

## Village fig. 9/ The Golden Castle that hung in the Air

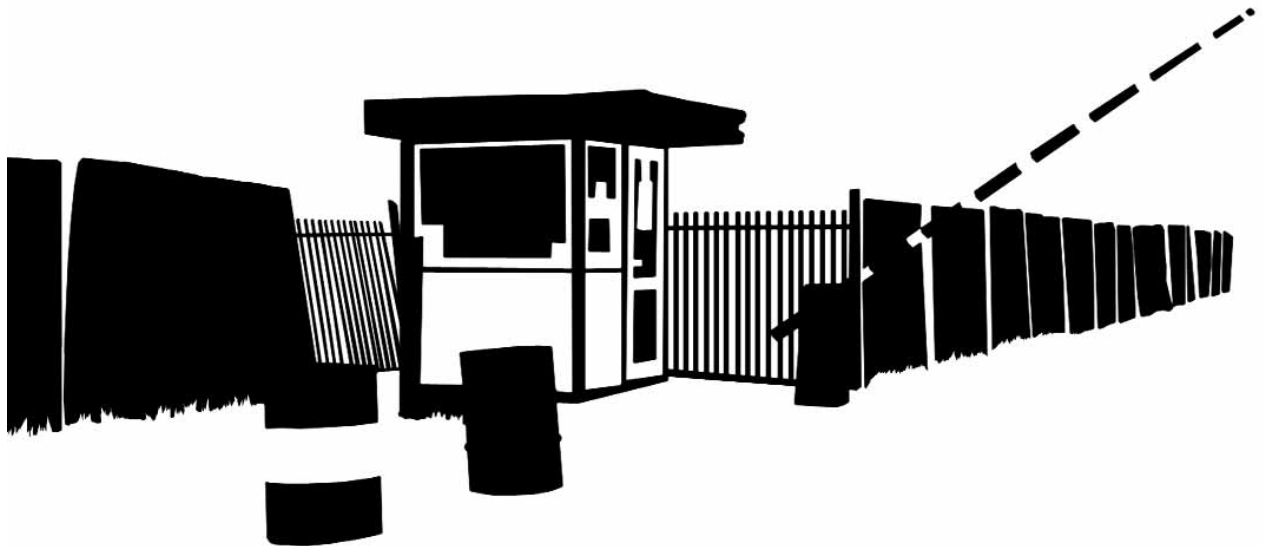
Sofie Thorsen 2005

*Village fig. 9/ The Golden Castle that hung in the Air* deals with the growth of private, protected communities within and around the city of Warsaw. These are residential areas managed by a private company, protected by a wall or a fence and most important - a guard at the gate watching over who enters and leaves.

The piece consists of a double slide projection and a video. The slide projection presents a visual catalogue of the architectural elements that constitutes the gated community, it shows the gate, the fence, the surveillance techniques, the guards house etc. Parallel to the images text slides presents a number of dialogues between fictitious individuals. They have no names, but are presented by their functions in the construct of the gated community, as inhabitant, guard, guest, manager and the artist asking the questions. They are models before they are persons. With these schematic images and persons, the slide projection discusses the construct and the functions of the gated community. The slides are bilingual, in polish and english.

The video shows a fixed image of a snowy landscape and a gated settlement in it, obviously on the edge of the city. A male voice is telling excerpts of the norwegian fairy-tale *The Golden Castle that Hung in the Air*, which also serves as the title. The excerpts recount the hero's repeated attempts to enter and reach the riches of different castles, passing by dragons and monsters.

The piece also includes a series of drawings based on the images, these aswell as the texts are produced as prints and were partially presented in a publikation.





The prints at GfzK , Leipzig



The installation in the space of gallery raster in Warsaw





*"They journeyed far, and farther than far, before they arrived at the castle, but when they got there, it was both large and splendid, and everything they saw was made of silver. And outside the gate lay the dragons blocking the way so that no one could get in. But it had been quiet and peaceful, and they hadn't been disturbed with much during their watch, for they were so overgrown with moss that no one could see what they were made of, and alongside them a small forest had started growing between the mounds of moss. The boy woke the smallest of them, and it started rubbing its eyes and picking off the moss. When at last the dragon saw that there were folk there, it came towards him with its jaws open wide, but the boy was ready, and tossed ox carcasses and threw pigs down its gullet, until it had eaten its fill and had become a little more reasonable to talk to."*