

INTRODUCTION TO
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THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT - COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS DECEMBER 2012



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Henning Larsen Architects is an international architecture company. Our goal is to create vibrant, sustainable projects that reach beyond themselves and become of durable value to the user and to the society and culture that they are built into. The company was founded by Henning Larsen in 1959 and today has offices in Denmark, Norway, Germany, Turkey and Saudi-Arabia. Henning Larsen Architects employs more than 200 people across the five offices.

The projects are characterised by a high degree of social responsibility – not only in relation to materials and production but also as regards good, social spaces encouraging intimacy and community. We shape, challenge and change the physical surroundings with the overall objective of providing the user with a strong, visionary and thoroughly framed design adapted to the specific context.

Henning Larsen Architects attaches great importance to designing environmentally friendly and integrated, energy-efficient solutions. Our ideas are developed in close collaboration with the client, users and partners in order to achieve long-lasting buildings and a beneficial life-cycle economy. This value-based approach is the key to our design of numerous building projects around the world – from complex masterplans to successful architectural landmarks.



The employees at Henning Larsen Architects is a diverse group. As of November 2012, the staff represents 22 different nationalities of which 59.8 % are men and 40.2% are women. In the Istanbul office, the gender distribution is 50/50, and in the Munich office, it is 45/55 in favor of women. To promote a better understanding across cultures, Henning Larsen Architects seeks to attract interns and employees from different countries. To ensure knowledge-sharing and share work and cultural experience, the five international offices arrange exchange programs.

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Henning Larsen Architects continues to support the United Nations Global Compact and encourages our network to participate and implement its principles.

When we joined the United Nations Global Compact more than four years ago, we put our efforts into promoting sustainability in the planning, design and operation of our building projects.

We addressed the environmental principles of the UN Global Compact by focusing on three aspects: how we operate our business, how we approach the design process and by initiating or supporting various outreach programs. This priority reflects the building sector's considerable environmental impact - and hence its significant influence in this field and its opportunity to contribute to finding a solution.

Green building is a result of collaboration. We need ambitious clients, forward-thinking legislators, a motivated industry and innovative designers to create environmentally responsible and resource-efficient projects.

To promote a construction sector which can achieve this and which understands how sustainability can create long-term societal and economic value, we have given priority to the communication of the research conducted in this field. The book 'Design with Knowledge' was published in 2012 and is freely available at our website. Additionally, printed copies are distributed internationally at a low price to encourage students to buy it.

We continue to invest in research projects on sustainable building and, in collaboration with the Technical University of Denmark, we have initiated a new research project, "Urban Environment - development of comfort criteria for urban planning". The project will examine the microclimate of urban structures of various forms and scales.

While maintaining our focus on sustainability, we are aware of other aspects in our global projects that can be challenging due to different ethical standards, cultural values, spiritual concepts or political systems. We are in the process of establishing tools to assess these challenges better. We will continue to work globally with projects in countries where architecture is significant to the development of society.



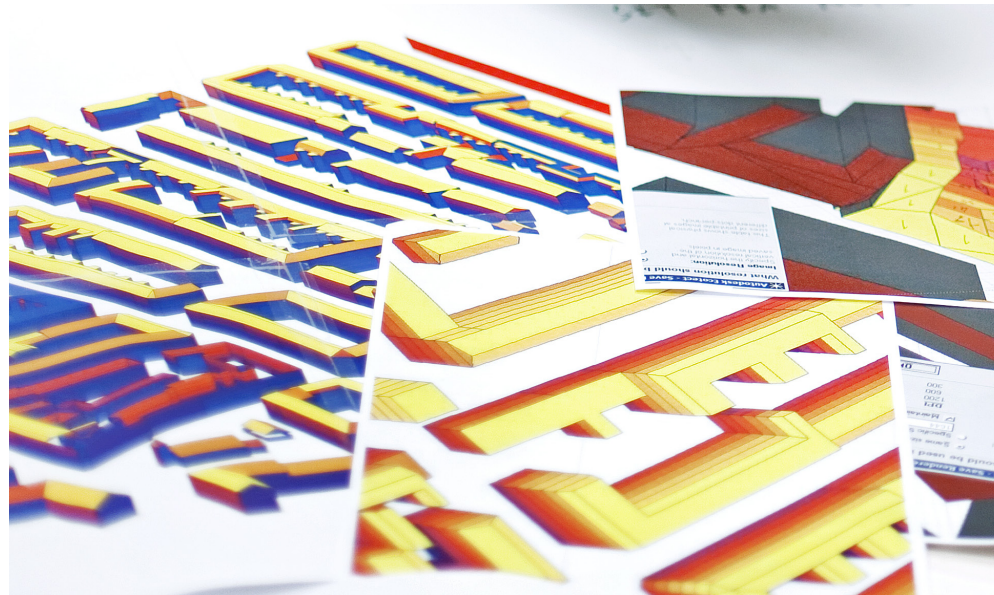
Mette Kynne Frandsen
CEO and Partner,
Henning Larsen Architects

