

## ENGLISH ABSTRACT

Since the establishment of the first dwellings the forest has played a key role in the development of Western civilization. It has been both demarcation and connection to an outer domain. Where the first dwellings literally cleared a space in the midst of the forest the result of the cultural-historical development is that today we create the forest in our own picture. Concurrent with the implementation of the afforestation plans from 1989 more than a quarter of the Danish surface area will become forest during the 21st century. While the forest during the 20th century primarily was a landscape of production a distinct change in its use has taken place in the Danish society during the last fifty years. Today the main purpose of public afforestation is no longer economically determined but more naturally and recreationally determined.

The main part of the expected public afforestation will thus take place in connection with the protection of valuable groundwater resources for a still growing urban population. The main part of the municipal afforestation functions as a demarcation between open landscape and unwanted urban growth while at the same time being a valuable urban recreational landscape. This thesis is part of research network on 'the city without limits'. As a landscape architect I am of the conviction that a large part of afforestation work focuses on technological solutions based on the establishment and management of urban forest where recreation is viewed from an unequivocal contemplative paradigm. In my view recreation in the city without limits is not restricted to leisure activities and a Sunday trip to the forest but needs to be acknowledged as a fundamental appropriation of the city without limits as an 'everyday landscape' across former demarcations. Here the forest play a key role in the establishment of boundaries and connections in the city without limits and a (*re*) *grounding* of the individual in the city without limits as an everyday landscape.

In this thesis I focus on the forest as a landscape infrastructure from a design oriented perspective. I do not view the forest, city and landscape as demarcated domains but on the contrary as integrated parts of the 'fragmented urban landscapes' of the city without limits. Building upon a series of qualitative investigations I suggest a broadening of the term 'landscape infrastructure' which breaks from the contemplative paradigm where the forest is viewed as a 'Sunday landscape'. Instead I point at the forest as a space of potential where practice-oriented exchanges between the individual and the fragmented urban landscapes as a shared domain can take place. This space of potential unfolds at *ground level* where interaction between people, places and things takes place.

In a combination of theory and practice I introduce the landscape laboratory Sletten and develop a series of landscape infrastructural attributes. Especially the concepts of *passage points* and *boundary objects* play a key role in my work. Both concepts emerge through interaction and appropriation of the forest at ground level across scales. This leads to a shift in the figure-ground relation between large-scale landscape infrastructures and interaction where landscape infrastructure becomes a *fundamental relational concept*. Landscape infrastructure emerges through practice-oriented exchanges between the individual and the forest *in situ* as a shared space of potential.

Here I introduce the concept of the garden as an expression of the ground level. Building upon my pivotal investigations of Mariebjerg Cemetery (G.N. Brandt, 1926-), the allotment gardens in Nærum (C.Th. Sørensen, 1958) and Ronneby Brunnsark (Sven-Ingvar Andersson, 1987) I develop the garden concept *Hortus apertus*. These are temporary and generative passage points that are open towards an individual appropriation of the city without limits as a shared domain. I point out three levels of relations that characterize a form of *Hortus apertus* which I call *Gardens of Situations*. The key word here is *co-production* where individual appropriation meets natural and cultural processes at ground level. Gardens of Situations are thus site specific and temporary creations in connection with the boundaries of

the fragmented urban landscapes of the city without limits. They open up otherwise closed structures in situ.

From Hortus apertus and Gardens of Situations I describe how place identity is not so much about being place bound but rather *place binding*. Identity emerges in connection with practice-oriented exchanges between the individual and things. Here I reevaluate the original meaning of the word 'thing' and develop one of the pivotal concepts of my thesis, namely the forest as a *boundary thing* in the city without limits. Here the forest functions as a connection between the individual, other people and the city without limits precisely because it separates.