

Modelling Social Housing



The Relational Aesthetics of European Social Housing Estates

International Conference
20-21 April 2023



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MODELLING



Modelling Social Housing

The Relational Aesthetics of European Social Housing Estates

Conference

20-21 April 2023

Hosted by

Flexible Communities, a collaboration between

The National Museum of Denmark // SUMO

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Wayfinding to Venue

National Museum Brede Værk
I. C. Modewegs Vej 2800 Kongens Lyngby

■ Copenhagen Central Station — 09.05 S-train towards Holte St.

■ 19 min

■ Jægersborg station — 09.28 Train towards Nærum

■ 6 min

■ Brede station



Sumo Space
//Drinks and workshop

The Cinema
//Panel presentations

Brede spisehus

Brede station

Program

Modelling Social Housing

The Relational Aesthetics of European Social Housing Estates

Thursday 20th

09.30- 10.00 Registration + Coffee

10.00-10.15 Welcome: Morten Nielsen, Research Professor at the National Museum

10.15-11.15 Keynote: Professor Helena Mattsson, KTH School of Architecture

11-15-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Panel 1: Formal/In-formal

Trine Brinkmann, University college Copenhagen: More than dodgy? Private rural rental as inspiration for social housing

Adam Veng, University of Copenhagen: Networking or enclosing communal life: two resident-driven approaches to socio-spatial community-making in Danish social housing

Martin Søberg, Royal Danish Academy: Play and the Extra-Parliamentary Spatialization of Collectivity

Aske Kvist, RUC and Søren Emil Schutt, AKB Lundtoftegade and Til Vægs: Finishing a common place – how informal grassroots development processes collide and interplay with largescale institutional setups

13.00-13.45 Lunch

13.45- 15.15 Panel 2: Concrete/Abstract

Marie Stender BUILD Aalborg University: 'It is beautiful now, but it is no longer ours'. Negotiations of belonging in disadvantaged housing areas

Anne Clementsen/ Karen Broberg, The Danish Centre for Urban Regeneration and Community

Develoment: Do private developers have a social responsibility in the regeneration of deprived areas?

Matthias Qviström, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences: Fiery spaces of a welfare landscape: rethinking modernist legacies for social sustainability

Nicola Thomas, Hosei University, Tokyo: From the Danish "welfare state" to the Japanese "civil-engineering state": comparing strategies of spatial empowerment in Denmark and Japan

15.15-15.30 Coffee break

15.30- 16.45 Panel 3: Scale and Complexity

Antonio Bernacchi and Alicia Lazzaroni, Aarhus School of Architecture: ECOCRITICAL DOMO-GRAPHY

Jesse Honsa, KU Leuven: Standardisation and Improvisation: The Scale of the London County Council (1945-1965)

Sued Ferreira da Silva/ Johan Pries, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Lund University: One plan, multiple models: The General Plan for Stockholm as an instaurational text.

17.00-18.00 Tour Brede Værk: Morten Nielsen / before dinner drink at Sumo Space

18.00-20.00 Conference dinner at Brede Spisehus

Program

Modelling Social Housing

The Relational Aesthetics of European Social Housing Estates

Friday 21st

9.00-10.00 Keynote: Professor Albena Yaneva, University of Manchester

10.00- 10.15 Coffee break

10.15-11.45 Panel 4: Models and Prototypes

Dorian Bianco, Sorbonne University: A Kasbah in Denmark. The Mediterranean and Islamic homes as architectural models of Danish dense-low housing (1950s-1970s).

Heidi Svenningsen Kajita, University of Copenhagen: (Im)possible Instructions: Inscribing Residents' Voices in the Architectural Design Process

Joshua Tan, Cambridge University: Everything in Its Right Place: Housing the Labouring Classes in Mid-Nineteenth Century England

Line Bruun and Rune Bach, Aarhus University and Aarhus School of Architecture: Artistic interventions in large scale urban transformation projects and processes.

