

The Transformative Power of Architectural Heritage

By Mogens A. Morgen

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Architectural heritage is often seen as an obstacle for modern development of buildings and cities. But can the architectural heritage come to inspire rather than constrain architectural design and urban planning? In the current global situation of climate change architectural heritage is gaining momentum as it is widely recognized that it is better to preserve buildings to limit the emission of CO2 than it is to tear them down to build new. The lecture deals with the architectural heritage understood as a culture that has developed continuously throughout history as rich catalogue, where the design of new architecture steadily adds new layers as a coupling of past, present, and future. In that way architectural heritage can be understood as a dynamic and creative force in urban development and as a creative power in contemporary society.



Mogens A. Morgen is an architect and professor of Architectural Heritage at the Aarhus School of Architecture. His overall research focus is to rewrite the understanding of architectural heritage so that it can take part as a dynamic and creative force in current urban development. He took part in the restoration and modernization of the 'Finn Juhl Hall' in the UN building in New York and participates regularly in contemporary architectural competitions. He is the chairman of ICOMOS Denmark.

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