



One small step for business, one giant leap for mankind

We promote corporate social responsibility, as every sustainable step for businesses around the world sow the seeds of one giant leap for the health of mankind.

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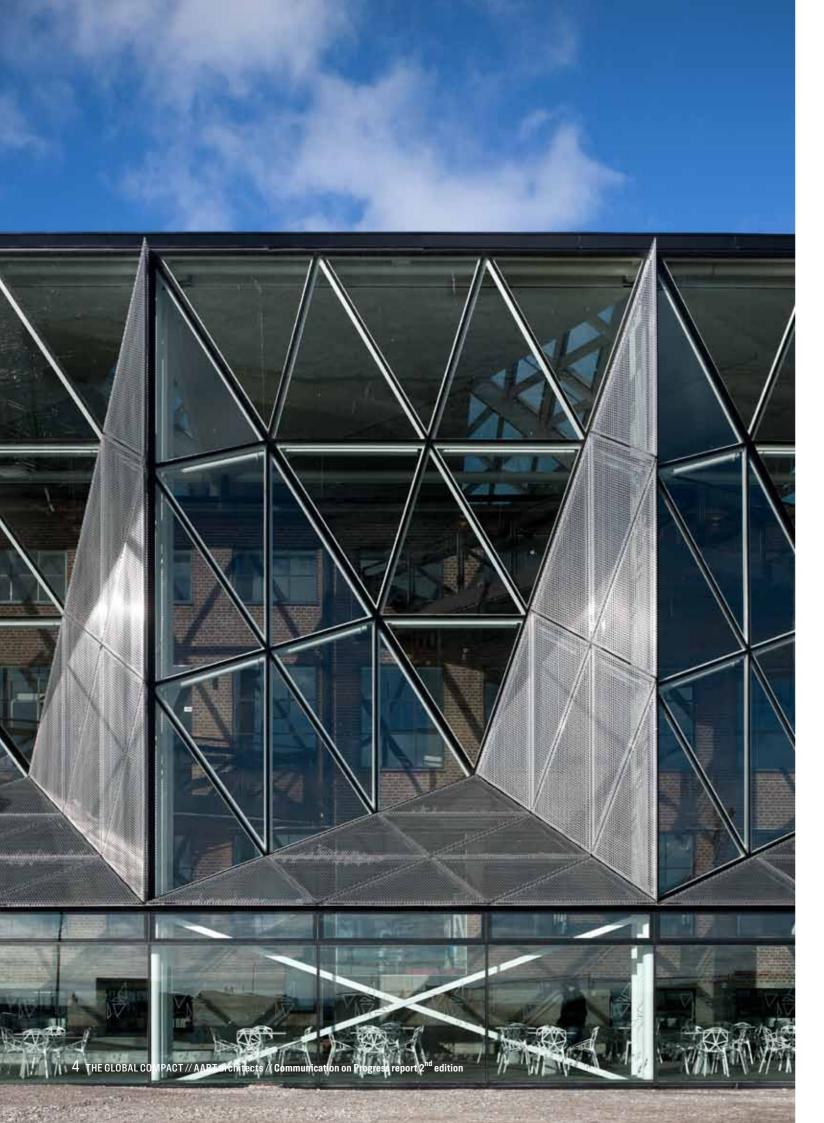
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We believe in the necessity of promoting a new approach to architecture based on transparency and responsibility.

PREFACE

Social, economic and environmental challenges affect the building industry more than ever before. At AART architects, we thus recognise the need to collaborate with research institutes, knowledge-based companies and transnational organisations, as sustainable development can only be achieved by encouraging knowledge sharing between various sectors.

This understanding is reflected in our continuing support for the United Nations Global Compact that is the largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative in the world and provides a practical framework for the development, implementation and disclosure of sustainability policies and practices.

We joined the initiative in 2008, as we believe in the necessity of promoting a new approach to architecture based on transparency and responsibility, making sustainable thinking a vital part of our business strategy and day-to-day operations.

As a member of the Global Compact, we are committed to aligning our strategies and operations with 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. In this way, we contribute to enhancing human well-being and the health of the global environment by promoting the principles within our sphere of influence.

Therefore, we are proud to hand in our second Communication on Progress report, expressing our commitment to ensuring that the building industry advances in ways that benefit the every-day life, the economy and the environment.

The idea of this book is thus to give our stakeholders an insight into how we promote corporate social responsibility and have integrated corporate social responsibility into our business foundation.



Torben Skovbjerg Lar Architect MAA Partner CFO

Torben Skovbjerg Larsen CEO AART architects





Our mission is to give meaning and intimacy to everyday life by creating vibrant spaces for social communities.

ABOUT AART ARCHITECTS

AART architects is a high-performance team of 58 architects and constructing architects that works with the community as a value-creating element. With offices in Denmark and Norway and several first prize projects in international architecture competitions, we are one of the trend-setting architectural offices in Scandinavia.

Our mission is to give meaning and intimacy to everyday life by creating vibrant spaces for social communities and achieving the highest architectural quality. In order to lead the development of a sensuous and innovative architecture, we have engaged in several research and development projects over the years.

In this way, we have built up extensive knowledge of materials, technology and user requirements, which, combined with our organisational strength in financial and project management, provides us with a strong platform for developing the architecture of tomorrow.

By extension, we have organised the office into the four research teams: Integrated Design, Green Design, Health Design and Value Design. The four research teams form a common thread in our professional development and give added value to each project by developing new methods in the fields of project engineering, energy and resource optimisation, health-promoting architecture and user experience.

As architects, we make our living from the human factor in the form of creativity, innovation and collaboration. Our most important resource is thus dedicated employees, who, by combining evidence-based studies with a nuanced empathy, develop beautiful, empathetic and functional solutions.











