

Hökerberg, Håkan, 2005. *Att fånga det karaktäristiska i stadens bebyggelse. SAVE-metoden som underlag för bevarandeplanering.* (Catching the Characteristics of the Townscape. The SAVE-method for preservation planning). Institute of Conservation, Göteborg University. Written in Swedish with an English summary, 269 pp. ill. ISBN 91-7346-542-9, ISSN 0284-6578.

*Abstract*

At the same time as the responsibility to preserve the built environments of preservational value to a greater degree has become a task for the Swedish municipalities, it can be observed that knowledge about the cultural values that the built environments contain quite often is below standards or completely missing in many municipalities. The purpose with my dissertation is to analyse and evaluate the Danish SAVE-method (Survey of Architectural Values in the Environment), to see if the method can provide such knowledge and thereby fill the needs for the basis of preservation planning that exists in Sweden. The dissertation is restricted to buildings in urban environments. My investigation of the method mainly consists of case studies of Danish municipalities. Furthermore I have applied SAVE in a modified version to the Swedish city of Kungälv.

SAVE is a uniform method with a formalised process of analysis, where built environments in a municipality are mapped from an architectural-visual aspect. The result of the mapping is presented in a Preservational Atlas. The method proceeds from topographic investigation, historic analysis and architectural observations, when objects valuable for preservation in built environments are to be pointed out. The analysis of environments is formulated through a synthesis of the three approaches, which can be seen as a methodological innovation. Environments valuable for preservation are categorized on three levels: dominant architectural features, building patterns and selected urban elements. Singular buildings are registered and their preservational value is determined from several parameters.

From my interviews and observations during the case studies in Danish municipalities it can be seen that the SAVE-method's mapping of structures valuable for preservation has filled a large knowledge-gap, since analyses of whole urban environments have not existed previously. The results from the Atlas have in many cases been integrated into the municipal plan and many local plans now contain regulations underlining that buildings of preservational value shall be dealt with according to the Preservational Atlas.

My investigation of some dozen Preservational Atlases shows that both general and specific phenomena in the municipalities' urban environments are called into attention. By studying a number of Swedish bases for preservation planning, I have been able to conclude that there exists no equivalent basis as regards the model of analysis and the three levels of built environments in the Danish method. Through the SAVE-analysis the topographic and historic phenomena that are manifested in the cityscape are made clear. The method also offers a double perspective, where singular elements can be subordinated to the built environment context or evaluated independently of the surrounding environment. My conclusion is that SAVE better than the methods that exist in Sweden is able to define the characteristic and identificational traits of the environment that should be preserved, which is also confirmed by my modified application of SAVE in Kungälv, where the methodological approach without difficulty could be applied owing to the general construction of the analytic tools.

*Keywords:*

urban built environments, municipal planning, laws of preservation, Denmark, Sweden, method, SAVE, case studies, evaluation, analysis, mapping, evaluation process, preservational value, developed structures, buildings, citizen influence.