



Christensen & Co

Global Compact

Communication On Progress **2013**

Christensen & Co. architects a/s
Member since 2010

Address

Bragesgade 10B.
DK-2200 Copenhagen
Denmark

www.cco.as

Contact Names

Michael Christensen, founder, director.
Heidi Pedersen, Public Relation & Executive Assistant





Executive Statement of Continuing Commitment

We are pleased to confirm our ongoing commitment and support to 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 a part of the core values of Christensen & Co. architects.

We believe that good architecture applies to all aspects of a building. Neither design nor function, economy nor process should be considered separately, but holistically together.

Good architecture makes a difference. Architects with intention, empathy and thoroughness make buildings that actively can change people's lives.



Michael Christensen
Director and founder Christensen & Co. architects.



Short description of the Company

Christensen & Co. architects (CCO) was established by Michael Christensen in 2006 and has gained a reputation for building healthy sustainable new buildings with a good indoor climate. CCO has won a number of major international and Danish competitions, amongst them buildings for education, leisure, culture and offices with a focus on sustainability.

Having developed a number of low-energy projects with very ambitious environmental agendas, in close collaboration with an array of experts, engineers and with the help of cutting edge technical equipment, our ambition is to constantly challenge the architectural methods and processes. We believe that the surprising, unique and characteristic solutions occurs when factors such as program, location, function, culture or climate, challenges the architectural intention; Sustainability through integrated design.

In 2009 CCO finished Denmark's first public CO2 neutral building; Green Lighthouse for the University of Copenhagen. In 2011 Green Lighthouse was the first public building in Denmark to receive a LEED Gold certificate. Most recently we delivered the new research and administration building for Technical University Denmark's Institute of mathematics and compute. DTU-Compute contains an innovative new hybrid ventilation system as well as 22 indoor trees to help the building breathe.

Throughout our six years in business, we have consolidated our reputation as an innovative company, with a visionary approach to sustainable architecture.

We are active members of the Danish Global Compact community attending SME related meetings and conferences in Denmark. Additionally we support NGOs like Architects Without Borders. We are app. 50 architects, design engineers and administrative staff, situated in the northern part of Copenhagen.



Response to the four issue areas

At the centre of our approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is our architectural philosophy; to create buildings that are healthy for both people and the environment. As a consultancy company we aspire to advise our clients to make well founded decisions to implement and introduce sustainable solutions for the future.

We have taken part in a new initiative launched by The Danish Association of Architectural Firms to enhance knowledge of CSR within the Danish building industry.

Though a collaboration with five other Danish architecture company´s, we have helped write a tool book and guidelines for all architectural company´s in their endeavor to create a business based on responsible dealings throughout the supply chain.

We adhere to the 10 principles of Global Compact by following the four issue areas as stated below.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In our business approach we follow the Human Rights principles, as described in the 1948 General Assembly Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

All of our current projects are in Scandinavia and we take outmost care and precautions to ensure that Human Rights are upheld throughout all stages, and all links in the supply chain, of the projects we are involved in, as well as in the collaborations within which we engage.

LABOUR

At Christensen & Co. architects we comply with the labour standards as described by the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

There is complete freedom of association at Christensen & Co. architects, as well as the recognition of the right to collective bargaining. There is a staff representative at the office, chosen in a vote among all employees.

ENVIRONMENT

The end user and the environment is a focal point for the practice. Being an architectural company our most important output is our buildings.

Our main aim is to create buildings with a healthy indoor climate and to respect the environment, during the building process as well as in considerations for the life cycle of the building, combined with respect for the existing area within which we are building.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Promoting close cross culture collaboration between the various disciplines within the building industry, the sub-contractors and our supply chain, ensures a healthy working climate. Where corruption is not permissible.



Practical actions

OUR APPROACH

At CCO we have an open community spirit within the company. Our foundation is based on dialogue and in recognizing the social responsibilities of the practice. We encourage communication and broad collaboration within the office, as well as a close collaborative cooperation with external partners on the projects, ensuring that our knowledge is updated with the latest research, in order to give the best possible advice to clients. A prerequisite for a successful building is respectful collaboration between all parties included. We believe in ambitious and challenging collaborations where dialogue is key and the collective aim is high from the outset.

ACTIVITIES

We focus on measuring the performance of the sustainable buildings. The Sunhouse climate friendly nursery, which is built on the Active House principles, is part of a study which will monitor the nursery's performance. We hope to learn from the success and failures, in order to ensure that we do not repeat mistakes. We also have a keen interest in how the various energy initiatives work. At the nursery the staff has been inspired by the building to teach the children about the various green features.

Our newly finalized research and administration building for Technical University Denmark is yet another step forward, towards a modern building where indoor climate, good circulation and incorporation of modern pedagogic measurements are combined within the spatial lay-out from the beginning of the architectural thought process. The building creates an exciting indoor environment with large indoor spaces growing on the ground floor under which the students can study in groups and have meetings, study related as well as social.

We aim to continue this approach on future projects, to keep visiting the buildings after handing over to the end user.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

We design our buildings for longevity and to improve life for the end user. There has to be a clear relationship between the design and the behaviour of the end user, part of our commitment is to share the concept behind the design with the users in order for them to be able to use the building to its maximum. In a building with numerous sustainable and low-energy technical functions, there has to be a close relationship between design and end user.

We have an ongoing schedule of internal office seminars; a morning of knowledge sharing where our experiences on the projects are shared for all. We invite external speakers, to these seminars to enlighten us on any new methods on a given subject. Subjects has so far included; user participation, workshops and future learning and research environments. We aim to continue these internal seminars in the future.

NEW TOOLS FOR THE DANISH ARCHITECTURAL COMMUNITY

A recent new measure an action Christensen & Co architects has been engaged in the development of new policies and tools for CSR in the Danish architectural practises.

The project is initiated by the Association of Danish Architectural Firms (Danske Ark) who has commissioned social responsibility consultants from Responsible Assets to cooperate with three major architectural firms in Denmark; Henning Larsen Architects, C. F. Moller Architects and Christensen & Co.

We have worked together with the aim to develop new procedures and tools for handling CSR in architectural projects in Danish architectural practises. The new CSR tools will be presented to the professional community in Denmark at a conference on June 11 2012.

We at CCO will add to the general work by developing specific tools and code of conduct for internal use, as a practical tool for the management staff and project leaders.



Measurement of outcome

We are continuing our work of creating sustainable buildings and we have a new zero-energy building opening in July. The building will house a new environmental center at Copenhagen's new Northern Harbour Area, an upcoming area developed with an innovative sustainable green focus.

Around 35 members of staff and administration will have their daily workplace at the new zero-energy center. Merging with its surrounding nature, through a grass covered roof sloping to the ground, the zigzag shaped building has solar panels and photovoltaic cells incorporated in its distinct architecture.

The building produces energy through the solar panels and photovoltaic cells, combined with heat storage and thermo active covering the energy usage will be that of zero.

We find it hugely satisfying to work on these sustainable projects, which help us push the boundaries for modern building design. Not only does it keep us up to date on the field of innovative sustainable materials and initiatives it also offers constant challenges in our quest to create healthy modern buildings.

We are looking forward to see the new CSR tools put into practice in after the launch in June, and hope that everyone within the Danish architectural community will find it even easier to act in responsible on a daily basis.

We hope to be able to provide a measurement of the outcome in our next communication on progress in 2014.



**For further information please go to our web site
www.cco.as**

