

ROOM FOR RECOVERY – HEALING ARCHTECTURE IN PSYCHIATRY

The Danish psychiatric hospitals are undergoing a radical change. New facilities are established all over Denmark with the ambition of creating "world class psychiatry". In this project, the idea is that architecture should play an active and supporting role for each patient's possibility to recover and for the organisation of psychiatric work. "Healing architecture" is the umbrella term for these ambitions and at the same time the focus of my PhD thesis. With starting point from a new build psychiatric hospital, I will investigate *the importance of the room* in healing architecture and strive to obtain qualitative knowledge which is both relevant for development of health buildings and for the organisation of the psychiatric work.

If future investments in psychiatry should be based on, among other things, healing architecture, knowledge of how this particular architecture can support the "good treatment", "the good working environment" and the ability of an organisation to comply with both is needed. By examining the architects work designing a healing architecture combined with empiric studies of the daily life of a psychiatric hospital or clinic, I want to obtain new knowledge about what the "healing architecture" actually means for the psychiatric work.

The PhD project is anchored at Institute for Organisation at Copenhagen Business School from April 2016 to June 2019. The case gives a unique opportunity to study front-runners in construction of health buildings in the world. I have collected a large amount of qualitative material of observations, research interviews and documents that give me a unique insight in the daily work at psychiatric hospitals.

The support of 20,000 DKK from COWIfonden has given me the possibility to realize a 3 months stay at 'The School of Management' at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia. During the stay I will develop analytical and theoretical resources to better understand the complex relations between architecture and medical, social and organizational work.

The donation of such resources will contribute to the development of a new way to investigate the importance of healing architecture which hopefully will have an impact for the research in this area and for the development of future facilities.