

REFINE
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Open Call:

SOUTH SWEDEN CRITICAL REGIONALISM
IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

Architects
Sweden

Form
Design
Center

Contents

- 3 Open call
- 3 Exhibition
- 4 We seek
- 4 Background
- 5 Required documentation
- 5 Timetable 2020
- 6 Division of roles/responsibility/economy
- 6 Rights
- 7 Bibliography

Define/Refine

South Sweden Critical Regionalism in a Globalised World

OPEN CALL

Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center seek architect teams to participate in an exhibition on regionally rooted, innovative architecture in South Sweden (Halland, Småland, Skåne, Blekinge). The teams must have experience of, and expertise in, design and innovation.

Final application date: 15 January 2020
Initial meeting for selected teams: 29 January 2020

Organiser: Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center

Contact/curator: gunilla.kronvall@arkitekt.se

THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition Define/Refine will run for some six weeks in autumn 2020 at Form/Design Center, floor 2. It will comprise five to seven individual installations featuring new and original material; models, illustrations, drawings and texts. These shall:

- interpret and discuss the overall theme of the exhibition, *Critical Regionalism*, and explore a specific issue related to this theme. The exhibition will consider regionally situated and each team may choose whether they wish to address a larger geographical area, a certain type of landscape, an architecture, a place/location or, for example, a specific regional natural or cultural context. There is ample opportunity to interpret the overall theme and we hope that the exhibition will present a wide range of issues,
- clearly illustrate the team's research and present facts and knowledge in words and images,
- include international reference projects in order to anchor the team's specific issue in a global context,
- present design proposals for an architecture that is developed from the team's research, in one or more optional scales; an architecture that is regionally rooted while contributing to the discussion of contemporary architecture and the future of our region. This shall constitute the most prominent part of the installation,
- through a high level of architectural design ensure an exhibition that is both clearly communicated and inspiring to visitors, the general public and the industry.

WE SEEK

Teams comprising 2–4 members from at least two organisations/companies. At least half of the members must be qualified architects living/working in South Sweden (Halland, Småland, Skåne, Blekinge) and members of Architects Sweden.

It is the team members that will be presented in the exhibition. The offices/organisations finance the team members' time and cover their expenses, will be presented as sponsors of the exhibition (with logotypes in the exhibition + the exhibition catalogue [if applicable] + invitations to client events in connection with the exhibition).

Within the framework of the exhibition's overall theme, Critical Regionalism, the teams will be tasked with presenting an in-depth discussion on a specific issue by means of newly produced

- physical models (a minimum of two),
- exhibition-quality illustrations of new architecture (a minimum of three),
- illustrations demonstrating research into and deliberation on the selected in-depth issue,
- supporting texts.

As the exhibition's overall theme is broad, the organiser and the curator desire a broad-based discussion and design. For this reason, the curator will enter into dialogue with the teams on the type of exhibition materials that best highlight their in-depth issue and architecture, as well as on dimensions, quantity, expression and similar.

BACKGROUND

The aim of the exhibition Define/Refine is to foster a discussion on architecture's role in shaping a region's identity. What is the nature of an architecture that emerges from its local, natural and cultural context? How can it be rooted yet varied and inquiring, respect history and context while serving as the starting point for innovation, and in its design be an expression of its time?

The exhibition takes its starting point in the concept of Critical Regionalism, which is useful for discussing a regionally rooted innovative architecture. Regionalism means researching and learning from one's specific natural and cultural context. Having a critical attitude in regionalism means avoiding superficial copying and sentimentality in order to seek a unique, forward-looking and modern architecture, with a sense of place.

Parallel with the development towards a global world order and a modernist international and often placeless architecture, for more than a century there have been movements in theory and practice that have sought to root architecture in its regional, natural and cultural context. Architects and theorists such as Ian McHarg, Liane Lefaivre + Alexander Tzonis, Kenneth Frampton and Susannah Hagan have propounded the idea that a regionally rooted architecture can accommodate a place's history, nature and culture while remaining innovative. With the point of departure in a critical approach, architects can design contemporary architecture that is modern and unique, locally rooted and at the same time inclusive towards a global context. Such an architecture can advance a sustainability agenda as it corresponds to local climate conditions, material production, social life and so forth.

Based on respect for and knowledge of their region, architects as well as artists have a responsibility, and freedom, to interpret and contribute to the improvement of the characteristics of a region and its identity. Employing Critical Regionalism as an approach, architecture can be created in an ongoing negotiation of what defines a place, a negotiation between aesthetics, culture and human life, nature and sustainability and identity - between history, present and future.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

An A4-PDF, max 15 MB

- A description of the team, max two pages, including contact information and the name of the team's contact person/coordinator.
- CVs for participants, max two pages per participant.
- A brief description of the team's in-depth issue + any references or background information, max three pages.
- A brief description of how the team proposes to create an installation relevant for both the professional discourse and for the public, max two pages.

