Churches & ruins cultural heritage at risk; secure future by illusion and transformation?

ABVN11 Cultural Heritage Buildings Theory, 7,5 credits

“Of the 3500 churches within the Svenska kyrkan (Swedish Church) 525 of these are located in the diocese of Lund”…“soon there will be several hundred redundant churches in Sweden”

(N. Rånwall, property manager Malmö Churches 2016)

In year 2000 the State and the Swedish Church split up and the parishes became totally responsible for all church maintenance. To cover these costs, the parishes suggested new income brining uses for their redundant churches. The successful transformation of Allhelgona church to museum in 2005 is a pilot case of this new policy, but unfortunately it might also be the last. The fact is that heritage authority (RAÄ) can not accept how the parishes try to solve their maintenance expenses. RAÄ insist that the new owners shall store altars forever or they shall to remain in situ. Additionally RAÄ wants to influence what future functions a deconsecrated church may have, which Caroli church exemplifies. The demolition of the listed Maglarp new church in 2007 can be regard as a negative consequence of this policy and that other parishes might follow.

The architectural signs of religion are traceable all through history since often built out of sustainable materials. Swedish traces of religion show Christianity since churches were built on the old heathen sacred sites. The Upgrading of Christianity in society (Reformation in the 16th century, the religiosity/population increase in the 19th century and the recent 2000 division reform), reduced churches to unwanted symbols that were demolished. The church ruins still are visible, but future shortcomings in economy and their indefinite maintenance costs, Might jeopardize their future.

The aim with ABVN11 Cultural Heritage Buildings Theory, is in two projects to scrutinize means and methods of how to develop concepts so as to attain sustainable transformation and adaptation design for ruins and churches. What theoretical approaches are available for us architects so as to activate and bring listed buildings of the past into the future? With input from literature, lectures, value assessments analyzes new realistic program concepts will grow, but we need to decipher questions such as;

-How can we architects design engaging and vital ruin site projects and simultaneously ensure a sustainable management of this priceless heritage for the future?

-What architectural approaches have been used internationally and can we use these as role-models in Sweden?

-What church transformation projects are suitable so a re-use, back to a sacred utilize, still is be possible?

Project 1 challenges how we architects in ours secular society of today can vitalise the illusion of history by setting the focus on some of Skåne’s church ruins. In Project 2 we look at five redundant church buildings and study how to set up a transformation program and process the design concept.
Churches & ruins cultural heritage at risk; secure future by illusion and transformation?

ABVN11 Cultural Heritage Buildings, 7.5 credits

Teachers’ team
Thomas Hellquist arch. SAR/MSA examiner
Frans Liliedahl, arch. SAR/MSA tutor
Laine Montelin, Tyréns construction engineer
Ingela Pålsson Skarin arch. MAA, PHD, senior lecturer, examiner
Sibylla Wiegert arch. SAR/MSA tutor

Guest Lecturers
AÖ Alice Öberg, building antiquarian, Länsstyrelsen
CL Charlotta Lindahl, property management, Svenska Kyrkan Lund
DN Daniel Nyberg Målarkalk
GG Gunilla Gardelin, Kulturen's museum Lund
JL Johan Lundin, Tegelmäster
LS Lars-Bertil Salomonson, property management Agora Retail
NR Nils-Urban Ranwall, property management Svenska Kyrkan Malmö
KSJ Kenneth Skytte Jensen, architect MAA Krydsrum arkitekter
FM Architect at, Friis-Moltke architects
MD mcdonnell+dixon architects, Dublin

Course administration
Helene Svenningsson 046-222 76 10

Literature
Kulturvärden 2005:2, Tema: Restaurering under hundra år.

Course information
For approval every student needs to complete all deliveries of the semester. Additionally 80% active participation at seminars, lectures and group presentations are required, in order to pass. The course language will be English when non-Swedish students participate and all instruction will be available in English. The grading scale will be passed or not passed. It is compulsory to participate in the parallel course ABVN16 Cultural Heritage Buildings, 15 credits.