

# UN GLOBAL COMPACT COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS

OCTOBER 2011



WE SUPPORT

# COMPANY DESCRIPTION



## CEBRAlogy

CEBRA is a Danish architectural office, based in Aarhus. The office was founded in 2000 by architects Mikkel Frost, Carsten Primdahl and Kolja Nielsen and has currently 30 employees. CEBRA has clients throughout Denmark and is experiencing a growing interest in the office's work from abroad.

We deal with all scales of architecture and we design almost anything, focusing on much more than just the project's size. We have dealt with many types of projects - from industrial design to urban planning. We have designed housing, schools and master plans. We believe that both a residential building and an airport can revolutionize architecture, as well as they both can be totally meaningless. The key for us is the design concept and the forms it generates.

### Approach

At CEBRA we believe in a holistic, sustainable approach to architecture. We insist on thinking all our projects within a sustainable context. Essentially, sustainable development is about establishing the conditions for 'the good life' for all of us – meeting the demands of the present without compromising the opportunities of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore, we work with complete solutions which take environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability into account.

Our goal is to challenge the world we and our architecture live in. Our ambition is to liberate the humanist idea in Danish architecture – from the classical ideal of creating beautiful design towards the question on

how to involve the house's residents, the children at school, the library's users, etc. Not only do we create beautiful architecture - we design the framework for the life within it.

As architects and designers, we play a central role as the discipline that interprets both official and unofficial intentions and objectives for the physical structures - objects, buildings and cities that define our lives and create the framework for the way we live. We are broadly committed to take an active part in communicating and meeting future challenges. In these years, we have a unique opportunity to steer the development of our global society in a sustainable direction - by being both progressive and philanthropic. Sustainability is, in our view, the most significant paradigm shift in architecture since Modernism.

### Method

Our ideology is project related. We develop a unique ideology for each and every project instead of solving all tasks with the same approach and attitude. This is because the conditions and constraints that we are operating in are constantly changing - sometimes even during the actual design and construction phases. Our ideology is very spacious - it mutates and adapts according to circumstances. It is always current and always modern.

Despite the ideological diversity, there is a recurring theme common through our architecture - a general way of doing things in relation to design and architectural spaces. It may be too superficial to call it a CEBRA style, but in many ways it's exactly that - an aesthetic preference, which ties the projects together.



# STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT

CEBRA joined the UN Global Compact in 2008 and we hereby state our continued support of the initiative. We commit ourselves to continuously implementing the Global Compact's ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption in our vision, strategy and every-day practice.

At CEBRA, we insist on thinking all our business aspects within a sustainable context. Keeping the Global Compact principles in mind, we work with the belief that through our professional expertise as architects, we are able to promote, develop and initiate significant and substantial changes, which provide a lasting and sustainable framework for our societies. Our goal is to challenge the world our architecture and we live in through a holistic approach to sustainability, which takes environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects into account.

Hence, I am pleased to place my signature and post our Communication on Progress, stating our continued support and efforts regarding the application and instrumentalisation of the ten principles.



Kolja Nielsen  
CEO architect maa  
CEBRA a/s, architects maa

# HUMAN RIGHTS



## PRINCIPLE 1

Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

## PRINCIPLE 2

Businesses should make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

CEBRA complies with the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with Danish national legislation, which meets the standards of international conventions.

As architects, we have the privilege and the professional responsibility to design lasting and sustainable frames for human life aiming at increasing life quality continuously. At CEBRA, social responsibility and user needs are made up the creative fuel of our architecture. Thereby, we actively support, promote and contribute to the development of environments, which secure the enjoyment of human rights. Amongst these environments, CEBRA works intensively with the development and design of the school and educational institutions of the future.

# PLAY AND LEARN



The school of the future has been one of CEBRA's main fields of interest. Through debate, concepts and different projects we aim at creating attractive educational environments with room for exercise, play and learning.

CEBRA has been adviser to National Research and Education Buildings (SFOU) and has in this context elaborated concept and idea development for the physical design of the university and researchbased educational institutions of the future. The results are published in the book 'Fremtidens universitet. Videnindsamling og skitserende programanalyse'.

Due to CEBRA's wide range of school and education projects, the majority of our staff is well experienced with idea development, sketching and planning within this field.

CEBRA has designed 7 schools, which have been built, including most of the schools in Gentofte Municipality's school development project SKUB (4 school extensions and 2 reconstruction projects under the aegis of SKUB).

