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Challenges and opportunities

The year 2015 was important for sustainable development. In September the United Nations presented the Sustainable Development Goals and in December the UN's member countries agreed on common objectives to limit climate change.

The world is facing major environmental and societal challenges from climate change to migration. In Scandinavia, we are seeing an increase in social inequality coupled by an enormous shortage of housing. Major cities are planning for densification and new housing projects are being rapidly built, which in turn increases the necessity to ensure that social and environmental qualities are not lost.

At the Architecture Biennale in Venice, the title was Reporting from the Front; the theme mirrors the current situation in society and encourages a collective effort amongst architects to bridge the gap between architecture and civil society. "Gestaltad livsmiljö", the new proposal for Sweden's National Architecture Policy, is also in line. The proposal emphasizes the

value of architecture, form and design and its significance for the individual, the environment and the sustainable development of society.

For White, this stance is in complete alignment with what we stand for, to be an exploratory and responsible company acting with participation and respect. Contributing to urban equity is an impassioned issue that we have debated this year. The only non-variable that we can definitely conclude is that people are different and have different needs, which also vary over time.

We have great challenges that can become great opportunities to make a difference. At White, we possess the skills to address and respond to a multidimensional scope of issues which can shape the future of architecture. All businesses can contribute by embracing and implementing the Global Goals, which we define in our upcoming strategic plan. Our goal is to further establish our international presence, and we hope to contribute with our passionate views on sustainable architecture. We will continue to support the principles of the UN Global Compact and we value this commitment as an important statement for our company.



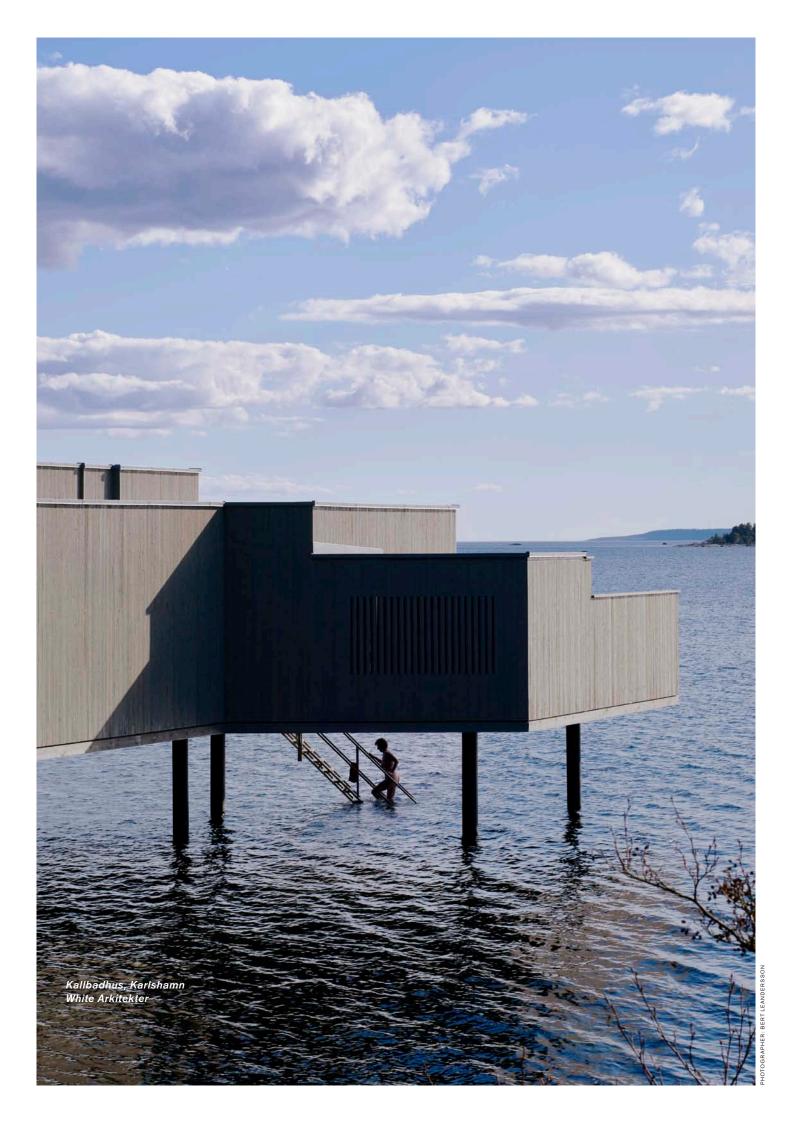
8th of July, 2016.