Nanna Flintholm Architect MAA Team leader of Value Design nfl@aart.dk

As head of Value Design, Nanna Flintholm ensures a focused development work thanks to her analytical approach to optimising and rethinking the conceptual working method.





Klaus Mikkelsen Architect MAA Team leader of Health Design kmi@aart.dk

As head of Health Design, Klaus Mikkelsen ensures a targeted innovation work based on his long-standing experience with a number of major healthcare construction projects.





Thomas Hjortlund Svendsen Architect MAA Team leader of Integrated Design ths@aart.dk

As head of Integrated Design, Thomas Hjortlund Svendsen ensures a professional focus based on his long-standing experience as a project manager of several major construction projects.





Martin Gertsen Building technician BTH Team leader of Green Design mge@aart.dk

As head of Green Design, Martin Gertsen ensures a thorough development work thanks to his vast knowledge of the many aspects of environmentally friendly architecture. The four research teams encapsulate our professional profile and embrace the principles of the Global Compact.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

With innovative architecture comes great responsibility. This is the basic principle at AART architects, as we strive to create vibrant spaces for social communities and achieve the highest architectural quality based on a sympathetic insight into each project's potential.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is thus a keynote of our company. This applies to our innovation work, where we promote CSR through knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration, and to the finished building, where the architecture expresses a social cohesion and integrates a wide range of eco-friendly solutions.

In other words, we believe in a holistic approach to architecture. In order to promote the social, economic and environmental aspect of CSR and embed CSR in our business strategy and day-to-day operations, we have organised the office into four cross-disciplinary research teams:

- Integrated Design
- Green Design
- Health Design
- Value Design

The four research teams encapsulate our professional profile and embrace the principles of the Global Compact by developing innovative methods in the fields of project engineering (the economic aspect), energy and resource optimisation (the environmental aspect) and health-promoting architecture and user experience (the social aspect).

In this way, the organisational structure supports our continuing support for the Global Compact by promoting a holistic approach to architecture. Besides, the research teams ensure a high level of transparency, as our professionalism is made accessible for all of our employees and business partners.







We search for the adventurous pathways with a view to creating synergy between different fields."

VALUES

THE EXPLORER

Driven by the spirit of adventure, we challenge the usual way of thinking in order to explore the unknown and create the not yet created. In other words, we search for the adventurous pathways with a view to creating synergy between different fields. Accordingly, our strongest rival is the easy-going, who is saturated with experiences and turns the blind eye to the constant changes in the industry.

THE CARING

Driven by the desire to promote a socially responsible architecture, we work with the community as a value-creating element. We identify ourselves with each project's unique potential in order to create vibrant and empathetic spaces for social communities. Accordingly, our strongest rival is the ironic, who is seduced by the form and ignores the social dimension of architecture.

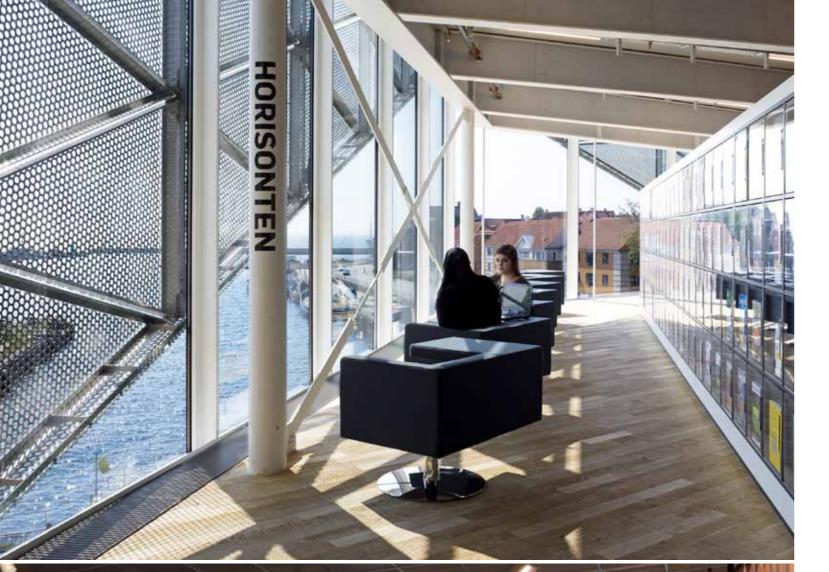
THE COMPETENT

Driven by the ambition to offer competent consultancy, we systematically develop and document our knowledge. Based on state-of-the-art knowledge from an interdisciplinary field, we constantly develop our professionalism in order to convey the essential overview and open for hidden opportunities. Accordingly, our strongest rival is the careless, who is stuck in old dogmas and don't strive to develop new know-how.













We strive to provide the best experience for our clients, from the preliminary consultancy through the design phase to the handover of the finished project.

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

Our most important stakeholders are our employees and our clients.

EMPLOYEE DIALOG

Our success as an architectural office depends on committed employees. Therefore, we place great importance on an employee-driven corporate culture characterised by an open communication between the management and the employees. In addition, we continually incentivise the employees to engage themselves in the important decisions regarding our strategic development.

In order to incentivise our employees, we have established four cross-disciplinary research teams that promote our internal communication and knowledge sharing. The research teams ensure a close contact between the management and the employees, as each employee is included in one of the research teams and has a continually dialogue with the respective team leader. As part of this, each employee has a staff development interview with the team leader every three month.

CLIENT DIALOGUE

Our success as an architectural office depends on committed employees. Therefore, we place great importance on an employee-driven corporate culture characterised by an open communication between the management and the employees. In addition, we continually incentivise the employees to engage themselves in the important decisions regarding our strategic development.

