

Maria Ärlemo

**Miljonprogrammet Revisited - Exploring the suburban past and present in search for strategies to construct a sustainable future**

As a result of a political initiative in the 60s denoted as Miljonprogrammet, a number of large-scale suburban residential areas were constructed in Sweden. In all about a million apartments were built. Today, half a century later, a large part of this housing is in need of restoration. Ahead of the architectural profession lies a massive assignment, but how to approach this socially, economic, politically and symbolically complex issue in an informed and constructive way?

Today, within an increasingly depoliticized and market driven society, these areas are becoming more and more segregated along economical and ethnical lines (Andersson 2000; Clark 2008). Molina (2005) even describe them as racialized. Since their establishment there has been a long history of aesthetical interventions in order to reform the social problems that have marked them. In a research overview, Lahti Edmark (2002) concludes physical interventions, not to be fruitless, but to have limited influence on social problems if not combined with interventions on a structural level. Hence, a re-politization of the environments that resulted from Miljonprogrammet seems relevant and the focus of this study is to explore what role architectural practice could play within such a renewed perspective. More specifically it aims to explore the question: What potential does architectural practice have to address issues of social justice?