11.45-12.45 Lunch

12.45-14.45 Prototyping workshop at Sumo Space

14.45-15.15 Farewell drink at Sumo Space

Professor Helena Mattsson

KTH School of Architecture, Stockholm

Biography

Helena Mattsson is Professor of Theory and History at KTH School of Architecture. Her research focuses on recent history and the interdependency between politics, economy, and spatial organizations. She is the co-editor of *Swedish Modernism* (2010); the themed issue “Architecture and Capitalism: Solids and Flows” (*Architecture and Culture*, 2017); *Neoliberalism on the Ground* (2021), and the author of the monograph *Architecture & Retrenchment: Neoliberalization of the Swedish Model, 1968-1994*. She is on the editorial board of *Journal of Architecture*.



Professor Helena Mattsson

KTH School of Architecture, Stockholm

Lost in Translation: Ways of Modelling the Future

In today's polarized positions, including clashes on matters of climate crises, migration, housing shortage, and inequality, the call for a socially engaged architecture is pressing. But the role of architecture in societal change is far from obvious. Architecture is central to a society's aesthetic sensibility, living environment, and systems of cultural representation; it motivates political decisions and takes part in processes of state formation through its interactions with laws, decision-making processes, and representation. Architects and planners can't stand outside that which transpires around them.

In this talk, I will return to the 1980s when the Nordic Model of welfare went through radical shifts that had their base in a call for participation, democratization, and decentralization. Two models for public housing that introduced new ideas on social reproduction and resident participation will be starting points for discussing the possibilities and dilemmas of models and their translations into different disciplines and fields of expertise.

Professor Albena Yaneva
University of Manchester

Biography



Albena Yaneva is Professor of Architectural Theory and director of the Manchester Architecture Research Group (MARG) at the Manchester Urban Institute. She has been Visiting Professor at Princeton School of Architecture (2013), Parsons, New School (2015) and Politecnico di Torino (2018). She held the prestigious Lise Meitner Visiting Chair in Architecture at the University of Lund, Sweden (2017-2019). Her research is intrinsically transdisciplinary and crosses the boundaries of science studies, cognitive anthropology, architectural theory and political philosophy. She is the author of several books: *The Making of a Building* (Peter Lang 2009), *Made by the OMA: An Ethnography of Design* (010 Publishers 2009), *Mapping Controversies in Architecture* (Routledge 2012), *Five Ways to Make Architecture Political. An Introduction to the Politics of Design Practice* (Bloomsbury 2017), *Crafting History: Archiving and the Quest for Architectural Legacy* (Cornell University Press 2020), *The New Architecture of Science: Learning from Graphene* (World Scientific Publishing 2020),

co-authored with Sir Kostya S. Novoselov (Nobel Laureate in Physics), *Latour for Architects* (Routledge 2022) and *Architecture After Covid* (Bloomsbury 2023). She is also the editor (with Alejandro Zaera-Polo) of *What is Cosmopolitical Design?* (Routledge 2015). Her work has been translated into German, Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Thai, Polish, Turkish and Japanese. Yaneva is the recipient of the RIBA President's award for outstanding university-based research (2010).

Missed Magic: Models and the Contagious Togetherness of Making Architecture

Covid-19 radically altered the day-to-day reality of architectural practice and made architects rethink the conditions through which cities are designed. Causing unprecedented interruptions, it forced architects to replace the liveliness of model-making and face-to-face design discussions with online work on flat screens. Unable to gather in the office, designers worked from a distance: group meetings around scale models, or foam-cutting and conversations with materials and shapes in the model-making shop became forgotten rituals, missed by many. The body in design was gradually diluted.

This major 'breaching' in the routines of model making made us re-consider the role of models in design. Produced in the spur of the moment and intended to act in the present, models are commonly considered an important medium of design creativity, a powerful representation of architectural ideas and concepts.

However, when we follow models in action and designers at work, the complexity of model-making as a social and epistemic

practice among collectives of 'reflective practitioners' is bewildering. Tracing those practices allows us to witness the little steps of making, the challenges, the struggles, and workaday choices. In the midst of a creative process, it is hard to attribute a clear source of action as designers get entangled in larger networks of attachment. This begs questions on the very nature of creative action.

