

HEREDITARY STRUCTURES OF INFLUENCE GENERATIONAL SUCCESSION AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF THE SWEDISH CIAM GROUP AND BEYOND

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Abstract

In 1952 the Swedish CIAM group hosted an interim meeting in Sigtuna, Sweden, in preparation for the ninth congress 1953 in Aix-en-Provence, France. The meeting has been identified as the first formal attempt to discuss what in the meeting agenda titled "The place of the younger generation in CIAM." The hosting Swedish CIAM group had gone through a deliberate rejuvenation with new younger members elected and added to the group. Although the new members were indeed younger and having new ideas, they seemed to have been strategically chosen among already identified pupils by the older members, securing a sort of hereditary power structure in the group. Swedish modernism had already in the 1940s gone through a reorientation of its avant-garde stages and many of the key protagonist had in fact rejected some of their own practices and ideas. The regeneration of the Swedish CIAM group was arguably related to the modifications of earlier practices and directions but possibly also linked to a larger degree of international exchange. The Swedish CIAM group accepted several distinguished foreign architects like Fred Forbat from Germany/Hungry, Ioannis Despotopolous from Greece, Emilio del Junco from Cuba, and Otto Danneskiold-Samsø from Denmark as full members. Such international exchanges were intensified in the post-CIAM years through more formal institutional and government cooperation and interchange. Despite the apparent reorientations of Swedish architecture in the 1940s, and for instance, obvious shifts in the 1960s, modernism is in the history of Swedish architecture conventionally described as one homogenous period from 1930 until the mid 1970s. This paper questions such simplified assumptions and analyzes continuities and changes in the actual content of discussions of Swedish CIAM and post-CIAM networks through the perspectives of generational and international exchange of architectural and planning knowledge and expertise.

Keywords: Regeneration, International Exchange, Transnational Knowledge, Organization, Historiography

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