

## Postmodernism, Neoliberalism and the Holy Spirit

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This paper explores the singular case of Järna, an intentional community near Stockholm whose particular aesthetics evolve out of its spiritual core of mystic belief. Manifesting a desire to return to 'another' and 'more human' modernism, building activities in Järna peaked in the 70's and 80's – a period that coincided with the first emergence of what was to become the dismantling of the welfare state. Despite its apparent marginality, the ethos and aesthetics of Järna had a significant influence on the Swedish configuration of postmodern architecture. In tracing the connections to a larger context of socio-political transformations, Järna points to an understanding of postmodernism as a deeply ideological phenomenon with intimate ties to the neoliberal project. It also discloses the inner contradictions and tensions within this project, one that essentially involves a changing of sensibilities for which architecture is key.

### Biography:

Catharina Gabrielsson ([catharina.gabrielsson@arch.kth.se](mailto:catharina.gabrielsson@arch.kth.se)) is an architect and researcher. Her work addresses the complex entanglements between architecture and philosophy, politics and economics. She is co-editor for *Deleuze and the City* (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming), an editorial member of *Architecture and Culture* and Research Fellow at The Swedish Research Institute of Istanbul.