

Visions of Grandeur: A (disciplinary) reading of Stockholm's architecture policy

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The work done by the urban planning discipline is both regulatory and gestational; it centres on a procedural space that is not so much neutral (and thus empty) as *heavily expectant*. In this space, architectural proposals for the future city are manipulated in anticipation of their (pending) materialisation. Taking feminist scholarship on and critique of *chora*, as well as the notion of 'container technologies' advanced by Zoe Sofia, as a point of departure, this paper examines *the work that is undertaken by planning, for and on architecture*.

In 2014, the City of Stockholm approved its architecture policy, *Arkitektur Stockholm*. Emerging at a time of intense public critique of Swedish architecture, *Arkitektur Stockholm* promises to 'raise the bar', thus effectively acknowledging the mounting sense of crisis in the 'architecture industry'. Here, I trace the construction of the transformative procedural space produced by the policy, speculatively evaluating its possible disciplinary effects.

Biography:

Helen Runting (helen.runting@arch.kth.se) is an urban planner and urban designer, and a PhD student within Critical Studies in Architecture at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm. Her research addresses the postmodern qualities of Scandinavian urbanism in the opening decades of the twenty-first century.