**Title**:

“Hybrid Imagination in Hospital Architecture”

**Author:**

Lars Botin, MA and PhD

Assistant Professor

**Affiliation**:

Department of Development and Planning

Aalborg University – Denmark

Vestre Havnepromenade 5, room 1.102

9000 Aalborg, Denmark

**Contact**: botin@plan.aau.dk

**Abstract – Hybrid Imagination in Hospital Architecture**

Hospital architecture and design is in many ways reflecting mindsets and trends of contemporary society, and this has shown quite evidently in the various historic waves in design of hospitals, like for instance the pavilion hospital in the 19th century and the modernist 20th century container-hospital. At the same time hospital architecture and design also seems to reflect the self-understanding of the institution, which on many occasions has placed the architect/designer in a submissive position in relation to the commissioner. What about the current wave in Western society in hospital building and architecture? How does the societal and cultural context influence design and innovation, and how do designers and architects deal with the self-understanding of the institution?

The paper will discuss from a historical and theoretical perspective the meaning of social and cultural context and the genealogy of self-understanding in relation to contemporary hospital design and architecture. The paper will also produce preliminary indications for appropriate design in relation to the integration of practices, needs, requirements and wishes that are embedded and embodied in the various actors and stakeholders that are part of the institutional set-up, i.e. architects, commissioners, medical staff, patients, relatives and citizens in general. It is the assumption that a ‘hybrid imagination’ is needed in order to meet the cultural and social context, and the institution as such.

**Keywords**: Hybrid imagination, hospital architecture, social and cultural context, genealogy and historicity.

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