformative political power of the Athens inhabitants. The brief asked architects and non-architects to design/imaging/ describe the connection of the Athens Town Hall with its adjacent public square in a way that the municipal building (the actual site of administration) is incorporated into the square to generate a landscape of potentiality for self-government.

The paper will discuss the DEMOS call (submissions and review of the entries) in contradistinction with Giorgio Agamben's term a-demia (the political withdrawing of demos 'people'). The aim is to put under scrutiny the notion of 'democratic planning' and consider instead the possibility that today's cities could be shaped by forms of dissent and even insurgencies.



## Harmonizing subsoil management with spatial planning and design

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Urban designers are often accused for limiting their view on the subsurface to the backside of their drawing paper. However, the subsurface not only houses a lot of functions crucial to urban life: infrastructure, carry capacity, heat, water, etc., it also carries the natural system crucial for urban quality and health. In the light of the current climate change, energy transition and the financial crisis these issues are more important for different reasons. The subsurface stores water and plays a role in cooling the city, geothermal energy is renewable energy and using the subsurface smart can save a lot of money. Also urban renewal is a more preferred option over taking new land (green fields) and these areas do not have an empty soil system, it is already used in many ways. 'Urban design with the subsurface' should be considered a new frontier in urban planning and design.

A barrier in urban projects is that responsibilities, tools and knowledge of subsurface engineering and urban planning and design are not integrated, they work together but sectorial. The urban designer is usually dealing with the opportunities for socio-economic benefits and the subsoil engineer deals with the challenges. Not only on a practical level of fabricating city, but also in policy subsurface and surface are different worlds. The aim of this paper is to show this segregation in three countries that are active in integrating subsurface in urban development: Sweden, Netherlands and Flanders. What characterises these planning systems and how is the subsurface framed in these countries? The result of this comparison is the first step in learning and proposing better ways in integrating subsurface in urban planning and design. The theoretical framework of this paper is the System Exploration Environment and Subsurface for the general approach in viewing surface and subsurface as one spatial system, and the criteria for the comparison of the planning systems is based in Commin.

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## Public Libraries in Transformation

### The impact of local strategic management agendas on cultural mind-setting

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**Keywords:** *Public libraries, public strategic management, Flemish cities, local politics, urban planning*

This paper is focused on the influence of the so-called strategic management agenda or rationale of Flemish local governments on the role (i.e. concept, design, and (re)construction) of public libraries in cities. This focus relates to the important historic role that European public libraries have fulfilled since the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, in educating, cultivating, emancipating and empowering especially “new” citizens (e.g. women, children, workers, middle and lower classes) (Lerner, 1998; Kostagiolas et al. 2009, Jochumsen H. et al., 2012). Many public policy makers as well as academics recognize the need to adapt or reconsider this role in our present - profoundly changing - urban society. Their main concern is: how has this role changed over time and which strategic challenges, paradoxes and conflicts do there exist in our nowadays urban society?

Although there exists a lot of scientific research and literature on public strategic management (Bryson, 2004; Williams and Lewis, 2008; Lane and Wallis, 2009), models on the role of public libraries within strategic governance frameworks are scarce if not lacking. This is also the case within the discipline of library science where strategic management and planning are gradually becoming well-known concepts and instruments (Masson, 1999; Matthews, 2005; Pacios, 2007; Zhixian, 2008; Kostagiolas et al. 2009). Thus, formulating an answer to the previously mentioned main concern implies a research design clearly explorative in nature. Therefore the use of a qualitative case-study research method is appropriate. Considering an additional goal to develop a kind of descriptive theory on alternative roles for public libraries, we chose for the particular qualitative research method of Grounded Theory (Glaser and Strauss, 1967; Strauss and Corbin, 1994; Charmaz, 2006).