Panel 1: Formal/ In-formal



Trine Brinkmann

University college Copenhagen

More than dodgy? Private rural rental as inspiration for social housing

In Denmark, the island of Lolland is known as a socioeconomic periphery, characterized by depopulation and decaying houses, and often pointed out as the best bad example of sociodemographic inequality. Within the past decades, Lolland has become a destination for people, who can no longer afford to live in the capital region, and who are in search for a place to make home anew. What allows them to move is a housing infrastructure consisting of available social housing as well as cheap private renting possibilities. The latter often involves houses in poor condition, e.g. inadequate heating and indoor climate, as well as more or less formalized arrangements, that new tenants should be willing to either live with it or fix it themselves. In public discourse this market is often associated with people hoping to “move below the radar of the welfare state”, and/or with dubious landlords, earning money on precarious lives.

While acknowledging the importance of the moral and sociopolitical concerns with these rental practices, this paper aims to move beyond them and pursue the idea, that the pri-

vate rental market offers a way of living that may also be attractive to the people who by force or by choice find their ways into it. The paper addresses the edges, both of ‘the urban’ and of the social housing estate, as it explores the migration of tenants, from larger cities to smaller urban environments in a Danish rural periphery – as well as different kinds of living, across institutionalized social housing and less formalized private housing. It suggests that this border zone offers a productive perspective on urban social housing, and moreover that the private rental market implies practices of prioritizing, caring, and repairing that may be of inspiration to future forms of social housing.

The paper is based on ethnographic fieldwork among people, who move to Lolland on social benefits, as part of the collaborative research project, Remote Relocations: Work, Precarity and the Inclusion of Newcomers on Lolland, funded by the Independent Research Fund Denmark.

Adam Veng

University of Copenhagen

Networking or enclosing communal life: two resident-driven approaches to socio-spatial community-making in Danish social housing

This paper offers a comparative ethnographic case study of how residents engage in the socio-spatial development of common spaces in two Danish social housing areas. It presents ongoing research on how planning for formal/informal communities is conceived differently among residents within and without the formal residents' democracy and explores the controversies that arise over planning for "the local".

In the first case, a voluntary local arts association has recently started to suggest different ways of re-configuring the common physical spaces in the area to "activate new resident communities". This involves fundraising and agile partnership-building with scientists, architects, gardeners, and socio-economic companies, causing concerns and confusion among the board members of the formal residents' democracy whether their procedures for decision-making are at risk. In the second case, the residents' democracy has been led by the same chairwoman for 39 years, upholding the principle of maintaining the area "as it was built to be" and communities as "nothing to be planned for from above". However, with

a new group of residents joining the board of the estate committee, suggestions of re-wilding green areas to increase livability begin to emerge with much disagreement to follow.

While the entrepreneurial aspirations of the first case seem to mimic the current governmental agenda of "the mixed city", it also manifests a citizen-driven counter-response to such schemes by assembling its own network for local development. In the second case, the area borders itself to care for the informal association-making that it was allegedly built for. By juxtaposing the cases, I examine different strategies for networking or enclosing "the local" as a capacity for envisioning (in)formal communal life. The perspectives of these ways of navigating are discussed in the present post-welfare context of state-enforced cutdowns on social housing

Play and the Extra-Parliamentary Spatialization of Collectivity

In 1969, a group of parents living in the social housing estate Høje Gladsaxe built an “extra-parliamentary residents’ playground.” Constructed in 1963–66 and situated in a suburb of Copenhagen, Høje Gladsaxe was a prototypical modernist housing project, including five sixteen-storey blocks made from precast concrete modules. In planning the playground, the residents had consulted psychologist Ingrid Gehl and her husband architect Jan Gehl, along with artist Palle Nielsen (de Coninck-Smith, 2022). It contained climbing frames, walkways, a slide, sandboxes, and swings, and the materials included wooden poles, car tyres, and concrete pipes, to some degree imitating the appearance of the “junk playgrounds,” invented by landscape architect C. Th. Sørensen, in which children were allowed and encouraged to experiment with building their own simple huts and other constructions. The use of tyres, pipes, and sand simultaneously suggested an (post)industrial wasteland of redundancy and reuse, a ruderal ecology which nevertheless might have aesthetic potentials as suggested by American artist Robert Smithson in his essay “Monuments of the Passaic” (1967). In re-

sponse to the orderliness and homogeneity of the estate’s architecture as well as to the lack of recreational spaces designated for the many children inhabiting the estate, the “extra-parliamentary residents’ playground” provided a space of intensified social and bodily activities (Kimouche og Søberg, 2011). As such, it was a consequence as well as a critique of the social housing estate (Gehl, 1969) and provided an alternative model for selfinitiated community building and spatial transformation. Based on the case of the Høje Gladsaxe “extra-parliamentary residents’ playground,” this paper discusses residents’ critical spatial practices as part of community building, as a political, extra-parliamentary practice, and as a process of aesthetic modification of social housing.

