

An aerial photograph of a large building under construction. The roof is covered in solar panels, with two skylights visible. A section of the roof is under construction, showing wooden framing and a green roof area. The building has several windows, some of which are blue-tinted. The surrounding area includes a gravel parking lot and a paved walkway.

**COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS  
2019-2020**



CHRISTENSEN & CO



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*Cover: Front: Linneaus University seen from above. We've created the university building complex for a multi-disciplinary campus community. The solar panels supply the buildings with green energy, and they were in use during the construction phase. The buildings holds green roofs that provide shelter for bees and hold local plant species, thus supporting biodiversity in the area. Back: Learning stairs in an open social environment fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.*

Client: Svea Fastigheter, Sweden

Area: 22.000 m<sup>2</sup>

Year: 2018

Location: Kalmar, Sweden

Photos: Front Skanska, Back: Niels Nygaard



## **Executive Statement of Commitment for 2020**

**We are pleased to confirm our ongoing commitment and support to UN Global Compact and the 10 principles covering the issue areas; human rights, labour, environment and anticorruption. In this Communication on Progress report, we express our support for the principles, which are part of the core values of Christensen & Co. Architects.**

During 2019-2020 we have further developed our strategic focus on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both in our projects and as an architectural practice with an office of around 50 employees. To ensure a holistic approach to our CSR-activities we have conducted two workshops focused on the SDGs:

- A workshop on how we address the SDGs in our projects
- A workshop on how our office and business operations impact the SDGs.

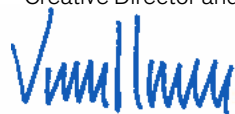
As a result, of the two workshops we have strengthened our focus on documentation. Thus, in this report we define actions to be taken for the coming three years. We will measure our CSR-activities according to these. Our action plan is divided into actions that needs to be put into action during 2021, 2022 and 2023. In addition, we are including our first preliminary accounting on CO2 emissions. We have decided to conduct the accounting our selves as this provides us with the best insight into how we can prioritize actions. However, this also means that for this first year, we are only including the major items in our accounting covering emissions under scope 1,2 and 3, but not all listed under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

As a continued effort, we use our SDG screening tool for identifying sustainable solutions in our projects. As an added dimension, we are focusing on both positive and negative impacts of our projects, thus identifying possibilities for mitigating negative impacts as well as strengthening positive influence (the method can be seen under our materiality assessment). We will continue to asses and select solutions that address the SDGs throughout the phases of each projects. From the early stages of setting the team to the evaluation of the suppliers, we continue to carefully select potential collaborators in order to ensure Human rights, Labour rights, Environment and Anti-Corruption standards are upheld, during 2019-2020 this means that 60 out of 61 requests for proposal includes an anti-corruption agreement (ESPD). We continue our work wit CSR through our membership in the Danish Association for Responsible Construction and commitment to the CSR charter for the Danish Building Industry and we urged collaborators to work with issues related to the SDGs as well as the CSR charter.

Copenhagen, 2020



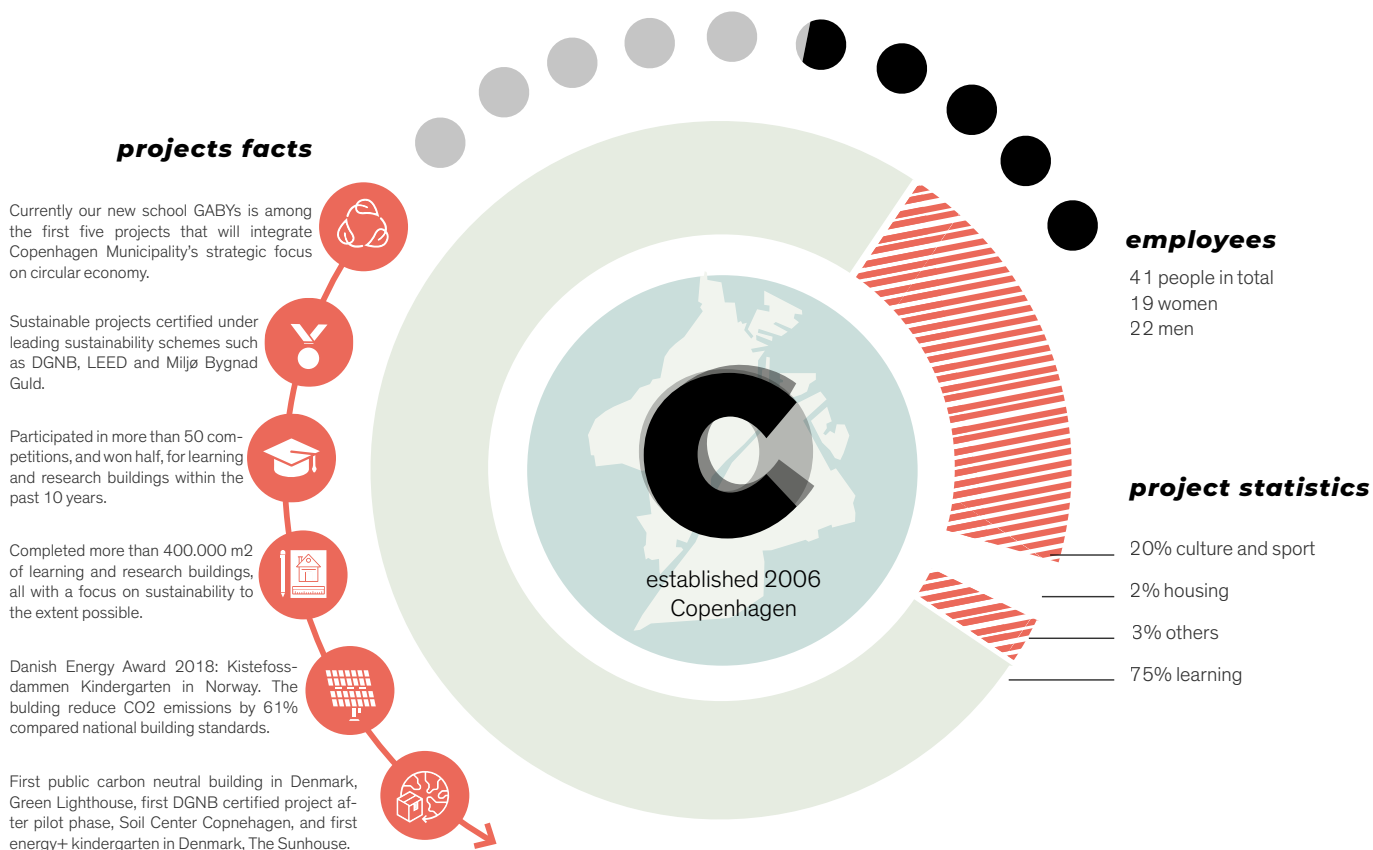
Michael Christensen,  
Creative Director and founder Christensen & Co Architects



