

Abstract

In the postwar period Sweden underwent a building-boom. This had a major effect on how the architecture profession evolved and how strategies for the built environment developed with the demands of society. What is interesting is how this had an effect on the academic terrain. In particular, how questions about how to design the built environment became an academic research subject. The question of how to resolve and fulfill the needs of urban expansion and an increasing building industry established as a major agenda within a state supported structure became key, which put a focus on developing standards for the built environment. This article examines the development of that process in relation to what came to be called “architectural research” (*arkitekturforskning*) Particularly it examines why, in relation to architecture, this model remained so strongly scientific, despite the fact that architectural education in Sweden was strongly influenced by the Bauhaus pedagogy, including a “learning by doing” approach.

Biography

Frida Rosenberg is completing a PhD titled: *The Construction of Construction; making steel-building possible in postwar Sweden* at the School of Architecture, KTH Royal Institute of Technology where she is also Head of Advanced Level studies. She holds a B.S. in Architecture, UT Arlington (2000); M. Arch, Chalmers (2004); and M.E.D., Yale University (2007).

Illustration captions

Fig.1. *Sveaplans flickläroverk* designed by Nils Ahrbom and Helge Zimdal in 1936.(image credit: Arkitekturmuseet)

Fig.2. *Village College* designed by Walter Gropius and Maxwell Fry

Fig 3. Postcard from Helge Zimdahl and Chalmers University to William Wurster and College of Environmental Design (image credit: Design Archives UC Berkeley)

Fig 4. The Architecture school curriculum 1965.

Fig 5. William Wurster together with Uno Åhrén in front of the 1957 architecture school, which was part of the KTH expansion plan and designed by Nils Ahrbom. (image credit Design Archives, UC Berkeley)

Fig.6. Woman in respirator is doing the dishes. Study by *Hemmens forskningsinstitut* (image credit: Ateljé Hernried, Nordiska museet)

Fig.7. Staircase of the architecture school at KTH designed by Gunnar Henriksson (image credit: KTH School of Architecture)