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THE 10 PRINCIPLES

The principles 10 of social responsibility are divided into four categories: Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

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.

LABOUR

Principle 3:

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

Principle 4:

Principle 5:

Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour.

Principle

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

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:

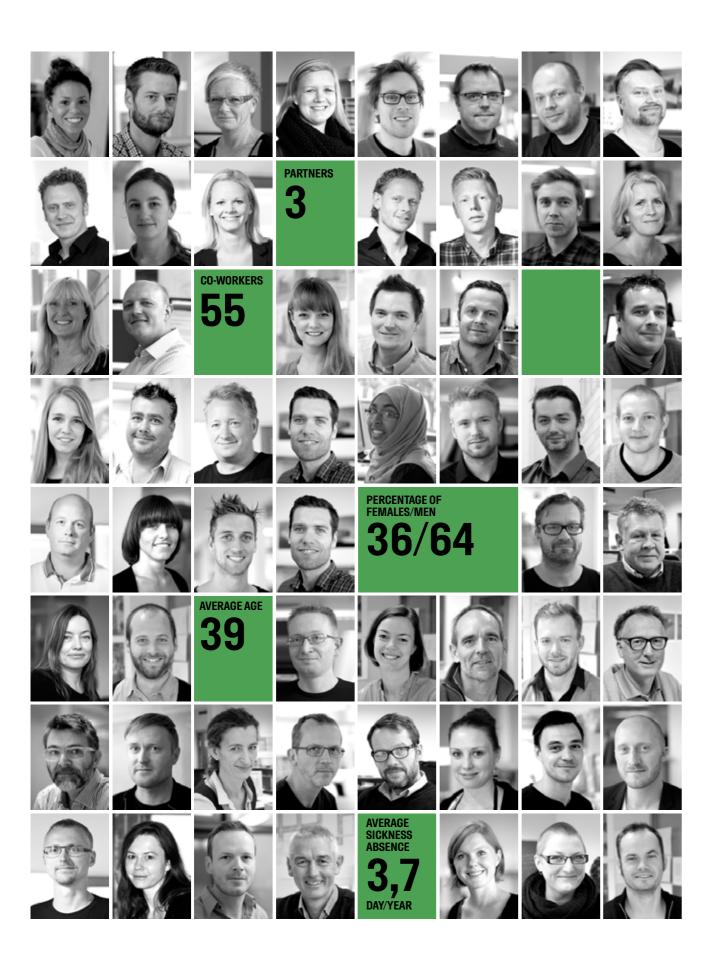
Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10:

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





We have established the research team Value Design with a view to developing research-based methods for social analysis and user driven innovation.

PEOPLE

At AART architects, we support and respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (cf. principle 1-6 of the Global Compact).

We commit ourselves to:

- abiding by the rules of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in all of our activities. We ensure this by continually developing and improving our capacity to perform this task proactively.
- identifying fields where our service and competencies can contribute positively to a socially sustainable development.
- sustaining an open dialogue with our stakeholders and annually report our social responsibility.

VALUE DESIGN

The first two principles of the Global Compact deal with human rights and the opportunity to improve the social qualities of everyday life. As architects, we create the physical framework of everyday life, thus affecting the life of many people. Therefore, we have a great responsible to show social awareness and study the social context of each project. In order to fulfil this responsibility, we have established the research team Value Design with a view to developing research-based methods for social analysis and user driven innovation.

Based on a sympathetic insight into each project's potential, Value Design strives to achieve the highest architectural quality and develop vibrant spaces for social communities. In this way, the research team has specialised in identifying the innovantive potential of the concept phase and thus represents the creative basis of the company — a creative basis where the context precedes the form, as every project stems from a varied study of the context in order to create a sense of community.

THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF OUR WORK

In 2012, we plan to intensify our social effort, as we have initiated a

partnership with the Alexandra Institute, which is a research-based institute that creates services with a view to generating social value. The aim of this partnership is to develop a generic method for studying the social impact of our finished buildings. How do the users experience and interact with the buildings? And how do the buildings generate social value? The answers to such questions is very valuable, as they provide insight into the real impact of our work and can serve as guiding principles for our future projects.

By developing a generic method for studying the social impact of our work, we strive to fuse commercial relevance, research and user involvement. In this way, the partnership with the Alexandra Institute responds to issues of social relevance, primarily the needs of the building industry to get access to cutting-edge research results with the aim of promoting research-based user driven innovation.

OUR WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Our human resources make us unique and competitive. Only through our employees' dedication and commitment, we are able to sustain and develop a successful business that continuously creates cutting-edge solutions. Therefore, we believe it is essential to select, develop and manage our employees with great care.

RESEARCH TEAMS

In order to create an engaging working environment, we have organised the office into four cross-disciplinary research teams (cf. the paragraphs "Social Responsibility" and "Stakeholder dialogue"). In this way, all of our employees supplement their basic skills by specialising in one of the four fields, where they acquire the latest knowledge through monthly meetings, seminars, study trips and further training.

In continuation hereof, each employee has a staff development interview with the management every three month (cf. the paragraph "Stakeholder dialogue"). In addition, we have a joint office meeting on the first Monday in every month. At the joint meetings, we communicate our business strategies, create an overview of our on-going projects and give every employee an opportunity to take an active share in the internal decisions.

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FRINGE BENEFITS

We strive to provide the best conditions for our employees. This is achieved through our fruit, coffee and lunch scheme. Every Friday we also serve breakfast, where all employees meet in the canteen and hobnob with the colleagues.

We also strive to promote a good health among our employees. As part of this, we offer each employee a free health insurance and pay for joint sport activities such as runs and experience races. In addition, the joint sport activities have a positive side effect, as they promote an engaging team spirit among our employees.

