TEACHING-LEARNING-RESEARCH:  DESIGN  
AND ENVIRONMENTS

• Paper / Proposal Title:
SPOKEN MATTER- towards a more nuanced understanding of the vocabulary of architecture

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• Abstract:
The knowledge of architects is often described as tacit. Michael Polanyi, asserting that ‘we can know more than we can tell’, defines tacit knowledge as knowledge that is difficult to articulate in words. However, practitioners articulate architectural knowledge daily as do teachers of architecture. This paper aims at developing an initial framework for a more precise architectural vocabulary as well as a more precise vocabulary for architectural phenomenological description. It is asked how we may articulate material qualities and experienced effects as a made (physical) and as a spoken (verbal) vocabulary. The aim is to acquire a better understanding of the matter of architecture as based on lived experience – and to be able to articulate architectural language in order to become better architects. Two workshops are described and analysed, and the findings are discussed in a phenomenological perspective. According to Hermann Schmitz, communication between bodies takes place through movement in itself or through suggestions of movement and synesthetic characters, i.e. form and colour associations. Following this, the paper argues that we may get a better understanding of the matter of architecture if we are able to articulate intention in materials as well as in words – and that we may be able to achieve results more in line with our intentions. A more precise framework describing material qualities and architectural effects as well as
a more nuanced material and verbal vocabulary may as such support better architectural education and design-practice.

• **Author(s) Biography:**

  **Nicolai Bo Andersen** is Professor MSO in Sustainable Building Culture. The main subject is the transformation of and additions to listed landscapes, cities and buildings. A central question is how the historical, technical and aesthetic characteristics of building culture may be transformed into contemporary attention. The aim is to unite material qualities, a strong spatial identity, and low resource consumption in a sustainable building culture. Nicolai Bo Andersen studied at The Cooper Union, New York and graduated at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture in 1998. He is Head of Master in Sustainable Building Culture and the Master’s Programme in Architectural Heritage, Transformation and Conservation at The Royal Danish Academy, School of Architecture. Nicolai Bo Andersen is appointed member of the Historic Buildings Council by the Danish Minister for Culture 2019-2023. In the academic year 2019/2020 Nicolai Bo Andersen is visiting professor at the TU München. Nicolai Bo Andersen has been awarded in numerous competitions. He has published several articles on sustainable architecture, and he has participated in several exhibitions, e.g. the Venice Biennale 2016. His work is supported by the Danish Arts Foundation and featured in the official residence of the Danish Prime Minister, Marienborg.

  **Victor Boye Julebæk** is a practicing architect and PhD-fellow at The Royal Danish Academy – Architecture, with the Master’s Programme for Architectural Heritage, Transformation and Conservation (KTR). His academic work concentrates on the material aspects of architecture in their purely physical state – their cause and effect in terms of space, form, material, light, texture, acoustics etc. – as seen in a historical, technical and aesthetic perspective. Victor Boye Julebæk studied at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture in 2011. Alongside practice, he has since 2011 taught at KTR as Adjunct Teaching Professor. He has been awarded in several architectural competitions, e.g. Thorvaldsens Museum Denmark (2014) and Sorens Switzerland (2015); published several articles on architecture; edited and designed numerous publications, most recently *Hands On: The Value of Building Culture* (2020); and participated in several exhibitions, e.g. the Venice Biennale (2009), Salone del Mobile Milano (2016) and Works+Words (2019). His architectural work concentrates on private houses (e.g. Vega House), transformation (e.g. Tietgensgade 33), and conservation (e.g. Folehavegaard Earthen Barn). His work is furthermore supported by the Danish Arts Foundation and featured in the official residence of the Danish Prime Minister, Marienborg.