



Catalog of Care

Claiming care in the Danish urban environment

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Frontpage image:

Woven art piece NEON ORANGE TO WHITE By Korean artist Mimi Jung.

In this context used as an expression of the interwoven concepts of care. At the same time, the craft of the loom is a representation of femininity and softness.

www.mimijung.com/neonorangetowhite

Introduction, method, theory, discussion, and conclusion are written by both authors.

The following chapters of the analysis are written primarily by Nina Christine Hansen:

Preservation, Adaptive reuse, Gender equality

The following chapters are written primarily by Olivia Thomsen:

Public health, Citizen involvement, Inclusion of marginalized groups

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Note: This paper should be read as double spread pages.



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Architecture
Design
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ABSTRACT

Care is a central value in Danish and Western European welfare society. From the establishment of care in the Scandinavian welfare society and the idea of building for the people to today's discussion on how to create inclusive cities and public spaces. With a point of departure in feminist economics and the idea of creating a new values system that goes beyond the monetary, this written thesis intends to expand the concept of care and in continuation, pave the way to rethink what is considered valuable in our urban development.

This written thesis investigates how care as a value is presented in architectural projects in a Danish and European context. Through a self-developed analytical hexagon diagram, the presence or lack of care is examined in twelve cases varying in scale and location. The analysis of the cases contributes to a Catalog of Care, portraying the multiple aspects of the concept of care - from social to physical.

Based on the Catalog of Care this written thesis discusses how we as architects can claim care as a central value in the Danish urban environment - physical as well as social care to make sure to sustain and improve the existing networks in the development of our urban future.

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Introduction

Method

Theory

UNDERSTANDING CARE AS A VALUE

In the Oxford, Dictionary *care* is defined as:

Care, noun: the process of caring for somebody/something and providing what they need for their health or protection

*Care, verb: to feel that something is important and worth worrying about*¹

¹ Oxford University Press. "care." Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. 20/09-2021.

In other words, care is always an activity. In the chapter *Toward a Feminist Theory of Caring* published in the book *Circles of Care* in 1990 political theorist Joan Tronto and feminist educator Berenice Fisher gives the definition;

*"Care is a species activity that includes everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our world so that we can live in it as well as possible. That world includes our bodies, ourselves and our environment, all of which we seek to interweave in a complex, life-sustaining web."*²

² Tronto, J. and B. Fisher. *Toward a Feminist Theory of Caring*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1990.

This way of understanding care gives a holistic perspective to the term, making it possible to analyze the presence or lack of care in multiple aspects of society such as in the social, structural, and physical world.

WHY CARE?

In the modern western world overconsumption and capitalism shape our urban environment. With rapid climate change and a lack of inclusion pushing the vulnerable people out of our cities, it is time for a counter-response to the way society and the built environment is structured today in the Anthropocene Era.

It is therefore relevant to pose the question - How can we as architects claim care as a central value in the Danish urban environment?

Through *The Catalog of Care*, we developed a method to understand the different concepts of care and relate these to architectural approaches. The catalog looks at how care can be understood as both physical and social aspects and gives examples of how we as architects can implement care in both environmental and inclusive matters.

In an attempt to answer the research question, *The Catalog of Care* investigates if we as architects can work with out-worn buildings with a sense of care in contrast to continuing to build new and demolishing enormous amounts of built material and look into how we can facilitate inclusive and gender-equal citizen involvement that produces care.

METHOD

With a point of departure in feminist economics and the idea of creating a new values system, we wish to expand the concept of care and explore the role of this in social as well as spatial architectural projects in a Western context. We will do this by looking at twelve different European and Danish case studies.

The cases are analyzed by looking at different definitions of care gathered in a collection - A Catalog of Care. We have selected six concepts of care as a point of departure for our analysis; Public Health, Preservation, Adaptive Reuse, Citizen Involvement, Inclusion of Marginalized Groups, and Gender Equality. These concepts have been chosen on a background of our research into the term care in relation to architecture to show the diversity and complexity of the term.

To unfold the presence or lack of care in the twelve case studies we have developed an analytic hexagon diagram.

The circles represent the amount of care, while the six corners show the different concepts. This makes it possible to compare the cases and get an overview of the kind of care the cases represent.

The hexagon diagram is a methodology that functions as one tool out of many to analyze the presence of care in architectural projects.

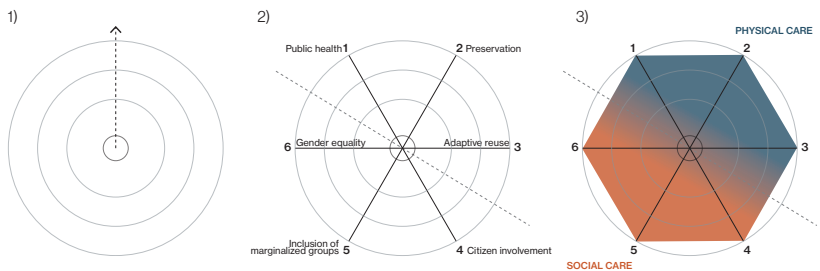


Fig10

1. The circles indicate the amount of care - the closer to the outer circle, the higher amount of care. 2. The six concepts of care are represented in the outline of the circle. 3. An example of a case with a maximum level of care in all concepts, with an even focus on physical care (blue) and social care (red).

We view it as a possibility to analyze all physical/spatial projects through the six concepts. In other words, the number of possible cases to analyze in the catalog has no limit.

The cases presented in the thesis are chosen as examples of the different concepts. Some represent strategies toward a more caring and inclusive urban environment for the people living in the city, while others focus on care for the physical environment and our limited resources. At the same time, some cases show a presence of care in the approach and process of creating the projects while other cases are examples of care in the final finished project.

Finally, we wish to compare the different approaches presented in the catalog and reflect on the theory of feminist economics in the discussion of different strategies for implementing care in a Danish context of urban environments.

FEMINIST ECONOMICS - THEORY

The school of feminist economics is a critique of the way our modern society considers value exclusively in a capitalistic context. The publication *If Women Counted* from 1988 by former politician Marilyn Waring from New Zealand is often described as a founding document for feminist economics. Waring questions the idea of what is counted as valuable in social as well as environmental aspects;

*"I turn back to the mountains. If minerals were found there, the hills would still be worthless until a mining operation commenced. And then as cliffs were gouged, as roads were cut, and smoke rose, the hills would be of value - their value would be the price the minerals would fetch the world market. No price would be put on the violation of the earth, or the loss of beauty, or the depletion of mineral resources. This is what value means, according to economic theory."*³

³ Waring, Marilyn. *If Women Counted, A New Feminist Economics*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1988, pp. 25

With this quote, Waring empathizes the need to rethink our perception of value to an understanding that goes beyond market and monetary value. Waring unfolds how women's unpaid work, such as child caring, nursing, household, cleaning, and cooking is excluded from what counts as productive in the economy. It is often referred to as reproductive work in contrast to productive work - the type of work that results in goods or services that have a value in capital. Reproductive work has no value in an economic perspective, even though it contributes to sustaining and maintaining productive work and the economy is deeply dependent on this.

Feminist economics like Waring claims that it is essential to address the gender inequalities that derive from this as well as the severe damage to the global environment that the exploitation of natural resources is causing.

As a counter-response, feminist economics suggests an alternative value system based on care.⁴ Care for the overlooked groups of society and care for the climate and environment. It is from this point of view, that we wish to investigate and analyze how care is or can be implemented in spatial architectural contexts.

⁴ Waring, Marilyn. *If Women Counted, A New Feminist Economics*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1988.

CATALOG OF CARE

The concept of care is complex and consists of an endless number of sub-categories. In *The Catalog of Care* we suggest six different concepts of care that can be divided into two main categories; physical care in the form of Public health, Preservation, and Adaptive reuse on one hand and Social care in the form of Citizen involvement, Inclusion of marginalized groups, and Gender equality on the other hand. We present twelve different cases that all relate to the concepts of care and use the hexagon diagram to underline the focus on care.

Concepts of Care

- Public health 1.
- Preservation 2.
- Adaptive reuse 3.
- Citizen involvement 4.
- Inclusion of marginalized groups 5.
- Gender equality 6.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH

Building for care

Attention to public health can be seen as a way of caring. One aspect that comes to mind when thinking of care in a traditional way is the ideal of healthcare and welfare. The Danish welfare system ensures equal access to public functions such as education, hospitals, and childcare which are all primarily covered through tax. Public health is an important part of Danish society and can be many different aspects of society that all contribute to general daily wellbeing.

The establishment of the welfare state has a long history in Denmark with e.g. the first law securing old-age support from 1891, women's right to vote in 1915, and Kanslergade-forliget in 1933 – one of the most important political agreements, where political reforms were made to solve serious economic problems at that time.

The idea of building for public health can be seen as early as 1873, where Brumleby, the first example of welfare building, Danish Social Housing (Almene boliger), was built.

Case: Brumleby

Brumleby is an area with row houses in Østerbro in Copenhagen. After the Chola epidemic in Copenhagen, the citizens demanded housing outside the ramparts. The inner city was extremely dense and filthy and the epidemic spread fast around. The architect Gottlieb Bindesbøl designed the row houses with the ideal of light and air and with institutions like kindergarten and a union house all placed inside the area. It was The Medical Association that initiated the project and that gave the area a clear focus on physical health (fig. 2.2) and general wellbeing as a contrast to the rest of the city at that time. This is the first example of social housing in Denmark.⁵

5 Hovedstadshistorie. "Brumleby." Kend København. 08/10-2021.

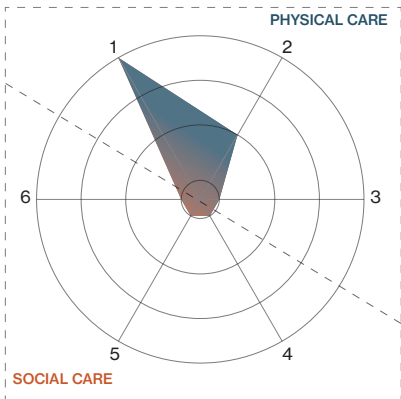


Fig.21



Fig.31

The case focuses on Public health (1), as it was built as a response to the cholera epidemic in Copenhagen, with a care for the resident's health. Preservation (2) is seen in the housings being kept and cared for through maintenance since 1873.