Vibeke L. Lindblad,  
CEO and partner at Christensen & Co Architects



## Christensen & Co Architects



At Christensen & Co Architects, every single project is an opportunity to realise a unique architectural potential. We believe architecture makes a difference, and that architects with intention, empathy and thoroughness can create buildings that can actively change people's lives. Consequently, we build social environments in close collaboration with the people who populate our buildings and our architecture is always focused on creating synergy and strengthening social interaction.

To us, sustainability is about creating beautiful architecture with progressive, innovative energy solutions that ensure long-lasting quality of life for people and the environment. This means that our buildings, both in terms of their aesthetics, social ambition, materials, and technology are made to last. We ensure high architectural quality, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our designs.



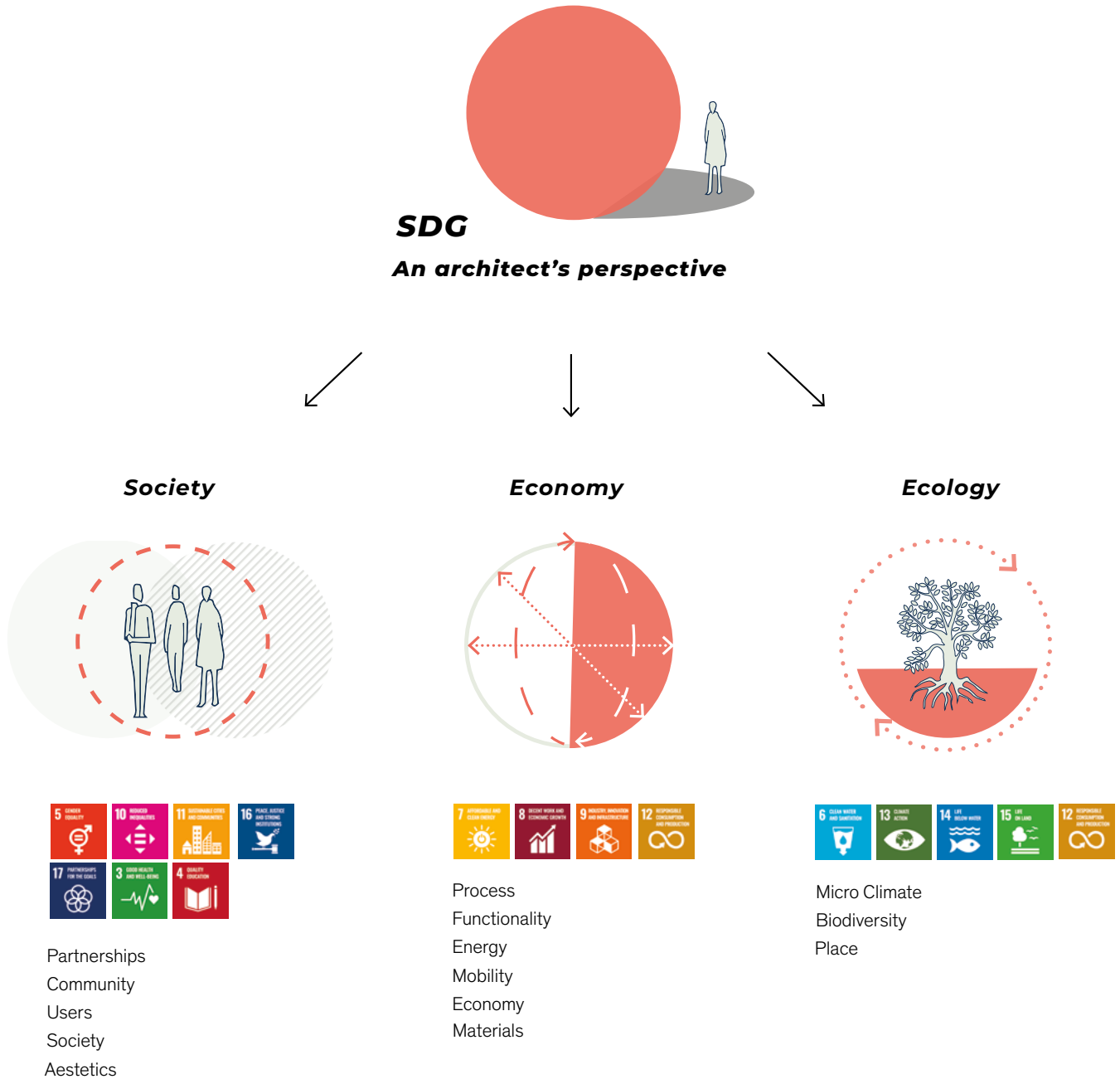
## Our commitment to the 10 UN Global Compact Principles



Christensen and Co. Architects continue to commit to the 10 principles of UN Global Compact defined under the four areas human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. We do this as described below and specifically we uphold our standards by committing to The Danish Association for Responsible Construction's CSR Charter.