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Henning Larsen Architects joined the United Nations Global Compact in 2008, to be a part of the partnership between the UN and the international corporate world with the objective of promoting the social commitment of businesses. This report is our third Communication on Progress (CoP) in which we address and continuously commit ourselves to all four areas of the Global Compact: Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Our Communication on Progress is uploaded to the website of the United Nations Global Compact and will also be available on our website, intranet and be an integral part of how we present our company internally as well as in the media. By this approach, we transparently communicate our ethical standards and values, and we hope that our efforts and results will be inspirational and raise awareness among employees, colleagues, partners and clients.

In architecture, the environment is the field where companies within the industry can make the greatest difference. Henning Larsen Architects' projects reflect this premise; they are based on a holistic approach to sustainability and – to a high degree – on the knowledge built by Henning Larsen Architects and its collaboration partners.



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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.

Our commitment

Henning Larsen Architects supports the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Actions taken

Henning Larsen Architects complies with the provisions of national Danish legislation, which meets international conventions on human rights.

In addition to our commitment to prevent a negative impact on human rights, we actively support and promote the enjoyment of human rights – by the projects we choose to engage in, by the way we design projects and by our recruitment and employment policy, including internship programs.

A widespread issue when operating an international organization in the globalized economy, is lack of legislation and cultural traditions that do not have the same standards as or even contradict Danish legislation. We strive to support the local improvement of human rights.

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Children's Interactive Museum

One of our main business activities is the design of cultural and educational buildings. By their category alone, these buildings are very supportive of human rights and development. Our designs embody a high degree of social responsibility – not only in relation to sustainability, the selection of materials and production but also as regards inclusive social spaces encouraging equality and community.



*LINK to more information at
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Egedal Town Hall and Health Centre

Egedal Town Hall and Health Centre will be the uniting centre of the new Municipality of Egedal north of Copenhagen, Denmark. The Town Hall is designed to constitute the architectural framework for a central square – a public, interior passage for citizens. The Health Centre will become an active part of the Town Hall, while at the same time offering citizens the opportunity to use the area outside town hall opening hours.



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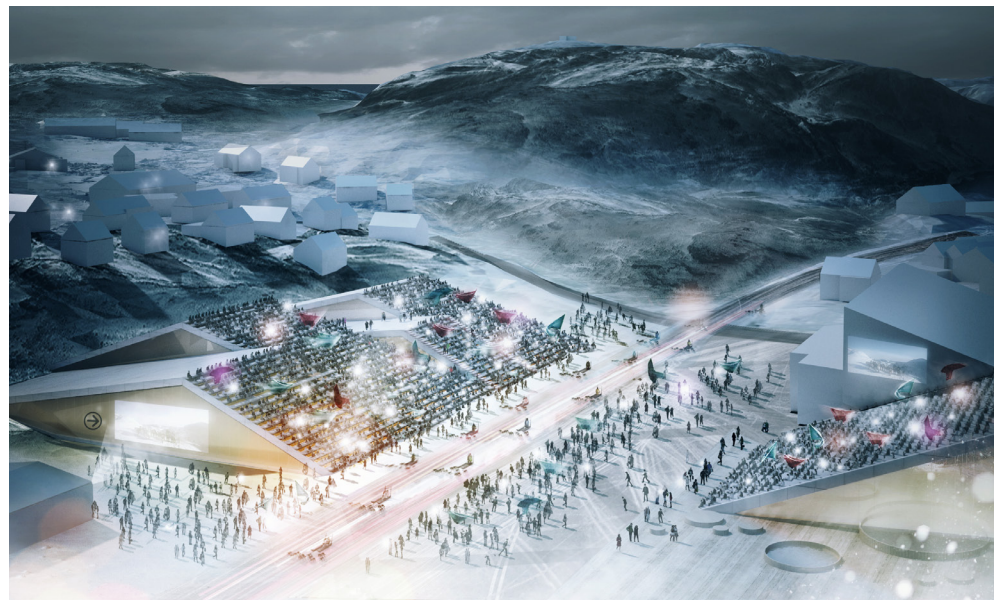
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Exhibition at Venice Biennale 2012