After World War II ideals such as accessibility and democracy became crucial for the welfare state when it came to dealing with hierarchies and differences in society and managing public space. In this period the city became a symbol of a democratic space where everything was possible. These tendencies could be seen in many places in Europe. In the book Critical City, philosopher Kristoffer Weiss gives an overview of the beginning of the Danish welfare state and the ideals it was built around:

“The welfare city was the very image of the inclusive ideal of equality and fitness with equitable access to shared resources and the possibilities that the city affords, with its sprawling network and proximity to important and powerful state institutions, workplaces and cultural venues.”⁶

6 Weiss, Kristoffer Lindhardt. Critical City. Copenhagen: Arkitektens Forlag, 2019, pp 3.

One could argue that these ideals define the welfare state as a way of caring for the people and were a reaction to the scarcity after the war.

7 Weiss, Kristoffer Lindhardt. *Critical City. Copenhagen: Arkitektens Forlag, 2019, pp 103*

World War II brought a housing shortage and housing policies became essential. Housing was seen as important for ensuring stability and security⁷. At the same time, Denmark saw increased prosperity because of the Marshall Plan that was an act of care in the form of economic help to Europe after the war. This resulted in a building boom with both single-family parcel housing, but also large block developments. It was a political strategy to increase homeownership and create new suburban areas. The building industry was booming and because of large amounts of new prefab building projects the infrastructure was also expanding. Many resourceful people from the middle class moved out of the cities to the suburbs where they could get fresh air and freedom, and as a result of that Copenhagen became a place for the poor, living in a compact and unhealthy city. These bad sanitary conditions and dense neighborhoods led to deadly fires. In the '60s Copenhagen started a process of redeveloping the dense areas. The idea was to create better living conditions with modern new buildings with the ideals of the time concerning air and light. In this attempt, whole building blocks were demolished without a plan for new development. The ideals conflicted with the citizens and their need for cheap housing and their insecurity about not knowing if their homes would be destroyed.

This can be seen in the case of The Black Square in Nørrebro, Copenhagen.

Case: The Black Square

The Black Square refers to the inner part of Nørrebro around Blågård's Plads. In the late '70s, a large part of the dense area was planned to be demolished, which led to massive public protests. The motives behind the redevelopment were to raise the bad living conditions in the area. After the redevelopment, the area around The Black Square was transformed. Many people had been displaced and did not move back. The old dense building blocks were replaced by prefabricated element buildings owned by Danish social housing organizations with the ideals of the welfare state. The government allocated these buildings for immigrant workers coming to Denmark at that time.⁸

8 A/B Blågård's Plads. "Sanering og byfornyelse." Historien om Blågård's Plads. 22/08-2007.

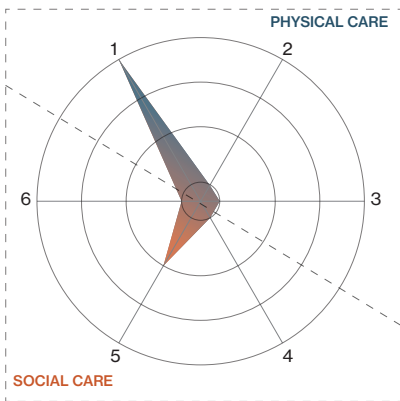


Fig.2.2



Fig.3.2

The case focuses on Public health (1), as it was a part of the redevelopment of the dense Copenhagen, with a care for creating better living conditions. Inclusion of marginalized groups (5) was not a focus within the process, but can be seen as present today, because the redevelopment led to more Danish social housing with a high representation of marginalized groups.

The protest around The Black Square led to a new way of evaluating buildings in the rest of Copenhagen with improved guidelines to decide if they were worthy of preservation. This method made better use of citizen involvement and this led to a higher level of preservation of old neighborhoods in the development of other areas in Copenhagen.

The demographic development of the inhabitants of the Black Square is a tendency that can be seen in many of the buildings from the beginning of the welfare state. In the '60s and '70s it was popular for middle-class families to live in the large block development. But the blocks soon became a place for disadvantaged families, due to the low rent ensured by the non-profit housing organization and cheap prefabricated materials. This created social differences and local problems in many places.⁹ These local problems have led to a stigmatization of the inhabitants of many Danish social housing areas creating a public discussion of whether these buildings should be kept, transformed, or demolished.

9 Weiss, Kristoffer Lindhardt. *Critical City. Copenhagen: Arkitektens Forlag, 2019, pp 105*

2. PRESERVATION

Care for cultural identity

¹⁰ Oxford University Press. "preservation." Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. 08/10-2021.

¹¹ Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen. "Cultural Heritage." slks. 03/01-2020.

Maintaining and preserving can be seen as a way of caring for the physical environment and our common cultural history that contributes to our national identity. Preservation is the act of keeping something in its original state or in good condition.¹⁰ Preservation is decided based on the building's level of significant architectural and/or cultural-historical values.¹¹ This traditionally concerns churches, castles, and older buildings that represent a part of our history and traditional building practices.

An example of caring for our common history can be seen in the restoration of Koldinghus Castle.

Case: Koldinghus Castle

Koldinghus Castle can be traced back to the mid-13th century. The architecture of the castle is characterized by being developed through different historical periods from gothic/medieval, to renaissance, to baroque – from fortification to the royal residence. In that way, Koldinghus tells a story about our military as well as royal history in Denmark. In 1808 the part of the castle burned and was left partly as a ruin. At that time Denmark was at war, Copenhagen was being bombed and the national economy was in a miserable condition. The care, rebuilding, and protection of Koldinghus was therefore not a top priority. It was not until the end of the 19th century, that a possible rebuilding of the castle became a topic, and the museum Koldinghus was established as a driving force behind the restoration. Towards the outbreak of World War II the castle was, during many rounds, being rebuilt back to its original appearance. After World War II Denmark suffered from the recession, the care of society was focused elsewhere, and only modest restoration work took place. In the 1970s the architects Inger and Johannes Exner were given the assignment of restoring the castle. They mapped out the castle's different building styles through time in what Johannes Exner expressed as 'finding the alphabet of masonry'. They ended up reconstructing parts of the castles, while other parts were left as ruins, with a care for the national identity and different historical periods that Koldinghus represents.¹²

¹² Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen. "Koldinghus Slot." Trap Danmark. 08/10-2021.

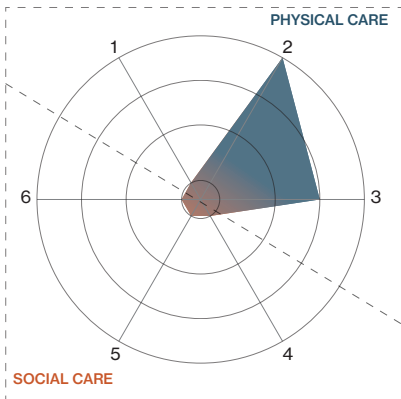


Fig.2.3



Fig.3.3

The case focuses on Preservation (2) as a way of caring for our common national identity. At the same time, the case has a focus on care for working with the existing built environment, represented as Adaptive reuse (3).

National or local identity is a relevant subject when discussing preservation values. And as our society develops we see new values in what is a part of our identity and pride. It is no longer only our older historical environments that are given attention, but also our buildings from more modern times, built around industrialization. Buildings such as factories that were earlier viewed as primarily belonging to the working class of society have become a part of our common Danish identity. All over Denmark, we see a tendency to transform these types of buildings into public institutions, attracting and inviting people in to tell a story about Denmark's history.

In the book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* Canadian architect and city planner Jane Jacobs emphasizes the importance of having elder buildings in the city, that testify to our history and tells a story about common identity.

“The economic value of new buildings is replaceable in cities. It is replaceable by the spending of more construction money. But the economic value of old buildings is irreplaceable at will. It is created by time. This economic requisite for diversity is a requisite that vital city neighborhoods can only inherit, and then sustain over the years.”¹³

13 Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Random House, 1961. pp. 199

With this statement, Jacobs emphasizes the value of the old building, a value that is developed through time.

In the publication *City as Loft* architect and urban planner, Martina Baum uses the term ‘dynamic-stable’ to describe buildings that are considered easily adaptable for transformation. Baum identifies buildings or locations from the industrial era as ‘dynamic-stable’ because they have a sense of meaning and identity and a story of the city attached to them through their function and patina. At the same time, they are capable of changing programmatic functions, because their open ground plan provides a degree of flexibility.¹⁴

14 Baum, Martina and Kees Christiaanse. *City as Loft: Adaptive reuse as a Resource for Sustainable Urban Development*. Zurich: gta Verlag, 2012. pp. 9

An example of this in a Danish context is Nordkraft in Aalborg, an old heat and power station that has been transformed into a cultural institution.

Case: Nordkraft

The heat and power station was originally from 1947 and functioned as such until 1999. After it closed there were considerations about whether the place should be transformed into apartments and shops, but in 2005 the Municipality decided to establish the project Nordkraft, followed by a transformation by CUBO Architects into the Culture House we see today. The building is in many ways left with its raw expression exposing the concrete structure, rooted in the common identity of Aalborg as an industrial working-class city, but now opened up and inviting outsiders in sharing the story through the physical environment.¹⁵

15 Nordkraft. “Om Nordkraft.” Nordkraft. 11/10-2021.

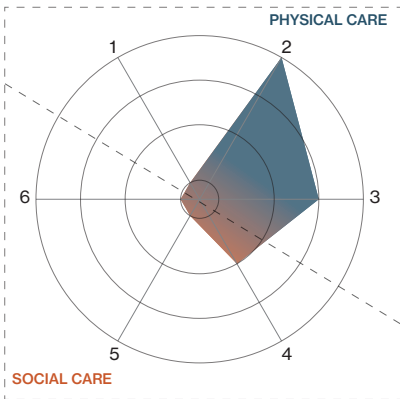


Fig. 2.4



Fig. 3.4

The case focuses on Preservation (2) as a way of caring for our industrial history. The cases also represent an example of Adaptive reuse (3) by transforming the existing built material into new functions. Citizen involvement (4) is present in the final project by Nordkraft today functioning as an involving public cultural institution.