To us, the SDGs are an added layer to our work with the 10 principles of Global Compact. We use the SDGs as a tool for driving innovation, select projects and create brand value while ensuring license to operate for Christensen & Co Architects. Since 2006 we have worked with sustainable solutions that ensure long lasting quality of life for people and the environment.

## How we work with the SDGs



### Vision

We use the Sustainable Development Goals as a communicative and strategic tool to create architectural quality in all our projects.

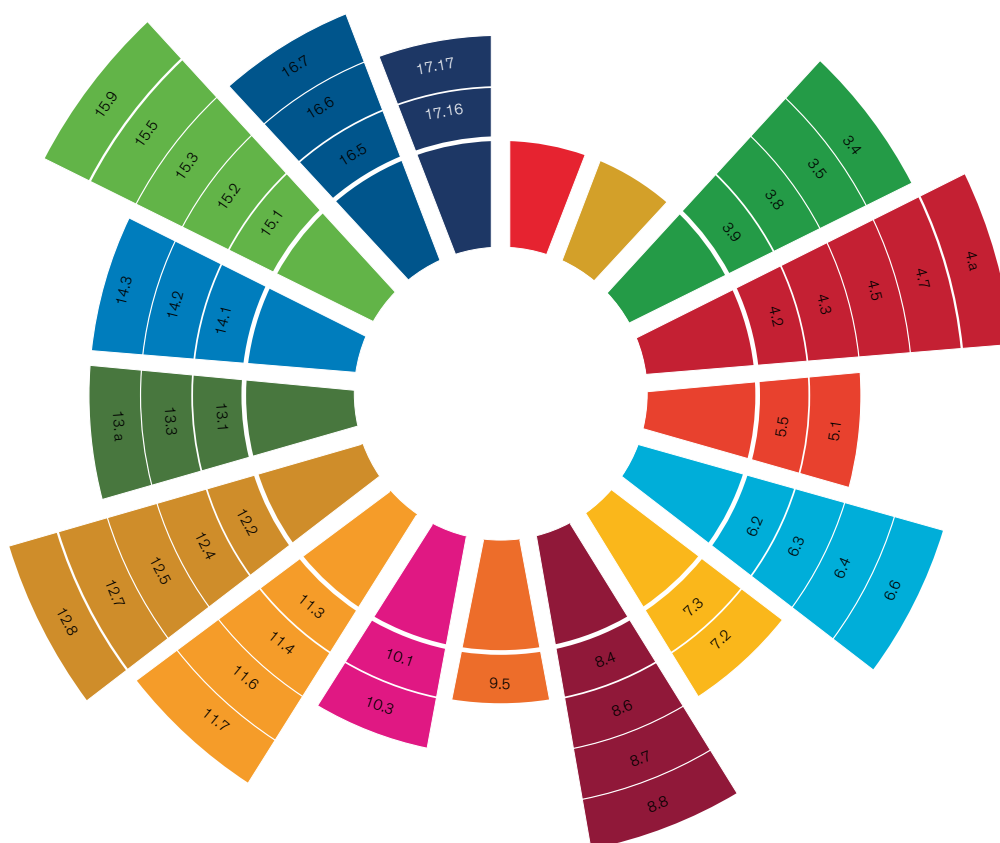
### Mission

We work with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as the framework was intended. In addition, we have a strategic aim of always addressing SDG 4: Quality Education - target 4.a, as designing learning environments is one of our key

### Approach

We screen all new projects systematically, mapping out the potential for contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals in each project. We apply qualitative methodologies supported by data to show the value that architecture creates. We select target goals and related facilitating goals, to clearly document how working with one goal sets off a domino effect activating several other goals in the overall framework. For each phase, we evaluate opportunities / ambitions / needs, applying relevant tools such as LCC and LCA.

## Our work with the SDGs in projects 2019-2020



*This diagram shows identified potentials not realized solutions. In future reports we will show two measurements; one for potentials, one for solutions. Currently we are conducting screenings of all new projects. Based on our materiality assesment methodology (see more page 11), we identify specific positive potentials and negative impacts for each project.*

During 2019-2020 we have conducted 6 full SDG screenings out of 15 completion, and all 15 projects include a focus on the SDGs. As we are continuing to elaborate on our methodology, only 6 are fully screened we expect to have all new projects screened in 2020-2021. In total, our screenings identify solutions for 49 out of the 169 targets for the 17 SDGs. We have suggested solutions for 15 out 17 SDGs. In our screenings we assesses both positive and negative impacts.

For each phase of a project we re-evaluate our initial priorities in collaboration with our clients and team, thus ending up with a materiality assesment with a specific focus and defined indicators to evaluate from. In 2019-20 our full screenings include the new School GABYs at Nørrebro, laboratory research facility B112 at Technical University Denmark, NOL nuclear storage and the competition for Søborg School in Gladsaxe.