WORK LIFE BALANCE

As an architectural office, we often have tight deadlines when it comes to competition projects and planning projects. Therefore, long working hours will occur from time to time, as our effectiveness is crucial for our clients' business.

However, we believe that work life and private life must go hand in hand. Just as we attach importance to our employees' flexibility, we also have to be flexible as employer. We thus value the work life balance and in the forthcoming years we plan to intensify our focus in order to increase the mutual flexibility.

Examples of existing initiatives that support a good working environment:

- · Research teams
- Flexible working hours
- Fruit, coffee and lunch scheme
- Breakfast every Friday
- Free health insurance
- Free iPhone
- Good maternity leave conditions
- Joint sport activities









In order to lead the development of an environmentally friendly architecture, we have established the research team Green Design.

ENVIRONMENT

At AART architects, we support and respect the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (cf. principle 7-9 of the Global Compact).

We commit ourselves to:

- abiding by the rules of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in all of our activities. We ensure this by continually developing and improving our capacity to perform this task proactively.
- identifying fields where our practice and competencies can contribute positively to an environmentally sustainable development.
- sustaining an open dialogue with our stakeholders and annually report our environmental responsibility.

GREEN DESIGN

We are aware of how the economic and industrial development in its wake has brought numerous environmental challenges, which require an internation-ally coordinated effort to overcome. As architects, we play a crucial role in this effort, as statistics show that buildings account for 40 percent of all energy consumption in the EU, making energy efficient architecture one of the predominant concerns if we as a global society strive to reduce our energy consumption and CO2 emission.

In order to lead the development of an environmentally friendly architecture, we have established the research team Green Design that carries out targeted development work with a view to raising the environmental standard of the building industry. By combining the latest technology and knowledge with innovative architecture, Green Design strives not only to comply with the existing building regulations for energy rating, but to go a step further in order to raise the strategic horizon.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Sustainable materials and technologies do not have to be as-sociated with compromises. On the contrary, they can enrich the architecture by creating healthy and dynamic buildings. That is the theory behind our development work, as we challenge traditional approaches by studying, refining and integrating new materials and technologies into our many projects.

On the basis of continuous training, case studies and crossdisciplinary collaboration, we work in the field of tension between research and practice. Our aim is thus to demonstrate that sustainable materials and technologies have a legitimate and necessary potential within architecture.

LIFE-CYCLE PERSPECTIVE

Focusing on the sustainable architecture of the future, we strive to investigate the possibilities inherent in the paradigm shift from operating to process energy. This is a professional focus that stems from the fact that the increasingly stringent framework for energy efficient construction means that energy consumption during the building phase will, in a few years, be equal to the energy consumption during the operating phase.

From a lifecycle perspective, we study the possibility to develop the next generation of sustainable architecture, which not only reduces the operating energy, but also the process energy in the form of raw material extraction, production, assembly, renovations, demolition and disposal.





We have established the research team Integrated Design with a view to developing cutting-edge project engineering solutions.

ECONOMY

At AART architects, we support and respect the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (cf. principle 10 of the Global Compact).

We commit ourselves to:

- abiding by the rules of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in all of our activities. We ensure this by continually developing and improving our capacity to perform this task proactively.
- identifying fields where our practice and competencies can contribute positively to an economically sustainable development.
- sustaining an open dialogue with our stakeholders and annually report our economic responsibility.

INTEGRATED DESIGN

As economic challenges affect the building industry more than ever before, we have recognised the need to undertake the responsibility of leading the development of a more efficient, transparent and economically sustainable building culture. Therefore, we have established the research team Integrated Design that works at the intersection between research and practice with a view to developing cutting-edge project engineering solutions.

Project engineering is the most expensive phase in the development of a new building. Through continuous development work and close collaboration with engineers and researchers, Integrated Design thus promotes innovation and optimises our planning procedures, as economically sustainable development can only be achieved by encouraging knowledge sharing between various sectors.

OUALITY ASSURANCE

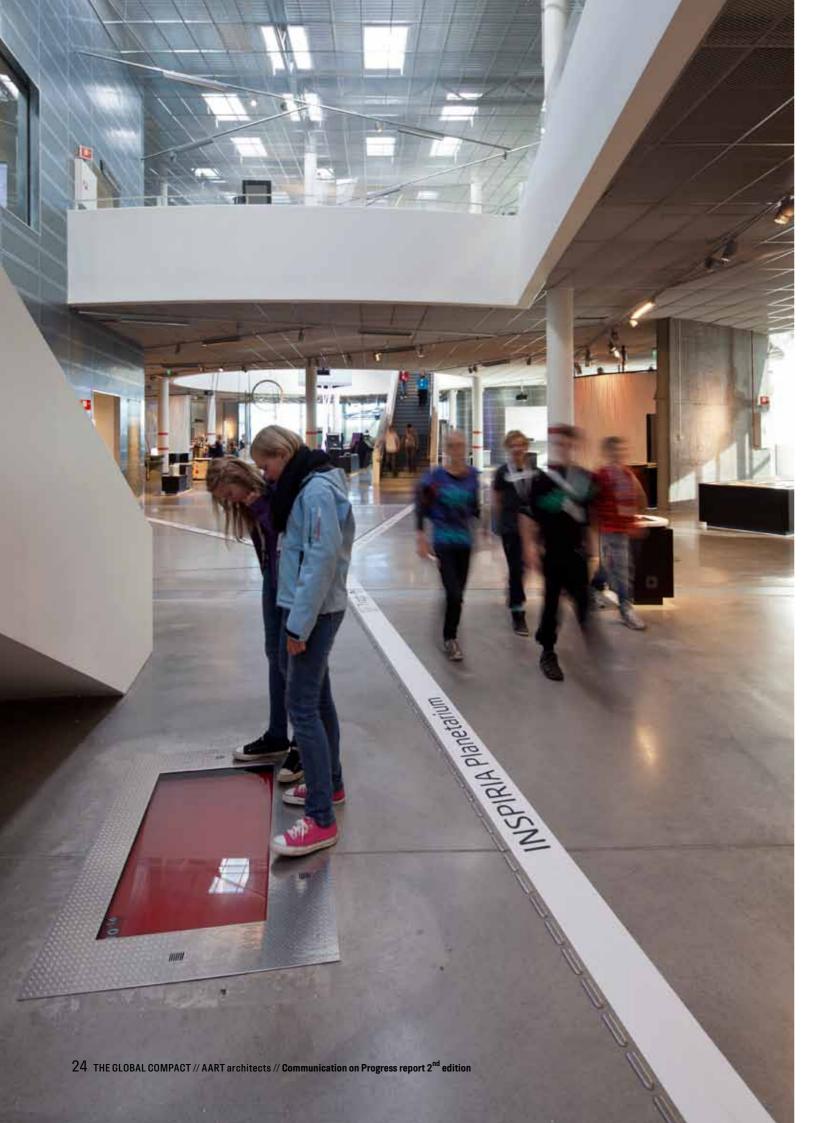
As part of our economically sustainable focus, we continuously develop our quality assur-ance procedures, which cover all of the project's core phases, from the competition and concept project to the main design and advisory services in connection with implementation and project follow-up.

