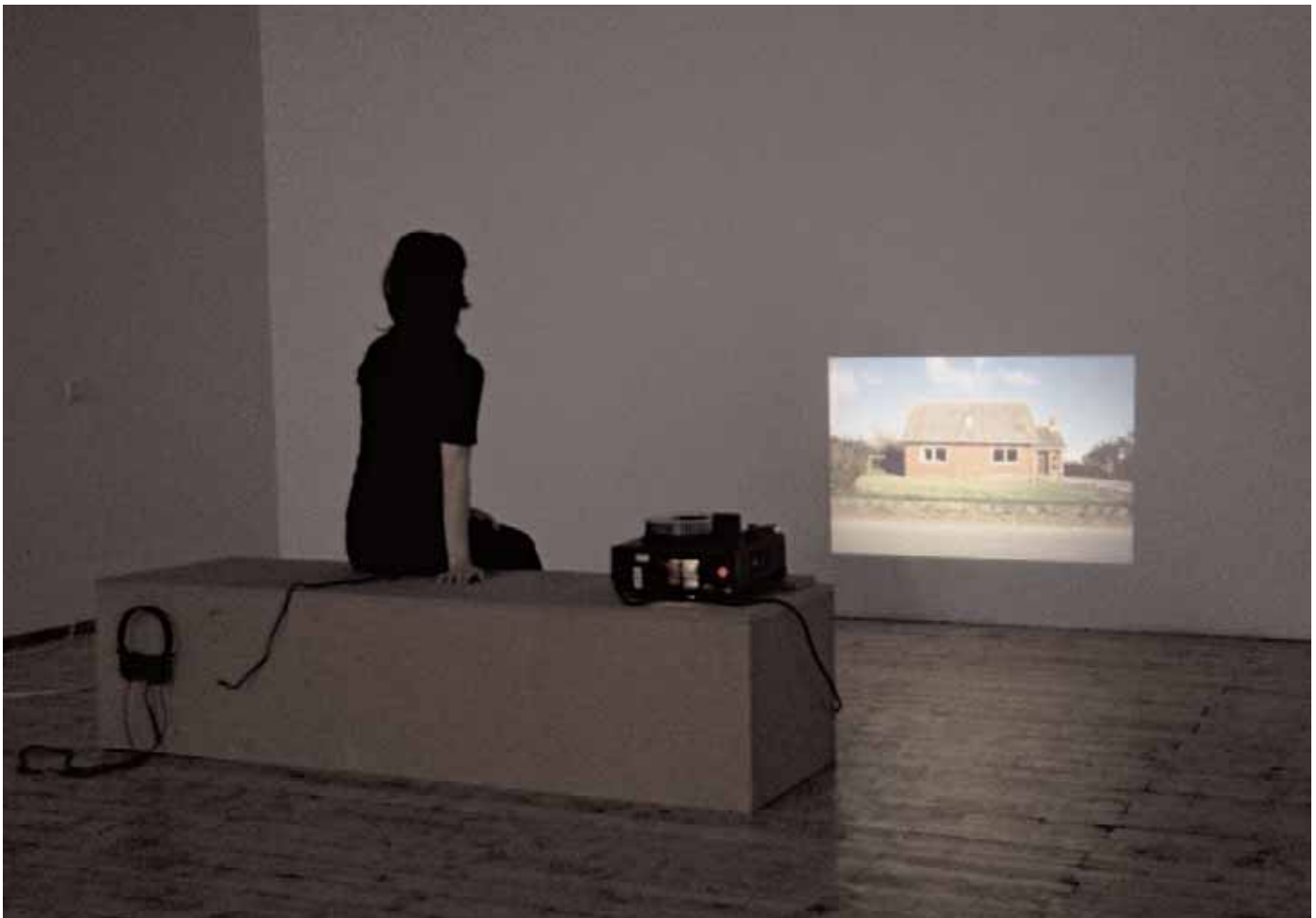


Village fig. 2/Counting the Parts

Sofie Thorsen 2001

“Village fig. 2/Counting the Parts” is a slide projection, consisting of 80 slides of the houses in an average Danish village and a sound track. The photos are taken frontally, showing the facade - how the house relates to the street and how the owners deal with the representation of the house towards the by passer. On the soundtrack, a female voice is speaking a statistic for the aesthetics of the village, or at least for the part which is visible from the public street. It counts and calculates how the houses address the street, what they are build of, how the windows look and whether they are more or less open towards the street.

80 slides, sound 17 min, English
text



Village fig. 2/Counting the Parts

Examples of images and extracts from text:

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6 buildings clearly have a commercial function such as retail or manufacturing.

10 appear as if they used to have some commercial function. They now face the street with empty display windows and bricked up doors.

8 two-storey houses in the village are among the previously commercial buildings, all with an empty shop on street level and an apartment on the first floor.

1 building, the pub can be classified as having a social function.

2 houses used to contain public institutions. These are the former post office and the former public school.

The latter has a huge colourful sign telling that it is now a private school. Or a free school. Like it has happened to so many other former public schools in small villages in Denmark during the last 15 years, the school has been closed by the county in order to centralize and improve education in the area. As a protest against this policy it has been bought by a group of parents in the community in order to keep a school in the village. It is now run privately in a collaboration between parents and teachers. It has less than 50 pupils.

1 building, the church, could be said to have a spiritual function today, as well as a social and partly even a public function.

1 abandoned building built by the evangelical community just after the turn of the century used to have a spiritual as well as a social function.

2 industrial buildings are still in use.

3 buildings obviously had some industrial function at some stage. One of these is the former cooperative dairy, which from the size of the buildings seems to have been one of the major enterprises in the village.

5 buildings, some typical farm buildings now surrounded by newer village houses and the former dairy used to have an agricultural function. Today most of the agricultural production is outside the village.

2 houses appear to still have an agricultural function today, judging by the machines and the farming equipment parked around the buildings.

.....

95 houses have a garden clearly used for recreational purposes, in many cases relatively open letting the bypasser look in.

67 houses do not have a garden that is visible from the street. But considering the fact that gardening is a popular leisure-time activity, it must be expected that there is one behind the house.

40 of the houses have frontgardens, with no obvious recreational purpose, merely meant to be something to look at between the house and the street.

27 of these are very well cared for, small lawns surrounded by trees and beds filled with roses and low flowering bushes. The rest of the frontgardens are simply lawns or once wellkept flowerbeds left untouched for years.

21 houses do not have an actual garden in front, but have little beds with roses and other small bushes at the point where the wall meets the ground, as to soften the transition from house to street.

13 of the houses that have neither gardens nor flowerbeds in the front, are decorated with flowerpots next to the door.

30 of the houses in the village, excluding commercial and industrial buildings, do not have any botanical decoration at all.

30 houses have a visible rosebed. Roses in different colours, and pine trees in variable sizes seem to be the favored decorative plants.

17 houses have a pine tree planted in front of the house. For some reason this is mostly popular in front of the smaller red brick houses build in the fifties and sixties.

58 of the houses can be described as very well kept .

66 as well kept.

38 houses can be said to be poorly kept and in some state of disorder. A certain importance is given to a well maintained garden and house front

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