Aske Kvist

Nørrebro United and Roskilde University

Søren Emil Schutt

founder of Til Vægs and former chairman at AKB Lundtoftegade

Finishing a common place – how informal grassroots development processes collide and interplay with largescale institutional setups

This paper is a reflection on an unfinished, co-produced bottom-up development project, which is undertaken by the then ghettolisted common housing area AKB Lundtoftegade and a local community soccer club, Nørrebro United. The project develops a socially innovative way of solving questions of urban marginalization, the right to the city, sports infrastructure, social entanglement and democratic development processes. But the project flow stalls when this innovative interplay between grassroots institutions meets the formal structures of common housing legal departments, philanthropic funds clauses, and municipal practices and plans. Following the process through the messy web of actors we will discuss the inertia that occur as grass-roots initiative is translated according to various systemic logics and how precariously the informal coexists with the formal structures. The project has been ongoing for four years, but the initial voluntary engagement of the grassroots actors has a hard time standing the procedures

of the systems. We will discuss the paradigms of informal openness and engagement versus formal stasis and legality.

UDVIKLING AF
SELVFORVALTNING

... på vejen!



SOMMEREN 1990

Panel 2: Concrete/Abstract

UDVIKLING AF
SELVFORVALTNING
I GRANITOFTEN

BEBOERKURSUS SPOR!
- PROJEKTER SÆTTER



DELRAPPORT nr. 2 SOMMEREN 1991

06.0.d.00.0 lok.

UDVIKLING AF
SELVFORVALTNING
I GRANITOFTEN

- EN FORTSAT PROCES...



DELRAPPORT nr. 3-SOMMEREN 1992

'It is beautiful now, but it is no longer ours'. Negotiations of belonging in disadvantaged housing areas

As part of the 'Parallel Society Agreement' (PSA) 15 Danish social housing areas are currently regenerated to reduce the share of social housing to 40% by way of demolition, densification, conversion of housing types etc. The regeneration plans developed by urban planners and housing organisation professionals are typically about 'opening up' the areas, establishing a 'mixed city' and increasing the sense of 'security' by stimulating urban life in the areas' public spaces. Yet among residents in the areas such abstract notions of 'openness', 'mixed city' and 'security' are often experienced rather differently and end up having a range of other concrete effects in their everyday life. 'Mixed city' may for some imply demolitions and forced relocation, and for many residents the sense of 'security' is often more related to this insecure situation than to the risk of crime in public space. 'Openness' have in some places included increased traffic passing through the housing area, hence resulting in an area where residents feel that it is no longer safe to let their children run freely. Though some residents are happy about the transformations and truly hope for a more

mixed community, to others the transformations also trigger essential aspects of belonging and make them feel that they are no longer welcome in the place they used to live. As one resident in Gellerupparken, Århus, says: 'It is beautiful now, but it is no longer ours'. Based on architectural-anthropological fieldwork in the 15 areas included in the PSA regeneration scheme, this paper explores how the abstract ideas of the PSA regeneration transform into concrete social and material changes in the local everyday life and spark socio-material negotiations of belonging in the housing areas.

Do private developers have a social responsibility in the regeneration of deprived areas?

How can private investors and developers contribute to the transformation of deprived areas to more socially mixed areas with the establishment of private housing units? And to what extent do these private investors have a social focus and take social responsibility in their development of the estates? Are they concerned with the future everyday life in the estate and the potentials for interaction between the residents in their future private units and the residents in the non-profit housing units?

In the years towards 2030 many Danish non-profit housing estates will undergo massive regeneration processes as a consequence of the so-called Parallel Society Act (PSA) from 2018. PSA was launched in 2018 by the Danish Parliament with the political demand to reduce the percentage of non-profit family housing units in certain estates to 40 percentage. Many of those estates currently have about 95 percentage family housing units, which entails that they are highly dependent upon private investments to change their housing stocks. This presents great opportunities

for the private investors - but also a potential massive impact on the build environment as well as on the future social life of the estates.

