



NORDISK ARKITEKTURFORSKNING

Nordic Journal of Architectural Research

2-2018

Nordic Journal of Architectural Research

ISSN: 1893-5281

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Outside the Nordic countries pay in Euro to SWIFT-address: PGS ISESS Account no: 4190325-3, Postgirot Bank Sweden, SE 105 06 Stockholm.

Published by SINTEF Academic Press

P O Box 124 Blindern, NO-0314 Oslo, Norway.

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EDITORS' NOTES

**MADELEINE GRANVIK, DANIEL KOCH, AND
MAGNUS RÖNN**

This mixed issue of the journal is made up of five scientific papers and two reviews of dissertations.

During the past year, NAF/NAAR has undertaken a review of the journal's editorial approach and the way in which our editors-in-chief collaborate. As part of that process, a new editorial group has been established – this is the first published issue produced by that group. Each of the journal's three editors-in-chief are affiliated with a different university or research environment: whilst this represents certain challenges, it also constitutes a key strength. The new editorial approach and the system for the external review of manuscripts have both been introduced with the aim of further enhancing the clarity, quality, and transparency of the journal's methods, principles, and work processes, as well as the division of responsibilities that guides that work. This renewal reflects NAF/NAAR's fundamental principle: that as editors, we continuously strive to ensure transparency, quality, academic freedom and relevance for the research community through our publication.

The author of the first paper of the issue is Maria Eggertsen Teder. Her contribution, "Investigation of place attachment in public space," forms part of her PhD project. Through the text, Eggertsen Teder explores how placemaking is understood as an iterative process of interplay between people, their feelings and actions, and built structures. In the discussion that concludes the piece, the author argues that place attachment and placemaking could enrich the discourse on public space and appropriation, providing a path towards the creation of more vivid urban landscapes.

“Organizing for openness” is the second contribution to the issue. Here, Peter Holm Jacobsen and Andreas Kamstrup discuss digital platforms and crowd sourcing as a way to optimize architectural output, design processes, efficiency, and learning. The aim of their inquiry is to understand what happens when architectural design is hosted on a digital crowd-sourcing platform. They use architectural competitions as example. Interested in the concept of “openness,” the authors investigate a platform that was operated by the Danish Architectural Centre (DAC). They argue that whilst this platform succeeded in establishing a crowd of competition participants, it failed to establish collaborative actions between the crowd’s members.

Peter Strömberg’s “Meat and creativity. Adaptive reuse of slaughterhouses and meatpacking districts” constitute the third paper in the issue. Strömberg begins by pointing out a paradox within branding-influenced city planning: although theories of city branding claim that cities should promote their own distinctive character, many cities stick to the same postindustrial formulas. Based on a number of case studies, Strömberg concludes that although at first it may seem that slaughterhouse renewal projects follow the same postindustrial grammar in terms of buildings structure and peri-urban location, etc., that grammar is also very elastic and strongly related to regional and national policies and attendant ideas of the “creative city.”

The fourth contribution, “Adapting green-blue roofs to Nordic climate,” is written by Bridget Thodesen, Tore Kvande, Helga Therese Tilley Tajet, Berit Time, and Jardar Lohne. Based on a review of research literature, the paper raises the potential role that might be played by green-blue roofs within a Nordic urban environment. The authors stress the role that green-blue roofs have in operating as a tool for stormwater management. The conclusions drawn from this literature review are structured in three parts: first, the authors explore what the literature is able to reveal with respect to the potential role offered by green-blue roofs in a Nordic urban environment; secondly, they review the potential implications for stormwater management; and thirdly, they identify a series of gaps in existing knowledge.

The final paper, “Society’s blueprints – A study of the Norwegian Building Code’s modal descriptions of a building,” is a contribution by Jørgen Skatland, Ole Møystad, and Jardar Lohne. The authors ask: How are the societal purposes of the Building Code expressed as distinctively “social” concerns? By carrying out a content analysis of the Norwegian Planning and Building Act and the corresponding Technical Regulations, the authors investigate the differences between the topics present in the legal texts and their translation into functional demands. Their findings are discussed in terms of matters of technical, aesthetic, and social values;

and the interface between politics, ethics, and the built environment. The authors draw the conclusion that legal language appears suited to deal with non-complex, isolated, legal aspects of built meaning, and as a result little attention is explicitly paid to social, epistemological, or aesthetic issues in the documents that they review.

Magnus Rönn reviews the dissertation *Rethinking design competition to promote urban development* by Ling Zeng. In this doctoral thesis, Zeng compares the way in which international architectural competitions are carried out in China and Finland, by comparing and discussing four case studies – two urban design competitions in each country. The structure of the PhD thesis, Rönn argues, is clear and complete. He concludes his review of Zeng’s work by providing comments on four key aspects of the dissertation.

Sten Gromark reviews the dissertation *Skimmelsvampevekst i boliger – Praksisser og politikker* (Mould growth in housing – Practices and policies) by Turid Borgestrand Øien. The reviewer view the thesis as making a valuable contribution to research into mould in residential situations, and contributing a theoretical point of view that, in a refreshing and ambitious manner, attempts to renew the concepts and paradigms surrounding qualitative case study research on housing.