The SKUB projects were based on intensive user involvement processes with the citizens and users in Gentofte and in close cooperation with Gentofte Municipality, developing the school of the future according to new pedagogical principles.

One of these schools, Bakkegaardskolen, was nominated for the international architecture award 'Mies van der Rohe Award'.

In addition to the Gentofte projects, CEBRA has won the competition for a reconstruction and extension of Kristiansand Katedralskole Gimle, a technical college, which has just been completed with CEBRA in the role of planning architects.

Most recently, CEBRA has won the competitions for an extension of the school at Bülowsvej, Frederiksberg and for a new school in Larvik, Norway. Both schools are in the planning phase at CEBRA.

Besides the school buildings, CEBRA has attracted attention through a series of innovative and untraditional educational institutions: Lucina Garden in Taulov near Fredericia - a combined kindergarten and nursery school - and the Designkindergarten in Vonsild near Kolding - a kindergarten that focuses on design, art and sustainability. The Designkindergarten is constructed according to energy class 1.

In connection with these school projects, CEBRA has designed and developed a series of landscapes and playgrounds in order to complement the buildings' focus on play and learning.



#### PRINCIPLE 3

Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

#### PRINCIPLE 4

Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

#### PRINCIPLE 5

Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour.

#### PRINCIPLE 6

Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

CEBRA supports the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and complies with Danish work legislation.

CEBRA is a member of the Danish Association of Architectural Firms, which collaborates with The Danish Union of Salaried Architects and the Danish Architects' Association. These organizations safeguard and balance individual and commercial interests as regards collective bargaining, legislation concerning salaried employees, labor market, industrial and educational policies etc. and CEBRA is committed to and supports this system.

CEBRA's hiring policy and collaborative relations are solely based on educational and professional experience and skills, and do neither take race, gender, sexuality, religion nor political beliefs of the involved persons into account.



# ENVIRONMENT



## PRINCIPLE 7

Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

## PRINCIPLE 8

Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

## PRINCIPLE 9

Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

As architects, we are in the prominent and exacting position of designing the physical surroundings of the future. Therefore, the implementation of the three principles concerning environmental responsibility are quintessential in every aspect of our practice. In the following we describe the mindset and actions, which form a red line through our office and practice.

# SUSTAINABILITY



Essentially, sustainable development is about establishing the conditions for 'the good life' for all of us – meeting the demands of the present without compromising the opportunities of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore, we work with complete solutions which take environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability into account.

As developing, executing and advising company we therefore have to be prepared to the fact that a sustainable society meets individuals as well as local and global companies with radically different demands than previously.

Sustainability, which up till recently has been equated with environmental and climate issues, covers much more than the self-evident environmental considerations; the term comprises social and economic aspects as well.

Therefore, sustainability has the potential of formulating an entirely new foundation for architecture. That is the reason why sustainability has become a consistent concept for CEBRA's architectural practice. We insist on thinking our projects within a sustainable context, without turning towards fanaticism. Basically, it is all about common sense.

At CEBRA we have addressed sustainability issues in a long line of different projects, both tangible buildings and theoretical concepts, in order to develop the office's architectural universe towards a holistic, sustainable direction.

In 2009 we elaborated a charter for sustainable property management and project development for Freja Properties. On several occasions we held workshops on energy efficient building in cooperation with The Danish Building Research Institute (SBI).

At the Venice Architecture Biennale 2006 CEBRA participated together with a group of young Danish architecture offices and Chinese universities

in the Danish pavilion 'Co-Evolution', which focused on sustainable urban development in China. The project received the prestigious Golden Lion Award.

At the Venice Architecture Biennale 2008 CEBRA curated the Danish contribution 'Ecotopia - walk the talk' in cooperation with the Danish Architecture Center (DAC). Subsequently, CEBRA was in 2009 asked by The Climate Consortium and The Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs to develop an information platform on sustainable initiatives for the COP15 climate conference followed by a series of satellite exhibitions with the title 'Global Ad On'.

CEBRA has developed the project Design Kindergarten in the city of Kolding - a low-energy institution which has received the Kolding Municipality Architecture Award.

At present time, our school project on Bülowsvej, Frederiksberg Municipality, which meets the low-energy building requirements is under construction. The low-energy standard 2015 residential buildings TK2 and Marina House, both located at the port of Aarhus, are also under construction.

The new sustainable club house for the Sports Club Lystrup (LIF) has entered the planning stage. The club house is constructed as a CO2 neutral building and stands as a pilot project for Aarhus Municipality, which will define new standards for the municipality's own buildings.