The case examples of Koldinghus Castle and Nordkraft can be seen as a way of taking care of our cultural history by preserving the buildings (fig. 2.3) and keeping their identity but at the same time adding new value by turning them into cultural institutions (fig. 2.4).

3. ADAPTIVE REUSE

Care for what we have

In continuation of caring through preservation, comes strategies that focus on transforming the buildings that are not necessarily living up to the preservation values of architectural/cultural-historical significance. This can be seen as a way of caring for our environment and our limited building resources by looking at what is already existing built material and strategies of how to use this instead of building new.

Recycling buildings for new purposes saves the entire environmental impact that would be involved in the manufacture of materials for new constructions and components. The load-bearing structures, walls, and decks of a building - the raw house - can account for 50-75% of the environmental impact from building materials.¹⁶ But our current economic system makes it profitable to demolish and make new investments instead of preserving and renovating a building, because of the high maintenance costs in older buildings.¹⁷ In that way, the economic values tend to weigh higher than the environmental.

A way of looking at our cities is Urban mining, a concept that suggests that we view the city and built environments as a mine of resources, that we can use in building “new”. As mentioned in a previous chapter, the western world experienced a building boom after World War II due to the lack of housing. As a consequence of the way these buildings were constructed and the speed within which they were built, the attention to care for material and construction was not a high priority. Many of these buildings have a shorter life expectancy than buildings from before World War II, and today they are often demolished.¹⁸ Either because they have suffered from a lack of care and maintenance, their materials are worn out, they are claimed to cause social challenges, or simply because they are not of architectural value.

In the publication *Building from Waste*, architect Jörg Stollmann is arguing for not only viewing these buildings as potential mines of resources but as well see the potential in keeping the existing buildings and using them to create a more inclusive city:

“A key idea of this approach is to understand substandard housing as an adequate, although temporary, reservoir of affordable housing, of which almost every city worldwide disposes in abundance. This means considering substandard housing not as waste but as a resource for urban resilience. The urban housing stock can be made part of a process of constant transformation and adaptation, without ever ending up as waste.”¹⁹

Even though buildings from the beginning of the welfare state might have a lack of architectural significance, they carry other values, which one could argue makes them worthy of preservation. They have high value in the city socially because of the network of their inhabitants and existing meeting places and culturally because they tell a story about our society’s development.

An example where the care for climatic impacts as well as for the existing social network is taken into consideration is the transformation of the social housing area *Cité du Grand Parc* in Bordeaux.

Case: *Cité du Grand Parc*:

Grand Parc is a modernist social housing area from the 1960s. In 2017 three of the modernist building blocks consisting of 530 apartments were renovated and transformed by the french architectural office *Lacaton & Vassal*. The blocks are a part of a larger urban plan of 4000 dwellings of social housing. The architect’s approach was to keep the existing building and add winter gardens on the outside.²⁰ This made it possible for the residents to stay in their homes and avoid displacement during renovation.

“Through this project, the social housing, built heritage often criticized, shows the example of a relevant and economic transformation that produces - from an existing judged lacking in qualities and seen in a negative way - generous, pleasant and performing dwellings, that renew the typologies and the living conditions, comfort and pleasure, and improve the urban dwelling image.”²¹

The transformation was done with both a sense of environmental and social care with the approach of keeping the building’s existing qualities but enhancing the living spaces without a subsequent rent increase.²²

16 Danske Arkitekt Virksomheder. “Et Kraftværk for Kultur og Erhverv.” danske ark. 11/10-2021.

17 Stollmann, Jörg. “Hand off: Urban Mining!” In *Buildings from Waste*, edited by Dirk E. Hebel, Marta H. Wisniewska and Felix Heisel, p. 27-31. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2014. pp. 27.

18 Stollmann, Jörg. “Hand off: Urban Mining!” In *Buildings from Waste*, edited by Dirk E. Hebel, Marta H. Wisniewska and Felix Heisel, p. 27-31. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2014. pp. 27.

19 Stollmann, Jörg. “Hand off: Urban Mining!” In *Buildings from Waste*, edited by Dirk E. Hebel, Marta H. Wisniewska and Felix Heisel, p. 27-31. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2014. pp. 28.

20 Lacaton & Vassal. “Transformation de 530 logements, bâtiments G, H, I, quartier du Grand Parc - Lacaton & Vassal, Druot, Hutin Transformation of 530 dwellings, block G, H, I.” lacatonvassal. 21/9-2021.

21 Lacaton & Vassal. “Transformation de 530 logements, bâtiments G, H, I, quartier du Grand Parc - Lacaton & Vassal, Druot, Hutin Transformation of 530 dwellings, block G, H, I.” lacatonvassal. 21/9-2021.

22 *Renovate Europe*. “Grand Parc Apartment Buildings, Bordeaux - France.” renovate-europe. 11/10-2021.

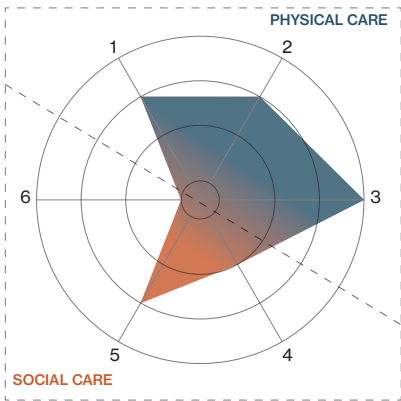


Fig.25

The case focuses on Adaptive reuse (3) with a care for the existing built material. With this approach, the case also represent care of Preservation (2) and care of Public health (1) through developing with the goal of better living conditions. Citizen involvement (4) and Inclusion of marginalized groups (5) is represented by the project being Social housing.



Fig.35

Denmark is currently facing many of the same challenges with Danish social housing being demolished both as a consequence of political decisions, but as well due to the general perception of a lack of architectural qualities. An example of the latter is the transformation of Gyldenrisparken.

Case: Gyldenrisparken

Gyldenrisparken is a large block development in Amager, Copenhagen built in the middle of the '60s. In the early 2000s, the concrete blocks were worn out and it was considered to demolish them. Instead, the buildings were transformed in 2014 based on a plan from Lejerbo, Copenhagen Municipality, and the inhabitants of the area. The architectural office Vandkunsten was in charge of the project consisting of renovation of the housing units as well as the establishment of two institutions in the large shared green areas. These institutions brought residents from the outside into the area and made the area more mixed and attractive.

“It is easy to despise what many would characterize as failed architecture - and transform instead of refining something existing. Here we would like to go another way. We believe in falling in love with what is. Only then can you create the changes that make the whole even better.” - Jan Albrechtsen, architect maa, partner.²³

23 Vandkunsten. “Renovating of Gyldenrisparken.” Vandkunsten. 11/10-2021.

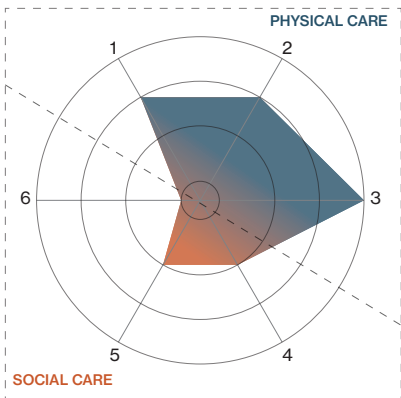


Fig.26

The case focuses on Adaptive reuse (3) with a care for the existing built material. By doing this the cases also represent care of Preservation (2) and care of Public health (1) through developing with the goal of better living conditions. Citizen involvement (4) and Inclusion of marginalized groups (5) is represented by the project being Social housing.



Fig.36

The cases show how it is possible to transform existing buildings that are not considered worthy of preservation with a sense of care for architecture, inhabitants, and climate. In that way, they balance between a concern for physical and social care (fig. 2.5, 2.6).

4. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The people care!

Social care is based on a care and interest for and by the people. Citizen involvement, participation, and activism in urban development are all examples of this. Citizen involvement can be seen as both caregiving from e.g. the municipality to the citizens but also as a way for citizens to show care for their local surroundings. When the citizens become a part of the process around developing our common urban environment it creates a sense of ownership and identity, which often leads to a will to take care of the projects they have been a part of creating. In this way, one could say that care generates care.

Citizen involvement can be different things such as debates, workshops, dialog, and participation processes. In Copenhagen, it is often the municipality facilitating these initiatives to develop local democracy and participation in developing the city and local areas.

The Area Renewal in Copenhagen is working holistically with a renewal of vulnerable urban areas that are facing physical as well as social challenges. The methods for involvement are based on area access, co-creation, empowerment, local organization, and local presence. The Area Renewal office is physically located in the area within a 4-5 year period, ensuring continual communication with the locals. The initiatives range from small-scale projects with the goal of establishing a local network such as flea markets and cultural events to bigger physical construction projects such as creating new green parks and meeting places. By involving the citizens in the decision-making process, a sense of ownership of the project is established, which leads to the locals both cherishing and maintaining the physical environment over time.²⁴

Case: Tåsinge Plads

Tåsinge Plads was a part of The Area Renewal project in Østerbro and was Copenhagen's first climate-adapted urban space. The square is both green with high biodiversity but can also hold a large amount of rainwater. The project was made in dialog with the local community with both public meetings but also events organized by the municipality. (fig. 2.7) This process of citizen involvement has now created ownership of the square. The locals use it for many different things both in their everyday life but also for events as markets, installations, and concerts.²⁵

24 Als Research. Evaluering af Metoderne i Københavns Kommunes Områdefornyelser. København: Teknik- og Miljøforvaltningen, Københavns Kommune, 2017.