***We have designed Stejlepladsen Masterplan so that the architecture supports diversity. The project includes communal spaces and dwellings for both shared and public housing. Different types of dwellings ensure living spaces for an array of family constellations. Housing options support a vibrant local community for senior citizens and students.***

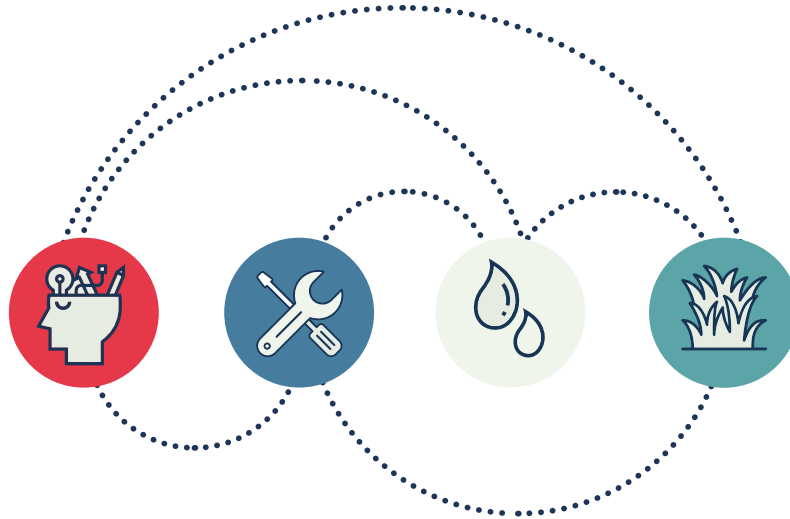
Client: Copenhagen City & Harbour Authorities,  
Area: 72.000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2021  
Location: Copenhagen, Denmark







## Workshops and materiality assessment



*The workshop was specifically designed to explore all the sustainable solutions that we already work with an identify areas of sustainability in architecture that we wish to strengthen.*

### Workshop on integrating the SDGs in our architecture

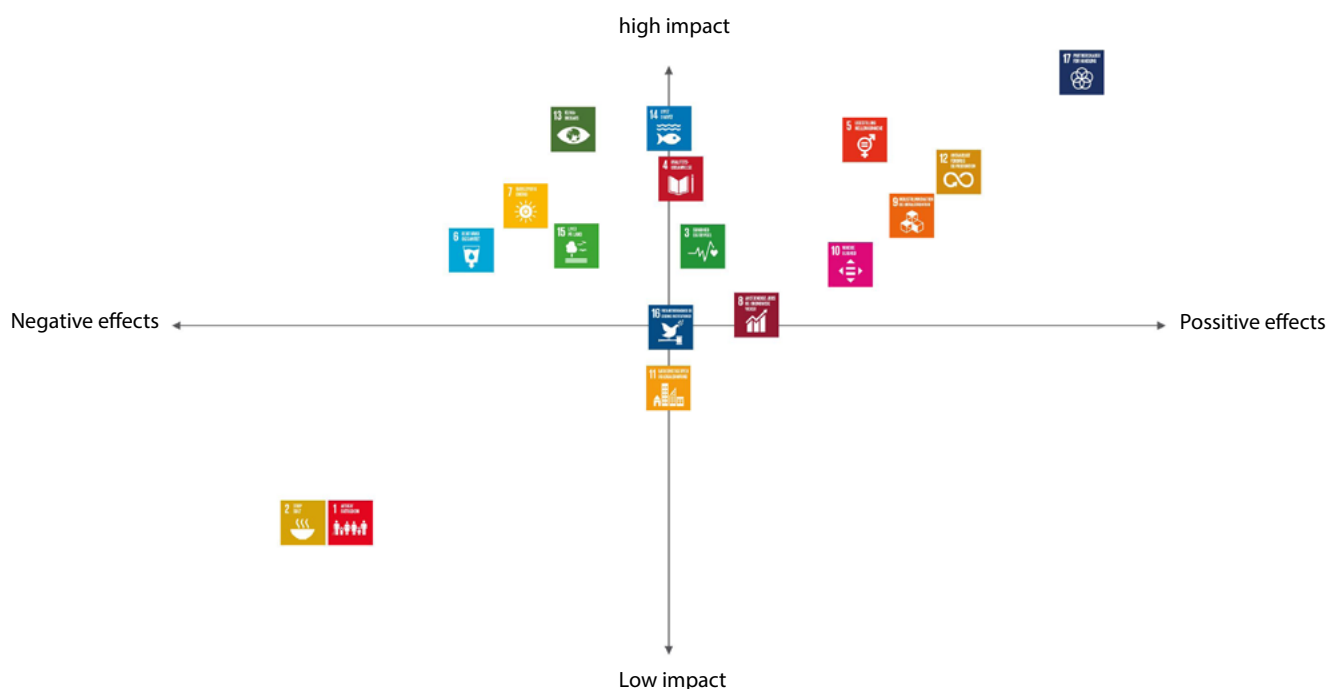
On 24 January 2020 we held a workshop on how to incorporate the SDGs into our projects. During the three hour workshop we discussed how our work is relation to the SDGs both in terms of our different professions, the different phases of a building project and how our clients ambitions play an important role in our possibilities.

The workshop was specifically designed to explore all the sustainable solutions that we already work with an identify areas of sustainability in architecture that we wish to strengthen.

Thus, at the workshop, we collected concrete experiences, mapped out possible actions related to the different phases of a building project, from competition proposal to finalized project.

The result of the workshop is a catalogue for inspiration on how to work with the SDGs according to building phase. We see the value of continuing our collective work to define a vocabulary and scope for our work with sustainability. Our focus provides us insight into relevant methodologies (eg energy cuts, materials, screening tools etc.). And it also help us define focal areas for staff trainings, developing specific skills on sustainable architecture.





