



Public PhD-defence

Nicholas Thomas Lee defends the dissertation **DWELLSCAPE: The Contemporary Dwelling Interior as a Domestic Landscape**. The defence takes place **Wednesday 2 October 2019, at 13:00 in Aud. 6**, Danneskiold-Samsøes Allé 53, 1435 Copenhagen K.

Agenda

- 13:00 Welcome and presentation of the assessment committee, supervisor and author by Kirsten Marie Raahauge
- 13:05 Nicholas Thomas Lee presents his dissertation 'DWELLSCAPE: The Contemporary Dwelling Interior as a Continuation of Architectonic Space'
- 13:50 Short break
According to the 'Ministerial Order on the PhD Course of Study and the PhD Degree' the chair may invite the audience to contribute with short statements. Such intentions should be addressed to the chair during the break.
- 14:00 Penny Sparke, Professor, Kingston School of Art, Kingston University
- 14:30 Jonathan Foote, Associate Professor, Aarhus School of Architecture, Aarhus
- 15:00 Peter Bertram, Associate Professor, Institute of Architecture and Culture, KADK (Chair of The Assessment Committee)
- 15:30 Comments from the auditorium
The assessment committee evaluates and makes the concluding remarks
Closure of session

Assessment Committee

Jonathan Foote	Associate Professor, Aarhus School of Architecture, Aarhus, Denmark
Penny Sparke	Professor, Kingston School of Art, Kingston University, London, UK
Peter Bertram	Associate Professor, Institute of Architecture and Culture, KADK, Copenhagen (Chair of the assessment committee)

Supervisor

Kirsten Marie Raahauge	Professor MSO, Institute of Architecture and Design, KADK, Copenhagen, Denmark
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Co-supervisor

Peter Thule Kristensen	Professor, Institute of Architecture and Design, KADK, Copenhagen, Denmark
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The thesis is the result of a PhD-studio financed by KADK, Institute of Architecture and Design.

The thesis is available to look through at the Library of Architecture, Design and Performing Arts, Danneskiold-Samsøes Allé 50, 1434 Copenhagen K.



ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)

This Ph.D. dissertation engages in an architectural discourse on the spatial Organization of the contemporary dwelling interior, which plays a central role in our lives by supporting and shaping our human relationships, behavior and daily routines. Despite the importance of this built environment, current Architectural praxis continues to be informed by functionalist principles that are propagated by building standards, planning codes and entrenched Design methods involved in the production of housing leading to a 'crisis' in Domestic architecture.

As a point of departure for this project the following question has been posed, In the midst of the current 'crisis' in domestic architecture brought about by a positivistic approach to the application of functionalist spatial planning principles, which results in deterministic forms of inhabitation through the abstraction of the lived reality of the built environment into definite 'functions', 'users' and Cartesian 'space', how might the architect reconceptualize the spatial organization of the contemporary dwelling interior?

A 'research by design' method provides a systematic framework for this enquiry. A simultaneous 'two-fold movement' occurs between retrospective analysis of case study projects and formative theory including traditional Japanese spatial praxis, the picturesque movement and 'post-functionalist' Architectural ideas, which are then synthesized together through the Development of three prospective design enquiries. These enquiries result in the production of 'epistemic artefacts' that take the form of physical Models. Qualitative analysis of these proposals enables the extraction of embodied knowledge, which in turn influences the retrospective research concurrently. Knowledge produced over the course of the research enquiries are disseminated through the written monograph and its accompanying 'epistemic artefacts'.

Through a reconceptualization of the contemporary dwelling interior as a 'domestic landscape' the notion of 'Dwellscape' is proposed as a productive spatial organization strategy. A 'Dwellscape' is defined as a continuous 'domestic landscape' composed of a relational field-configuration of distinct architectural elements, which define 'places' that accommodate specific activities, as well as, delineating ambiguous interstitial 'places' that can Support inhabitant appropriation in a multitude of ways. Three important constituent aspects of 'Dwellscape' emerge from the research, which includes an approach to spatial organization based upon a 'relational field-configuration', the value of 'threshold' places and finally, a focus on providing opportunities for inhabitant 'appropriation'.