25 Teknik- og Miljøforvaltningen. "Tåsinge Plads." Klimakvarter. 11/10-2021.

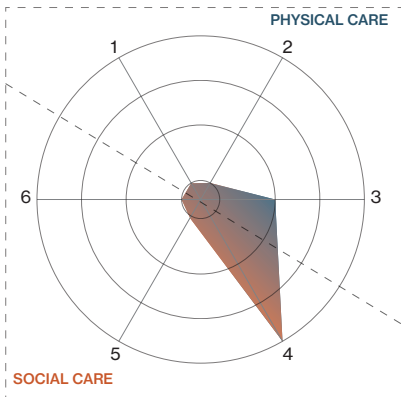


Fig. 2.7

The case focuses on care for the people by having a high amount of Citizen involvement (4). The project also represents Adaptive reuse (3) as it is upgrading an existing public square with care for climate.



Fig. 3.7

An analysis of The Area Renewal has shown that people participating in the activities organized by the municipality are often around 40 years old and have high education. People with lower education participate very rarely and people without education never participate.²⁶ This can give a distortion of interest when only resourceful citizens take part in the development of urban areas.

A different aspect of citizen involvement is activism. Activism has historically been a method for citizens to show care and concern and to change the urban environment - espe-

26 Als Research. Evaluering af Metoderne i Københavns Kommunes Områdefornyelser. København: Teknik- og Miljøforvaltningen, Københavns Kommune, 2017.

cially in cases where there has been a lack of citizen involvement facilitated by the municipality or landowner. This is a way for citizens to claim or establish involvement.

An example of this is Dannerhuset, a crisis center for women in Copenhagen.

Case: Dannerhuset

The historical building that today houses a crisis center was originally built by Countess Danner in 1873 as a house for poor female workers. In 1979 the house was almost emptied of residents and the building was planned to be demolished. A group from The Women's Movement occupied the house and opposed the demolishing. They collected money, bought the house, and restored it to become a crisis center which it still is today, still run by volunteers.²⁷ In this case, the citizen involvement in the form of activism created a safe space for women and secured a building with an important identity from demolition.

27 Danner. "Danners Historie." danner. 11/10-2021.

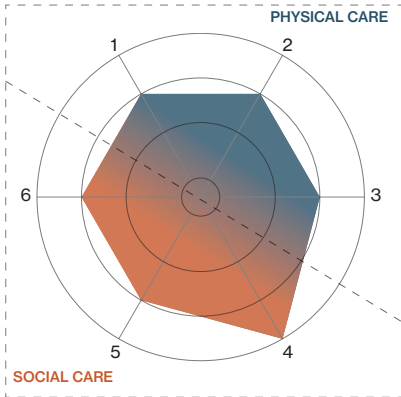


Fig.2.8



Fig.3.8

The cases represent a degree of all the six concepts of care. On the physical level, Adaptive reuse (3) is represented by a transformation of an existing building. In this process Preservation (2) of our common history is cared for, while Public health (1) is present due to the care for upgrading the physical standards of the building. Social care in the shape of Citizen involvement (4) is represented as the citizens claiming care through activism. Inclusion of marginalized groups (5), as well as a focus on Gender equality, is represented by the project being a Crises center for women.

In these examples, we can see how citizen involvement and participation can be caring both for our build environment and for the local and social environment where it creates relations and identity.

5. INCLUSION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Care for differences

When working with citizen involvement it is important to try to include all, not only the people with resources or people that already have a strong connection to the area. Public space is often a complex mixture of different people coexisting. Often marginalized people are not a part of citizen involvement projects. The reason for this can be because of many different factors and are highly complicated to deal with. Many marginalized people do not show up to meetings organized by the municipality or other facilitators. Some of the factors can be fear of being stigmatized, lack of resources, lack of address to receive information, language etc.²⁸

28 Diamantouli, Ellen and Trond Helstrup Poulsen. *Plads til alle? - En undersøgelse af Vesterbros byrum, set fra gaden*. København: Mændenes Hjem, 2014

Architect and researcher into public spaces and integration, Sandi Hilal, works with the inclusion of marginalized groups, often refugees, in her projects. She talks about a “guest/host” relationship that affects a sense of belonging amongst the newcomers of an area and how the state leaves out the possibilities of being a host in a local environment. In her method, she talks with the local refugees and facilitates a process where they get the opportunity to become hosts and open up their own homes for people they would not normally interact with.²⁹

29 Decolonizing Architecture Art Research. “About: DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti.” *Decolonizing*, 11/10-2021.

An example of this is The Living Room in Boden, Sweden.

Case: The Living Room

In the project Al-Madhafah - The Living Room, Hilal questions the role of the guest and the host and works with a focus on hospitality around refugees. With her experience in working with refugee camps, Hilal created a new social space where refugees could exercise their right to be a host. Hilal explains how migrants are expected to perform the role of “the perfect guest” and therefore the project is a private living room that opens up to bigger or smaller public events for both Swedes and other people. In this way, the refugees do no longer feel like passive guests in a new country.³⁰

30 Visible. “Al Madhafah-The living room – Sandi Hilal.” *Visible-project*, 11/10-2021.

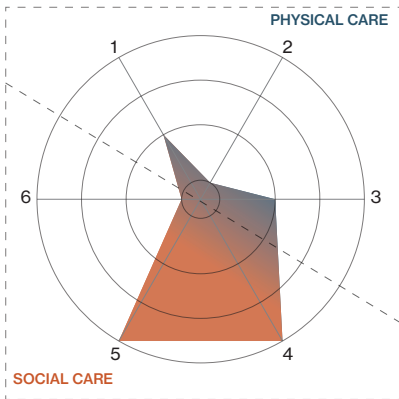


Fig.29



Fig.39

The case focuses on Inclusion of marginalized groups (5) by involving refugees in the process of citizens involvement (3) as well as in the finished project. On the physical aspect, the project has a degree of Adaptive reuse (3) and Public health (1) as it is a redevelopment and transformation of part of existing built material.

Another actor working with inclusivity in urban projects is artist Kenneth Balfelt. Balfelt and his team work with art and architecture in public space with the vision of creating not only well functioning public space but better lives for the people inhabiting them. “We exist to create social progress. People need to be lifted and developed through our projects.”³¹

31 Kenneth Balfelt Team. “Vision.” *Kennethbalfelt*, 11/10-2021.

They work with involvement, co-creation, and method development with the goal of including socially vulnerable groups and translating social needs to physical architecture. Their method is based on the statement that local knowledge together with professional expertise will give the best result.³²

32 Kenneth Balfelt Team. “Vision.” *Kennethbalfelt*, 11/10-2021.

Balfelt’s work is interdisciplinary and they always follow the projects from beginning to end to ensure the process. In their work, there is often the aspect of conflict resolution between vulnerable groups and other groups in society.

33 Balfelt, Kenneth, dir. Kom som du er - en historie om Enghave Plads. Kenneth Balfelt Team, 2010.

34 Kenneth Balfelt Team. "Vision." Kennethbalfelt. 11/10-2021.

35 Balfelt, Kenneth, dir. Kom som du er - en historie om Enghave Plads. Kenneth Balfelt Team, 2010.

Balfelt explains that marginalized groups have great knowledge about e.g. the public space they are the user of and he, therefore, calls e.g. people living on the streets “superusers” of public space.³³ This is a positive way of describing an otherwise marginalized group and acknowledging them as a great resource for urban development.

In his method, Balfelt involves every actor in the given place and talks to representatives from all groups from the gang member to the people living on the streets to the people owning apartments in the area. He does this with empathy and tries to understand the logic these different groups have. Through interviews, he makes an analysis of the area to base the physical project on. He combines this thorough citizen involvement process with a process of co-creating and building together with the citizens. When the different users are the creators and builders of the project it is possible to break down barriers between the different groups and create a sense of ownership. After the projects, Balfelt also reports social problems to the municipality to work further with as he believes not all problems can be solved by architecture alone.³⁴

Balfelt has worked with these methods in the project Enghave Minipark in Vesterbro with a group of marginalized “beer drinkers”.

Case: Enghave Minipark

In the project, Balfelt refers to the marginalized group as “beer drinkers” with the goal of not stigmatizing them by using words like “homeless” or “alcoholics”. Instead, he describes an activity that this group meets around. The group of “beer drinkers” were being displaced from their usual meeting place in Enghave Plads because of the metro expansion in Copenhagen. Balfelt and his team worked with them to create a new meeting place that would both be a secure place for them to meet in the city and a place that would not create insecurity for other groups. The process involved numerous interviews with the “beer drinkers” (fig. 2.10). The project was developed on a basis of this as well as meetings where drawings and ideas were discussed with the group. The final project was built by the “beer drinkers” themselves with help from the team. In the end, they created an open shelter and a long shared bench that was used not only by the “beer drinkers” but also by other users of Enghaveplads. In an interview after the project was finished the “beer drinkers” express how proud and happy, they were for “their place” and how proud they were to feel accepted and experience how people use the public space that they have created.³⁵

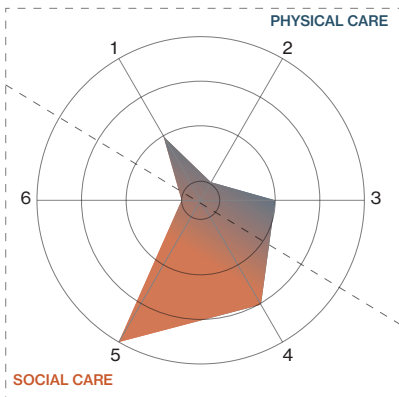


Fig. 2.10

The case focuses on Inclusion of marginalized groups (5) by showing care for them in the process of Citizen involvement (3) as well as in the finished project. On the physical aspect, the project has a degree of Adaptive reuse (3) and Public health (1) as it is a redevelopment and transformation of part of an existing public space.



Fig. 3.10

Both Balfelt’s and Hilal’s method of citizen involvement and co-creation is a way of caring that creates an identity and a feeling of ownership and belonging to a group of otherwise marginalized people left out of society. By giving them a place and a possibility of co-creation the projects create care for the people but also generate more care by making the citizens care for themselves and their environment.