Our Materiality Assessment maps positive and negative impacts. During a workshop four individual groups assessed impacts at target levels on the SDGs. The individual conclusions were discussed and combined in a joint materiality assessment for all the SDGs.



The materiality assessment were moderated by Carve Consulting. Four groups discussed impacts related to employees, office operations, collaborators and studio activities. The results were combined in a joint materiality assessment.

### Workshop on Materiality assessment

On 6 March, our entire studio held a workshop on how our daily operations impact the SDGs, both in terms of positive and negative impacts. The workshop's focus on our environmental, social and economic impacts are closely linked to our practices focus on life long learning, decent employment and transparent decision making.

At the workshop we assessed our own activities, divided into actions related to staff, office operations and collaborators - not on project results. The workshop started by defining the scope of the assessment and an introducing on how our CSR activities are linked to the SDGs. We continued by going through the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets, specifically focusing on the crosscutting goals 5: Gender equality and 17: Partnerships, and finally reviewing how to go through the five steps of the working methodology recommended in the SDG Compass.

The materiality assessment included two sessions. First session, four groups, assessed which targets were relevant to our practice. The groups identified relevant actions that could be implemented. SDG 17 were integrated into discussions on all the other goals. The result of the assesment were presented to our management at a meeting held in late april. Here the partner group decided on the following focus areas for the coming years (see action plan p. 18):

- An employment policy with specific KPIs on diversity
- A procurement policy with KPIs on sustainability
- Mapping of CO2 emissions related to our business
- A code of conduct on the UN SDGs for business partnerships

We chose to have Carve Consulting moderate the workshop. Having an external moderator helped us avoid blind spots in our own practice and introduced new perspectives on our profession.



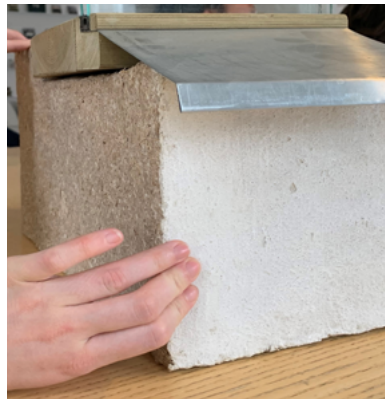
## Staff: circular economy and materials



Professor Anne Beim presented Center for Industrial Design's work with circular economy in architecture.



The materials pyramid is developed by Pelle Much Petersen as part of his PhD



The presentation included three architecture students' experimental roof pipe material, which is the result of their work with circular materials.



At, Christensen & Co we see staff trainings as an inherent part of DNA. All employees have written trainings and education into their contracts. To define relevant education and training we have an education committee comprised of all the different professions employed at the studio. Each year the committee define a topic, plan lectures and give input to management on relevant external trainings.

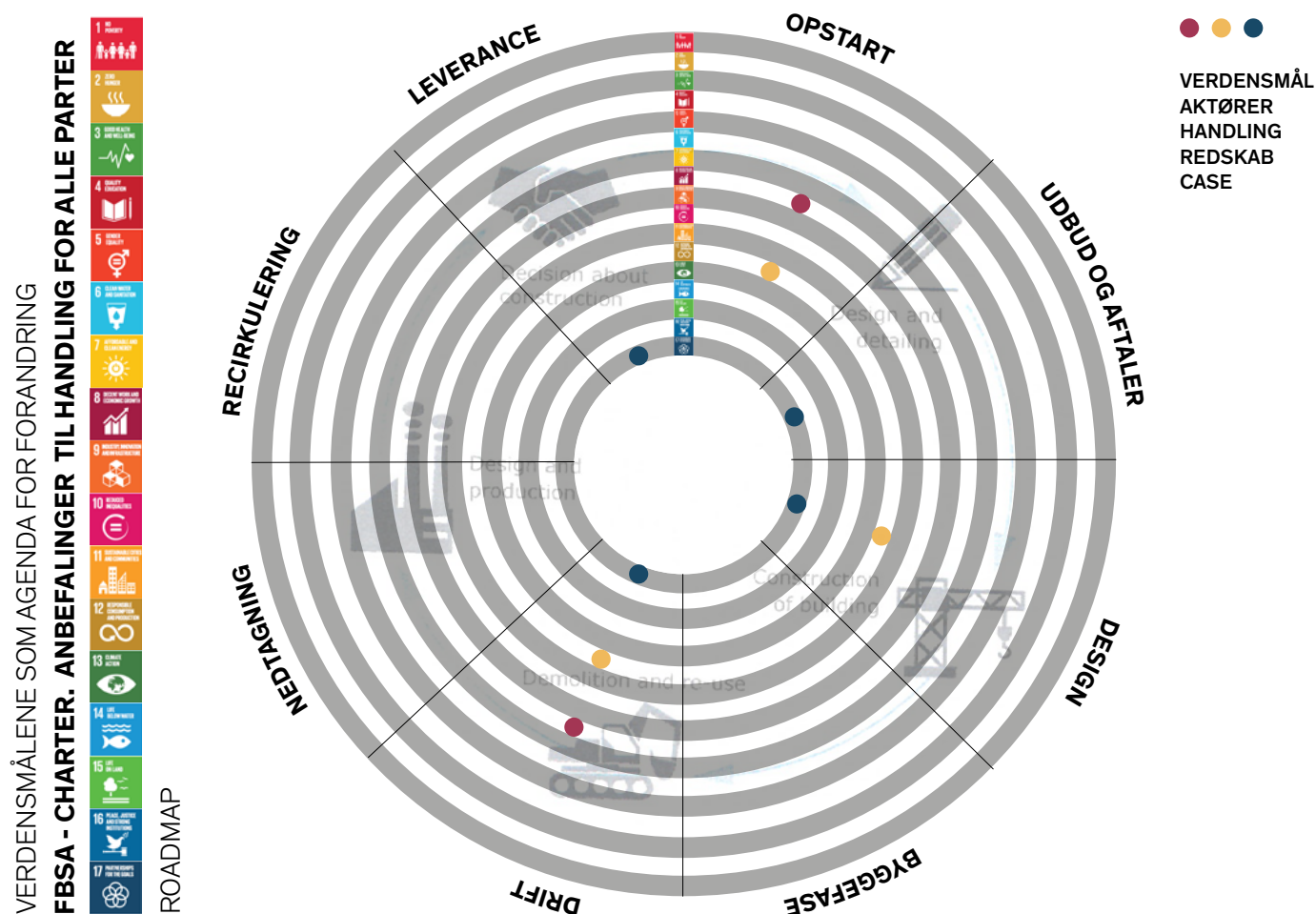
During 2019-2020 we have had a specific focus on circular economy and we have had presentations by various experts on how to work with circular economy in architecture. Among these presentations were PHD Pelle Much Petersen and Professor Anne Beim, from the Center for Industrialized Design (CINARK) at institute at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. Their presentations focused on how to select materials with a focus on the relationship between to performance, dimensions and CO<sub>2</sub>

