

A Scientific Article or an Academic Essay?

NAF/NAAR has two different templates for reviewing scientific articles and academic essays, respectively. They were first published on the association's website in 2019.

NAF/NAAR's decision to publish two separate review templates arose from experiencing the different publishing traditions in different Nordic countries, with differences in types of argumentation and verification, writing styles, and a varying use of concepts in architectural research. The point is, however, that peer-reviewed articles and essays have the same scientific standard and quality in this academic context. They just represent different research traditions of knowledge production.

Academic essays are typically used for presenting and discussing research in the humanities: whether architectural history, aesthetics, design, or related subjects taught at universities. Articles, on the other hand, are the norm for communicating research in social science and technology, whether about building design, urban planning, or landscape architecture. Such contributions thus usually follow in a specific technological tradition.

Behind Nordic schools of architecture, there are consequently typically two very different principles for communicating research based on their respective academic belonging. In Denmark and Norway, schools of architecture are part of universities and their humanistic tradition. In Sweden and Finland, schools of architecture were established at institutions of technology. In both cases, schools of architecture strive to bridge the gap, in both education and research, between artistic sensibility and demands for scientific methodology.

In order to handle manuscripts – whether essays or articles – on equal terms based on their respective research tradition, the journal *NJAR* and the publishing house Nordic Academic Press of Architectural Research correspondingly apply two different templates for peer review. This is intended to align the review questions with the type of text submitted, while maintaining the same quality expectations with respect to the peer review process across all submissions.