Through dialogue with our clients and business partners, we define the appropriate quality levels. At the same time and on the basis of project reviews and planning meetings, we incorporate these quality levels in the service's programming and in the design, as a holistic approach to architecture and satisfied clients are the predominant goal of our quality assurance.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

As architects, we must respond actively to our ethical responsibility, as thrust and credibility form the basis of our public relations. Therefore, we use substantial resources to ensure a high ethical standard in our business strategy and day-to-day operations.

All of our employees are thus subjected to the rules and regulation of the Danish Architects' Association, including paragraph eight that states an architect must respect the duty of confidentiality regarding any confidential facts the architect gains insight into as part of the daily work.





We strive to make a positive impact on society.

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

As an architectural office, we strive to make a positive impact on society. Besides our commitment to support the 10 principles of the Global Compact, we have thus initiated partnerships for the $\,$ public good.

In this way, our social commitment is not only manifested in our projects, but also in our general social commitment, as we support the Danish Cancer Society, is a member of the Danish Defibrillator Network and sponsor various events at the Aarhus School of Architecture.





THE DANISH CANCER SOCIETY

- Prevent the development of cancer
- Improve patients' chances of successful recovery
- Limit the physical, psychological and social side-effects



THE DANISH DEFIBRILLATOR NETWORK

- Ensure life-saving first aid Gather information about the location of defibrilla-tors in Denmark
- Corporate with the National Police's emergency dispatch centre









INSPIRIA Science Center // Sarpsborg, Ostfold, NO

// Project: Center for science and innovation in Graalum, Sarpsborg, Norway // Address: Graalum, Sarpsborg, Norway // Client: Borg Næring og Eiendom AS // Contact: Bjørn Winther Johansen - bjorn.w.johansen@borginnovasjon.no // Size: 7.000 m² (350 m² student-lab.) // Budget: NOK 225 mio. / DKK 213 m / € 28,57 m // Status: Under construction - moving in August 2011 // Proposal Architect: AART architechts A/S // Architect landscape: AART architechts A/S // Interior design: AART architechts A/S // Experience-design: Expolgy - 7 // Engineer: Cowi, Norge // Electro Engineer: Yit a/s, Norge // HWS Engineer: Multiconsult // Award: First prize in international competition 2007 // Service: Architects consultancy //

INSPIRIA Science Center is part of a long term strategy to make knowledge the chief asset in the region. This is not only reflected in the activities of the science centre, but also in the architectural ambitions, since the architecture is conceived and designed as a communications platform to create regional interest in the natural sciences and national interest in the region.

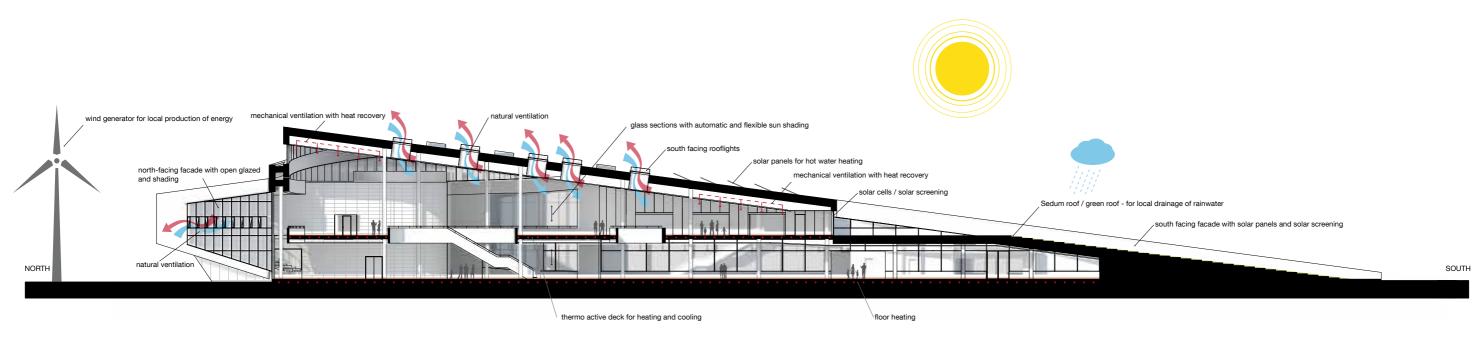
By rethinking the framework for future learning environments, INSPIRIA Science Centre combines communication and architecture into an inspiring and eventful whole, which forms new spaces for learning and supports the idea of sustainability as a window of opportunity to increase the quality of life for both people and the environment. The science centre is therefore designed as a passive house with a close contact to nature, by which the architecture and the science centre's focus on energy, the environment and health merge into a single narrative.