emissions for production.

One result of our focus on circular economy is our work with incorporating LCA (Life Cycle Analysis) calculations early on in our projects. These calculations present scenarios for how a building's carbon footprint can be reduced. One example is our ongoing project Building B 1 12 at DTU, where analysis of materials has lead to the current project proposal. The project is screened for solutions within the SDG framework and it is part of the test phase for DGNB diamond certification. The certification holds a specific focus on architectural quality as a driver for sustainability. Additionally, we explore possibilities for reusing materials, which adheres to circular principles for materials. Currently, we are developing Stejlepladsen Masterplan (page 8) the new School Gabys at Nørrebro (page 16). Both projects hold specific solutions for how to incorporate circular principles in architecture.



## Collaboration: SDGs in the building industry



The road map for how to integrate the 17 SDGs into building processes are developed The Danish Association for Responsible Construction's CSR Charter. As the road map only exist in Danish as it is designed for the Danish building industry.

We continue to push for crosscutting collaborations that strengthens architects' voice in the debate on sustainable change in the building industry. We recognize that some sustainable changes cannot be made through our own effort on projects. Thus, We see the need for cross sectoral and broader sector initiatives to reach the goals set under the SDG agenda and in the Paris Agreement. Therefore we contribute to sector specific activities in associations.

### Consultation on national indicators for the SDGs

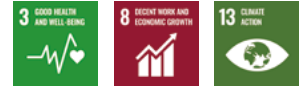
During 2019-2020 our focus has specifically been on increased awareness on documentation of architectures contribution to UN SDGs. To ensure this focus in a national context we have given input to the Danish hearing on national indicators for the 169 targets for SDGs. The input for the consultation was compiled by the Association for Danish Architectural Firms.

### Driving sustainability in the construction industry

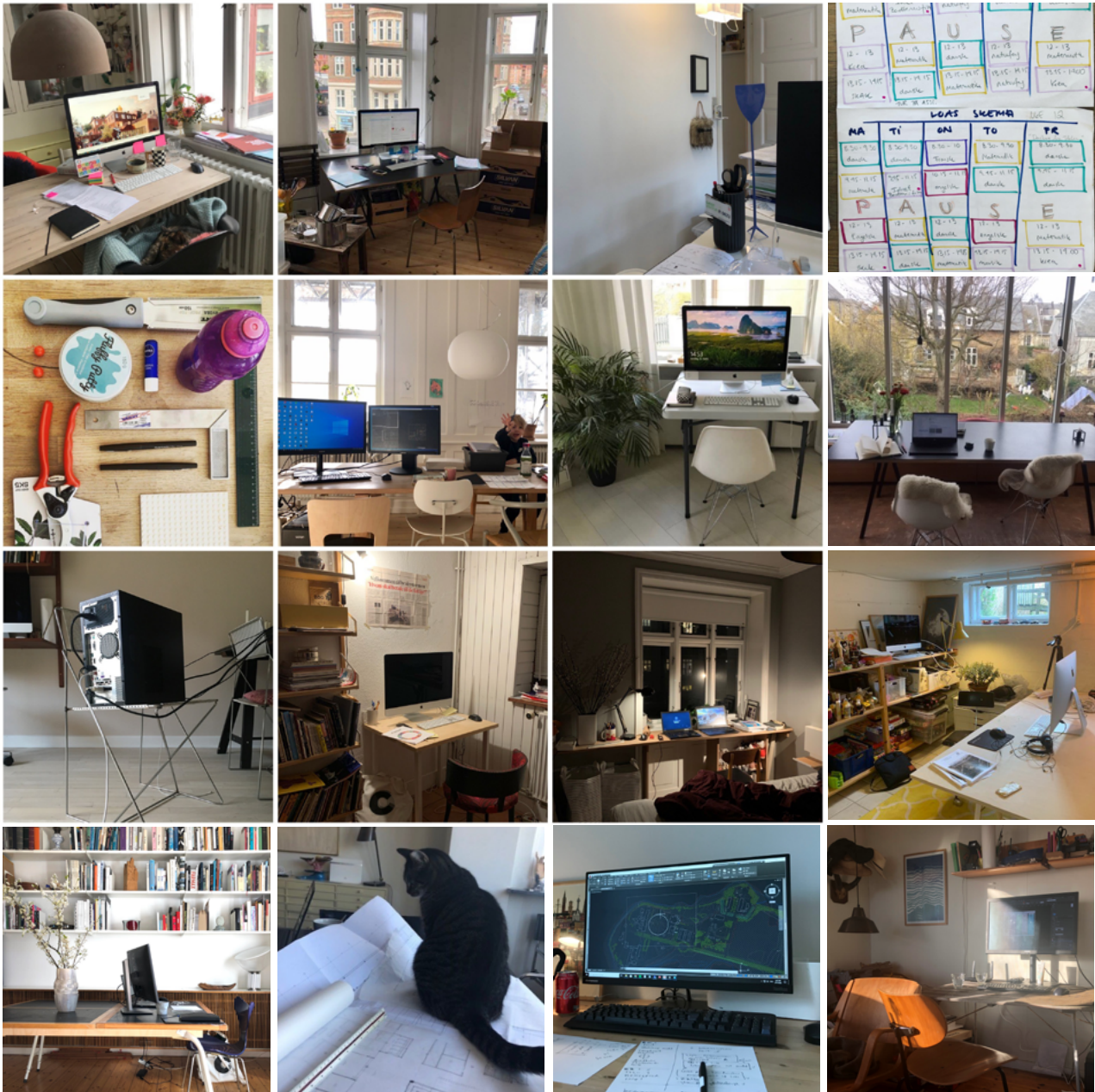
Our CEO, Vibeke Lindblad, continues her board membership at the Danish Association for Responsible Construction and she has been co-authoring 3 opinion pieces on diversity and gender equality during the last year. The association has also established a working group on integrating the SDGs in building process. Christensen & Co Architects is represented by Trine Ivarsen in this working group.