Our explorative research activities are situated in Flanders and try to answer a threefold explorative research question: what are (1) the shifting strategic management priorities (i.e. content of the agenda) as well as (2) the shifting strategic planning procedures (i.e. process behind the agenda) of Flemish local governments, and (3) how do they influence the local cultural mind-setting and thus the (new ?!) strategic role of public libraries in cities (i.e. concept, design and (re)construction)? This research question led to the realization of 2 successive research projects. The first research project was realized in 2010 and consisted of 5 case-studies realized in mainly big Flemish cities amongst which Antwerp, Ghent, Genk, Ostend and Roeselare. Here the focus was mainly on exploring the central concept of sub-question (3), being (new ?!) strategic roles of public libraries. The research results led to the inductive identification of 1 generic and 3 so-called specific strategic roles for public libraries: the role as an “urban landmark”, an “area-oriented herald” and a “target group patron” (Vallet, 2012; Vallet, 2013). The second research project has started in 2013 and consists of 10 case-studies realized in mainly smaller and medium sized Flemish cities, such as for example Kortrijk, Sint-Niklaas, Geel, Dendermonde, Balen and Maaseik. The results of the second research project (i) fine-tuned the previously detected strategic roles for public libraries and (ii) made profound analyses of the local strategic agendas and planning procedures involved. Thus, the focus of the second research project is on sub-question (1) and (2) and on the relationship with the strategic roles of public libraries as mentioned/suggested in sub-question (3).

Presently we want to continue our exploration in a (i) geographically more “enlarged” European setting and in a (ii) more multi-disciplinary way involving also colleagues of architectural design and urban planning (i.e. see also our European research platform “under construction” <http://pluc.informationswissenschaft.ch>).

## Conceptualising and modelling the publicness of public spaces

### The Scottish and Finnish experiences

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In an urban world greatly concerned with sustainable development, building more socially cohesive, environmentally friendly and economic competitive cities is a key prerequisite. Through their multiple functions and various roles, public spaces are central to achieving urban sustainability. However, public space is neither an uncontested nor an uncontroversial arena. Indeed debates on the “politics of space” continue to capture academic and public attention (see Lefebvre, 1991; Mitchell, 2003; Madanipour, 2003; Kohn, 2004) raising important questions of social justice, such as: “Who makes and controls public space?” and “Who benefits from the development of new public space in the context of restructuring the city?” Reflecting these concerns, public space has become the subject of a growing academic literature from the full range of social sciences and humanities. One of the main difficulties of public space research is that a large amount of studies are descriptive and based mainly on qualitative research. Therefore the critical issues of public space control and privatization can remain fairly ‘fuzzy’, locked in endless rhetoric and without any quantitative data to support their prevalence. This often paves the way for decision and policy makers to ignore the creeping phenomena of surveillance and privatization of what should always remain our democratic public realm. In this context, this paper asks the question: Is there a universal model to mathematically describe and illustrate the publicness of our open public spaces? In order to do this, the paper first summarizes the key endeavors in the field. Second, it presents the Star Model of Public Space, developed during my PhD and postdoctoral research years, which is a first attempt of its kind that measures and illustrates publicness as objectively and holistically as possible. Third, the paper presents the results obtained from testing this new methodology on six public places from the cities of Turku, in Finland and Glasgow in Scotland. Fourth the paper reflects on the similarities and differences between the Scottish and Finnish planning systems in the production of liveable, vibrant and democratic open urban spaces.



## (Con)temporary commons in transition

### Local interventions, global ideas and current welfare discourses

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**Keywords:** iterative place making, transformation, cultural planning, welfare, commons