Henning Larsen Architects has developed the project 'Greenland Migrating', which was exhibited at this year's architecture biennale in Venice.

When debating the future of Greenland, migration is high on the agenda. Tourism, mining and mineral exploration can cause a migration flow that might turn the Greenlandic population into a minority in their own country. The project proposes an alternative masterplan for the Greenlandic town of Ilulissat. Capitalising on density and the migrating community, whether it is for a day, a season or a lifetime, the strategy aims to promote the 'meeting' between people as a resource for growth and economic sustainability.



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IMAGINATION III

In February 2012, Henning Larsen Architects organized the third cross-cultural workshop under the title IMAGINATION, combining a symposium and workshops. The aim is to explore and enhance awareness of a specific contemporary challenge in our physical surroundings. The topic of IMAGINATION III was "Suitable Cultural Institutions – Imagine the Synergy between Cultural Institutions and Encouraging Civil Society" and was held in Beirut, Lebanon. It combined walks, talks, and sketch assignments to explore various views on the city and get to know Beirut and the participants. By following an open-ended work process in teams with colleagues from different learning environments and institutions, the participants experienced the school as an eye-opener, offering a great amount of knowledge and cultural sharing.



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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.

Our commitment

Henning Larsen Architects supports the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Actions taken

The Danish labor market is largely self-regulated by collective agreements concluded between trade unions and employers' organizations and to a lesser degree statutorily regulated by the state and EU bodies.

Henning Larsen Architects participates in, respects and supports this system by our membership 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. Through collaborative efforts, Henning Larsen Architects uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

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Collective bargaining in Denmark

The Danish self-regulated system of collective bargaining is based on a negotiation between employers and trade unions. At the negotiation, representatives from both employers and employees are represented.

Every third year, the Danish Architects' Association negotiates a collective agreement with the employers of the industry. The collective agreement includes any employed architect in Denmark who is educated in Europe. At Henning Larsen Architects, employees educated outside of Europe are engaged on terms that to a large extent match the terms covered by the collective agreement.

As of 2013, a new collective agreement on the salary of architects will be implemented. It is planned to be fully implemented by 2018. What is new in this collective agreement is that salary increases will be dependent on performance rather than seniority. At the same time, the individual employee is guaranteed not to get a lower salary than what was agreed in the former collective agreement.



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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.

Our commitment

Henning Larsen Architects is committed to work on protecting the environment through adoption of voluntary charters as well as through sectoral and international initiatives, including Sustainia, Nordic Built, Gate 21, The Energy Renovation Network of the Danish Ministry for Climate, Energy and Building, and Concito, the green think tank of Denmark.

Actions taken

Henning Larsen Architects supports scientific research. The environmental impact of the existing building stock and new buildings must be reduced. Incorporating scientific knowledge on climate and energy into the design process adds a new quality to the architectural design.

Cross-disciplinary collaborations within Henning Larsen Architects have dealt with both existing knowledge and new research – with the primary objective of promoting a holistic appreciation of the environmental and energy-related aspects of building. An important step has been taken in terms of bringing together professions that usually work separately.

Knowledge of and access to state-of-the-art knowledge and developments are decisive factors in relation to architecture. Therefore, Henning Larsen Architects takes part in building, collecting and sharing new knowledge about sustainability.