During 2019-2020 the working Group has developed a road map for collaborations in construction incorporating the SDGs (see above). Trine Ivarsen, has been a key stakeholder in developing and designing the road map.





## Office: Learning from corona lock-down



On 11 March 2020 Denmark's Prime minister sent a large proportion of Danish public employees home. subsequently the management at Christensen & Co Architect decided to do the same. 13 March the home work stations were established and the first of seven briefings from management were sent out to all.

The result was a crash course in online collaboration and team work. During the period it became clear that working from home presented both challenges and opportunities. For one we experience a new focus during online meetings, and employees reported that working from home could in some instances increase productivity.

To ensure having a meaningful mapping of experiences we have conducted interviews and questionnaires with the entire office and the end result will be a best practices manual for our studio's online meetings. The reason for this being two fold:

- We see a great opportunity to minimize on CO2 emissions related to commute (scope 1 and 3)
- Optimizing work flow for employees. Thus reducing stress and increasing a good work-life balance.





## Office: Reducing CO2 emission



Visuals and photos courtesy of SustainSolutions.

We take reducing CO2 emissions seriously, and we are pleased to report that during 2019-2020 we have had solar panels mounted on our roof. The solar panels are part of an overall retrofitting of our offices and they are financed by our administrator.

The solar cells will produce 120,000 kWh per year, which corresponds to the electricity consumption in a residential area with 25 detached houses. This sums up to saving 40t CO2 per.

The solar panels were activated in May 2020, and we expect to see their contribution to our electricity consumption in next year's documentation of CO2 emissions.

SustainSolutions has mounted the solar cells. They cover 2,649 m<sup>2</sup> property, which house our studio, in Bragesgade 10 at Nørrebro in Copenhagen.





***For the new School at Nørrebro, called GABYS, we have developed a strategy for circular use of materials. The strategy specifically focus on reducing CO2 emssions and raw materials.***

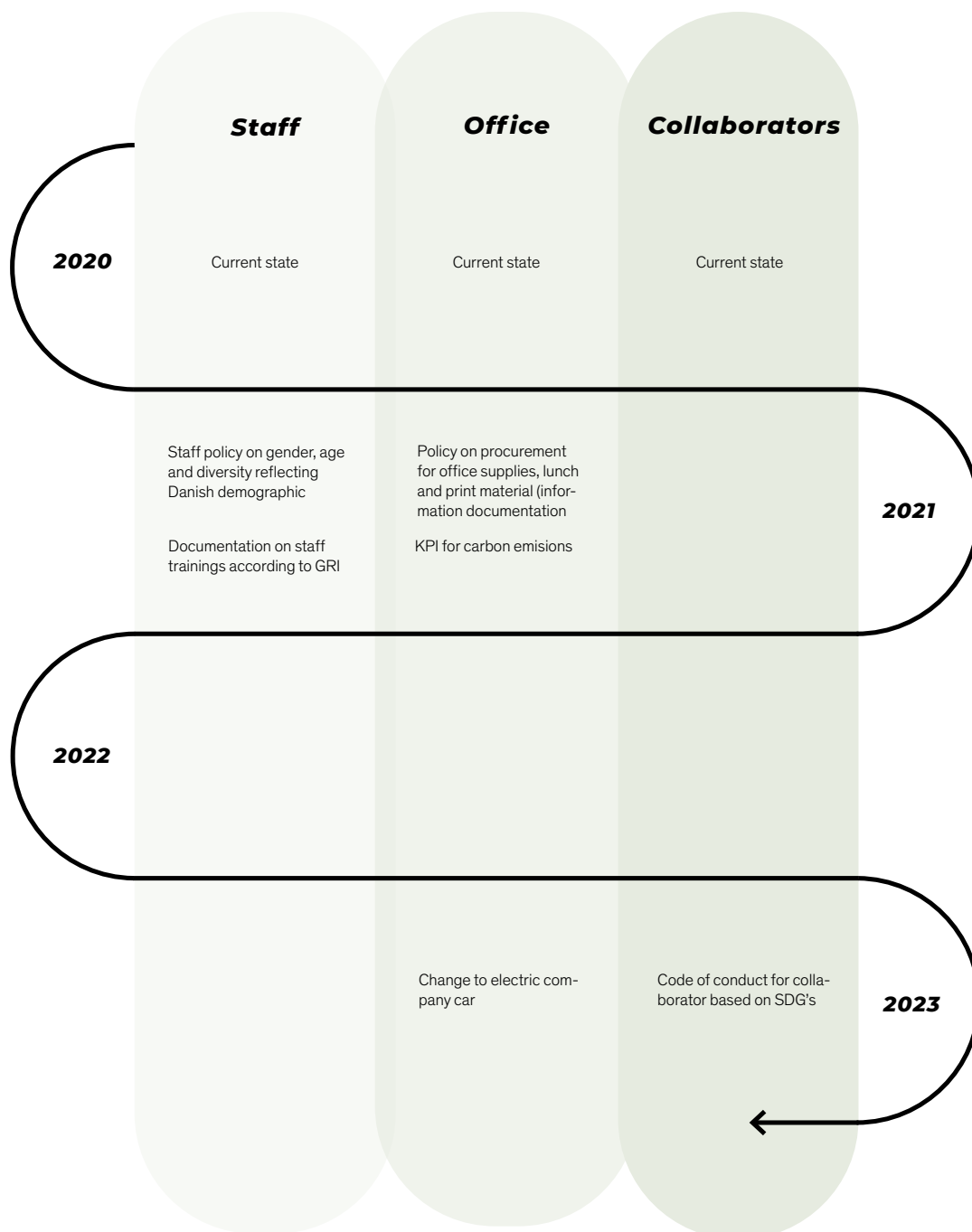
Client: Municipality of Copenhagen  
Area: 10.200 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2023  
Location: Copenhagen, Denmark