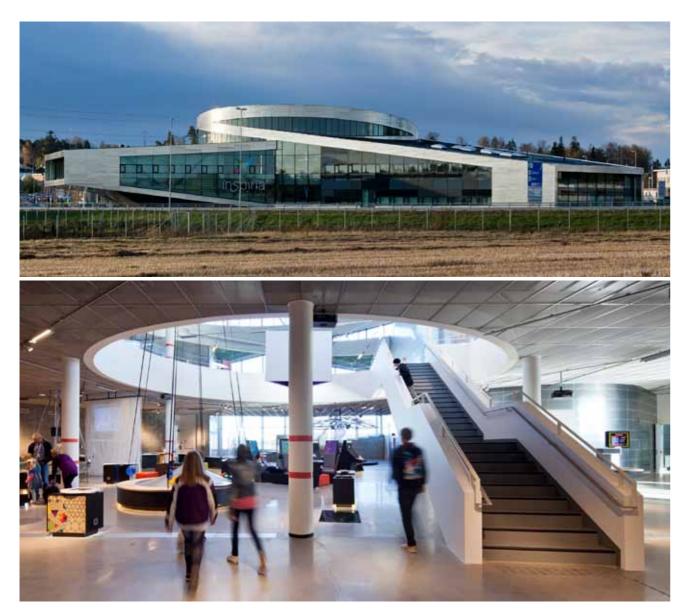
The narrative permeates the building's basic form, where nature's cycle, cyclical repetitions and spiral forms blend with the technology cycle, expressed through the universal power of the circular basic form. The goal has thus been to create a striking building, which in itself constitutes an identity-laden branding of INSPIRIA Science Centre by uniting the activities of the science centre into a single concept.

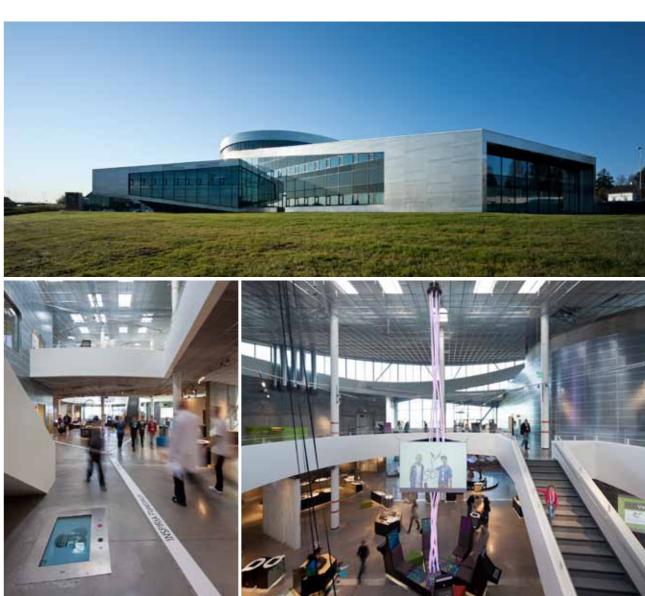
The science centre is expected to attract more than 100.000 visitors every year, mainly school trips, families and tourists who can acquire knowledge through "play" by means of interactive exhibits, public workshops, a planetarium and an outdoor science park that is connected to the building's two exhibition levels.

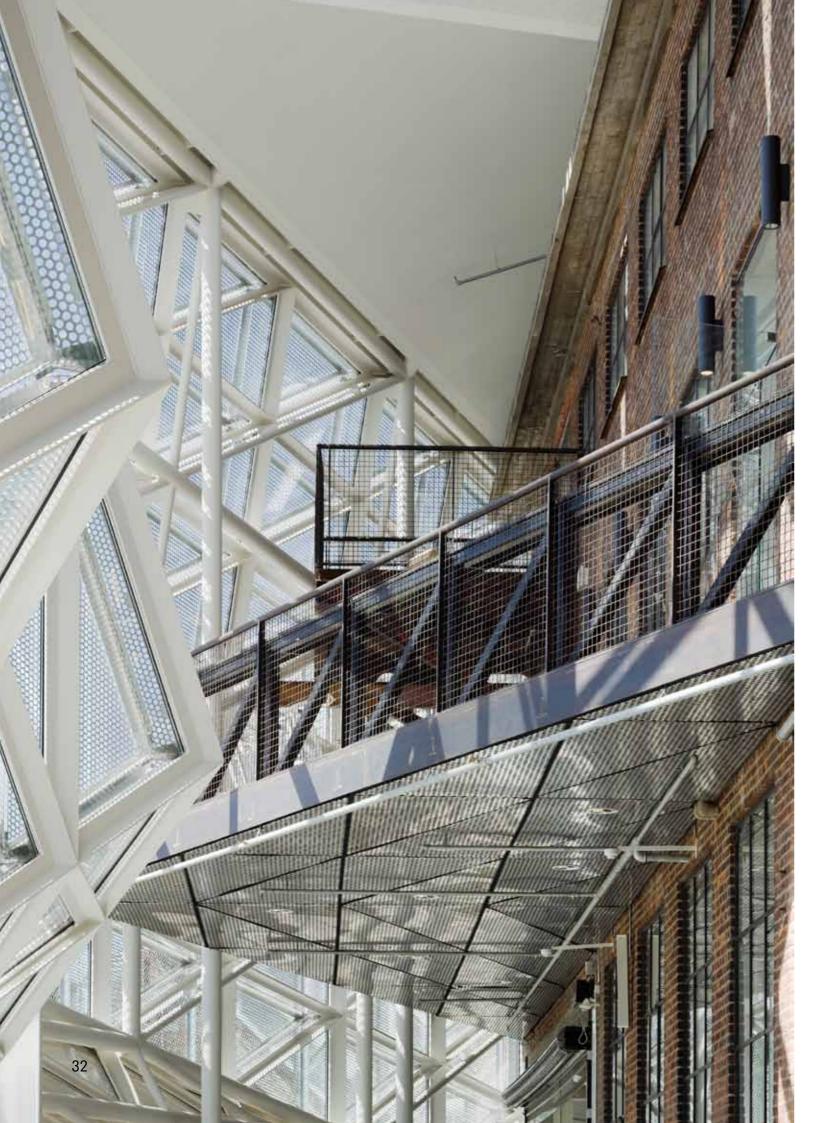
"It is absolutely unique that 18 municipalities have joined forces so distinctively and engaged in the project, while industry has also contributed far more than is usual for normal construction projects."