Mmin v Sylmslensee

CEO, Monica von Schmalensee.

Director Sustainability, Anna Graaf.

Monica von Schmalensee, CEO and Anna Graaf, Director of Sustainability.



About us

White Arkitekter was founded in 1951 in Gothenburg, Sweden. We are Scandinavia's leading architectural practice with 16 offices across Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the UK. We are proud of being an entirely employee owned company, and amongst our almost 900 employees, about 580 are shareholders.

Our vision is to create human-centred architecture that inspires sustainable lifestyles. To achieve this, we work with three guiding strategies: to create emotive architecture, to constantly challenge ourselves to improve the way in which we practice, and to explore the field of architecture with dedicated, applied research.

We work across disciplines and take an explorative and holistic approach in order to handle the challenges of sustainability. In addition to architects and engineers, White employs a wide range of competencies, such as project managers, urban planners,

landscape architects, social anthropologists, environmental and energy specialists and lighting and interior designers.

Our Code of Conduct, based on the ten principles of Global Compact, describes the expectations and demands we have on ourselves and our business partners. White has three fundamental policies: Employee Policy, Quality Policy and Sustainability Policy. Our business management system, WhiteQ, is certified to ISO 9001 and 14001 and supports our projects as well as our administration.

Global Compact's

principles

HUMAN RIGHTS

Principle 1

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

Principle 2

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

the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5

the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6

the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7

Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8

undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and **Principle 9** 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.



This is our Communication on Progress in implementing the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.

2015 Figures & facts

Driven by curiosity, we explore what is possible but seldom imagined. Together, we find sustainable answers, both for today and tomorrow.

15%

reduction in electricity per employee.

Good architecture makes people grow.

new research projects in sustainable architecture.

45%

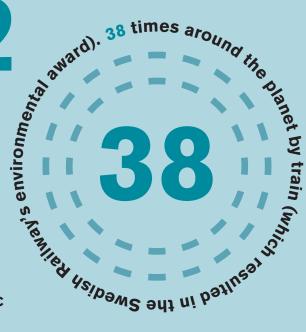
of our building projects following an environmental certification system (like Miljöbyggnad, Breeam, Leed).

Fossilfritt Sverige Commissions in countries.

Commitment to Fossil Free Sweden.

94%

of long-distance domestic trips are taken by train.



40,4
years is the average age of White employees.

We have almost 900 employees. At the end of 2015 62% were architects and 31% engineers.

66% of competitions won.

employees attended study tours in the Nordic countries.

We have 16 offices in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and UK. 42%

We have a shared ownership model with about 580 shareholders. 117 are partners.

decrease in CO₂ per employee compared to 2014.

24-0/0
less combustible waste compared to 2014.

40

specialists within environmental and social sustainability.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION SUSTANCES & WASTE

COSYSTEMS

WATER

MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

ENERGY & CLIMATE

LONG-TERM ECONOMY

Sweden Green Building Award for exemplar contribution to sustainable urban development.

for sustainable architecture.

Global Goals



At our annual summit, White-Day 2016, we manifested the Global Goals to inspire our employees to adopt their "favourite" goal. In September 2015 the United Nations presented the Sustainable Development Goals, referred to as the "Global Goals". Reaching these Global Goals is one of the most important challenges for society and any company in the upcoming years. White has the ambition of leading by example.