PSA relates to a political ambition and ideal about 'the mixed city', but how is this enacted among the private investors engaging in the deprived areas? And furthermore; how are the abstract ideals of mixed city negotiated among key stakeholders; private investors, developers, housing estates and the municipality? (cf. theme 2)

In a current research project in 2022–2023 we examine which types of investors and developers that find it attractive to engage in the development of deprived areas and what their role is in the transformation of the deprived estates towards more socially mixed areas.

Fiery spaces of a welfare landscape: rethinking modernist legacies for social sustainability

The modernist housing estates of the 1960s and 1970s didn't end at the doorstep. Vast greenspaces, with various facilities for recreation and play, were not just integral parts of the housing estates but also part and parcel of the ambition to materialize and embody the welfare society. Therefore, greenspaces, between and beyond the houses, need to be revisited if we aim to explore the capacity of the modernist housing estates for a socially sustainable development. This paper explores the legacy of the welfare landscape in and around modernist housing complexes in Sweden, with a special focus on the legacy of planning interventions for recreation. I argue that while remnants of the welfare planning are still there, as concrete artefacts or lingering greenspaces, the legacy is nevertheless elusive and can easily be disregarded. Consequently, these places are frequently regarded as empty within planning, and therefore as assets for urban development. I argue that the elusive character of the legacy is due to particular ideals within rational planning during the welfare era, such as the thrust for universal models and spatial justice, but also the idea of an

everyday nature (or forest) for recreation and play. This has resulted in a legacy too ordinary and mundane to be recognized. Drawing on relational ontology in general and the notions of fluid and fiery spaces in specific, I first interpret the nature of this legacy and, secondly, offer explanations to why it fits so poorly with contemporary debates on landscape legacies and in urban development projects. By way of conclusion, I argue that this legacy should not simply be inserted within the contemporary planning discourse: its real potential lies in providing a healthy critique of current conceptions of the "urban" as well as of "landscape".

Nicola Thomas

Hosei University, Tokyo

From the Danish “welfare state” to the Japanese “civil-engineering state”: comparing strategies of spatial empowerment in

For this contribution, I will present results from my ongoing international research project, where I examine the spatial transformation of two cases: the Tingbjerg neighbourhood in Copenhagen and the the Yata neighbourhood in Osaka. Both constitute neighbourhoods that are currently, after decades of public disinvestment, being targeted with nationally driven larger-scale redevelopment and empowerment efforts. Tingbjerg was one of the 15 neighbourhoods placed on the so-called ghetto-list in 2018 which called for drastic redevelopment measures, as a response to the Danish Welfare State’s understanding of spatial integration. Meanwhile in Osaka, a new nationwide infrastructure policy has forced city planners to think of new ways of how to reactivate and transform the largely vacant and defunct Yata neighbourhood. Both cases are set in different national contexts with very different understandings of the role of the state - the “welfare state” in Denmark is met with the bureaucratically driven “civil-engineering state” in Japan.

Based on my interviews with stakeholders from both cases - city hall planners, private developers, housing actors and local residents - I aim to show how the different state conceptions and its underlying ideologies and values produced two very different strategies of spatial empowerment in the studied social housing neighbourhoods. I also aim to show how different cultures of planning participation and political cultures in Denmark and Japan result in different opportunities for local residents to engage with their transforming neighbourhoods in meaningful ways.

Panel 3: Scale and Complexity



ECOCRITICAL DOMO-GRAPHY

The paper proposes a reflection on the role and potential of an “ecocritical” transcalar mapping of a domestic environment, focusing on an example of social housing estate in Denmark (Tinggården 1 in Herfølge, designed by Vandkunsten and completed in 1978).

The methodological framework on mapping is developed through analogy and comparative reference to alternative representation techniques from artistic environmental enquiries, like the concept of “gaia-graphy” (A. Arènes, B. Latour, J.Gaillardet, 2018), for instance, elaborated in relation to the multidisciplinary project “Critical Zones” curated by Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel.

Within the perspective introduced by the holobiont theory proposed by Lynn Margulis (Margulis, 1991), this reading of the domestic environment tries to acknowledge the value and necessity of symbiotic relationships between humans and a wide range of non-human actors. This is attempted by adopting multiple situated and partial points of view (D. Haraway, 1988) at very different scales, from micro-porosities and microbial distribution all the way to the inter-connections with planetary material networks and global supply chains, extending the question of size and complexity of representation, elaborated in the call.

