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Time Spent, Space Earned, the Role of Architectural Elements in the Timescapes of Malmö

The overarching interest in my project is seeing architecture not as stable but temporal, always changing but at different paces. The background is studies of architecture, urban design and planning in relation to commercialization. During the last decades cities and urban environments have undergone processes of commercialization. Commercial activities make up a large part of our everyday lives and take up large areas of the urban landscape (Kärrholm, 2008). Commercial activities contribute quite dominantly in the programming of city centres, they are favorable to use as a basis for rhythmanalysis. Commercial rhythm is tuned to interact with the rhythms of everyday life. With this background I have chosen Värnhemstorget in Malmö as the site for studies. I work with what I call actantial rhythmanalysis, the theoretical basis for that is rhythmanalysis as introduced by Lefebvre (2004) and Actor Network Theory (Latour 1997, 2005).). In public places there are many elements that affect a person's time consumption, at times with the intention to speed it up, and sometimes in the form of obstacles that inhibit passage from one place to another, depending on the route. One example is the bench, where there used to be wooden benches to sit on are now steel benches to lean on. This could be interpreted as a way of turning up the pace of the citizens. The bench is a space-time-actor, it is a material figure in space that has an impact on public life. Apart from the bench one can mention the edge of a wall or the pavement, it can function as a means of direction, a place to put down your bags, a resistance to stretching after a jog, a support if you feel unsteady etc. Which are the links between different programs and space-time-actors that distinguish certain space-time-actants? Maybe it is a season, maybe it is waiting, maybe it is the school schedule. I have been mapping and describing different rhythmnetworks by means of TimeLapse film, photography and observation studies. As a continuation I will focus the rhytmneworks of eating/ food, the rhythmnetworks of trash and the rhythmnetworks of animals because they present moments where the relations between the body, the built environment and society materialize and open up for discussions on relations of power.