

TITLE

**Transformation of Cultural Environments**  
The Common Narrative

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ABSTRACT

The focus of the Ph.D. is transformation of cultural environments in Denmark. Marc Augé describes in "Non-Places" the importance of places not being "completely erased" and having a relational value, historic value and an identity (Augé 1995). Almost like "branding" the perception of the cultural environment becomes vital for the collective development plan, and case-examples show how the narrative of the cultural environment can work as a strategic baseline for a development scheme and join the municipality, investors and the local community in the same development direction. Australian professor Laurajane Smith describes in "Uses of Heritage" how heritage is of great importance to its context and connected to the local community (Smith 2006). She underlines the intangible heritage: the life revolved around and in it. In the matter of architectural management, the architectural critic Jane Jacobs is one of the first to advocate a more democratic approach to the built environment (Jacobs 1992). These theoretical views outline the importance of local understanding and citizens involvement when dealing with the physical environment. Their theoretical orientation spring from an understanding of the built environment being more than its physical performance.

With this theoretical orientation as a point of departure the Ph.D.-project explores a democratic development by means of design interventions in a selected cultural environment. Through architectural registrations, qualitative interviews and field notes the project investigates the impact of the design intervention. The main subjects of the paper will consist of: the method 'Research by Design' as a catalyst for site-specific development, 'Research by Design' in relation to co-creation, and the balance of designer and researcher from the perspective of the sociological method 'Action Research' explained by the Danish psychology professor Svend Brinkmann (Brinkmann et. al. 2015). 'Research by Design' is present in physical site-specific interventions in the cultural environments with the aim to inform and invite the local community to participate in the development. 'Action Research' will allow the researcher (myself) to work to ways: both as a designer/facilitator and as a researcher.

**References in the abstract:**

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