

Hogstrom, Ebba, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Open Space, Equal Space: Architectural Experiences, Local Community and Psychiatric Health Care

The community psychiatry emerged in Sweden during the 60ies. The basic concepts were decentralisation, accessibility and localisation in the local community, a more humane psychiatric care ideology stemmed from the critique of the large mental institutions with its spatial exclusion. Drawing from Michel Foucault's biopolitical analysis, especially interconnections between society, psychiatry and family, I will examine how this new psychiatric landscape performs spatially. On first sight there's a story about humanization and equality where the local community and a small-scale architecture are actors.

With different and diverging stories from the case study of the Nacka project 1974-80, one of the first attempts with community psychiatry in Sweden, this paper highlights how spatial structure, symbolics and experience constructs and frame meanings but also how controlling forces come into play by architecture and the built environment.