It is the position of this dissertation that the 'Dwellscape' concept can be utilized as a formative approach to the spatial organization of the domestic interior, which productively challenges functionalist planning strategies that continue to inform contemporary architectural praxis. Over the course of this project, the research by design enquiries show practical manifestations of the 'Dwellscape' concept. Through emphasis on the use of physical models, 'pictorial planning' has emerged as a productive counter-point to the dominance of a planimetric approach to spatial organization. It is intended that the findings of this research project make a valuable contribution to a critical discourse on the spatial organization of the contemporary dwelling interior.



ABSTRACT (DANISH)

Denne ph.d.-afhandling er et bidrag til en arkitektonisk diskurs for rumlig organisering af den moderne bolig. Boligen spiller en væsentlig rolle som ramme for dagligdagen og i udformningen af vores sociale relationer. Til trods for dette baseres nuværende arkitektonisk praksis overvejende på funktionalistiske logikker, som implementeres via standarder, byggeslovgivning og designprincipper. Det er afhandlingens tese, at der eksisterer et misforhold i udformningen af planer og rumlig organisering af den moderne bolig som følge af en ukritisk anvendelse af funktionalistiske planløsningsprincipper, der bevirker en deterministisk udformning baseret på en abstrakt opdeling af boligens levede virkelighed i funktion, bruger og Kartesiansk "rum".

Afhandlingen tager afsæt i følgende forskningsspørgsmål: Hvordan kan arkitekten rekonceptualisere planen for den moderne bolig som reaktion på det nuværende misforhold i boligens rumlige organisering?

"Research by design"-metoden udgør den systematiske struktur for undersøgelsen af ovenstående forskningsspørgsmål. Herudover, vil afhandlingen benytte en "dualistisk bevægelse" mellem retrospektiv analyse af casestudier og formativ teori, som omfatter traditionel rumlig praksis i Japan, den pittoreske bevægelse og post-funktionalistiske principper, som sammenfattes i tre designundersøgelser. Undersøgelserne udarbejdes via "epistemiske objekter", og udformes som fysiske modeller, der underkastes en kvalitativ analyse. Dette muliggør et udtræk af modellernes implicite viden, der sideløbende vil informere den retrospektive forskning. Forskningsprojektets opnåede viden formidles igennem en skriftlig monografi, som ledsages af de "epistemiske objekter".

Gennem en rekonceptualisering af boligens plan som et "domesticeret landskab" fremsættes "Dwellscape" som en produktiv strategi for rumlig organisering. "Dwellscape" defineres som et domesticeret, landskabeligt forløb bestående af relationelle felt-konfigurationer af klare arkitektoniske elementer og "steder", der dels fordrer bestemte aktiviteter og dels formår at tegne interstitielle og ambivalente rum, til fri fortolkning og appropriering efter beboerens varierende behov. Forskningsprojektet formulerer de tre centrale bestanddele for "Dwellscape", som omfatter en tilgang til rumlig organisering baseret på relationelle "felt-konfigurationer", vigtigheden af overgange, tærskler og "place making" og endelig, et øget fokus på beboerens muligheder for appropriering og tilpasning.

Afhandlingens hypotese omhandler anvendelsen af "Dwellscape" princippet, som en formativ tilgang til den rumlige organisering af boligens plan som en aktiv udfordring af de nuværende, funktionalistiske planløsningsprincipper. Henover projektforløbet repræsenterer "research by design"-undersøgelserne den fysiske manifestation af "Dwellscape" princippet. Derudover fostres begrebet "den pittoreske plan" gennem anvendelsen af den fysiske model som et konstruktivt kontrapunkt til den planimetrisk, rumlige organisering. Det tilsigtes, at forskningsprojektets fund vil udgøre et væsentligt bidrag til en kritisk diskurs på boligens plan og rumlige organisering.