

Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

1. Paper / Proposal Title: From Sustainability to Resilience - an exploration of the development of architecture terminology.

2. Format: Written paper / verbal presentation

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4. University or Company Affiliation: Aarhus School of Architecture, Denmark

5. Abstract (300 words):

This paper examines the transition of different terminology and buzzwords such as environmental, green, eco, sustainable and now the new term resilience in regards to architecture and the built environment. Based on supporting literature, this paper discusses the transitions of these terms - what they have meant historically, how they are developing, their influence and what they mean for the built environment and future endeavours. Using empirical data from a survey of 113 experts in the field of sustainable architecture – both practice and academia, combined with follow-up interviews conducted with selected survey participants this paper questions the importance of labels. It explores how they are defined and if these big-umbrella-terms offer room for

exploration and opportunity or if the vagueness hinders the development of a more 'sustainable architecture'.

Primary findings from the empirical data support the notion that sustainable architecture is understood in a vast and varied amount of ways, this is illustrated with not one answer to the open-ended question 'how do you define sustainable architecture?' being the same. There is a clear distinction between definitions from practice and academia in regards to the embedded sustainable development models in which they are cultivated from. The interview data also supports the notion of the importance of an optimistic over a pessimistic approach to sustainable architecture which is reflected in the current transition of terminology from sustainability to resilience. Understanding the role of these movements helps to understand the conceptual development of sustainability in relation to architecture, building, and technology which offers an interesting insight into what may be the future of sustainable or now resilient architectural practices.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Elizabeth Donovan is a Ph.D. fellow at Aarhus School of Architecture within the field of sustainable architecture theory. Specifically looking at the disconnection between theory and practice.

She was educated at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden with a dual masters – Masters of Architecture and a Masters of Science specializing in Design for Sustainable Development. Her Bachelors of Architectural Studies was awarded from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and she is now currently a visiting Ph.D. student at Cardiff University.