

Treatises and Manuscripts: Ways of Mediation of Profane Architecture in the Baltic Sea Region during the Swedish Baroque and Rococo

My research proposal examines treatises and other publications on architecture (e.g. sample books) concerning the spread of new architectural forms and styles in the Baltic Sea Region. The focus of my research starts from the year 1650 onwards, when Sweden defended its political status as a European power at least until the decline after the Great Northern War (1700-1721). Also in cultural terms, new standards regarding the development and mediation of new and modern architecture were claimed. One of the leading Swedish architects at the beginning of the 18th century was the well traveled royal architect Nicodemus Tessin the Younger (1654-1728) with his masterpiece, the Royal Palace in Stockholm. Not only through his own visits to France and Italy but also with the help of his extensive and long-lasting contacts, he acquired a rich collection of books, manuscripts, drawings and prints on architecture, while crossing various political, geographical, cultural or mental borders.

This study intends further to have a closer look on transcultural networks and the relations among both architects and clients because it's speculated for instance that the building practices during that time were characterized by a new form of transboundary communication. Therefore one focus is on the influence of other European countries and artists as models and partners for cultural transfer actions. I intend to look on the processes of exchange and adoption until the 1770s both towards and within Scandinavia in different case studies. Some of the questions I want to answer at the end of my PhD research are: Which kind of European models are referred by both architects and clients? Catalogues, in which various books and engravings were registered, are interesting to look at answering this question. In what way were social interactions and migrations within the Baltic Sea Region crucial for the mediating of new art and latest fashion trends? My aim is to classify, analyse, and evaluate those publications with respect to planned or built architecture. I intend to edit this topic for the first time in a broad cultural, political, and historical context. Answering these questions I hope to explain similarities and typologies in connection with the historical background of different borderlands.