By submitting an application to participate in the exhibition Define/Refine, the team members and teams undertake, if selected, to actively participate in meetings and produce original material of exhibition quality according to the timetable and the curator's instructions.

The application shall be sent to gunilla.kronvall@arkitekt.se by 15 January 2020.

The teams will be selected based on an overall assessment of the composition of the teams and their chosen theme, and to achieve a broad base of issues and content in the exhibition as a whole.

The selection will be made by:

- Gunilla Kronvall, Architect RIBA II SAR/MSA, Curator, Head of Operations, Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center
- Johanna Sjögren Duthy, Manager Public Activities, Form/Design Center
- Kenji Miyazu, Architect SAR/MSA, member of Architects Sweden's Academy of Architecture and CEO of Jaenecke arkitekter
- Maria Kylin, Landscape Architect LAR/MSA, member of Architects Sweden's Academy for Landscape Architecture, Senior Lecturer and Ph.D. in Agricultural Science from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp.

TIMETABLE 2020

January	Decision on participation + selected teams are presented
April	Presentations of research, initial meeting with the teams Presentation of the exhibition design
May	Individual meetings with all teams
June	All exhibition material to the curator
August	Inauguration/Opening
September	Define/Refine will be presented at Arkitekturdagarna in Malmö

**DIVISION OF ROLES/RESPONSIBILITY/
ECONOMY:**

Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center (organiser and curator) are responsible for the overall theme and the design of the exhibition, including the graphics and exhibition podium/installation/lighting, for communication and marketing, on the web, in printed material and social media, for the exhibition catalogue (if applicable) and for coordination and project management.

Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center undertake to make themselves available for dialogue throughout the project at meetings in which all teams will be invited jointly and/or individually and to promote the participating teams and the exhibition as a whole.

Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center undertake to present the exhibition at the 2020 Arkitekturdagarna in Malmö.

The participating teams are responsible for researching and discussing their chosen in-depth issue as well as for the production of, and expenses relating to, exhibition material for their specific issue and part of the exhibition.

Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center will reimburse a maximum of SEK 7,500 for verified material expenses for each team.

The participating teams pledge, in all communication concerning the exhibition Define/Refine, to refer to the context of the exhibition as well as to the organiser and the overall theme. The participating teams undertake to produce exhibition-quality material in a quantity that is in accordance with the terms of this Open Call and in agreement with the curator. A contract regulating these issues will be drawn up when the teams have been selected.

The organiser and the curator have the right to jointly exclude teams or a part of a team's material from the exhibition. Such a decision must contain grounds for exclusion.

RIGHTS**OWNERSHIP RIGHTS AND USAGE RIGHTS**

Architects Sweden owns the material rights to all competition proposals in the Open Call for the exhibition Define/Refine. The proposers hold the copyright and retain usage rights for their proposals.

The organisers, Architects Sweden and Form/Design Center, have the right to freely publish the proposals, both in print and digitally in connection with all communication about and publication of the exhibition Define/Refine and in other activities organised by Architects Sweden with no special compensation to the proposers. This also applies to images and texts from the reference projects. All publications will include the proposer's name; and the proposal motto (if applicable).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Liane Lefaivre and Alexander Tzonis:
"The Grid and the Pathway: An Introduction to the Work of Dimitris and Suzana Antonakakis" (published in *Architecture in Greece*), 1981.
Critical Regionalism: Architecture and Identity in a Globalized World, 2003.
Architecture of Regionalism in the Age of Globalization: Peaks and Valleys in the Flat World, 2012.

Kenneth Frampton:
"Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance" (published in Hal Foster's *The Anti-Aesthetics: Essays on Postmodern Culture*), 1983.

Susannah Hagan:
Taking Shape: A New Contract Between Architecture and Nature, 2001.
"Reflections on a Wind Catcher: Climate and Cultural Identity" (Paper presented at the international conference on architecture, settlement and cultural identity in the Persian Gulf), 2009.

OASE #103:
"Critical Regionalism Revisited", 2019.

Ian McHarg:
Design with Nature, 1969.

Frederick Steiner, Richard Weller, Karen M'Closkey, Billy Fleming (eds): *Design With Nature Now*, 2019.

Architects Sweden is a professional organisation for all architects in Sweden. We organise some 90 percent of the total architectural corps (13,700 members in November 2019) and are thus a strong voice for the profession. Architects Sweden works to improve the conditions of our members and to make architecture more prominent in society.

Architects Sweden at Form/Design Center endeavours to increase the visibility of Architects Sweden in South Sweden and increase our membership services. The organisation wishes to strengthen the regional node that is Form/Design Center. The branch organises exhibitions, seminars and provides member counselling at Form/Design Center's premises. The head of operations and contact person is Gunilla Kronvall, Architect RIBA II SAR/MSA.

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