Within the very diverse field of environmen-

tal criticism, referring more specifically to the framework of material ecocriticism, which leverages critical posthumanist theory to overcome the limitations of the traditional literary-centred ecocriticism, helps to underline the value of a narrative approach based on the role of “storied matter” (S. Iovino, S. Opperman, 2014).

This mapping experiment aims to critically observe, evaluate, and present multiple entanglements within the domestic environment, relating diverse topics, like behaviour, resources, environmental attitudes (F. Kaiser, S. Wolfing, U. Fuhrer, 1999), or hierarchy between different coexisting beings (H. Swanson, M. Lien, G. Ween, 2018), with the physicality of specific spaces and their materiality, but also and especially with broader economic and regulatory frameworks, variably intertwining technical and narrative accounts, as formal and informal representations.

In this sense, the context of a relevant example of Danish social housing is particularly suitable, as its financial and legislative conditions are defined and codified, but also, in broader terms, as it could represent an embodiment of political ideals, partly independent from market forces.

Standardisation and Improvisation: The Scale of the London County Council (1945-1965)

According to Weber (1947), the advantage to bureaucracy, for better or worse, lies in its ability to streamline flows of information on a continual basis. Constantly accumulating knowledge, centralisation and scale are the key agents. This paper considers the effects of scale on the practices of a large housing organisation, through an investigation of the Architect's Department of the London County Council (LCC) in the post-war period (1945-1965). Firstly, scale invited an unusual amount of expertise: with a long-term mandate to build over 100,000 council houses across the capital, the LCC had the ability to invest in technical innovation and sociological research—activities which would usually be prohibitively expensive within a typical system of “one-off” commissions. Accumulating feedback from tenants on existing estates informed the design of new ones: this repetitive programme created many different iterations of evolving ideas. Secondly, as the office became the largest practice in the world, it faced an exponential increase in information flows, which managers sought to combat by embedding knowledge into design standards. But thirdly, the scale and complexi-

ty of its urban projects tended to attract many contingencies with existing populations and other stakeholders—it would be impossible to rationalise design, as every project had to contend with multiple rationales. Pushing and pulling between standardisation and improvisation, the peculiar form of the LCC informed the design and even the aesthetic tendencies of housing estates it produced. The paper challenges the common perception of bureaucracies as uniform and cumbersome, revealing how scaling up produces many different, even antipodal, effects. And it challenges the assumption that bureaucracies, given their distance from inhabitants, fail to accommodate need. The paper argues that Networked intelligence and long-term endeavours—concentrated or dispersed in space—could contribute to contemporary models of housing production and management.

Sued Ferreira da Silva,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Johan Pries
Lund University

One plan, multiple models: The General Plan for Stockholm as an instaurational text

The 1952 General Plan for Stockholm is often seen as Sweden's most important postwar planning document, sketching the outlines of the social-democratic urban region. In the words of city planning director Sven Markelius, it showcased "the possibilities for building a townscape, or a milieu, with all its components that satisfy the demands we have on urban life today". This plan has since acquired a mythical status, prefiguring the postwar city's urban form, ideals of conviviality, equality and welfare, and early concerns with the interrelationships between public transportation, housing typologies, and open space. In this regard, the 1952 General Plan for Stockholm might be understood as an "instaurational" text, architectural theorist Françoise Choay's term for a text which combines principles and rules with the reproduction of models in the creation of future living environments. Beyond a fixed image of a cohesive, radial-shaped city, we argue that in the General Plan lies a fragmentary plan of speculative character that juxtaposes fundamentally different, even irreconcilable, rules and models. The plan tactically folds to-

gether ideas of the garden city and the modernist metropolis, concentration and dispersion, conservation and development, social homogeneity and social heterogeneity, the family and the individual in discursive assemblages. Rather than a single, definitive cohesive vision for the future, this plan contains a multitude of models, and multiple understandings of what a good environment is in response to different actors, challenges, and contexts. We suggest that even this visionary and ambitious document which easily might be seen as archetypically instaurational of a new planning model must be theorized in the multiple and as assembled. Scholars of planning should, therefore, resist the temptation to search for clearcut and unambiguous models, just as planners should recognize the potential openness created by the heterogeneous coalition of practices already at work in models of future environments.

