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Has the architectural process of public buildings changed since the Romans?

By: Mai Brink Rasmussen, Rasmus Lund Jensen, Anna Marie Fisker

Great buildings have been built for centuries, but has the architectural process changed as much as society has during these years? This paper compares the Roman approach with the Danish approach to public buildings today. Can the historic Roman approach pass on values to the architectural process of today?

Through literary analysis the Roman architectural process will be illustrated and a graphical overview of the distinctive steps appears. Likewise, a graphical overview of the Danish architectural process will be produced by observations of a practical design phase of a building for Aalborg University, Denmark.

A comparison shows the similarities and the progression in the architectural process. It also gives the idea of how the involved actors are managed.

The question is now: Can this comparison create knowledge of how the Danish architectural process has changed since the Romans including the role of the involved actors? And if so, can this investigation give an idea of how to implement architectural and engineering quality in future, public buildings?