In collaboration with the Technical University of Denmark, Henning Larsen Architects employed three industrial PhD students from 2009 to 2012. The PhD students conducted research on sustainability and interdisciplinary collaboration. In December 2012, the collaboration will continue and a new industrial PhD will begin his research on “Urban Environment - development of comfort criteria for urban planning”.

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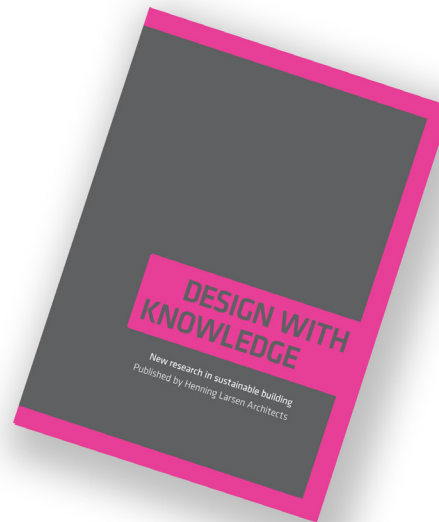
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Design with Knowledge

Henning Larsen Architects has published the book "Design with Knowledge", which offers state-of-the-art knowledge about the possibilities of incorporating sustainability in architecture. The book looks into the knowledge-based design method, which has been developed in the cross-disciplinary research collaboration between the Technical University of Denmark and Henning Larsen Architects.

The book consists of 25 cases that illustrate how research has been used in specific projects. In the cases, the most important analyses and measures are reviewed. The research has been conducted by three industrial PhD students – Jakob Strømmand-Andersen, who is now employed with Henning Larsen Architects, Martin Vraa Nielsen and Michael Jørgensen – who have conducted research on specific projects at Henning Larsen Architects. The research has received support from the Realdania Foundation.

The printed book is available in stores but has also been published online, where it can be read for free. In this way, the knowledge presented in the book is shared and continuously expanded through specific use in design and construction.



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Signe Kongebro, Manager of Henning Larsen Architects' Department of Sustainability, has spoken at a wide range of national and international conferences and debates, including Essen, Nordic Green Building, Smart Cities and Green Urban Transformers (GUTS). Further, Signe has given presentations for the business community on several occasions, including organisations as NCC, Orbicon, the Danish Association of Concrete Producers, Dansk Beton, and Green Cities.

For instance, Signe has given lectures on the topic: "Complete Renovation Applying Daylight as Sole Design Measure", about the gain of applying daylight as the sole design measure in complete renovations in the city, and "Sustainability as Design Parameter", about how to adopt sustainability as an operational strategy. Sustainability is a complex concept. In order to transform it into an applicable strategy, it is essential to understand the full scope of the concept. When applying sustainability as a design parameter, the concept covers a sustainable design approach, which reduces the energy consumption of buildings in operation.



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Henning Larsen Architects has projects in numerous countries where buildings must meet different certification standards. This means that Henning Larsen Architects has experience with LEED, BREEAM, DGNB and other international certifications. It is important to know as much as possible about the various certification standards. Thus, several employees at Henning Larsen Architects are certified LEED and DGNB consultants.

DGNB is the German standard in sustainable building and evaluates a wide spectrum of sustainable measures. Environmental, economic and social aspects are all incorporated in the evaluation of sustainability. The German DGNB system has set the standard for the new Danish DGNB certification, which is managed by the Green Building Council Denmark. Signe Kongebro, Manager of Henning Larsen Architects' Department of Sustainability, is a member of the Green Building Council Denmark.



