

RL 1 - Territories, Architecture and Transformation

Vision

To qualify the current transformation processes and address future needs and potentials within the field of architecture and urbanism.

Lab description

The research lab will include and integrate research that deals with the issue of transformation across scales, superimposed layers from different ages and practices within architecture. These transformation-processes are also understood as value-based discussions as gentrification, shrinking, recycling, rewilding etc.

The architectural heritage is understood as a culture that has developed continuously through history. Our research seeks to create knowledge on and strategies for how a substantial understanding and use of this culture can be utilised in creating the architectural heritage of tomorrow.

The concept of territories is used to describe a cross-scale and cross-matter focus, from macro to micro territories. The discourse about large scale developments like urbanisation processes will be linked with investigations for the transformation of the built cultural heritage and proposals for small scale interventions regarding the practice of humans in urban spaces.

Territories are regional networks, landscapes, urban spaces, buildings, small scale intimate spaces and objects and they contain many non-physical aspects like histories and collective mind-sets. Most of all they are collections of large amounts of built legacy primarily from the post WWII era. In Denmark this legacy is known as the Welfare City, and it is discussed in relation to the ongoing adjustment of the model of the welfare society. Most of it has to undergo some sort of transformation and upgrading to adjust to values of sustainability, both environmental, social, economic, aesthetic, as well as to contribute to the overall resilience and revitalization of societies and communities.

The research of the lab will connect to other disciplines and be based on a broad spectrum of methodological approaches, and includes both theoretical academic approaches, empiric research based on architectural methods as well as research-by-design approaches.

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