The 17 goals have the aim to transform the world by reaching three extraordinary achievments: end world poverty, fight inequality and injustice, fix climate change. Six of the goals, in particular, are important to our business as they have a direct

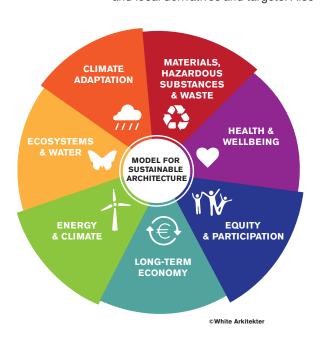
impact on our projects. The list includes: ensuring sustainable energy; taking action to combat climate change and its impacts; making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; ensuring sustainable consumption, production and use of resources; protecting and enhancing ecosystem services and biological diversity. Additionally, it is promoted to actively form partnerships for reaching the goals, which is in line with the way we want to work.



Sustainability for us

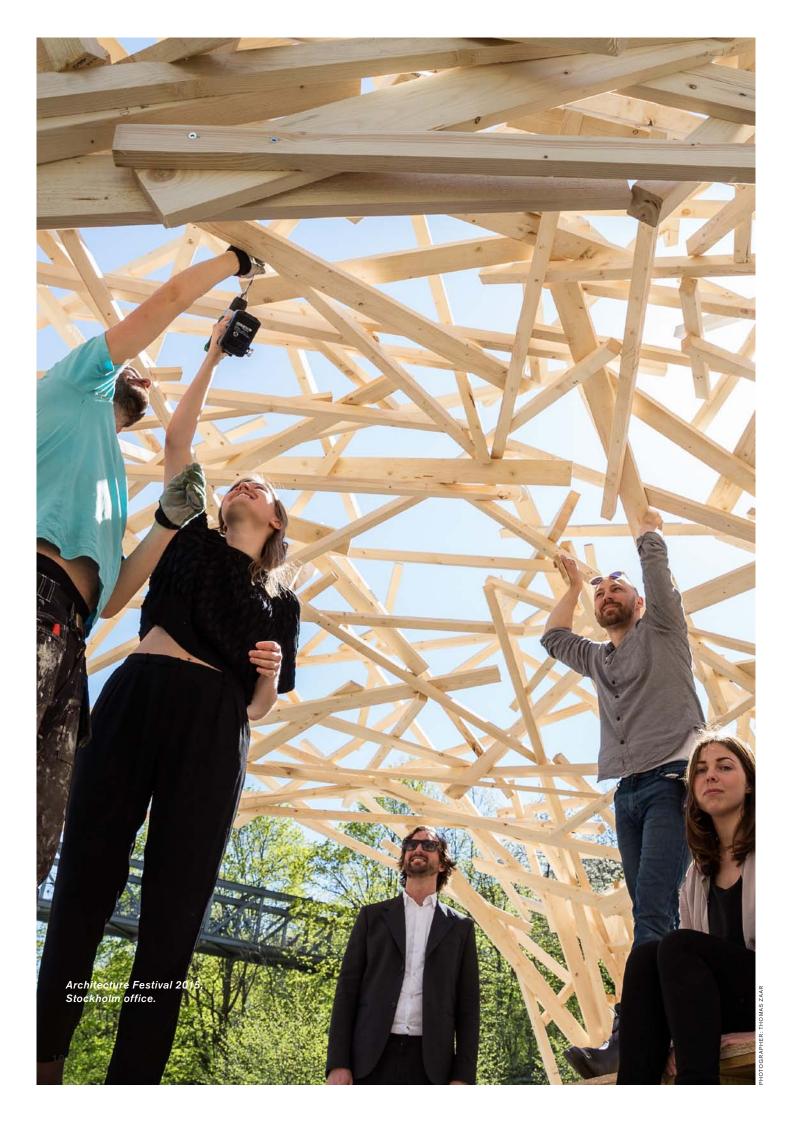
As architects, we have the opportunity to influence the design of the city and its environment. Our ideas and approach contribute to our daily pursuit of positively shifting society in the direction of becoming more sustainable.

In 2015, we launched a model for sustainable architecture based on the following: global challenges we are facing; our commitment to the Global Compact; expectations of our clients and society; national and local derivatives and targets. Also



included in the model are our definition of what constitutes well designed sustainable architecture: it places all human wellbeing and development at the centre; works in harmony with the ecosystems, today and for future generations; ensures that the cycles of materials, energy and resources are kept within the planetary boundaries.

