

# form til velfærd /forming welfare



The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts,  
Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation is hosting the international conference:

**FORM TIL VELFÆRD/FORMING WELFARE**  
*design and architecture for the new welfare societies*  
26 - 27 september 2013

## Call for abstracts

submission date: 19.March

FORMING WELFARE is a platform for professional and scholarly dialogue centered on what roles architecture and design are going to play in the development and transformation of the welfare state – in the Nordic region, in Europe and throughout the world. Architects, designers, makers, manufacturers and researchers are being invited to reflect on what kind of society architecture and design projects will play a part in creating and also to discuss how design is, how design can be and how design must be a part of society's development. We aim to qualify the debate by presenting examples of how the specific modeling of everyday objects, buildings and cities will come to exert an influence on – and will come to interact with – notions of what 'the good life', 'welfare', 'the collective', 'security', 'solidarity', 'democracy' and 'social sustainability' have come to mean today.

FORMING WELFARE is also a conference that will present a number of the world's leading architects, economists and social thinkers as the keynote speakers and as participants in the discussions.

The welfare society is manifest in many different renditions all over the world, each with its own problems and each with its own distinctive notion about how a safe, and democratic society with a strong sense of community is to be forged and brought forth. Everywhere, people are struggling with the challenges presented by climate change, by the global competition for markets and jobs, by social upheavals and by sweeping demographic changes. Even in the Nordic countries, which have historically been able to boast of being among the world's most advanced welfare states, the absence of any joint and mutually binding project has been conspicuous in recent years, when more and more public-sector assignments are being resolved within concerns comprised of actors that often have conflicting interests and visions.

FORMING WELFARE hereby INVITES practicing designers, architects and researchers to submit proposals for presentations/abstracts of papers to be shared at the conference. We hope to receive proposals that present specific examples of contemporary architecture and design and that accordingly reflect, on this background, how the projects unfold and express themselves in relation to the ideas and visions of welfare. We are calling for abstracts from researchers that, while taking their point of departure in specific projects, can serve to widen our notion of what welfare architecture and -design can be. We welcome, in particular, proposals for presentations that have been written in the setting of collaborations between first of all, architects & designers, manufacturers and & researchers.

Proposals for presentations/abstracts of papers can be based on one or more of the following themes:

- **Collective quality vs. private benefits**
- **Vision vs. opinion**
- **Stimulation vs. manipulation**
- **Frugality vs. generosity**
- **Public space vs. private development**

### Collective quality vs. private benefits

How has it been possible to create meaningful architecture and design for society's institutions? And why? To what extent have the welfare society's institutions, like hospitals, day-care centers, schools and sheltered housing for the elderly, been re-envisioned and re-cast in the past few years? How are the specific works and products transforming societal notions about community and collectivity? What do 'the public' and 'the private' – and the reciprocal relationship between them – mean, as far as the designers' specific task is concerned? What is social sustainability and how can it be understood and shaped at a time when welfare is being outsourced and privatized? What influence does design have on social inclusion and exclusion?

### Vision vs. opinion

What happens when the designer's or the architect's *vision* is met by citizens and by the users' *opinions*, and vice versa? How can architects and designers enlist the participation of the citizens, the NGOs and other participants and players in a

design-shaping process - and vice versa? Must they do so? Why? With what kinds of formal repertoires do the designers meet the users and society? Are there professional and ethical problems in wanting to involve and simultaneously to manipulate the users? Does it always result in better architecture and design when many people are called into the process? What obligations are part and parcel of building and designing for the community – for the architects and designers but also developers and the clients? How do ‘matters of fact’ and ‘matters of concern’ converge in design and architecture? How can ideas related to the task of developing be deployed in architecture and design in new and more socially responsible ways?

#### **Stimulation vs. manipulation**

How do architecture and design deal with society's need for behavioral regulation? What gives architects and designers the right to regulate other people's lives? How does design serve to stimulate a kind of behavior that is both socially and climatically sustainable? Should architects and designers be changing the premises for everyday life through their work? Can they do so? Can architects and designers even work without being political? Are ‘nudging’ and other forms of covert and fully open manipulation through architecture and design always justifiable according to people's self-determination? Can refraining from doing so be defended?

