



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

## Writing Architecture – Skriva Arkitektur

*The aim of this course is to develop sensitivity and control over your own language and to develop a critical perspective in relation to your own creative work. The course takes the form of three workshops and two seminars devoted to the development of a longer essay centred around an on-going or future project.*

### Workshop-instructions: 'Footprints in Stone'

Time/Tid: June 15<sup>th</sup> 10 am – June 16<sup>th</sup> 5pm

Place/Plats: KTH School of Architecture, Östermalmsgatan 26, Stockholm

Limited to registered participants

The point of departure for this first session is the lecture and essay by Tracey Eve Winton entitled *Footprints in Stone: A Psychogeography of Rome*. Our primary concern is the reading and writing of urban / rural sites and situations. We will ask you to explore relationships between physical, mental and textual geographies, and to reflect on generic form in textual representation and its various capabilities. In preparation for the workshop you have been asked to select the site or area that you wish to work with and to prepare a short presentation (5-10 min) of this site with visual material at the start of workshop. Most of the discussions will take place in smaller groups. Katja Grillner, Tracey Winton and Rolf Hughes will participate in these discussions.

Language: The language for discussion is English. If anyone finds it difficult to write an original piece in English, you may write the piece in Swedish and then attempt a translation – you then hand in both the original and the translated piece. It might seem complicated – but quite interesting things do happen when we struggle to translate and contributes constructively to the workshop.

#### 1. Presentation of sites (in groups of 5-6) 13.30-14.30

Present your selected site to each other briefly and then discuss the following questions:

- Can the site be characterised in a brief sentence? If not, why not?
- What is the perspective of the messenger (participant, stranger, peeping-tom, dweller, analyst, historiographer, invited guest, botanist, etc) to the site?
- Are any of the presentations already suggestive of a generic form (essay, dialogue, prose-poem, catalogue, letter, encyclopaedia entry, scientific paper, poem etc)
- Does any relation between site, perspective, and form begin to take shape?

Please document your discussion by asking one person in the group to take notes on the laptop (submit these notes directly to [katja@arch.kth.se](mailto:katja@arch.kth.se))



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## 2. Writing the site (Deadline – A4-formatted doc to KG – June 16<sup>th</sup> 12.00)

You are now invited to 'write the site' in a short verbal representation limited to a page of A4. In the process re-consider the questions asked above:

- Do you seek to characterise the site?
- What perspective or perspectives do you engage in the text?
- Do you recognize the generic form you are working with?

When you feel that your text is ready, write a short reflection on these three questions and add a fourth question concerning the relations you may trace in your own text between site - perspective(s) – form. This reflection should be no longer than a second A4.

If you find yourself with spare time, you should try alternative modes of verbal representation (shift for example perspective or form) and write an alternative piece.

Your texts should be submitted as electronic files no later than 12.00 June 16<sup>th</sup> to [katja@arch.kth.se](mailto:katja@arch.kth.se) or on disk.

## 3. Reading the site (in groups of 5-6) 13.00-15.30

Swap your texts between each other in the group and read all sites aloud to each other (i.e. you don't read your own site), allow a brief pause between each site, but suspend discussion until all sites have been read.

- Share your prepared reflections on your respective texts.
- Discuss other critical issues that seep into the respective texts – What is at stake beyond, or inscribed within, the site or its description?

Please document your discussion by asking one person in the group to take notes on the laptop (submit these notes to [katja@arch.kth.se](mailto:katja@arch.kth.se))

## 4. Concluding discussion (all) 15.45-16.15