Most recently, CEBRA has won two large scale international projects: Larvik Vertical Campus, which complies with Energy Class A (Norwegian standard), and the Experimentarium of the Future in Hellerup, which uses both passive and active measures in order to achieve a energy neutral performance.



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## CEBRA is conducting environmental management according to PAR & FRI's guidelines

As developing, executing and advising company we have to be prepared for the society's ever increasing demands concerning a sustainable development of the building sector, which e.g. includes restrictions regarding the energy and resource consumption and the usage of materials with minimum impact on the environment.

With the implementation of well prepared and made-to-measure environmentally responsible planning we can meet the demands and wishes of developers and the society, whether it is to contribute to a sustainable development, reduce operating costs, create a good indoor climate for employees and visitors, strengthen the building's image or heighten the building's overall quality.

Environmentally responsible planning and sustainable initiatives are all about ensuring environmental optimum results within the given framework stated by the client in the competition or building programme, based on a general main environmental policy and the building task's preconditions.

In order to achieve these objectives, the group of advisers can, on the client's initiative, contribute to:

- map environmental impacts and effects,
- determine environmental goals
- lay down an environmental program and plan, incl. description of activities, organisation, schedule and budget,
- carry out environmental assessments,
- propose instruments and prioritize those in consultation with the client,
- ensure that all executing parties live up to the environmental goals stated in the environmental programme.

Regarding environmentally responsible planning, it can be stated that if it is implemented early into the programming and overall planning, it will normally not increase the project's construction costs and merely increase planning costs to a very limited extent.

Environmentally responsible planning will on the other hand often lead to solutions, which can be economically beneficial when the building's overall economy, including the total costs of construction and operation during the building's complete lifetime, is quantified.

An overall economic quantification includes an evaluation of the possible advantage of accepting higher acquisition costs in order to achieve lower operation costs for electricity, water, heating, climate control, waste treatment, fewer sick days and less resource-intensive maintenance throughout the building's lifetime.

Looking at a building's lifespan, only a few percent of the building's total energy consumption derive from its construction, while by far the largest part is used to operate it. From a construction economical point of view, financial austerity hardly ever pays off in the long run.

Responsibility and competence regarding possible environmental activities during the programming, planning, construction and operation phase are determined parallel to the project organisation.

Depending on the client's wishes and the complexity of the task at hand, an environmental coordinator is involved in the project's planning management.

The environmental coordinator adopts the coordinating position across individual professional disciplines and secures the connection between the environmental initiatives within the disciplines and the processing of the programme's environmental goals.

The environmental coordinator reports to the planning manager, whereas the planning manager retains the general responsibility for the environmental management during the planning phase, because it is deemed vital that environmental issues are addressed on equal footing with the rest of the project's considerations. This reduces the risk of significant conflicts between environmental aspects and the demands made upon architecture, exhibition principles, function, technology and economy during the later stages of the process.



## PRINCIPLE 10

Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

CEBRA supports The United Nations Convention Against Corruption. We fully comply with Danish and International legislation and dissociate ourselves from all forms of corruption, bribery and extortion. Our practice and business relationships are based on democratic values, mutual respect and transparency.

# OUTCOME: SELECTED PROJECTS



NYE - Suburb of the Future  
VB08 - Exhibition Venice Biennale 2008  
Gellerup  
Design Kindergarten - Paletten  
Cairn - Jøssing Fjord Centre  
Vertikal Campus - Larvik  
Experimentarium



# SUBURB OF THE FUTURE



Name:	NYE
Commission:	Private
Type:	Development
Category:	Planning
Client:	Tækker Group
Place:	Elev, Aarhus, DK
Year:	2006, in progress
Purpose:	Sustainable suburb
Surface area:	260 acres / 105 hectares

Over the past 50 years the population of Aarhus has doubled. However, the town footprint has grown fourfold in line with the increased popularity of single family housing. Since it is believed that Aarhus will further increase by 75,000 people over the next 20 years, the municipality recommends more dense development to avoid sprawl in the future. These facts are the prime motivation for CEBRA and Tækker Group's development of NYE, a sustainable suburb that will eventually house 15,000 people to the north of Aarhus.

The master plan is shaped by sustainable ideas and systems, such as public transportation, proximity and daylight orientation. rainwater treatment is one of the major sustainable initiatives, as NYE is surrounded by natural streams, ground water reservoirs and a lake. Green roofs, open canals, pools and new lakes are used to gradually treat rain water, before leading it back into the natural circuit. In NYE, everything revolves around environmental thinking.



