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Unloved Buildings

The Case for Transformation and Reuse as Architecture's Next Shift

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- A comprehensive examination of reuse and transformation in recent Western architectural culture that features case studies from Danish architecture and innovation firm 3XN GXN.
- Contributes to the cultivation of a method and a language paying much greater attention to late 20th-century buildings that fall outside traditional preservation efforts
- Outlines a new practice to understand how and by what means we can extend the lifespan of buildings
- Combines case studies, conversations with practitioners, and research findings
- In times of climate change, global instability, and massive urbanisation, reuse and transformation of existing buildings are of key importance

Many buildings from the late 20th century no longer meet today's cultural, economic, and technical requirements. Yet, in times of climate change, global instability, and massive urbanisation, we cannot afford to waste what has already been built. Many of these structures fall outside traditional preservation efforts—too new for historic reverence, too unfashionable for contemporary appreciation, and too problematic for straightforward renovation. In short: they are unloved.

Today, building new no longer represents progress. Being truly progressive in the 21st century means to tread as lightly as possible on the planet. Thus, retaining, reusing and transforming the built environment is becoming increasingly relevant to architects worldwide.

Unloved Buildings contributes an urgent discourse about the shifting role of architecture within society and inspires a design culture that exercises greater care for existing buildings on both social and material levels. Through four critical lenses—the cultural heritage of reuse, the environmental cost of building, the economic forces shaping our cities, and the design strategies that enable transformation—the book outlines why and how we can extend the lifespan of buildings.

Lasse Lind is a partner with the Danish-British consultancy firm 3XN GXN, where also **Kåre Stokholm Poulsgaard** is a partner and head of innovation. **Daniele Belleri** is a Helsinki-based editor and strategist working at the intersection of architecture and urbanism, geopolitics and technology. **Candela De Bortoli** is an architectural editor leading communications at 3XN GXN.

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