ABSTRACT

Under the title ”Fragile Potentials in the Big Plans: Spatial and Material Dimensions of Post-war Large-scale Housing Estates in Use” this thesis foremost develops an orientation into a notion of ”fragility.” The project’s context is specifically given by Danish and Swedish examples of Welfare State housing projects, the Big Plans, as they have been referred to in Denmark.

Questions of transformation and renovation of Post-war II large-scale housing estates are of pressing relevance in Western Europe. In a broader perspective this concerns ways in which Welfare models are being challenged by current distribution policies. The Welfare model expresses equality in the form of functionalist urban planning as well as rational and systematized building processes. Within architecture and planning this model has been criticised for undermining or even preventing opportunities for individuals’ differentiated involvement. Contributions have sought possibilities for participation within and beyond architecture and planning. The philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre has amongst others made a significant proposal to include the everyday and lived aspects in the continuous production of social space.

The Ph.D. project’s overall concern is whether ”fragile potentials” in spatial and material dimensions can motivate individuals engagement in the context of ongoing transformation projects in three Big Plans: Albertslund Syd in Albertslund, Denmark, Drottninghög in Helsingborg, Sweden and Lindängen in Malmö, Sweden.

The project operates in perspectives of feminist methodology and ”Situated Knowledges,” and it is localised in the specific conventions for registration and seeing within architecture and planning. The method is demonstrated by embedding qualitative interviews with residents and planners in architectural drawing and -specification.

To this end, this thesis presents and discusses ”fragile potentials” in spatial and material dimensions of the Big Plans. Detailed descriptions of professionals and users production of space are exemplified under the following headings: he Found and As Found, ”Weak” Decorum, Redundancy and Yonder.