

## Swedish Industrialisation of Building Construction: An Organisational Dilemma

*Erik Sigge*

This paper examines the significance of Governmental initiatives to further the industrialisation of building construction during the 1960s and 1970s, with the particular example of the Swedish National Board of Public Building (KBS). The analysis suggests the Swedish Government's promotion of industrialisation favoured large-scale production and big projects, and contributed to an overall streamlining of construction. Although building standardisation evidently contributed to this development, it was administrative reforms that most fundamentally furthered the industrialisation in Sweden. The reforms at KBS gave preference to managerial perspectives (i.e. economic and quantifiable justifications of choices) over other professional perspectives and legitimisations. Paradoxically, building construction did not become organised as industrialised production but instead changed from craft-based to project-based – a development perfectly in line with a more general shift in society towards more liberal economic ideas and post-Fordist production, which implies the emergence of a new spirit of capitalism.

Biography:

Erik Sigge is an architectural historian and preservationist, and currently a PhD candidate in History and Theory of Architecture at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. He is also coordinator and research member of Architecture in Effect: Rethinking the Social in Architecture, and co-editor of the journal *LO-RES*.