6. GENDER EQUALITY

Care for all genders

An important aspect of creating a city that cares for all people is having attention to the existing and often overlooked gender inequalities, especially in public spaces.

In this chapter, the term women is used repeatedly, when talking about gender-inclusive public space. There are of course other gender identities to consider than male-female when discussing gender inequality. This is done with the statement “a city planned for women is a city for all”³⁶ in mind. Though this may not be entirely adequate, studies have shown that when the needs of women are taken into consideration in planning, the needs of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups are often met as well.

When we look back in history, it is clear that the structure of our world tends to revolve around the stereotypical white male. This has a natural explanation; white men have been positioned at the top of society, where decisions have been made. This is also the case when looking at our urban spaces - they are not designed for everyone. In her book *Feminist City*, Geographer Leslie Kern claims that “(...) urban environments are structured to support patriarchal family forms, gender-segregated labor markets, and traditional gender roles.”³⁷ The barriers that women face in urban life are often invisible to men because our perception of the world is shaped by our own experiences. Kern claims that the results in the decision-makers, who are still primarily men, make decisions that leave out the need of a huge group in society. In addition to this, she refers to Geographer Jane Darke saying:

*“Any settlement is an inscription in space of the social relations in the society that built it. Our cities are patriarchy written in stone, brick, glass and concrete.”*³⁸

In continuation of this Kern emphasizes how most standard designed elements in this world are designed after the scale of a typical adult male. Even the positioning and height of a high-rise building.³⁹ When something is the standard it suddenly, without question, tends to become the norm.

*“(...) once built, our cities continue to shape and influence social relations, power, inequality and so on. (...) Their form helps keep some things seeming normal and right, and other “out of place” and wrong. In short, physical places like cities matter when we want to think about social change.”*⁴⁰

One way of approaching the issue of gender inequality is by adding concrete strategies on a municipality level as it is done in Vienna. The Vienna Gender Mainstreaming project was started in 1991 with the aim of reducing gender-related inequalities in the city. The strategy of gender mainstreaming is bringing inclusive and gender-neutral design to all aspects of public life - e.g. transportation, language, safety, housing, and public space.⁴¹

An example of implementing the strategy of Gender Mainstreaming is the housing project *Frauen-Werk-Stadt* that translates to *Women-Work-City*.

36 Rumsans. “Et feministisk perspektiv på byplanlægning kan afdække blinde vinkler.” Rumsans. 01/03-2021.

37 Kern, Leslie. *Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World*. New York: Verso Books, 2020, pp. 9.

38 Kern, Leslie. *Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World*. New York: Verso Books, 2020, pp. 13.

39 Kern, Leslie. *Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World*. New York: Verso Books, 2020, pp. 14.

40 Kern, Leslie. *Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World*. New York: Verso Books, 2020, pp. 14.

41 City of Vienna. “Gender mainstreaming in Vienna.” Wien. 11/10-2021.

Case: Frauen-Werk-Stadt

Frauen-Werk-Stadt was developed in 1997 in the city of Vienna. The low-dense housing area consists of 359 housing units, a kindergarten, a doctor's office, a police station, and a communication center with a focus on solidarity within the neighborhood. The housings were developed in cooperation with a non-profit housing cooperative managed by women, the Housing Association for Employees in Private Industries, and with the aim of increasing women's recognition in architecture, the project was designed by four female architects. This can be seen in the way the design has a female perspective as a point of departure – flexible apartment plans providing space for different living establishments, wide stairwells to function as meeting places, storage for prams, and limited building heights to achieve a sense of safety by creating “eyes on the street” at all times.⁴² On the basis of Frauen-Werk-Stadt two additional projects have been developed - Frauen-Werk-Stadt II and III. One focusing on housing for the increased amount of elderly women in Vienna in one focusing on coliving between single mothers, elderly women, and women who wish to be a part of a social community.⁴³

42 Hunt, Elle. "City with a female face: how modern Vienna was shaped by women." *The Guardian*.14/10-2019.

43 Kail, Eva. "Frauen - Werk - Stadt." *European Urban Knowledge Network*.20/01-2011.

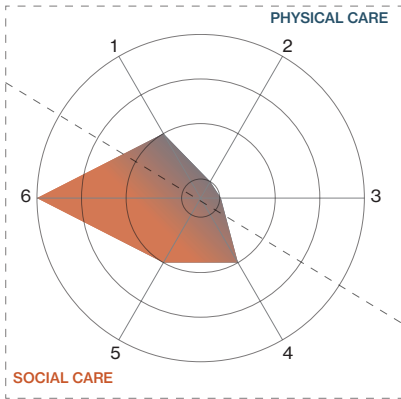


Fig. 211



Fig. 311

The case is an example of how to work with Gender equality (6) in housing projects. The initiatives resulting from this, such as a higher degree of safety and better conditions for pedestrians, is as well a care and inclusion of marginalized groups (5). The process had a focus on Citizen involvement (4) in the development of the design.

In a Danish context, the architect and leader of the Activity- and Health-enhancing Physical Environments Network (APEN) René Kural has investigated young girls' use of the public space. His conclusion can be boiled down to the simple statement:

“I usually say that the men conquer the city while the women surf it. And we must take these differences into account in our planning.”⁴⁴

44 Kjeldtoft, Sebastian Stryhn. "Dårlig byplanlægning: København er ikke designet til kvinder og ældre." *Information*. 25/07-2016.

There is a clear tendency in how young girls and women use the city, which has roots in social construction as well as in the way the city has been planned historically with females left out as users of the city. Kural calls upon a need for change in the way urban spaces are designed and demands that urban planners start targeting the public space to girls, women, and elderly in their planning.

A project reflecting a public space designed specifically to attract girls and young women is Buens Torv at Bispeengbuen.

Case: Buens Torv

Bispeegnbuen is a large infrastructure road bridge in Copenhagen. The future of the area is currently a very discussed topic with the possibility of leading the traffic under the road and creating either a new housing area or a green public space instead.⁴⁵ As a temporary project created by Urban 13, a city laboratory, has turned the space under the bridge into a lively public space with concerts, flea markets, workshops, and an office for creativity.⁴⁶

As a part of this, the urban design collective COurban has created Buens Torv. Based on socio-spatial mapping and survey the office found that only 15% of the people hanging out under the bridge were girls and women, even though the percentage of girls and women passing by the area is 50%. In addition to this, surveys showed that women to a much higher degree felt unsafe and had trouble navigating through the area. The answer to these challenges is addressed through three physical interventions; wayfinding, which helps create a better flow of pedestrians, an art installation, giving identity and a reason to stop by, and “the greenhouse” - a new semi-public indoor space, inviting to more intimate interactions. The creation of these interventions is based on participation in the form of workshops and dialog with local girls and young women.⁴⁷ (fig. 2.12)

45 Frederiksberg Kommune. "Ideoplæg til omdannelse af Bispeegnbuen er på vej." Frederiksberg. 30/06-2021.

46 Realdania. "Urban 13." Realdania. 11/10-2021.

47 COurban design collective. "Feminist architecture at Buens torv." Courban. 11/10-2021.

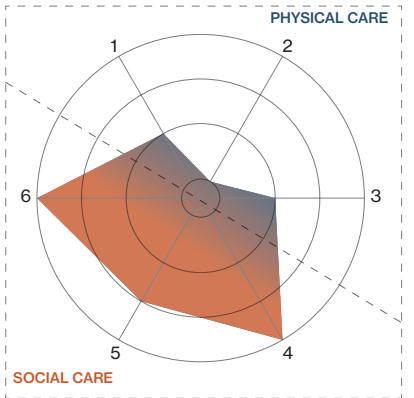


Fig. 212

The case focuses on Gender equality (6) by being an example of a public space designed to attract more young girls and women. The process focused on Citizen involvement (4) by including young girls in the design of the space. Inclusion of marginalized groups (5) is a consequence of designing for women, which leads more space for vulnerable groups of all kinds.



Fig. 312

The two cases show how it is possible to design with gender equality as a goal on both a large strategic level as well as in a small scale project. At the same time, the projects are examples of how little interventions it actually takes to create spaces where females and other left-out groups feel included.

The Catalog of Care

CASES OF CARE



BRUMLEBY

Fig 3.1



THE BLACK SQUARE

Fig 3.2



CITÉ DU GRAND PARC

Fig 3.5



GYLDENRISPARKEN

Fig 3.6



THE LIVING ROOM

Fig 3.9



ENGHAVE MINIPARK

Fig 3.10



KOLDINGHUS CASTLE

Fig 3.3



NORDKRAFT

Fig 3.4



TÅSINGE PLADS

Fig 3.7



DANNERHUSET

Fig 3.8



FRAUEN-WERK-STADT

Fig 3.11



BUENS TORV

Fig 3.12

DESCRIPTIONS OF CARE

Housing
Østerbro, Copenhagen
Built in 1873
Architect Gotlieb Bindsbøl
Public health

Brumleby, the first example of Danish Social Housing, was built by The Medical Association after the Cholera epidemic with the ideals of light and air and with institutions placed inside the area.

See page 10 for further description

BRUMLEBY

Housing
Nørrebro, Copenhagen
Demolished in 1970, new built in 1979
Copenhagen municipality
Public health

The Black Square, a dense neighborhood, was demolished because of bad living conditions and replaced by prefabricated building blocks. 10.000 people were displaced, which led to local protests.

See page 11 for further description

THE BLACK SQUARE

Housing
Bordeaux, France
Built in 1960, transformed in 2017
Architects Lacaton & Vassal
Adaptive reuse

The transformation of Grand Parc, a modernistic social housing area, enhanced the living spaces without a subsequent rent increase. By keeping the existing building and adding winter gardens on the outside, the residents avoided displacement during renovation.

See page 14 for further description

CITÉ DU GRAND PARC

Housing
Amager, Copenhagen
Built in 1965, transformed in 2014
Architects Vandkunsten
Adaptive reuse

Gyldenrisparken, a large block development, was transformed by renovating the housing units and establishing two institutions in the large green areas, which brought residents from the outside into the area.

