

Healing Architecture - Do patients architectural preferences influence healthcare outcomes ?

Research Seminar at Chalmers, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering



Pictures from the article *Room for improvement: a randomised controlled trial with nested qualitative interviews on space, place and treatment delivery*

In a recently published article in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, a surprising finding was that rehabilitation outcomes were better in an old, worn, windowless room than in a new, well-lighted modernist room (Sandal LF, Thorlund JB, Moore AJ, et al. *Room for improvement: a randomised controlled trial with nested qualitative interviews on space, place and treatment delivery.*) The article is based on a healthcare design study in Denmark. The findings show that the actual clinical effects of different room designs can be quite different from (even opposite to) the intent of the designers. Also, the findings run counter to previous EBD findings of positive influences, for example, of windows and daylight. This indicates that architects, clinicians, and EBD researchers do not yet have enough understanding of what patients perceive as attractive and supportive and hence healing architecture.

Invited to give a presentation of and discuss the Danish study are two of the authors - **Louise F Sandahl** from Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark and **Roger Ulrich**, Centre for Healthcare Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

Questions to discuss at the seminar are f ex:

- Does the type of architecture that seem attractive to certain architects, also do that for patients?
 - Are there certain patient groups or medical treatment contexts where modernist interiors even are harmful?
 - Can the integration of end-users and patients in the design process help to identify how certain styles and design attributes are being perceived, and in that way, make an even more healing architecture possible?
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Date: 12 December 2017, 13.00 – 16.00.

Place: Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Division of Building Design, Sven Hultins gata 6, Gothenburg.
Room: SB-K456

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[The article can be downloaded here.](#)

Very Welcome!