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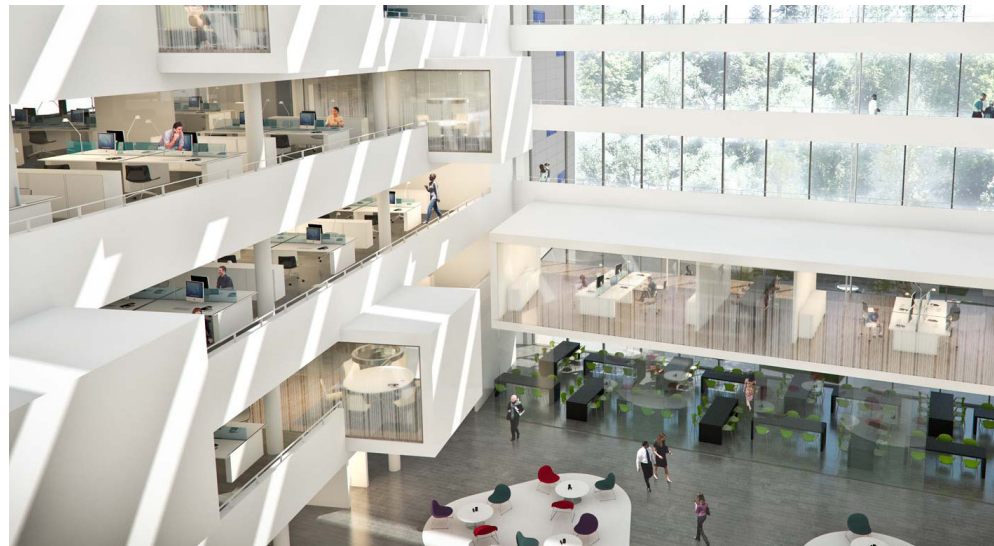
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The new headquarters in Oslo is designed in collaboration with NCC Property Development as a modern passive house. The headquarters has focus on daylight, spatial layout and sustainable materials. It integrates the surrounding urban space as a direct part of its spatial qualities, while also giving something back by opening up to the city so the in-house activities enrich surrounding city life.

The building is part of the ten-year Norwegian FutureBuilt program with the vision of developing carbon neutral urban areas and high-quality architecture through a number of pilot projects. The NCC Headquarters will thus spearhead the development of green building in Norway. In addition, the project was, shortlisted for the Sustainia Award 2012. Sustainia is a global initiative that raises awareness of the desirable societies we could live in, if ready and available solutions were implemented at large scale.

Henning Larsen Architects takes a holistic approach to reducing the overall environmental impact of the individual building during its entire life span. In this context, this applies to energy, water, resources, materials, transport, waste etc. - however, with a particular focus on energy consumption.

The experience of Henning Larsen Architects shows that cross-disciplinary collaboration from the very first design phases results in better projects for both client and users.



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Nordic Built is an initiative aiming to accelerate the development of sustainable building concepts. The program combines key Nordic strengths, provides attractive and effective arenas for collaboration and realizes concrete projects that demonstrate world-class scalable solutions.

Louis Becker, Partner and Director at Henning Larsen Architects, has signed the Nordic Built Charter. By signing the charter, Henning Larsen Architects and other leading parties in the Nordic building sector commit to implementing 10 principles in their strategy and work and taking the necessary steps to deliver competitive solutions for sustainable construction.

**The ten principles:**

We will create a built environment that:

1. is made for people and promotes quality of life.
2. pushes the limits of sustainable performance, as a result of our innovative mind-set and high level of knowledge.
3. merges urban living with the qualities of nature.
4. achieves zero emissions over its lifecycle.
5. is functional, smart and aesthetically appealing, building on the best of the Nordic design tradition.
6. is robust, durable, flexible and time less - built to last.
7. Utilizes local resources and is adapted to local conditions.
8. is produced and maintained through partnerships founded on transparent collaboration across borders and disciplines.
9. employs concepts that are scalable and used globally.
10. profits people, business and the environment.

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Principle 10

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

Our commitment

Henning Larsen Architects supports The United Nations Convention Against Corruption. We fully comply with Danish and international legislation. A respectful and open relationship to our clients, employees and the societies in which we work is an essential value in all our projects.

Actions taken

We have not – directly or indirectly – been involved in any form of corruption.

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Henning Larsen Architects supports the eight Millennium Development Goals for 2015.

Henning Larsen Architects contributes to promoting the UN Millenium Development Goals through support of the national Danish campaign, "World's Best News":

Goal 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education.

Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower women.

Goal 4

Reduce child mortality.

Goal 5

Improve maternal health.

Goal 6

Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Goal 7

Ensure environmental sustainability.

Goal 8

Develop a global partnership for development.

MORE INFORMATION

www.un.org/millenniumgoals

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