

Summaries

Gitte Marling: Performativ arkitektur & hybride kulturprojekter. En analyse af 'Bibliotek + Kulturhus' i Københavns Nordvestkvarter. (Performative architecture & hybrid cultural institutions - An analysis of 'Library + Culture' in Northwest Copenhagen
Pages: 5-20

The goal of this article is to focus on the role of architecture especially in relation to hybrid cultural projects. The starting point is a case study of the new library + cultural house at Bispebjerg in the Nord-West neighbourhood of Copenhagen - a neighbourhood with many young people and many newcomers. Through the case study it is shown how a careful and clever use of architecture can optimize the building as a successful place for diverse use.

The library has been created through collaboration between architects and users - that is people who work in the building or people who use its facilities. Today it functions as an important gathering place and place for supporting many of the children, youth or families in their struggle for understanding and integrating themselves in the Danish society.

The article introduces the terms 'hybrid cultural projects', 'performative architecture' and 'performative space', and it works with terms in relation to architectonic experiences. Methods used in the article are a combination of architectonic analyse methods, 'key-person- interviews', observations and analyses of documents.

Nan Dahlkild: Biblioteket som rum i byens rum. (Library space as urban space)
Pages: 21-36

The article focuses on the development of library design and library space in relation to urban space. Theories of urban sociology and the public sphere are presented in order to investigate place and space inside and outside libraries. Open access, cultural politics and urban planning are examined with international and Danish examples of library buildings and library design from the monumental library cathedrals and temples to the modular modernist libraries and the integration of libraries into projects of urban development and urban renewal. Both the importance of library functions and organization as well as architectural expressions and intentions are explored. Finally, the inner library space is seen as an urban space with suggestions for future library planning of inner squares and streets with active meeting places, possibilities of serendipity and places of concentration, reflection and silence.

Ragnar Audunson og Svanhild Aabø: Biblioteket som motor i å skape lokalsamfunn med sammenhengskraft i en flerkulturell storbykontekst (The library as an engine to create communities with cohesion in a multicultural urban context)
Pages: 39-50

The purpose of this article is to analyze the following two research questions: 1. Within the practical field of librarianship as well as within LIS research there

has, over the last years, been a shift of focus away from libraries as first and foremost book lending institutions: Instead we have seen a marked preoccupation with the potential role of public libraries as meeting places that can promote social cohesion and integration in local communities. Is this change of focus in harmony with or in conflict with attitudes and images of the public library held by the actors in the environments? 2. If the political, administrative and institutional environments as well as the general public share this change of focus, how do they perceive that the public library can fulfill that new role? A case study was undertaken in a township in Oslo, Alna, characterized by a high proportion of immigrants. Focus group interviews as well as individual interviews were undertaken with key actors in the township representing the local administration, local politicians, schools and kindergartens and voluntary organizations. Four focus group interviews with representatives from the general public, users as well as non-users, were also undertaken. The results show that all group of respondents, including non-users of the library from the general public, had complex images of the community role of the public library, including its role as a low intensive meeting place promoting social cohesion. The research was undertaken in a township in the midst of a state financed project to enhance the sustainability of the local community in question. That might have caused a higher attention on the potential role of the public library with respect to community development than one will find in other townships. Repeating the research in an environment with many of the same challenges and characteristics but not taking part in that kind of sustainability project is therefore recommended.

Casper Hvenegaard Rasmussen, Henrik Jochumsen og Dorte Skot-Hansen: Biblioteket som mødested – sociologisk legitimitet og inspiration fra byplanlægningen. (The library as a meeting place - sociological legitimacy and inspiration from urban planning) Pages: 51-59

The last 10 years, public libraries have increasingly been articulated as public meeting places. Today, it is therefore difficult to find a local library plan or discussion about the library for the future where the meeting place is not mentioned. The purpose of this article is initially to describe and analyze the increased articulation of the library as a meeting place. On this basis, it is concluded that there are several sociological founded arguments for the libraries function as a meeting place. But how can the physical space be designed for supporting people to stay and meet in the library? The point of departure for this discussion is urban planning as this for over 40 years has tried to create vibrant and diverse spaces between the buildings. As the vision for the library space as a meeting place is the same, the libraries can be inspired by urban planning.