See page 15 for further description

GYLDENRISPARKEN

Public space, housing
Boden, Sweden
2016
Architect Sandi Hilal
Inclusion of marginalised groups

The Living Room questions the role of the guest and the host with a focus on hospitality around refugees. A private living room is opened up to bigger or smaller public events for both Swedes and other people.

See page 18 for further description

THE LIVING ROOM

Public space
Vesterbro, Copenhagen
2017
Artist Kenneth Balfelt and team
Inclusion of marginalised groups

Enghave Minipark is an open shelter and a long shared bench created for and by a group of marginalized "beer drinkers". The project has created a secure place for the group as well as an inviting public space for people passing by.

See page 19 for further description

ENGHAVE MINIPARK

Cultural institution
Kolding
Built 13th century, transformed in 1970
Architects Inger and Johannes Exner
Preservation

Koldinghus Castle was restored by reconstructing some parts of the building, while others were left as ruins. The project tells the story of national identity and different historical periods.

See page 12 for further description

KOLDINGHUS CASTLE

Public space
Østerbro, Copenhagen
2014
Landscape architect GHB
Citizen involvement

Tåsinge Plads, a part of The Area Renewal, was Copenhagen's first climate-adapted urban space. The process had focus on citizen involvement, which have resulted in the local community feeling ownership of the square.

See page 16 for further description

TÅSINGE PLADS

Housing
Vienna, Austria
1997
Liselotte Peretti, Gisela Podreka, Elsa Prochazka and Franziska Ullmann
Gender equality

Frauen-Werk-Stadt is a low dense housing project, designed by four female architects, with a focus on Gender Mainstreaming. This can be seen in the flexible apartment plans, meeting places, good pedestrian conditions, and a sense of security.

See page 21 for further description

FRAUEN-WERK-STADT

Cultural institution
Aalborg
Built in 1947, transformed in 2005
CUBO Architects
Preservation

Nordkraft, a former heat and power station, was transformed into a culture house by keeping the raw expression of the concrete structure. The building opens up and shares the story about Aalborg's identity as an industrial city.

See page 13 for further description

NORDKRAFT

Housing
Inner city, Copenhagen
Built in 1873, transformed in 1979
The Women's Movement
Citizen involvement

Dannerhuset is a historical building original functioning as a house for poor female workers. It was occupied by a group from The Women's Movement and they restored it to become a crisis center run by women.

See page 17 for further description

DANNERHUSET

Public space
Nørrebro, Copenhagen
Built in 1972, being transformed now
Urban 13 and COurban
Gender equality

Buens Torv is a temporary project under Bispeeng-buen created in a dialog with locals girls and young women. The physical interventions is wayfinding, an art installation, and a greenhouse that gives identity and invites to more intimate interactions.

See page 22 for further description

BUENS TORV

SCALE OF CARE

The scale of care points out that the case studies are different in size and location. The method for analysing concepts of care can be used on multiple projects, from small project as Enghave Minipark to large urban scale projects as The Black Square.



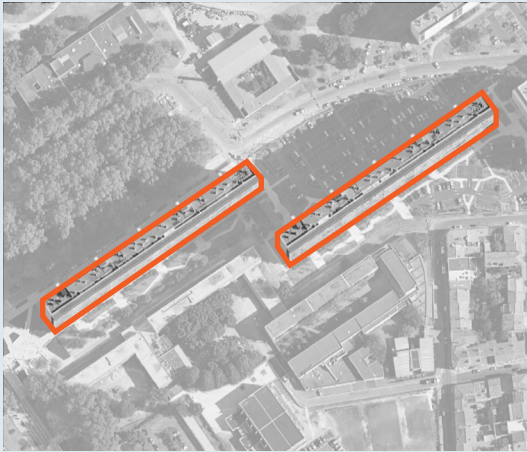
BRUMLEBY

Fig 4.1



THE BLACK SQUARE

Fig 4.2



CITÉ DU GRAND PARC

Fig 4.5



GYLDENRISPARKEN

Fig 4.6



THE LIVING ROOM

Fig 4.9



ENGHAVE MINIPARK

Fig 4.10

N ↑

100m



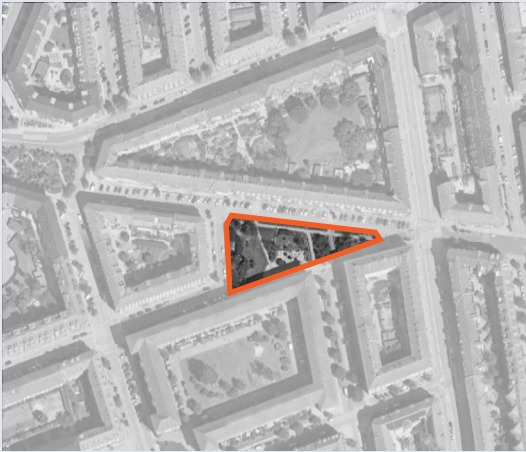
KOLDINGHUS CASTLE

Fig 4.3



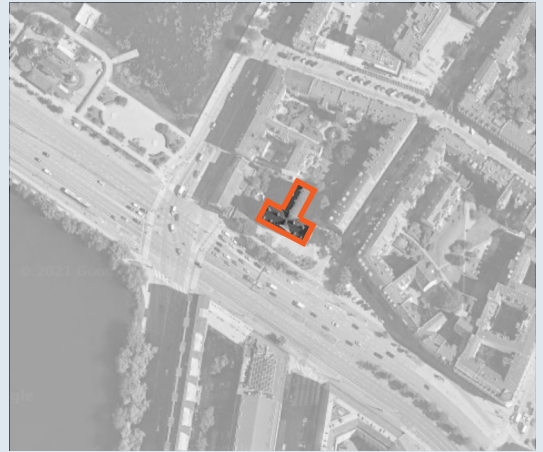
NORDKRAFT

Fig 4.4



TÅSINGE PLADS

Fig 4.7



DANNERHUSET

Fig 4.8



FRAUEN-WERK-STADT

Fig 4.11

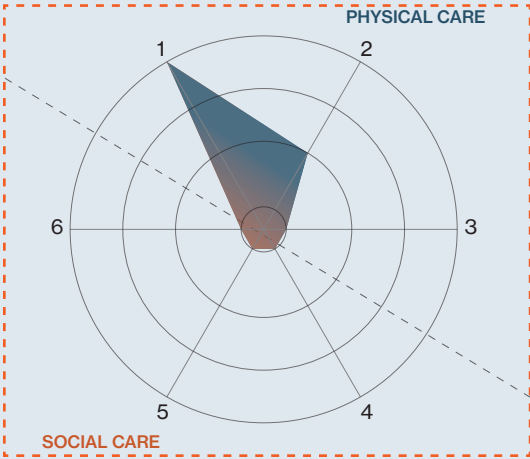


BUENS TORV

Fig 4.12

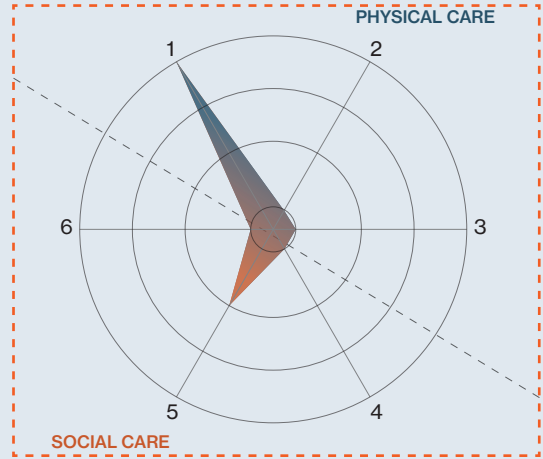
LEVEL OF CARE

The circles indicate the amount of care - the closer to the outer circle, the higher amount of care. The six concepts of care are represented in the outline of the circle, 1 - Public health, 2 - Preservation, 3 - Adaptive reuse, 4 - Citizens involvement, 5 - Inclusion of marginalized groups, 6 - Gender equality. The level of care focus on physical care (blue) and social care (red).