The role of the Nordic countries as a base for democratic and user-engaging design and planning is well-known, but also challenged. Current discourses on new layers of future welfare and explorative ways of thinking the collective are thus prominent, seeking to rethink 'the Danish tradition of focusing on the collective in urban development'.<sup>1</sup> These questions are raised parallel with the current need to transform many of the existing welfare and post-industrial structures in our cities and landscapes. How is this new Nordic (?) collective thinking expressed and tested - and how does this interact with the global flow of planning concepts (Healey 2013)? This contribution seeks to enter the discussion of the 'Nordic Encounters' by investigating user-engaging 'iterative place making' based on temporary and step-wise interventions, which are increasingly used to re-purpose areas undergoing transformation. These urban spaces of commonality (Ferguson 2014) often rooted in informality and expressed through 'micro-spatial urban practices' (Iveson 2013, p. 941) thereby enters official planning procedures, reflecting a kind of authorized informality (Tonkiss 2012). These engagements are expected to foster new social encounters: Local community engagement, public/semi-public commons and collectives and user-driven spaces are strongly promoted. This is visible in many Nordic re-development projects, but examples on re-development through experimental collaborative processes are global tendencies: Best-practice projects, but also more informal open sources and urban recipes travel across borders and contexts. What characterizes the way how these commons find form in a Nordic context?

The paper will explore the current discourse through analysing selected transformation projects in DK where exploring new collective formations are actively pursued physically and verbally as a main objective through collaborative practices and temporary landscapes. Through decoding of activities, spaces and discourses they will be related to concepts of collectivity and appropriation in the field of cultural planning in an international perspective.

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## Regimes of Value

### Climate change adaptation and the handling of water in urban landscapes

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**Keywords:** Climate change adaptation, handling of water, added value, urban landscapes, regimes of justification

Climate change adaptation (CCA) and the handling of water (HOW) influence our urban landscapes. How can such influences be oriented not to detract from the value of urban landscapes, but to add value to them so that they become better landscapes? CCA and HOW are necessary interventions, but they are also potentials to achieve added value in our surroundings. This is the basic viewpoint of my research.

Values, however, are subjective and relationally dependent and different actors see them differently from their varying fields of interest in our urban landscapes. The potentials of added value thus also contain potentials of conflict. How can we, despite this, discuss, define, negotiate and come to some agreement about values? How can we bridge fields of value across disciplines, engagements and traditional boundaries in order to develop added value and thus societal benefits in a practice-oriented context of CCA?

This paper proposes the approach of Thévenot and Boltanski to engage with this issue. They present a way of identifying and justifying values with their 6 Regimes of Justification<sup>1</sup>: the inspirational, the market, the industrial, the opinion, the domestic and the civic regimes. These regimes can provide a methodological approach to clarifying, decoding and encoding values, which can allow mutual understanding and help to reach for collaborative and contextual developments of added-value.

This paper presents some further principal argument for this approach, which I develop through on-going case studies in a Danish municipality. This approach is further explored through 'value-workshops' involving everyday actors from different sectors, disciplines and fields of interests. The field of CCA, HOW and urban landscape serves as a practice-oriented context which is expected to be transferable to other contexts.

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<sup>1</sup> Luc Boltanski & Laurent Thévenot, *De la justification. Les économies de la grandeur*. Éditions Gallimard. Paris. 1991

## Cycling Great Oslo, a Territorial Framework for an Access to All

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**Keywords:** *Cycle Network, Fast/Slow, Horizontal City, Scenario, Ecological Rationality*

Oslo Region, situated on top of Oslo Fjord, is involved in an unprecedented process of spatial up scaling. People live and work dispersed and dispersal is the movements of people and good across the area. Transportation is a constitutive aspect of the general urban question of contemporary Oslo region.

In the last decades a great individual and collective transport system has been conceptualized and realized; as water had excavated river valleys in the ground layer of rocks, so engineers had excavated canyons and galleries to make room for vehicle flows. As the city upscale, also demand of more and wider spaces to move throughout the region faster increase; but the demand of spaces that enable walking and cycling in all direction has also increased.

Today cycling to work or to study, anywhere, it difficult due to physical obstacles, excessive distance and lack of safety; cycling in combination with other modes of transport is not a cheap, fast and effective modality. The technical system as well as institutional separation are part of the problem that is real and may exacerbate in the future.

How the specific spatial features of the Oslo Region can contribute to integrate fast and slow traffic flows? And, in turn, how these integrated flows can contribute to create optimal conditions for its spatial quality?