Mette Johanne Hübschmann,
Royal Danish Academy

Modelling everyday interiors in affordable housing

From an architect's perspective, Danish social housing has for too long been an underprovided architectural discipline despite its many social potentials and design opportunities.

This has led Danish social housing to become overly repetitive and lacking in spatial qualities despite a strong Danish design tradition related to early welfare housing, which included aspects of flexibility, community, use value, and design amendments based on user's experiences. Today a conventional concept of home determines most contemporary Danish (social) housing foregrounding the privacy of the individual and comfort provided by technical appliances and installations. Loneliness is an increasing issue amongst the Danish population in particular for underprivileged groups and one can question if repeating this conventional concept of home is appropriate for social housing. Much scholarship exists on the complex social and material relations of architecture, however, these endeavours are hardly reflected in contemporary models for Danish housing production creating a lacuna between important social aspects of living together in

multi-story housing and the material configuration of housing. The private and shared interior spaces of Danish social and affordable housing, therefore, need critical attention. This research focuses on the political macroscale and the interior microscale of social housing and will address how the accommodation of people within the scenes made by architecture is situated in relation to social and material culture. By drawing on my personal experiences from developing social housing schemes in Ballerup, Copenhagen and in Clapton, London, I will unfold macro and microhistories of two projects. The research predominantly relates to the conference topic 'Models and prototypes' and generally to the exchanges between social life and the built environment in recent social housing projects in Denmark and in the UK.

Panel 4: Models and prototypes



A Kasbah in Denmark. The Mediterranean and Islamic homes as architectural models of Danish dense-low housing (1950s-1970s)

During the 1960s, the building of collective social housing in the Danish suburbs aroused critiques against anti-urban modernist planning among architects and sociologists who gradually adopted alternative housing models based on low-rise building and the density of traditional urban centers. The emerging « dense-low homes » movement (tæt-lav bebyggelse) borrows its architectural typologies from structuralism and Team X, but also the vernacular homes of Mediterranean-Islamic countries whose influence remains unevenly investigated in Danish architectural history.

Paraphrasing the title of the article written by urban planner Hans Hartvig Skaarup in *Arkitekten* « A Kasbah in North Sealand. Planning of a dense-low district in Karlebo. » (1976, *En Kasbah i Nordsjælland. Planlægningen af en tæt-lav bydel i Karlebo kommune.*) about patio homes laid in a grid pattern at the Nivå and Åtoften estates, this paper proposal shows how Mediterranean-Islamic traditional dwellings and centers were used as architectural tools to turn social housing into the reconstitution of local communities, a growing preoccupation among planners and sociolo-

gists at the time of the SBI researches and Jan Gehl's awareness of Jane Jacobs' *Death and Life of Great American Cities*. The strong internationalisation of Danish housing models from the 1950s interrogate the architectural genealogy of the Kasbah typology from Michel Ecochard's *habitat pour le plus grand nombre* theory for social housing in Casablanca (1952, Morocco), the work of Hans Munk Hansen at Jørn Utzon's office within the patio homes prototypes to the master plan of Barcarès-Leuca-te dense-low New town and touristic resort by George Candilis on the Languedoc coast (France) that partly framed Danish dense-low estates from Albertslund Syd (1963, *Fællestegnestuen*) to Galgebakken (1973, Jørn Ørum-Nielsen).

(Im)possible Instructions: Inscribing Residents' Voices in the Architectural Design Process

Architects instruct (un)built environments using drawings, specifications, and snagging lists that foremost pertain to construction. But can such architectural instructions also support the entangled interactions that our “broken world” necessarily involves? In her plea for a more caring and democratic architecture, Joan C. Tronto notes that the problem is not that architects’ do not care, but that they care wrongly. Architects, she writes, care for “things” but should rather be “caring by participating in the ongoing relations of those who are cared for.” (Tronto, 2019: 27). I bring Tronto’s call to current challenges in the transformation of Northern European PostWW2 large-scale housing areas. Here, I conceptualize architectural documents as material instructions that do not only act as commands for construction but also enhance situated ways of knowing and participating in socio-material situations.