#### **Frugality vs. generosity**

What's happening to our perception of what ‘the common’ is and can be, when we always seem to be running up against the cheapest option instead of the best? Will we still be in solidarity with the welfare idea if its institutions meet us with *pauvre* spaces and poor quality? Are the public-sector and the politicians' opportunities for building and designing with quality for the community necessarily diminished during these times of crisis? How can architecture and design contribute to enhancing welfare as a project? Where in the chain of value is any sense of understanding being established that *quality* in the tangible shared communal property is, in fact, a priority that strengthens the welfare state? That this is something people can identify with and can feel joy in contributing to? That this is something you can proudly show off to your guests from abroad?

#### **Public space vs. the individual's development**

What kinds of ‘communities’ and what renditions of ‘the good life’ are architects and designers dreaming about? How are they being transposed into form? Can public space be ‘over-designed’? How do virtual communities change the public space? Does the ‘urban life balance sheet’ provide greater social sustainability and inclusion? How can allowances be made for ideas about the individual's opportunities for self-expression in the context of architectonic and design-related work, without being oblivious to considerations about the collective? What does ‘the heterogeneous city’ mean with respect to the specific space? Do city-dwellers want heterogeneity or do they prefer a sense of community, security and the peace and quiet of the suburbs? What is the effect of surveillance and ‘security-promoting’ interventions on the public space? Should architects and designers be working with residential spaces as stiffened utopias within closed micro-communities? Can anything at all be sketched out and drawn when it is the real estate agents who are deciding, anyhow? When can this be successfully accomplished, in spite of this? How?

#### **Call for abstracts**

##### **Submission date: 19. March**

Proposals for presentations/abstracts of a maximum of 500 words are due on Tuesday 19.March 2013, by e-mail (either as a Word- or as a pdf-file) sent to: [formingwelfare@kadm.dk](mailto:formingwelfare@kadm.dk)

In connection with the submitted text, a maximum of three images (maximum 2 Mb taken together) may be included.

Abstracts from researchers will be peer-reviewed by the scientific committee of the conference. Purely theoretical abstracts will not be accepted. Nor will abstracts that do not mention the cases at hand be accepted.

Proposals for presentations from practitioners, clients and academic artists will similarly elicit a peer-review. Abstracts of project-presentations that do not suggest any reflection in relation to the conference-theme will not be accepted for review.

Presentations that are co-authored by e.g. architects & clients, by designers & researchers or by orderers & designers, etc. are especially welcomed.

Notification of first acceptance will be sent out by late April.

Authors of presentations and papers that are accepted for being further developed into full conference-presentations are going to be asked to develop their respective papers further along the lines of the context established by other papers that will be presented in the particular session in question.

The final version of each presentation paper must be submitted by no later than September 1, 2013. Please note that the paper is to be designed with an oral presentation in mind – a presentation lasting a maximum of 15 minutes.

The conference-language is English.

However, abstracts written in a Scandinavian language may be submitted for review.

Further details will be announced, at a later time, on the website: [www.formingwelfare.dk](http://www.formingwelfare.dk)

**Conference Registration**

If you register prior to June 6, the registration fee is 310 Euros.

Otherwise, the registration fee, when paid in advance of the conference, is 425 Euros.

On site, the registration fee will be 500 Euros.

**Organization**

The conference is being arranged by The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation (KADK). This conference constitutes a link in an ongoing research project of the same name, which is being supported jointly by The Danish Research Council for the Humanities and KADK.

**Organizers/Scientific Committee**

Jesper Pagh, *architect Ph.D student*, Katrine Lotz, *architect ph.D, ass.professor*, Kjeld Vindum, *architect, ass.professor*, Kirsten Marie Raahauge, *cand.scient, ph.D, ass.professor*, Mette Jerl Jensen, *architect, ph.D*, Peter Thule Kristensen, *architect, ph.D, Head of School of Architecture* and Tau Ulv Lenskjold, *cand.it, ph.D student*.