# VB08



Name: VB08  
 Commission: Private  
 Type: Exhibition  
 Client: Danish Architecture Centre / DAC  
 Place: Venice, Italy  
 Year: 2008  
 Purpose: Danish Biennale Pavilion  
 Surface area: 5.382 ft<sup>2</sup> / 500 m<sup>2</sup>  
 In cooperation with: DAC

The VB08 project was an exhibition co-operation between DAC and CEBRA at the 2008 Venice biennale. The show was held in the Danish pavilion, a building consisting of three connected spaces.

The first room served as an introduction space in which the state of the planet and the challenges of mankind were visualized. In the second room, a link between the main spaces, the Kyoto protocol was displayed on the walls, ceiling and floor and represented the international attempt to meet these challenges.

In the third room, we presented seven Danish sustainability projects showing the Danish attempt to act in a more hands-on way. The walls were covered with data and drawings and in the centre of the room there was a giant information table with computers inviting visitors to surf the internet. This provided an opportunity for guests to take the discussion further and look for more information. The main idea was that the global challenge calls for international action as well as national and individual commitment.



# GELLERUP



Name:	Gellerup
Commission:	Public
Type:	Competition
Category:	Planning
Client:	Aarhus Municipality
Place:	Aarhus, DK
Year:	2008
Purpose:	Masterplan
Size:	1.112 acres / 450 hectares
Budget:	—
Prize:	—
Service:	Architectural services
Energy Class:	—
Cooperation:	Metopos ApS, GBL ApS

**Gellerup** will become a district in Aarhus with a very significant identity, where residents settle with respect for nature, each other and the community.

It is necessary to focus on minimizing the environmental impact in and from the area as a important generator in order to achieve a collective social, economical and environmental responsibility. The synergies created between those three areas of action are substantial and will be an important aspect in the district's positive development.

The main concept consists of two superior structures, the pedestrian axis and two educational/cultural axes, which divide the area into new neighborhoods. Those crossing axes connect the new Gellerup with the surrounding districts and tie the development's main internal functions together. Here, public city life will unfold and the different resident groups meet with each other and visitors to the are.



# DESIGN KINDERGARTEN



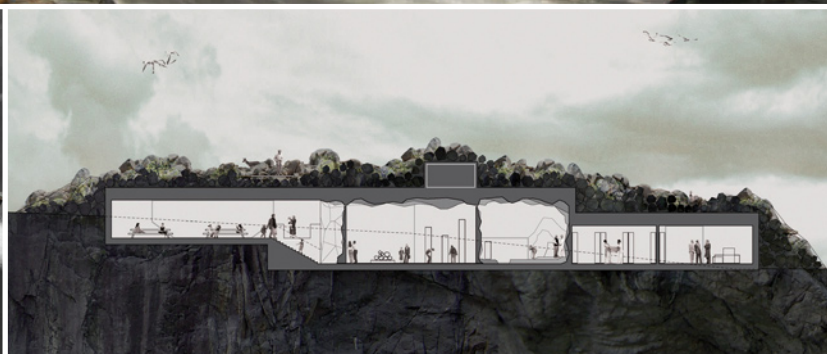
**Name:** Paletten  
**Commission:** Public  
**Type:** Master contract  
**Category:** Play and Learning  
**Client:** Kolding Municipality  
**Place:** Vonsild, DK  
**Year:** 2009  
**Purpose:** Designkindergarten  
**Size:** 12.916 ft<sup>2</sup> / 1.200 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Budget:** DKK 21 mio. ex. VAT  
**Prize:** Kolding Municipality Architecture Award 2010  
**Service:** Architectural services incl. landscape  
**Energy Class:** Energy Class 1  
**Cooperation:** D.A.I. gruppen a/s, HuskMitNavn

Paletten (the Palette) is what our client calls a design kindergarten. This is the first in a series of themed daycare centers that specialize in different areas, such as the arts and sports. The overall aim is to offer children and parents different opportunities for daycare and to create new daycare centers with strong identities. The special theme for Paletten is design, architecture and the visual arts.

We wanted to clearly indicate to the children, and potential designers of the future, that creativity is partly about breaking rules and seeking solutions beyond the ordinary. To do this, we designed a house that demonstratively contrasts with the standard house we see in typical children's drawings. It has very few right angles and most corners are gently rounded. Instead of traditional materials like brick and wood, we have chosen abstract white fiberboards and colorchanging chameleon surfaces for the skylights. From the very first day in the daycare center, any child will intuitively recognize that in a building like Paletten anything goes.