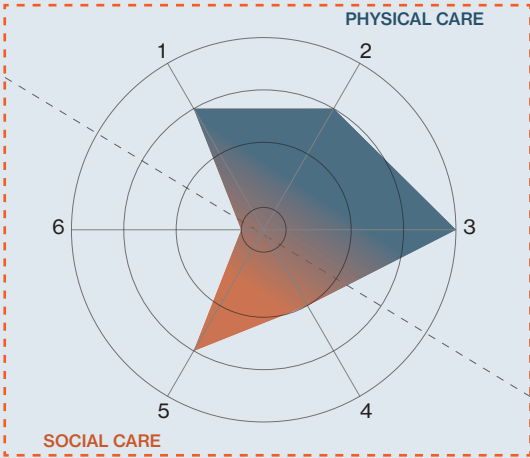
BRUMLEBY

Fig 2.1



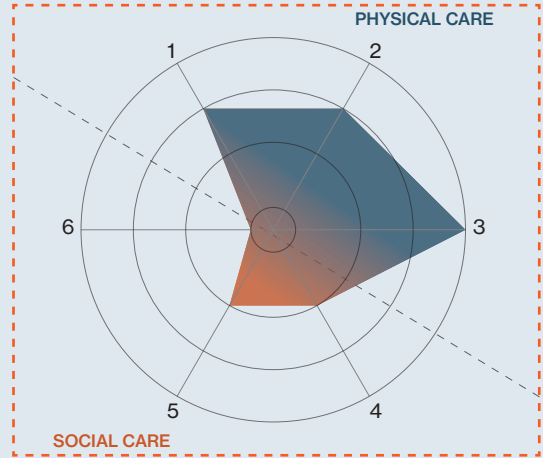
THE BLACK SQUARE

Fig 2.2



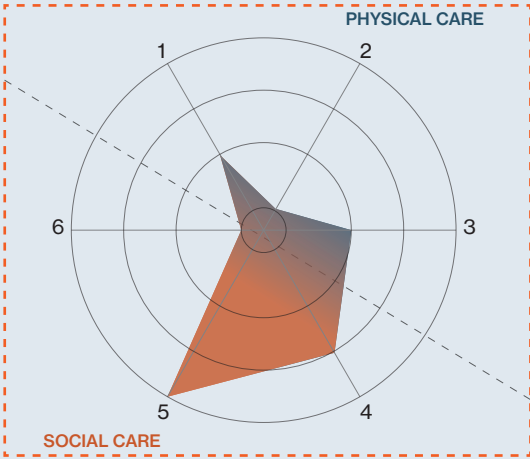
CITÉ DU GRAND PARC

Fig 2.5



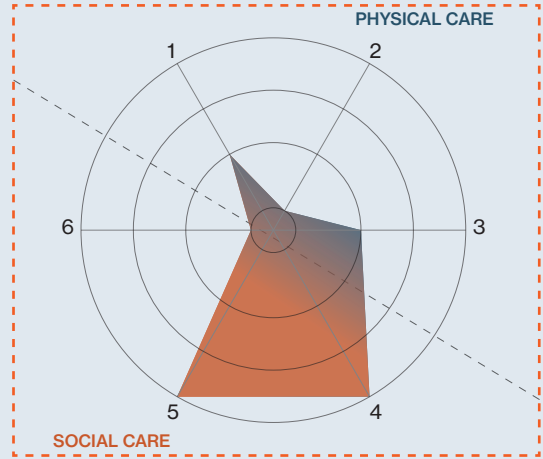
GYLDENRISPARKEN

Fig 2.6



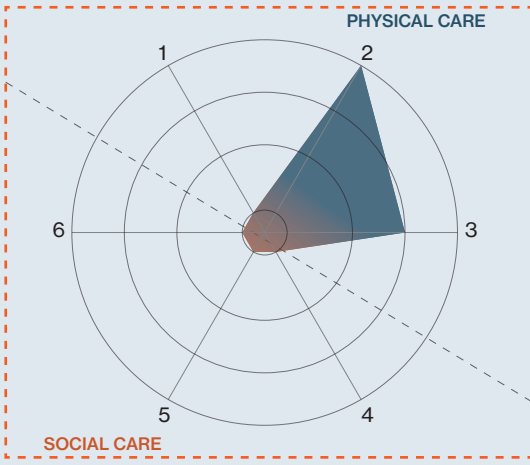
THE LIVING ROOM

Fig 2.9



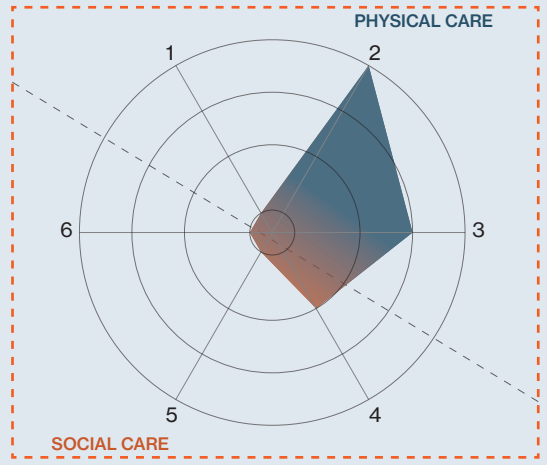
ENGHAVE MINIPARK

Fig 2.10



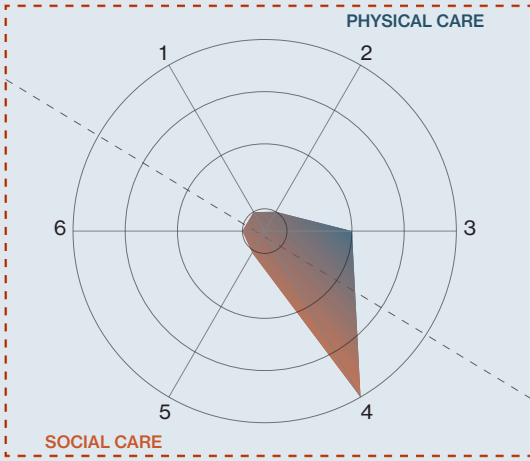
KOLDINGHUS CASTLE

Fig2.3



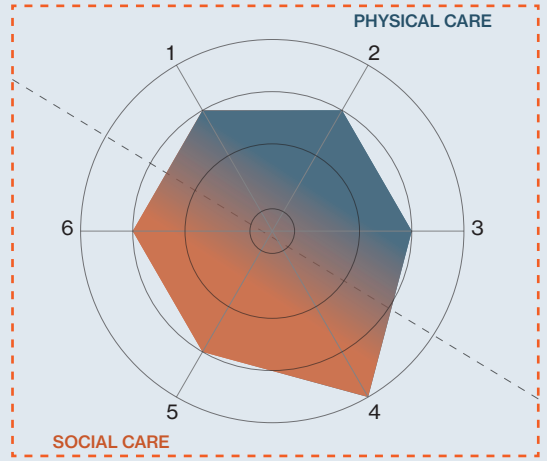
NORDKRAFT

Fig2.4



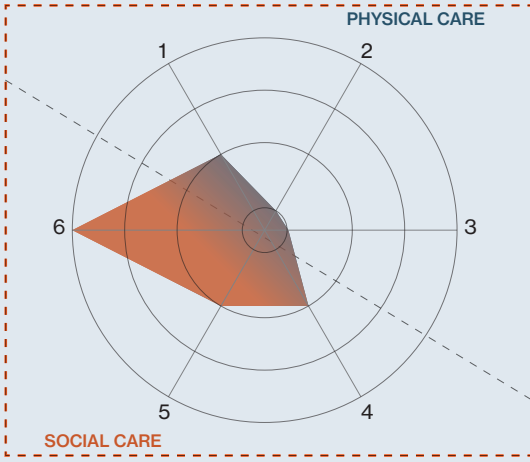
TÅSINGE PLADS

Fig2.7



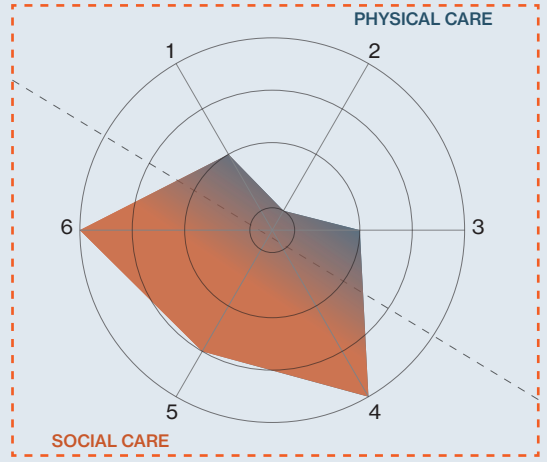
DANNERHUSET

Fig2.8



FRAUEN-WERK-STADT

Fig2.11

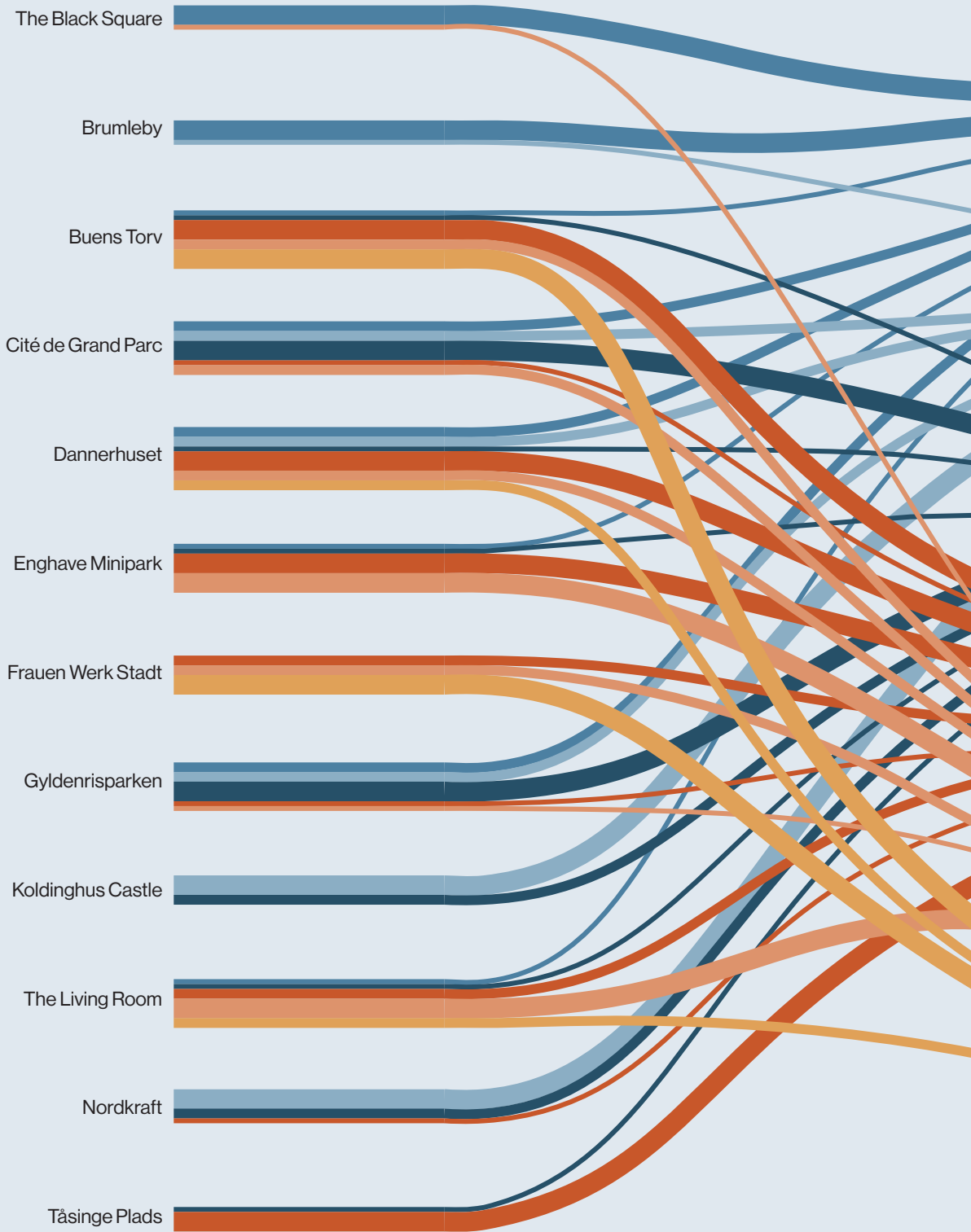


BUENS TORV

Fig2.12

INTERWOVEN CARE - Fig. 5.0

Based on the previous page's analysis of the level of care in each case study, this diagram shows an abstraction of the relation between the case studies and the concepts of care. The six concepts are interwoven and cannot exist individually in a successful caring urban environment.