A recent design competition has been the framework for a short inquiry by design; the goal has been constructing a scenario for equal conditions of accessibility in all directions for people and water. The design process searched for promising combinations between spaces, actors and flows setting a number of conceptual models that guided the prefiguration of a multifunctional cycle network, a carrier for the future Oslo Region interpreted as "horizontal city".

## Kiruna 2.0 – Urban processes in the arctic

### The transplantation of a town as open space design – A case study

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**Keywords:** *New urban development, urban processes, arctic environment, sustainability, competitions.*

The municipal concept Kiruna 2.0 concerns an ideal urban plan for the new central town, when moved 3km eastwards from the original mining town. Into the new centre must be placed all the existing, vital urban functions, as well as new residential areas to replace considerable parts of the present habitation. The projected new model town concept includes a dense formation, and a strong sustainability approach, focusing on energy use in an arctic climate, and reuse. The development plan (2014), following the 2013 invited competition project Kiruna 4-ever, tackles these issues.

The problematic to be considered here is twofold:

- a) On a macro-scale: as the mining operations propelling the town transplantation will continue at new depths, man will necessarily continue to shape the surrounding arctic landscape in processes that are irreversible, dictating future conditions: how then to plan for flexible space use in relation to a traditional density-governed urban plan?
- b) On a micro-scale: Is there a potential opposition between the demand for close access for all residents to nature, and their wishes for a dense townscape? Apart from a linear town park on a diagonal, it would include urban nodes acting as cultural meeting-places, and accessibility by walking, cycling or using a kick-sled. The lay-out would be an evenly distributed “green-blue” spread of open space forms consisting of three kinds of parks and of small lakes and ponds - in winter, snow clearance depots.

With the arctic open expanse very close by, the effect of this urbanistic landscaping model—an ideal in global conurbations—may here be sparse sprawl rather than density. Do we here see two diverse space use visions fused into one?

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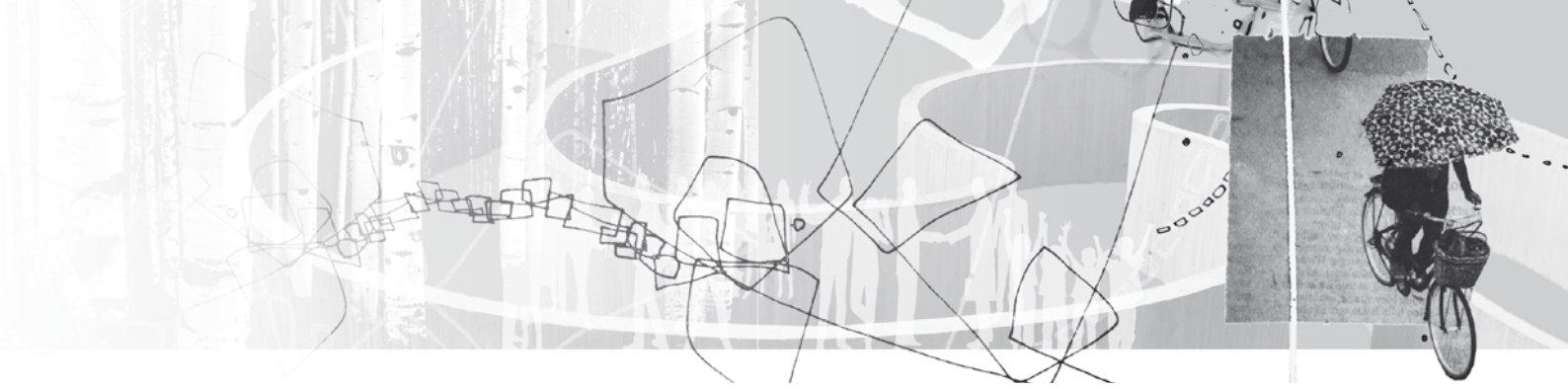
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