Trond Griske, Minister for Trade and Industry in Norway INSPIRIA Science Centre uses the architecture for fundraising











Culture Yard in Elsinore // Elsinore. DK

// Project: Building for culture including a public library, conference rooms, café, concert hall etc. // Address: Allégade, Elsinore // Client: The municipality of Elsinore // Contact: Claus Bo Frederiksen, cfr52@helsinor.dk // Size: 13.000 m² // Budget: DKK 300 m / € 40,23 m // Completed: 2010 // Proposal Architect: AART architechts A/S // Engineer: Søren Jensen A/S // Landscape Architect: AART architechts A/S // Interior design / Fixture design: AART architechts A/S // Photo: Adam Mørk // Prize: 1st prize in international architecture competition. // Service: lead consultancy services //

The Culture Yard is designed as a cultural crucible and social meeting point which symbolizes Elsinore's transformation from industrial town to cultural center. AART Architects aim has been to design a hinge between the past and present which reinforces the identity of the local community, but at the same time has an international format, reinforcing the relation between the local and global sphere. In other words, the local becomes global and global becomes local, whereby the architecture articulates, what you might call, the glocal community.

The contrast between past and present has been elementary for AART Architects. Among other things, the studio has reinforced the original concrete skeleton with armored steel, but has left the concrete exposed as a reference to the site's industrial past. The historic context has thus been the main structural idea in the design process, ensuring the keen observer will discover a chapter of history in every corner of the yard and every peeling of the wall. In other words, if you want to understand what Elsinore really is, what the intangible blur between past and present feels like, this is the place to visit.

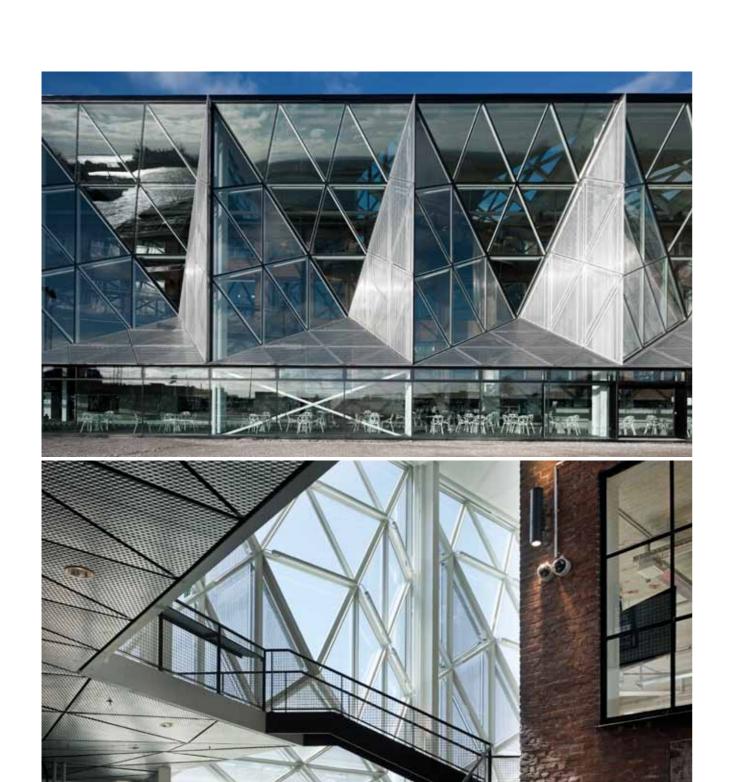
Thanks to architectural features such as wrought iron stairs and concrete elements, interacting with modern glass structures and interior designs, the contrast between the days of yore and the present becomes evident. It is AART Architects way of playing with

