

Helen Runting

Towards New Modes of Criticism: art, architecture and the space of planning

The development of a disciplinary culture of criticism in urban planning at this point occupies a liminal space – it is yet to be brought into being. In the Stockholm context in which I wish to work, critical reflection is presently being supplied by (and sourced from) art practice. Permitted to enter the “space” of planning, these practices pursue a form of critical engagement reliant on their position of artistic autonomy – they produce a critique from the outside. As an urban planner and urban designer, necessarily inhabiting the position between planning and architecture, I see Stockholm’s urban planning project and process as a site for active design intervention and knowledge production. Through the proposed research I wish to deploy and develop practices, debates, and understandings of criticality drawn from the field of architecture, in order to contribute to constructing modes of criticism in planning that might be performed from the inside.