

Architectural History and Practices

Conference 3-4 May, Gothenburg

Architectural history has since long played an important role in architectural and antiquarian practices. In the 1970s an "architectural history turn" occurred as a reaction to the extensive city transformations of late modernism and brought a revived interest for history. It left its mark with an increased number of doctoral dissertations in architectural history and a large number of new and expanded architectural museums all over the world. The architectural history as a repertoire of solutions gained a stronger position in architectural practice as well as education. Conversion and urban renewal became important in a decelerated economy and required antiquarian competence and new education in conservation.

Architectural history became a self-evident knowledge base for both architectural and conservation practices. But the arouse interest could not be taken for granted as something lasting forever, that would be unhistorical. There are signs now suggesting that the subject is no longer as self-evident and that its institutional ground has weakened, concerning research in architectural history and the position of the subject in education as well as its role within practice. At the same time is transformation of existing buildings a growing task and related questions are topical, not least regarding aspects of sustainability.

THE CONFERENCE

The conference on Architectural History and Practices is held in Gothenburg 3-4 May 2012, co-arranged by the Department of Architecture, Chalmers University and the Department of Conservation, Gothenburg University. The conference is also part of the strong research environment 'Architecture in the Making', funded by Formas during 2011-2016, in which both history and alteration are central themes. The conference is intended as a meeting point between representatives for research on architectural history and practicing architects as well as antiquarians. The contemporary position of architectural history will be discussed, its relevance for practice and possible strategies for the future. The intention is to publish the contributions and conclusions of the conference.

The conference venue is at the Department of Conservation in Gothenburg. Keynote speeches will be held in English, paper presentation seminars will mainly be in Swedish. Among the speakers are Bill Addis, Dorte Mandrup, Wouter Vanstiphout and Henrik Ranby.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Researchers, doctoral students as well as practitioners are invited to send abstracts with maximum 300 words as a pdf-file to: caldenby@chalmers.se. The scientific committee will assess abstracts on their scientific quality and relevance for the conference theme. Deadline for paper abstracts is 9 January 2012. Accepted abstracts will be announced 30 January. Final papers submitted at latest 23 April.

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Thursday 3 May

- 12.30 Registration
- 13.00 Welcome note: Claes Caldenby and Ola Wetterberg
- 13.15 Keynote: Bill Addis
On Architectural History and the Engineering Practice
- 14.00 Keynote: Dorte Mandrup
On Architectural History and the Architectural Practice
- 14.45 Coffee break
- 15.15 Keynote: Mari Lending
On Architectural History in the Architectural Studio
- 16.00 Keynote: Henrik Ranby
On Architectural History and the Antiquarian Practice
- 16.45 Plenum discussion
- 17.30 End of first day
- 19.00 Conference Dinner
at Chalmersska huset, Södra Hamngatan 11

Friday 4 May

- 09.00 Paper presentation sessions
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Parallel seminars on three themes with invited introducers
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 Concluding plenum discussion.

Saturday 5 May

Possibility to visit the craft education Da Capo in Mariestad.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Bill Addis, PhD, is associate and engineer at Buro Happold in London. He has written several books on the history of the art of engineering and in 2007 he published *Building*, a book with the intention to give the engineers the heroes and role models that architects already have in architectural history.

Dorte Mandrup is a practicing architect directing an innovative architectural office in Copenhagen, with several conversion projects which has received national and international awards and attention. She is also adjunct professor at Architectural Conservation and Restoration, School of Architecture in Lund.

Mari Lending is professor of architectural theory and history, and Head of Department of Form, Theory and History at Oslo School of Architecture and Design. She has published widely and is editor-in-chief of *Nordic Journal of Architecture*, and sits on the editorial board of *Arkitektur N*.

Henrik Ranby is a building antiquarian with a doctorate in art history. He works as a conservation officer in the municipality of Höganäs, and is working on a book on the status of building preservation after PBL (Plan and Building Act).

PARALELL SEMINARS

The three parallel seminars on Friday afternoon will have one or two introducers on each theme followed by discussions. The three themes are:

1. The architectural history subject: Crisis or cockiness?
2. The long and the short history: What is prioritised?
3. Architects and antiquarians: Change and conservation?

REGISTRATION AND FEE

The conference fee is SEK 1000. It includes coffee, conference dinner and lunch. It also includes the bustrip to Mariestad on 5 May for those who wish to participate in the study visit. Registration and payment at latest 16 April at the homepage of Chalmers Architecture (www.chalmers.se/arch).