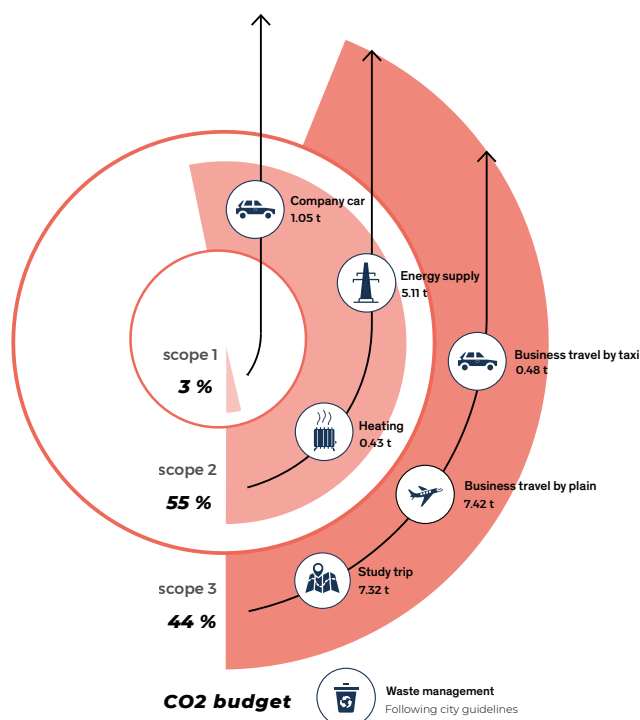


## Action plan for CSR 2020-2023



As a result of the materiality assessment, the partner group at Christensen & Co. Architects has decided on the following actions during 2020-2023. The action plan should be seen as a preliminary plan, not an exhaustive list of activities for the coming three years. This means additional relevant Key Performance Indicators might be added but none will be removed.

## Documentation



STAFF	SDGs	Standard	Number	%	KPI
<b>GENDER DIVERSITY</b>					Policy TBC 2021
Total women	5	GRI 102-8	19		-
Total men	5	GRI 102-8	22		-
Women partner	5	GRI 405-1	1		-
Men partner	5	GRI 405-1	4		-
Women board	5	GRI 405-1	1		-
Men board	5	GRI 405-1	3		-
<b>AGE ALL STAFF INCLUDING PARTNERS</b>					Policy TBC 2021
< 30	5, 10	GRI 405-1	10		-
30-50	5, 10	GRI 405-1	23		-
50 <	5, 10	GRI 405-1	8		-
<b>PARENTAL LEAVE</b>					Policy TBC 2021
Men	5	GRI 401-3	2		-
Women	5	GRI 401-3	0		-
<b>INTERNSHIP</b>					Policy TBC 2021
Women	4, 5, 8	GRI 102-8	2		-
Men	4, 5, 8	GRI 102-8	2		-

OFFICE OPERATIONS	SDGs	Standard	CO2 emission (tCO2)	KPI
<b>SCOPE 1 (transportation)</b>				KPI TBC 2021
Company car	13	GRI 305-1	1.09	
<b>SCOPE 2 (utility)</b>				KPI TBC 2021
Energy supply	7	GRI 305-2	5.11	
Heating	7	GRI 305-2	13.4	
<b>SCOPE 3</b>				KPI TBC 2021
Business travel by taxi	13	GRI 305-3	0.48	
Business travel by plain	13	GRI 305-3	7.42	
Study trip	13	GRI 305-3	7.32	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	12	GRI 306-2	-	Following city guidelines
PROCUREMENT	1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15	-	-	Policy TBC 2021
<b>Total</b>			<b>34.8</b>	

All numbers are for 30/6-2019-23/06-2020

The emissions are calculated from estimates not a correct amount of kWh used as this factor was not available through our administration\*