# CAIRN



Name:	Jøssing Fjord Center
Commission:	Public
Type:	Competition
Category:	Culture
Client:	Dalane Municipality
Place:	Jøssing Fjord, NO
Year:	2010
Purpose:	Mining museum
Size:	16.146 ft2 / 1500 m2
Budget:	—
Prize:	Honorable mention
Service:	Architectural services
Energy Class:	—

The Jøssing Fjord Center is a combined museum for mining and geology. If the outside exhibition areas are also taken into consideration, the area is really a small magma park. The museum building is set just outside Jøssing in beautiful natural surroundings, next to the former mines and the power station that produced electricity for the mining activities. The basic structure – a four-armed star plan – is cast in concrete around an intermediate massive core built from bales of straw. As the heavy concrete weighs down the straw, which is already slightly uneven, a bumpy and unpredictable space comes into existence. When the straw is removed, an exhibition space, very similar to a traditional mine, appears. On the outside, the main structure is covered with large rocks turning it into a big pile of stones, like a gigantic cairn with occasional panoramic windows. It blends harmoniously into the surroundings in an almost camouflage-like manner, and yet it also manages to stand as a beacon in the landscape, a point to aim at and explore.



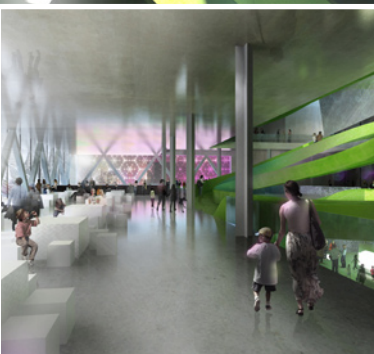
# LARVIK VERTICAL CAMPUS



Name:	Vertical Campus
Commission:	Public
Type:	Competition
Category:	Education
Client:	Larvik Municipality
Location:	Ahlfeldtsgata, Larvik, NO
Year:	2011, under construction
Purpose:	School, 1st to 10th grade
Size:	61.354 ft <sup>2</sup> / 5700 m <sup>2</sup>
Budget:	NOK 125 mio.
Prize:	1. prize
Service:	Architectural services
Energi class:	Energy Class A
Collaboration:	Østengen & Bergbo Landskapsarkitekter

Vertical Campus is a substantial extension to the local school. In the northern hemisphere, it makes sense to build compact buildings because they are economic and reduce heat loss, and also because this ensures short internal distances and synergies between different functions. In addition to being a compact school, the Vertical Campus has a small footprint. First of all, this makes it possible to reuse the old foundations, which is important due to highly complicated geotechnical circumstances. Secondly, it leaves more outdoor park area for the children and creates distance to neighboring houses. Due to the combination of a compact body and a small footprint, the central common atrium of the school is like a vertical campus, where the building seems as if it has been flipped on its side. This vertical space is similar to a traditional theater space with a tiny stage-like floor and a number of cantilevering balconies from which the pupils of the school can overlook a variety of subject rooms and facilities. The vertical campus is the heart of the school and even has a similar shape.





Name:	Experimentarium, Copenhagen
Commission:	Private
Type:	Competition
Category:	Culture
Client:	Experimentarium
Location:	Tuborg Havnevej, Hellerup, DK
Year:	2011 - 2014
Purpose:	New science museum
Size:	approx. 28.000 m <sup>2</sup>
Budget:	EUR 50.4 mio. excl. VAT
Prize:	1. prize
Service:	Full-service consultancy
Energi class:	Low energy 2015
Collaborating architect:	Wilkinson Eyre
Collaboration:	Orbicon, Die Asta, Kollision

**Experimentarium** the science center in Copenhagen, needs more room and wants more visibility in the public space. However, this has to happen within the footprint of the existing building, a former bottling plant for soft drinks, which means that the only way to extend is by building inwards and upwards.

We have reorganized the building completely by adding new floors and cutting it across in two places. The resulting atriums divide the science center into three zones: private areas for the staff, exhibition spaces for paying visitors and an open public front where people can go without tickets. Functional boxes containing a café, a stage and a conference room are added onto this basic structure, and finally a metal cloth is thrown over the whole thing to join the different building parts and improve insulation. The triangulated and vector-like cloth is pulled down tightly, with only the functional boxes penetrating this new skin. They serve as the eyes of the center as they let people see the surroundings from the exhibition spaces, as well as serving as interactive media screens exposing the inside activities.