

Announcement of Ph.D. Scholarships.

The Institute of Building Culture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture announces three Ph.D. scholarships within the research field of Architectural Public Space. These are three-year positions, fully funded under the Danish Mobility Program, and scheduled to commence no later than December 1, 2010. Public Space is an official research area of the Institute for Building Culture.

Each scholarship constitutes an independent research project. However, as they are designed to cover different aspects of a concerted research agenda, they are in practice considered to be collaborating projects. Candidates will become part of an active research environment featuring both academic and architectural expertise.

Concept

Over the past three decades the turn from national industrial economies to global network societies has given rise to a number of fundamental social and urban changes. Many have been thoroughly investigated and debated by scholars and researchers. Among the most conspicuous are changes in global infrastructure and in the fields of trade and finance; alterations in work-life balance and private organization; modifications in the regulation of social mobility and political management; advances in private and public media; mutations of language and communication and new trends in academic theory and scholarly practice.

But the historic transition has also had implications for architecture, in particular for the overlooked quality of public spaces. Modifications of public space are not as well documented as the changes listed above; nor are they as discursively prioritized or as easily discernible. Perhaps for this reason they are all the more intrusive. The shift is evident not only in public architecture and planning but in the common understanding of physical public identity. It is evidenced in public behaviour and in displacements of the boundary between public and private space.

Our ambition is to diagnose this contemporary situation from a global perspective with a local focus centring on the city of Copenhagen. The goal is to move beyond mere analysis and the ultimate aim of these projects is to actively contribute to the development of proposals for improving future public spaces.

Focus Areas

Each of the three scholarships has its own name and focus area. Applicants should clearly state the name of the desired scholarship in their applications.

1) Archaeology of Public Space

This Ph.D. project focuses on architectural, financial and political ideals relative to the development of architectural programmes and proposals. The project should proceed by case studies using a dual approach: an investigation of the modification of ideals during the concretization process and a retrospective analysis and interpretation of realized proposals. The case studies should explicitly highlight issues concerning public and private space. The project is also expected to include theoretical research in correlation with the selection of cases and the collection and analysis of empirical data.

2) Housing and Public Space

This Ph.D. project is an analysis of new urban areas where social distribution, municipal governance and financial conditions have been successfully integrated into the project to allow

the emergence of correlating public and private spaces. Cases should be relevant to contemporary practice. The aim of the desired analysis is to identify conditional elements that make it possible for a particular neighbourhood or a city to influence its public spaces. This analysis should ultimately result in the development of a set of realistic strategies as well as a concrete proposal for an urban area, thus articulating the investigation in architectural form.

3) Public Interspaces

Since the 1970s, a number of critical positions have been formulated against the logical distribution of buildings and functions inherent in the comprehensive master plan model of development. These include calls for the reintegration of function; "messy vitality" as outlined in the postmodernist complexity paradigm and the deconstructivist preoccupation with the inherent destabilization, ambiguity and potentiality of interspaces vis-à-vis meaning.

A study of critical issues relating to "public interspaces" is required based on this particular theoretical attention. This should be based on a number of select cases, which might include randomly emerging assemblages; transitional forms and surplus areas; or precisely designed urban spaces. The project should identify and adequately interpret the issues of public interspaces, preferably including a critique of established theories.

The media sphere has developed to facilitate various aspects of social control and new private "interspaces" within the public sphere. These new interspaces contribute additional dimensions to the relationship between virtual and physical interspaces. This inevitably impacts our perception of place and distance as well as altering the relationship between private and public. Thus the role of new media in our perception of the urban environment may be part of the project.

Scholarship Terms and Conditions

The position is offered as a 3-year contract under the regulations of the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Danish Federation of Professional Associations, AC.

The education under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Consolidated Order no. 114 of 8 March 2002 called: 'Ministerial Order on the Ph.D. Course of Study and on the Ph.D. Degree'.

For further information about the School and the conditions for the position, please visit www.karch.dk or contact the School's research department on tel. +45 3268 6052.

Application

Written applications (5 hard copies) with appended documents marked 'Public Space' and the intended focus area addressed to:

Rector
Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture,
Philip de Langes Allé 10,
DK-1435 Copenhagen K,
Denmark.

Application deadline: September 15, 2010.

Applications received after this time will not be taken into consideration.

No application form is used.

Applications must be in writing (hard copy) and include the following:

- Project outline accounting for the project topic, formulation of the problem, hypothesis, method, and relationship to existing research within the chosen topic. The outline must have a maximum of 12,000 characters, incl. spaces, notes and references – equal to five A4 pages. (The total number of characters must be stated at the end of the project outline)
- Publication list (if applicable)
- Curriculum Vitae – max. one A4 page
- Certified copies of relevant exam certificates
- Certified copies of relevant recommendations or references
- Requests for principal supervisor (if applicable)

All applications must be submitted in five copies.

It is sufficient to include a single copy of any additional material. The actual application and the academic relevance and feasibility of the project in question constitute the primary material for determining applicant qualifications.

Candidates/graduates from The School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts are not applicable.

The School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts is an equal opportunity employer. All interested candidates are encouraged to apply regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

The School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts is an institution at university level under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. It is the mission of the school - through teaching and research - to provide a basis for high quality in people's physical environment.