

## LANDSCAPES OF THE CITY WITHOUT LIMITS

2008  
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#### **'Landscapes of the city without limits'**

The thesis, 'Landscapes of the City Without Limits' addresses how the disciplines of architectural planning and landscape architecture can deal/ work/ integrate dynamic urbanisation processes that characterizes urban development today, with a special focus on the relationship between urban and rural areas.

#### **Central research question**

*The central research question is: Is it advantageous to place focus on landscape and city as coherent structures and mutual dependent components, with an aim to establish a common/united/shared approach and ambition, rather than focusing on the distinction between urban and rural and their boundaries which constantly is compromised by the present urban development?*

#### **Allegation**

*It is the thesis' allegation that: By redefining the relationship between urban areas and landscape, it is possible to work with a new conceptual landscape-based model for the architectural adaptation of the urban processes that characterizes the City Without Limits (the 'Landscape Urbanism'-discourse). The model has to consist of compound methods and tools that can combine architectural and spatial ambitions with a large amount of 'uncertainty' and adaptation ability.*

#### **Composition**

The composition of the thesis is divided in two main parts of content: A diagnosis of the City Without Limits and a part that relates and develops

an architectural approach to the City Without Limits, based on the landscape urbanism discourse.

The diagnosis part conceptionally and empirically describes the City Without Limits and its characteristics. The urban processes that influence our physical surroundings are briefly identified (as fx increased mobility, increased individualization, increased possibilities for communication etc.). Common for these processes is that they, because of their dynamics, compromise conventional long-term architectural planning. The theories and their categories are based upon global tendencies, and are being related to a general conceptional and theoretical discussion.

With this point of origin, two European regions are analyzed, where the development and discussion of planning-based difficulties and paradoxes has been on the agenda. The two regions are the Flemish Diamond in Belgium which has dealt with the urban processes without an agenda for architectural planning, and Randstad in Holland which has a long tradition for architectural planning and large scale architectural concepts.

The developing part of the thesis takes its point of origin in the 'Landscape Urbanism' discourse, and propounds a new method and new architectonically 'tools' for working with processes the City Without Limits in an architectural way.

The thesis relates to the Landscape Urbanism discourse several times: from introduction of the approach to project analysis, to development of possible methods and tools, to a perspective of future possible research projects.

One of the substantial cornerstones of the developing part of the thesis is the analysis of 12 leading

landscape urbanism projects from the last three decades. The selected project's theoretical contribution and methodological reflexions is analyzed to explain and deduct its different basic components. The Landscape Urbanism approach in the projects is explained by analysis of three main contributors to discourse, and is synthesized into an overall characteristic on three levels: an optical, a methodological and a representational level.

The 'Landscape Urbanism principles' are developed with design theories from the field of Landscape

Urbanism and the architectural concepts, analyzed in the in the 12 projects. The thesis wants to explain and generalize possible methodological principles for a Landscape Urbanism approach to architectural planning (in the City Without Limits).

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Fejll Dokumentet

## Main findings

The thesis' main research... contribution lies within the work with the Landscape Urbanism as approach to the City without limits. It can be divided into three interrelated fields of knowledge:

*Landscape-Urban characteristics* that describes the approach and its possibilities and characteristics in relation to the City Without Limits.

Landscape Urban concepts explain the approach in relation to conventional modernistic planning and how it deals with the (urban) processes and dynamics rather than objects and images.

*Landscape Urban method and 'tools'* constitutes a considerable contribution to the discourse, and formulates an overall methodologically framework for an urbanisation project in the context of the City Without Limits. It also contributes with a series of principles or tools to use in the conception of a large scale architectural planning or urbanisation project.