PUBLIC HEALTH
Building for care

PRESERVATION
Care for cultural identity

ADAPTIVE REUSE
Care for what we have

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
The people care!

**INCLUSION OF
MARGINALIZED GROUPS**
Care for differences

GENDER EQUALITY
Care for all genders

“Care is a species activity that includes everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our world so that we can live in it as well as possible. That world includes our bodies, ourselves and our environment, all of which we seek to interweave in a complex, life-sustaining web”.²

52 Tronto, J. and B. Fisher, *Toward a Feminist Theory of Caring*, New York: State University of New York Press, 1990.

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DISCUSSION

On the basis of the six concepts of care presented in the catalog analysis, it is relevant to pose the question of how we as architects can claim care as a central value in the Danish urban environment. With a point of departure in the theory of feminist economics, we consider it relevant to discuss how we might begin to rethink what is recognized as valuable in the development of spatial environments.

Conflicts of caring

Fisher and Tronto divide care into four components; caring about, taking care of, caregiving and care-receiving.

“Caring about involves paying attention to our world in such a way that we focus on continuity, maintenance, and repair. Taking care of involves responding to these aspects - taking responsibility and activities that keep our world going. Caregiving involves the concrete tasks, the hands-on work of maintenance and repair. Care-receiving involves the responses to the caring process of those towards whom caring is directed.”⁴⁸

48 Tronto, J. and B. Fisher. *Toward a Feminist Theory of Caring*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1990.

49 A/B Blågårds Plads. “Sanering og byfornyelse.” *Historien om Blågårds Plads*. 22/08-2007.

50 A/B Blågårds Plads. “Sanering og byfornyelse.” *Historien om Blågårds Plads*. 22/08-2007.

In other words, caring is an activity towards someone or something and a process that relies on a caregiver and a care receiver. Sometimes the motives behind a project can be caring, while the output is received as the opposite, which can be argued is the case of the redevelopment process of The Black Square. On one hand, homes were demolished, around 10.000 residents were displaced⁴⁹ and new buildings were built - a lack of care for the residents and the climatic impact. On the other hand, the new buildings were Danish social housing resulting in the area today being more diverse both in ethnicity and demographics⁵⁰. This can be seen in contrast to other areas in Copenhagen - e.g. the neighboring streets at Nørrebro - where the redevelopment was less dramatic and where there in recent years has been increasing rent levels and heavy gentrification creating a more unequal city.

How can we show care for the physical environment?

When analyzing the aspect of physical care one can argue for the importance of keeping existing built environments from a sustainable perspective. The method of preservation, as explained in the case of Koldinghus Castle, is an example of care, by maintaining a common cultural identity. But what about all the built material that is in the general opinion considered not worthy of preservation? What if we started to view these built environments such as Danish social housing with the same value and care that we give our classic cultural history and actually treated them as part of our common Danish identity? As buildings, they represent a central part of our history of the Danish welfare state and one could argue, that they testify to cultural heritage in the same way as buildings from e.g. the renaissance or the industrialization.

Therefore, there is a significant potential in caring for Danish social housing. Even though a large number of these buildings, on one hand, are physically worn out and are home to socially stigmatized groups of society, they, on the other hand, represent an important part of the existing living network in the city and an important identity for the people living there. These buildings are, in other words, more than just buildings - they are homes. The cases of Cité du Grand Parc in Bordeaux and Gyldenrisparken in Copenhagen presented in the catalog are successful examples of adaptive reuse where the climatic impact of redevelopment was kept to a minimum and where the process of transformation showed care for the residents and their existing life in the housing area.

How can we implement social care with and for the people?

From the analysis of cases in the catalog, we can deduce that the people of the city are important resources to involve in urban development to achieve an inclusive and caring city. It is therefore relevant to question how we as architects can implement social care and make sure to sustain and improve the existing networks in the development of Danish social housing areas as well as in the rest of the city.

From the research into the methods of citizen involvement used in The Area Renewal, we can deduce that citizens involved show a high degree of ownership and caretaking for the

newly developed areas and in this sense, the projects are successful. However, only a certain group of people tend to be involved in the project, which has the pitfall of resulting in a distortion of interest and in the end, developing a city that is customized to the resourceful people who participated in the process. One can, therefore, question if this method is doing enough for including all citizens in the development processes as well as in the final project.

This method can be seen in contrast to the methods used by Kenneth Balfelt and his team where they genuinely try to include all stakeholders in the areas they are working with. This method creates another sense of ownership and caretaking of not only physical environments but also social relations. The challenge with this method is that it is time- and resource-consuming and requires a specific kind of involvement from the facilitators.

Our research has shown that gender equality goes beyond the idea of a binary definition of men and women being equal. By designing for women as a target group, cities achieve a higher level of safe environments, better conditions for pedestrians, and more inclusive public space that invites for staying - all initiatives that benefit the more vulnerable groups of society. With that being said, a focus on gender equality must include citizen involvement and inclusion of marginalized groups to achieve a city for all. The Vienna Gender Mainstreaming project shows the gains of developing with inquisitive and gender-equal methods in mind from the beginning of a process and not only renewing or including marginalized groups once the area has become vulnerable.

How can we as architects find a balance between physical and social care?

When comparing the cases through the hexagon diagrams (pp. 30-31), we see a lack of focus on gender equality only represented in three out of 12 cases, while the concept of adaptive reuse is included in nine cases. This is due to the fact, that it has been difficult to find case examples that work with the concepts of gender equality, while we have been able to find multiple examples of cases that touch upon adaptive reuse.

It is no surprise that we as architects seem to have a higher focus on the physical aspects, but one could argue, that as society changes, so does the role of the architect. It is therefore relevant to be aware of how we as architects can implement not only physical care but as well social care and make sure to sustain and improve the existing networks in the development of our urban future.

CONCLUSION

Our analysis is based on six different concepts of care. Public health, Preservation, and Adaptive reuse relating to physical care and Citizen involvement, Inclusion of marginalized groups, and Gender equality relating to social care. We conclude that the six concepts are interlinked and cannot exist individually in a successful caring urban environment.

When analysing the concepts of physical care we can conclude that they all relate to each other. Adaptive reuse can be seen as the most essential because it takes existing networks of the city into consideration, and - by automatic - includes preservation and a hint of public health through redevelopment. At the same time, adaptive reuse contributes to changing our value system as it is not possible to work with the method without questioning what is worthy of preservation.

In the same way, the concepts of social care can not be well functioning without each other. It is not possible to achieve gender equality without the inclusion of marginalized groups, and our analysis found that this can not happen successfully without citizen involvement.

We can conclude that in order to claim care as a central value in urban development we need to work with concepts of adaptive reuse and gender equality - and work with them in a coherent process. By doing this - if done the right way - all six concepts of care will be present.

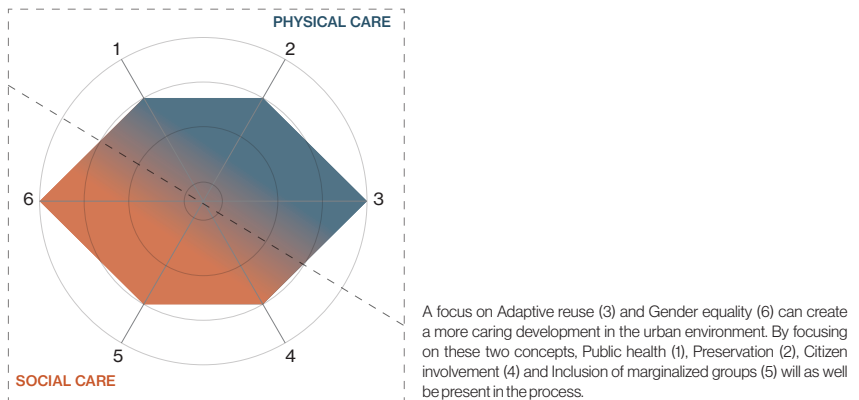


Fig. 2:12

In order to claim care as a central value in the urban environment, we must start to understand care as a complex matter. Care can not be viewed as an isolated element that only concerns certain parts of society. Care is a value that should be integrated into our way of structuring the future both in relation to the way we interact and the places we as architects design, as well in the perspective of the environment and the view on the limited resources.

As the Swedish philosopher Martin Hägglund puts it, we can't afford to not care:

*"Because everything we do and everything we love can come to an end, we are bound to care (curare) and be concerned."*⁵¹

51 Hägglund, Martin. This Life: Secular Faith and Spiritual Freedom. New York: Pantheon Books, 2019.

If we had chosen other concepts of care, our conclusion might have been different. For example, it could also be relevant to add an individual concept of climate care - a concept that in our analysis is represented within the three concepts of physical care.

It is relevant to reflect upon the choices of cases as well. As mentioned in the method chapter, the cases have been selected to represent examples of - and as a way of explaining - the different concepts of care. It could as well have been interesting to choose random cases that did not on the surface relate to care and analyze the presence or lack of care by using the hexagonal diagram method.

In that way, the catalog of care is dynamic, and we believe that our method could be used as a tool in the future to start viewing architectural projects with a different scale of value and thereby start a conversation on how to claim care in our urban environment.

FIGURES

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