

# AT HÅNDBERE DET UHÅNDBERBARE – DOKUMENTATION AF DEN ARKITEKTONISKE KULTURARV

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The primary aim of this PhD dissertation is to introduce the term atmosphere within the documentation of the architectural cultural heritage, resulting in an expanded view of the values present in our documented buildings. Currently we primarily document our historical buildings based on pure measurable dimensions, which in itself is paradoxical because of the notion that cultural heritage itself is a non-formal, non-measurable term. The dissertation contributes with an exposition of the term atmosphere within the context of documentation, which shall be seen as an invitation to let the atmospheric values to become valid and dominating parameters within the process of restoration. By using atmospheric values the attention will be guided towards the non-measurable and non-controllable aspects of the cultural heritage, thus proposing a restoration that emphasises the special non-formalistic values, opposed to traditional condition assessments. The thesis is centered around the three following research questions:

### 1. Research history

How has the field of documentation developed in a historical perspective?

### 2. Present documentation practices

What are the present methodologies and characteristics of contemporary architectural documentation? And which qualities and limitations do they have in relation to subsequent restoration and preservation?

### 3. Atmosphere and cultural heritage

The values of the architectural cultural heritage are not to be invented, but instead found. The methods used in present documentation and restoration is incapable of handling important atmospheric values, which is why the dissertation questions a new conceptualisation that can be used to describe these non-measurable values.

The dissertation is structured around an introduction containing background, motivation and starting point for the thesis. Subsequently followed by three larger chapters each relating to separate research questions, and ending with a concluding section that summaries and concludes, plus recommends future perspectives for the profession. The notion of atmosphere is developed from the theory of Gernot Böhme, Juhani Pallasma and Peter Zumthor, and is defined as that which is being emitted from objects and subjects in a given place. Any change in the existing material will result in an atmospheric transformation, by which it becomes evident that any restoration *is* a transformation of the atmosphere. By implementing atmospheric descriptions as a supplement to the traditional documentation (e.g. measurement and photos) of the building in question, it becomes possible for the work done in the restoration to have these atmospheric transformations as a focus point.

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To conduct an atmospheric description, a phenomenological analysis is being used, which shifts focus to include what occupy the subjects mind, and its understanding of geometry and distance. This ultimately means that the sensory apparatus of the human body becomes a mediator for the atmospheric values present in the building. From a phenomenological perspective the introduction of the notion of atmosphere in forthcoming documentation work, will produce a reprioritisation of the values present in the architectural cultural heritage. Thus clarifying, that atmospheric values can and must be a part of any future documentation, because it proposes new perspectives on addressing and preserving our architectural cultural heritage.