

**Curio[city]
The Trans Glocal City**

**Panel-debate at Rooseum, Malmoe.
13. January 2003**

notes © CoMa



Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to discuss the city.

CoMa is a series of research projects about the new multicultural network society and the emerging urban regions. Our starting point is that the city doesn't exist anymore.

It exists - off course - for the administration and the tourist industry. But for us - the so-called citizens - it is more like a thing of the past.

By city we mean a somehow coherent and defined entity. And looking at the map on the wall, the city of Malmoe looks in fact just like that, as it sits there surrounded on all sides by seemingly rural areas. But is that how we experience it?

We may choose to live in rural areas but we may still live a very urban life.

We do not constitute a homogenous mass and we are not single individuals either. We tend to organise ourselves in groups. We are part of a group forming a local sub-culture ... that is properly also global.

The city is not ours! The neighbourhood is maybe ours ... and maybe the world is too. Thus, we belong to something smaller than the city at the same time as we belong to something bigger. It is in this sense we understand the title of this seminar: The Trans Glocal ... but without the city. The local is global and vice versa ... and there is no need for something in-between.

The industrial metropolis has become an urban region. It is an open-ended structure with an infinite number of internal boundaries, that corresponds with the new multicultural network society. This is a rather heterogenous type of society, consisting of tribes and ghettos ... groups of people sharing the same lifestyle, social or ethnic background.

It is the ability to communicate instantaneously over long distances, which enables the formation of tribes and ghettos. You may have nothing in common with your neighbour, but through networking you may still be part of a neighbourhood ... of like-minded people.

How to deal with this new situation. For us, as planners, two issues are becoming increasingly important: 1) the flows ... how to facilitate, handle and make use of flows. 2) the zones of conflict where the interests of different groups of people intersect ... how to support and exploit diversity.