While instructions are central to architects’ communicative processes, their standardized and object-oriented purposes are often at odds with residents’ particular and localised

social processes. To link these incongruent processes, I adopt a lingering approach associated to caring participation and conditioned by the time it takes to do “paperwork, the domestic work, care work, diversity work” (Ahmed, 2019: 206). In the book *What’s the Use?* Sara Ahmed shows, how 20th century utilitarianism led to and restricted somethings’ usefulness, and she shows, that to diversify something can even be to refuse it’s proper use. Taking this possibility to architecture, I refuse to use instructions properly. Instead, I analyse architectural documents by intersecting notions of care with archival- and document studies. From here, this paper exemplifies techniques for making documents work for more democratic and caring purposes following an office archive compiled as a motley collection of participatory techniques and genres. These (im)possible instructions—engaging those who are cared for—act in both restrained and open-ended ways in the architectural design process.

Everything in Its Right Place: Housing the Labouring Classes in Mid-Nineteenth Century England

“It required no great leap of the imagination to see the link between an industrious population and a well-housed population. Reformed housing was not so much a reward for hard work as its necessary counterpart.”

Robin Evans, *Rookeries and Model Dwellings*, AAQ Vol. 10, no. 1, 1978, p. 34.

Charitable actions are not always without ulterior motives. The spread of cholera and the fear of working-class combination have been widely accepted as the leading causes for housing reform in mid-nineteenth Century England. The reform led to the emergence of housing societies and new designs for working-class model dwellings. While these projects contained philanthropic motivations, they were also used as a political tool to direct the working class towards values and identities suited for the primitive accumulation of capital. The design, production, and management of model dwellings converted common space into private enclosures while enforcing industriousness and stamping out idleness.

As a key figure in the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes, Henry Roberts played an instrumental role in this process. This paper investigates his designs and publications to understand how typological

design is used to direct the daily routines of the working class. The first section traces the evolution of Roberts' model dwelling designs by examining housing types, public and private organization of space, and circulatory mechanisms. This analysis will show how the designs increasingly enforced privacy between and within the housing units to reproduce the structure of the nuclear family unit. The second part will examine the guides and handbooks that Roberts published to encourage certain domestic behaviours. This will demonstrate reveal how housing reform was not entirely altruistic and was instead part of a larger project to encourage industriousness, eliminate vice, and exploit domestic labour.

To develop more versatile and engaged housing models in urban environments, it is essential to understand how other agendas have influenced their development. This paper will provide greater insight into the biopolitics of housing models and their typological legacies. It was initially developed under the supervision of Professor Pier Vittorio Aureli at Yale and later revised after supervisions with Professor Nicholas Bullock at Cambridge.

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Artistic interventions in large scale urban transformation projects and processes

In recent years, artists as well as architects have turned to process based interventions in order to activate spaces and communities and to explore and uncover the neighborhoods' qualities, problems and potentials in connection with urban regeneration and urban transformation projects. In doing so, contemporary art and the associated artistic methods/approaches for activation and mobilization of communities, known from relational aesthetics, new genre public art and the overall performative turn within public art, exists and operate alongside - sometimes together with, sometimes in opposition to - architects, planners and policy makers in urban transformation processes.

Architects have a professional interest in having nuanced knowledge about the sites as lived-in environments, a part of the initial research for any project, as well as the legal obligation to include the community in the early processes of planned projects, as participation and hearings. The large-scale transformation projects for the deprived social housing areas ("helhedsplaner" and

"strategiske udviklingsplaner") often include designs of public spaces, with focus on life between buildings, placemaking etc. Thus, there is a shared interest between architects and contemporary artists in working in close connection and dialogue with the residents of the social housing, on agendas that might cover information and knowledge exchange, community building in the form of activation, mobilization, engagement and empowerment. This paper focuses on selected examples of recent urban transformation projects for social housing areas in Denmark ("helhedsplaner"), where art or artistic projects has been used strategically and spatially, through physical interventions, and investigates which role the art projects play in these processes.

Sara Brixen and Anne Hoffmann

Prototyping workshop Modelling the Relational Aesthetics of European Social Housing Estates



"It's difficult to be around ."
Magnus - early retirement

"I am everyone's baba."
Babak - nurse and dad

"Money makes the world go around."
Rashid - estate agent



Modelling Social Housing