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### Preface

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# HANDS ON

THE VALUE  
OF BUILDING  
CULTURE



# *PREFACE*

**Morten Birk Jørgensen, Victor Boye Julebæk and Christoffer Harlang.** In 2018, we – the researchers at TRANSFORMATION – issued the publication ROBUST in connection with a conference of the same name. The conference was held in Danish for a local professional crowd and the publication written in English for non-Danish speakers. This format proved fruitful as a way to collect excerpts from the research and share them with colleagues and peers within the fields of architecture and cultural heritage. The publication at hand is a sequel to ROBUST, with the modifications we find worthwhile and with a content reflecting our latest research. When we decided to follow up in a similar format, we soon settled on the working title HANDS ON. More out of intuition than



as a product of a particular thematic intention. This ambiguous phrase clung to the work, however, and was eventually elevated to the actual title of the publication. So, what made this title so catchy that we couldn't wrench it off as the work evolved? Let us take a brief look at the etymology of the phrase and see what is revealed.

The American dictionary Merriam-Webster has an entry under 'hands-on' – with a hyphen, that is. According to this, 'hands-on' has two main meanings. The first being 'relating to, being, or providing direct practical experience in the operation or functioning of something.' Interpreting this in relation to the publication, several of the articles really do present 'direct practical experience' concerning their topic. As for the other meaning: 'characterized by active personal involvement,' we can vouch for this being a distinguishing feature of all the contributions.

In our version – without the hyphen – the phrase also relates closely to another entry at Merriam-Webster, namely 'hand on'. This is synonymous with 'hand down', i.e., to 'to transmit in succession (as from father to son).' This allusion similarly appears somehow characteristic. Sustaining, re-visiting, interpreting and disseminating both knowledge and buildings are the interests and responsibilities for the research group at TRANSFORMATION.

First of all, the publication represents the work of a specific research project. Since 2018, the Danish philanthropic association REALDANIA has generously funded 'Forankring og Forandring' (English: Rooted Change), or simply 'FORAN', in collaboration with KADK. 'FORAN' is an umbrella covering a range of diverse projects by the researchers involved. Apart from the researchers engaged in 'FORAN', the group presently includes a PhD project as well. Each of the present projects contributes to the main content of this publication. HANDS ON thereby demonstrates the diversity of scopes and displays the common characteristics within the research group.

Each of the authoring researchers has had full authority and autonomy concerning the written content of their contributions. Editorial modifications have been confined to the presented figures apart from more practical aspects of layout, handling of proofreading etc. For the assessment of the content of the articles, we have engaged in an open peer review process with

architect and professor at the Technical University of Munich Uta Graff. She has provided a written statement as a peer report on the research with comments for each article. This peer report is published here as part of the front matter to provide an external perspective on the work and to position the research conducted.

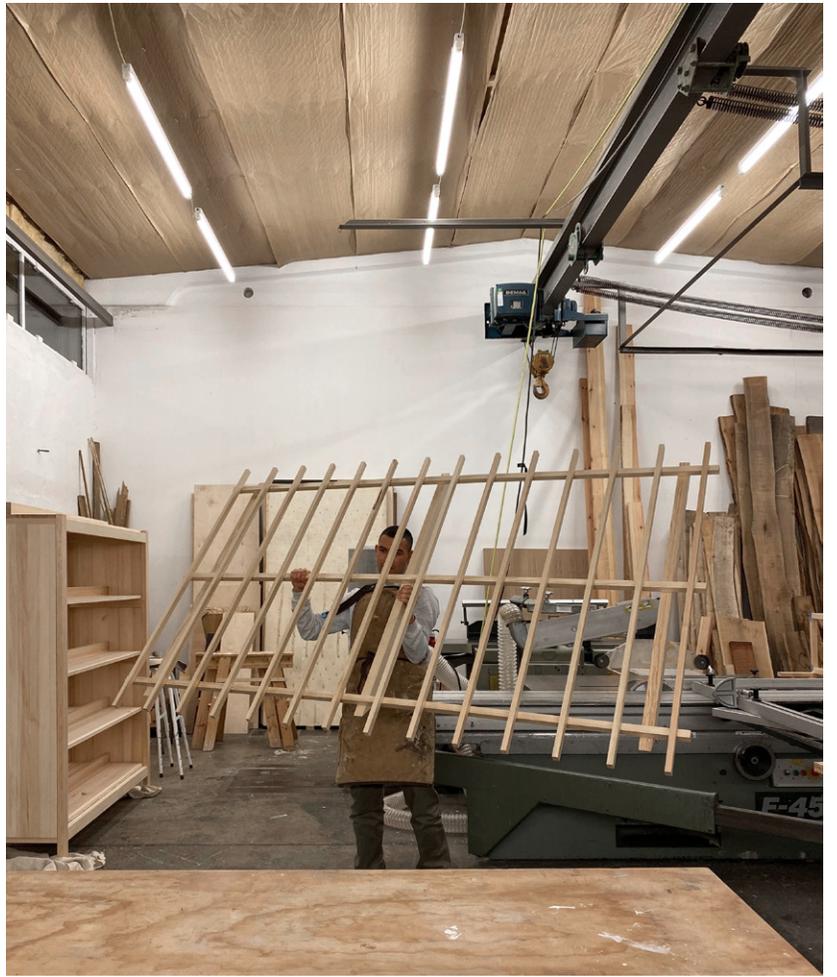
Each article opens with a synopsis that presents the content of the paper. Instead of summarising the content in a preface, we will refer to these small texts and the comprehensive observations by our peer for orientation in the publication.

Rather than focusing on one specific theme, HANDS ON covers a substantive field of approaches to architectural heritage. Some articles deal with traditional architectural working methods, material science, the history of craftsmanship and its relevance and its opportunities of application in a contemporary or future building practice. Others focus on cultural heritage as a contemporary practice and engage with emphasising its present value. While others again engage more philosophically with aesthetic ideas and perception. As such, the publication has a heterogeneous approach to the subject matter.

Nevertheless, there is a common thread that joins the majority of the articles. In the spring semester of 2019, TRANSFORMATION was engaged in a project on the island of Bornholm. This specific project turns up in several of the articles while others are marked by this activity by engaging with experiences and discoveries obtained in connection with the visits to Bornholm.

In the everyday life as researchers at KADK, the focus on a common research production is easily lost between an abundance of activities among the staff members. HANDS ON is a welcome opportunity for the group to get a firm grip on things and align our perspectives on a common goal. At the same time, it is an opportunity to present the ongoing research at TRANSFORMATION and for the researchers to point out directions for further investigation. We hope these articles find you well and look forward to discussing the content with colleagues at the conference HANDS ON and beyond.





**Opposite page:** Evaluation in the Seaplane Hangar, 2018. Photo, Christian Minor.

**This page:** Salem's workshop, 2019. Photo, Nicolai Bo Andersen.

**Page 5:** 'The Apprentices' House' pavilion under construction in Copenhagen, 2019. Photo: Victor Boye Julebæk.





**This page:** Marienlyst Castle, Exhibition, 2020.  
Photo, Nicolai Bo Andersen.

**Opposite page:** Marienlyst Castle, Lecture, 2020  
Photo, Nicolai Bo Andersen.



## **Hands On**    The Value of Building Culture

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