

# Title of paper: Architectural Sustainability as a Cultural Practice

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## Abstract:

The project engages in a theoretical discourse from the perspective of practice. It questions whether the '*Six logics of sustainable architecture*' (Guy and Farmer 2001) may be integrated as a *complex architectural sustainability* in practice by using the Nordic vernacular as '*precedence*'. Thus, obtaining an *intrinsic architectural sustainability*

The architectural response to the '*Globalisation-plus*' (Latour 2018) cannot be a generic 'one size fits all'. Thus, it is the project hypothesis that working with high complexity in practice requires the introduction of a constant, '*precedence*', for the complex to be oriented- and related to (Deviren and Tabb 2014). The '*precedence*' is established through a study of the Nordic vernacular practice.

The vernacular tectonics present a functional- and aesthetical unison of materials, elements and buildings components, whereof the best examples transcend their unique character and enable the emergence of a global system (Frasconi 1983). Hence, the tectonics, when they are at their strongest, become the architectural manifestation of a cultural whole: Tradition, (locality), use (construction) and aesthetics. This represents the project notion of *intrinsic architectural sustainability*.

Christopher Alexander's '*Pattern Language*'- approach to complexity is utilised as a theoretic framework and method to format a state-of-the-art of the Nordic vernacular practice. This is coined as '*The Nordic Vernacular Archive*' and examines the Nordic vernacular as a case study to define a typology, or a repeating pattern, capable of articulating the tacit, sustainable aspects of the practice.

From this, a homeostatic, narrative framework with associated methods is developed as a baseline for the design- and construction process: An ample, architectural response to '*Globalisation-plus*' (Latour 2018) to ensure that complex architectural sustainability is not lost in reductionist benchmark systems. Instead, it is integrated through implicit guidelines as the architectural manifestation of a cultural, sustainable, whole: A cohesive, composed, narrative of '*logics*' (Guy and Farmer 2001) rather than a fragmented dichotomy.

Deviren, Dr A. Senem, and Dr Phillip James Tabb. 2014. *The Greening of Architecture: A Critical History and Survey of Contemporary Sustainable Architecture and Urban Design*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.

Frasconi, Marco. 1983. 'The Tell-the-Tale Detail'. In *Semiotics 1981*, edited by John N. Deely and Margot D. Lenhart, 325–36. Boston, MA: Springer US.

Guy, Simon, and Graham Farmer. 2001. 'Reinterpreting Sustainable Architecture: The Place of Technology'. *Journal of Architectural Education* 54 (3): 140–48.

Latour, Bruno. 2018. *Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climatic Regime*. John Wiley & Sons.