



AKADEMIN FÖR KONSTNÄRLIG
FORSKNING INOM ARKITEKTUR
OCH DESIGN. THE ACADEMY FOR
PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH
IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN.

Site-Specific Writing

Writing Architecture – Workshop III

Date: Jan 27th-28th 2005

Participants: 12-18

Place: Karlberg Park, Stockholm and KTH School of Architecture, Östermalmsgatan 26

This workshop is designed and run by Dr. Jane Rendell, Director of Research at the Bartlett School of Architecture in London. Katja Grillner is helping out with coordination and site-specific preparations. She and Rolf Hughes will participate as tutors in the workshop.

What issues do acts of speaking and listening/writing and reading raise for you, especially in relationship to questions of subjectivity and positionality? Participants are asked to choose a site (according to the provided descriptions) and produce a site-specific writing in response to the site. Preparations before the workshop include required readings (see list below) and initial research on the site.

Things to do:

- * Work in pairs or groups of three.
- * Identify a site(s) of interest. You do not necessarily need to work in one site – you may want to establish connections/separations between sites.
- * Research the site(s) historically, theoretically and culturally. The site(s) might be important for you in terms of personal memory, historical and cultural importance, as well as formal, material, visual and audio qualities.
- * Develop a response to the site in the form of a 'writing'. The response to the site should be both critical and creative, it should be text based but can incorporate other media - drawings, maps, objects, still or moving images, sounds...

The 'form' of the writing is as important as the 'content'. You will need to consider the way in which your writing relates to the site formally as well as conceptually - take into account structure, style, language as well as content. Think about the visual, spatial, material and aural composition of the work.

You may want to produce a design for a piece of site specific writing, to be installed permanently or for a short time on the site, but your presentation should be performed as an intervention into the site that relates to the proposal. Think in terms of voice - monologue, dialogue, chorus, conversation, etc.

Participants should choose their groups and sites prior to the workshops.

Choosing the site(s):

All groups will work in the same area around the Karlberg Palace (Karlbergs Slott) spanning from the end of Rörstrandsgatan in Birkastan over the Military grounds (palace and park) and out underneath the Kungsholmen/Solna E4 bridge. We have located 4 starting points which will determine which group you will work in. We want a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 in each group. You have to choose a starting-point on January 10th the latest. Before that you may start your own research into the area (such as long walks over christmas, or alternatively extensive library or internet tours).

Starting points

1. City: Seek out the high point walking toward the end of Rörstrandsgatan overlooking the train-tracks, the high-way and the park. You are still in the city, Birkastan. From here you'll find your site(s)
2. Palace: Meet up behind the Karlberg Palace. Stay close to the back wall of the main building. What is there?
3. Park: If you follow the jogging-trails taking a counter-clock wise tour following the outer limits of the park (always taking a right at forking paths) you will come to a point where you are very close and almost level with the highway. Stop and begin from here.
4. Highway: Walk westward in front of the palace along the water. Follow the road and take a left to the biking/walking path under the small bridge. Continue until you are underneath the E4-highway. Here it begins.

Logistics

We will form the groups after your selection. Please choose 2 sites so we can form even groups if there is a particular interest in just one or two sites. If you already arranged to work together tell us that in the e-mail. Submit your choice on January 10th the latest! On the 11th the groups will be announced so you can start coordinating your preparations.

Schedule

Thursday 27 Jan

10.00-13.00: Jane Rendell - intro to workshop (place to be announced later)

Presentations of work in progress by each group.

14.00-18.00: Development of work in groups.

18.00-20.00: Jane Rendell: Readings of Site Specific Writings followed by discussion (at KTH).

Fri 28 Jan

9.30: Meet as an overall group and compose a walk for presentations of site-specific writings. (Karlberg)

10.00-14.30: Conduct walk through sites.

15.00-17.00: Final discussion/presentation of non transportable pieces of work.

Required readings

Jane Rendell's articles are available to down-load from the website at www.akad.se/progwri

Most of the other publications are available at the Stockholm University Library – Katja can copy and provide extracts for those who haven't been able to find the texts. They are also possible to order from AdLibris or other bookshops. Extracts from Katja's books may be available after Jan 10th.

Jane Rendell, 'Travelling The Distance/Encountering Others', David Blamey (ed.), *Here, There, Elsewhere*, (London: Open Editions, 2002,).

Jane Rendell, October 2002. Jane Rendell, 'Writing in place of speaking', Sharon Kivland (ed.), *Transmission: Speaking and Listening*, (Sheffield, 2003).

Mieke Bal, *Looking in: The Art of Viewing*, (Amsterdam; G and B Arts International, 2001), pp. 47-8.

A S Byatt, 'Old Tales, New Forms', *On Histories And Stories*, (London: Vintage, 2001), pp. 123-150.

Miwon Kwon, *One Place After Another: Site Specific Art and Locational Identity*, (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 2002) pp. 11-31, 156-66.

Nick Kaye, 'Site Specifics' and 'Robert Smithson: Mapping Site', *Site-Specific Art: Performance, Place And Documentation*, (London: Routledge, 2000), pp. 1-12 and pp. 91-99.

Susan Stanford Friedman, *Mappings: Feminism And The Cultural Geographies Of Encounter*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1998), chapter 3.

List of participants / Deltagarlista

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