



GLOBAL COMPACT

COP 2008-2010



aart
architects



ABOUT AART

AART A/S is an international architectural company founded in 2000 with the vision to develop the Scandinavian architectural tradition by creating inspiring, sustainable surroundings. AART has offices in Denmark and Norway and is a high-performance team of 50 young designers and technicians that deliver full-service consultants in the field of architecture.

The projects of AART are rooted in the essence of the site and characterized by a strong social as well as environmental awareness. As architects we believe in the concept of holistic, value based design and collaborate closely with clients, stakeholders and users to produce multi-disciplinary solutions that embrace both the environmentally, socially and economically sustainable aspects of every project.

In other words, we believe that long-lasting architecture grows out of a profound understanding of the unique qualities of the specific site, cultural context and client's vision. Therefore, we study the aesthetic, social and technological possibilities of every project in an entirely holistic way in the desire to develop the concept of sustainability and meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A value based approach which permeates our design process and ensures a beneficial life-cycle economy.

Whether it's about complex masterplans, landmark buildings or inspiring interior design our prevalent goal is to create high-performance concepts which raise the bar for the sustainable architecture of tomorrow.

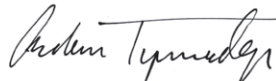


STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT


On behalf of AART it is our privilege to hand in our first COP (Communication on Progress) and formulate our continuing support for the United Nations Global Compact. We joined the Global Compact in 2008 and commit to making the principles part of our strategy and day-to-day operations.

In this COP we have chosen to focus on the three environmental principles, since we believe in the necessity of promoting a new approach to architecture based on equality and responsibility, making sustainable thinking a vital part of our design process. In this way, our predominant goal is to make vibrant and eco-friendly buildings and masterplans, contributing to enhance human well-being and the health of the global environment.

Environmental issues have been our main focus since we founded AART in 2000. Therefore, we are proud to hand in this COP, materializing our commitment to supporting the environmental principles. However, we would like to point out that our value based design approach which is strongly rooted in the Scandinavian democratic tradition implies that we also uphold the principles concerning human rights, labour and anti-corruption.


Anders Tyrrestrup


Torben Skovbjerg Larsen


Anders Strange

Founding partners of AART AIS



STATUS ON OUR SUPPORT

AART joined United Nations Global Compact the 26th of December 2008 and we are committed to internalizing the ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption into our corporate policies, operations and culture.

In this COP (our first Communication on Progress) we have chosen to focus on the three principles concerning environmental responsibility. As architects we provide the framework for the physical surroundings of the future, making the three principles concerning environmental responsibility an obvious first step, regarding the implementation of the Global Compact.

In the following years we will address all four areas of Global Compact and continue working with the ten principles.

Our COP will be uploaded to the website of United Nations Global Compact as well as our own website and intranet. Furthermore, we will focus on including the COP in our annual accounts to ensure the credibility of our corporate engagement in the Global Compact, since we believe in public accountability, transparency and continuous improvement.



ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7: Business should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

Principle 8: Business should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

Principle 9: Business should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Commitment

AART supports United Nations' environmental objectives, which were unveiled at the Stockholm Conference (1972) and since has been developed and materialized in particular the Brundtland Report (1987) and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992).

We are aware of how the economic and technical development in its wake has brought numerous environmental challenges, which require an internationally coordinated effort to overcome – an effort where we as architects play a crucial role. For example, statistics show that buildings account for 40% of all energy consumption in the EU, making energy efficient architecture one of the predominant concerns if we as a global society seek to reduce our energy consumption and CO₂ emission.



Actions

Environmentally friendly architecture begins in the concept phase. It begins even before we as architects draw the first line of a building, since it is strongly rooted in our architectural thinking. In other words, we think of environmentally friendly solutions as something we naturally integrate rather than something we add-on.

Energy efficiency is one of the predominant concerns regarding eco-friendly architecture. Therefore, we have trained our employees in Integrated Energy Design (IED) to take advantage of all the passive features of our architectural decisions, since the main principle of IED is to focus on passive energy strategies, low energy measures, low costs and healthy indoor climate.

By using IED we also enhance the collaboration between developer, architect, engineer etc. from the earliest stages of the project. Hereby, we are able to identify the right design premises from the very start by focusing on the passive performance of the building (daylight, shade, natural ventilation etc.) before focusing on the mechanical and electrical installations.

In this way the IED process provides buildings with much lower energy demands and maintenance costs, thus supporting a precautionary approach to environmental challenges (principle 7), promoting greater environmental responsibility (principle 8) and encouraging the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies (principle 9).



Example – Home for Life

AART has designed Home for Life which is located in Lystrup, Denmark, and leads the way to the next generation of climate-neutral buildings. The 200m² single family house is designed as the world's first Active House and is a result of a research and design development aimed at ensuring a necessary foothold in architecture in an anticipated low-carbon future.

Home for Life takes advantage of Integrated Energy Design (IED) and is designed as a CO₂-neutral demonstration project, which systematically uses the energy from the sun. The form and orientation of the house are optimized in proportion to the specific site, while the window area is equivalent to 40% of the floor area – twice the area of a conventional low-energy building. Furthermore, 7m² solar collectors, 50m² solar cells and a solar heat pump contribute to reducing the demand for energy, while strategically placed solar-cell operated roof windows offer a balanced amount of daylight to the bedrooms and the kitchen-dining room area.

The environmentally friendly features make Home for Life a distinctive sustainable project, since the house is designed to produce more energy than it consumes. With an estimated energy surplus of gkWh/m²/year it takes approximately 40 years for the house to generate the same amount of energy that was used to produce its building materials.



Example – The Culture Yard

AART has designed The Culture Yard in Elsinore, Denmark, which unites the days of yore with a modern profile in a unified culture and knowledge centre, including two concert halls, a public library, a café, showrooms and conference rooms.

The yard is an example of how Integrated Energy Design (IED) is able to unite environmentally friendly solutions with a modern profile in a unified aesthetic expression. For example, the multi-faceted façade of the building functions as an aesthetic statement as well as an eco-friendly solution by optimizing daylight and reducing the energy consumption.

In other words, the multi-faceted façade of glass and steel is designed as a climate shield which not only protects against, but also takes advantage of the heat of sunlight. As a passive design feature the façade contributes to cooling the interior in the summer and heating the interior in the winter.



Future actions

We will continue to develop our environmentally friendly design process and raise the bar for eco-friendly architecture. Among other things, we plan to establish a research team of architects and technicians who will develop sustainable solutions and generate credible knowledge from thorough research and interdisciplinary collaboration with a wide range of knowledge-based companies and institutions.

Hereby, we will optimize our environmentally friendly design decisions via a process of gathering, evaluating and applying the latest evidence from research and practice. Furthermore, the research team will support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges (principle 7), promote greater environmental responsibility (principle 8) and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies (principle 9).

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