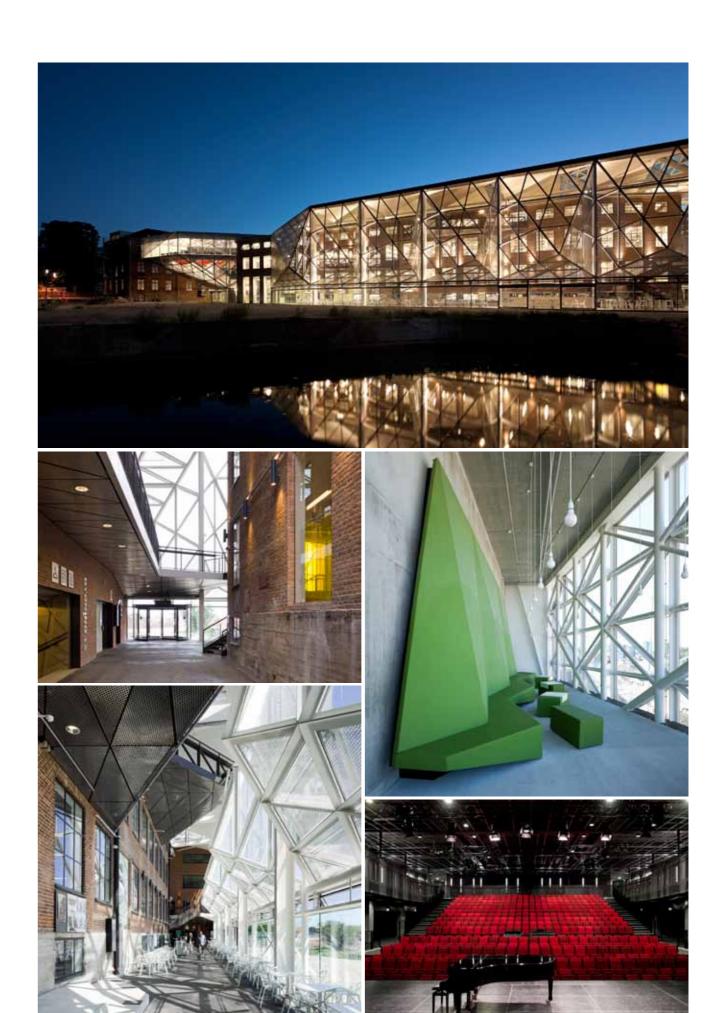
the field of tension between old and new, making the notion of past versus present, the industrial society versus the information society, constantly present.

Particularly striking, when viewed from the waterfront and Kronborg Castle, is the multifaceted façade. Like a fragmented, yet strongly coherent structure, the enormous glass façade challenges the historic site and stares unflinchingly across the Sound – the strait that separates Denmark and Sweden. The transparent façade also reinforces the relation between inside and outside, since you can peak in from street level and enjoy the magnificent sea view and view of Kronborg Castle from every floor of the building – especially from the glass cave which in a dramatic gesture protrudes out of the building above the main entrance.

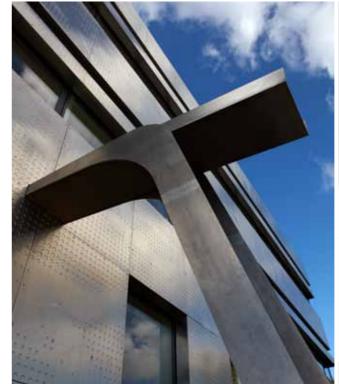
"It is a house with a view to insight. With high ceilings and broadly based between sky and sea. Both in jest and in earnest. As a glint, a brave reflex in the eye of Elsinore that reflects the whole world."

Michael Fock, head of the Culture Yard The inauguration of the Culture Yard in 2010











The Water House – the new headquarters for DANVA // Skanderborg, DK

// Project: New headquarter for DANVA // Address: Godthåbsvej 83, Skanderborg // Client: Danva (Dansk Vand- og Spildevandsforening) // Size: 2.600 m² // Budget: DKK 38 m / € 5,1 m // Status: Completed // Proposal Architect: AART architechts A/S // Engineer: Cowi A/S // Contractor: A. Enggaard A/S // Landscape Architect: AART architects A/S // Photo: Thomas Mølvig and Helene Høyer Mikkelsen // Award: Sustainable Concrete Design 2011 (Bæredygtig Beton Prisen 2011); Best project in turnkey contract competition 2009 // Service: Shared advice //

By means of its aesthetical and technical solutions, the Waterhouse identifies DANVA as a socially engaged interest group focused on water and wastewater supply. The building, which is constructed in energy class 1 according the Danish building standard with a focus on a healthy indoor environment, has been developed in close dialogue with DANVA in order to create an architectural whole, which reflects the association's sustainable ethos and daily work with water and wastewater engineering solutions.

The headquarters is not only constructed in energy class 1, it also expands the concept of sustainability by taking advantage of LAR (local drainage of rain water). In other words, the building not only minimises energy consumption but also diverts rainwater locally and thereby relieves the sewer systems, increases groundwater resources and contributes to biodiversity. This was a sustainable architectural concept that secured the building the Danish Sustainable Concrete Award 2011.

The headquarters is located in the outskirts of Skanderborg and is designed so that its bright, reflective exterior softens the surrounding urban landscape, which appears more dark and intense. In this way, the building brightens up the urban landscape, and in addition to horizontal glass sections and wooden strips, its exterior consists of perforated metal plates. The pixelated perforations appear at close range as abstract patterns, while they from

a distance appear to form water motifs that stimulate the senses and give the building a contemporary, exciting and technological expression that reinforces DANVA's knowledge basis.

The light but distinctive idiom also permeates the building's interior, which is organised as a square volume around a light-emitting atrium where the water motifs are repeated in the form of the teardrop-shaped ceiling lamps and where employees gather and the organisation is anchored in the building. The atrium creates visual contact between the three floors and expresses a socially viable message by appearing as the democratic heart of the building.

"The Waterhouse places emphasis on sustainability through an attractive, future-proofed and rationally designed construction. In a spectacular way, the building demonstrates how concrete can contribute to interesting and exciting solutions to the significant challenge of diverting rainwater locally."

Julian Weyer, chairman of the jury committee Sustainable Concrete Award 2011