Our Sustainable Architecture Model, includes 7 primary aspects with several subcategories. In every project, we analyse these aspects to assist in identifying and prioritising those which can be integrated into the project.



Our team

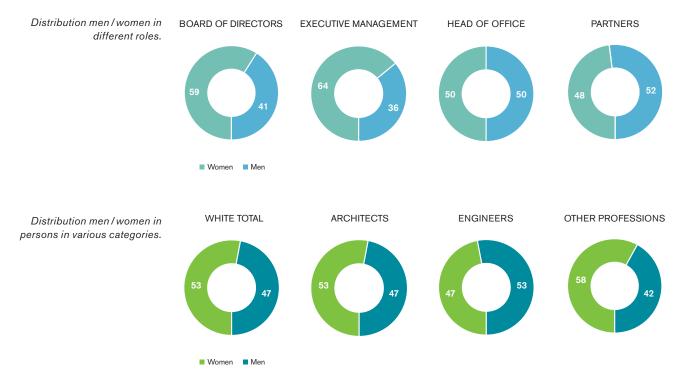
Employees are our core and their creativity and competences represent our most important assets. The shared ownership business model at White is essential for our culture. That's why every employee is offered the opportunity to become a shareholder. We can confidently say that co-ownership creates a unique engagement we're proud of.

In our plan for equal rights, we state that every employee will have the same rights, obligations and opportunities regardless of gender, transgender identity, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age and we do not accept any form of harassment or discrimination.

Our aim is to promote diversity in a wide perspective and to have a balanced rep-

resentation of women and men in different professions, as well as in various positions and levels of management.

Our employees shall perceive their work environment as being positive and safe, and we strive to create a company culture that enables a good balance between work and private life.



Exploration & partnerships

We are convinced that collaboration is necessary to succeed in sustainable development. The key is dialogue and engagement – between different actors and competencies, across the industry and throughout society.



Goal no 17: The aim is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. The White Innovation Process (WIP) is our method for involvement in the early stages of a project by assisting in the identification of various needs. Sustainability needs to be incorporated from the early inception, throughout the design and in the delivery of every project.

Our explorative culture is reflected in our investment in research and development. Every year we invest about 10% of our turnover in R&D allocated in the following areas: ARQ, our research foundation; White Research Lab, our internal network; Digital Design and BIM. We also have several researchers at the universities in architecture and urban design. Our employees are offered a range of further education opportunities and our yearly study tours broaden our perspectives by giving us the possibility to be inspired by other countries and environments.

The study tours in 2015 focused on the Nordic countries and ranged from the

landscape of Iceland to the scenery along the fjords in Norway, Aalto's architecture in Finland and the northern lights in Kiruna, Sweden. The common conclusion is that nature itself offers indeed the most impressive and inspiring architecture.

As a leading architecture practice, we believe that we have not only the opportunity, but also a responsibility to influence the construction industry and society in general. White is engaged in several organisations, such as the Green Building Council in Sweden and Denmark. We are committed to the Nordic Built Charter, an initiative from the Nordic Ministers for Trade and Industry, which also organises the Nordic Built Challenge.

In 2015, we were engaged in Sustainable Innovation (SUST) for pilot projects in energy and resource efficiency. We also have a commitment to Fossil Free Sweden, the Swedish Government's initiative for climate action.





LUSTRATION

Culture brings people together – from Skellefteå to Nairobi

With their proposal "Side-by-side", White won the competition to design Skellefteå's cultural centre, a new home for the arts, stage performances and literature. Inspired by the region's long tradition of timber architecture, the building is proposed as a wood framed, high-rise. The glass façade will reflect the sky and reveal the interior's spectacular exposed wood-framed ceiling. Holding a central location, the stage has different functions visible from the outside to give a glimpse behind the scenes. The ground floor will be open and marked by several entrances as a way to contribute to a dynamic centre, breathing new life and a cultural realm into the city.

Project: Skellefteå Culture Centre, Skellefteå (2016)

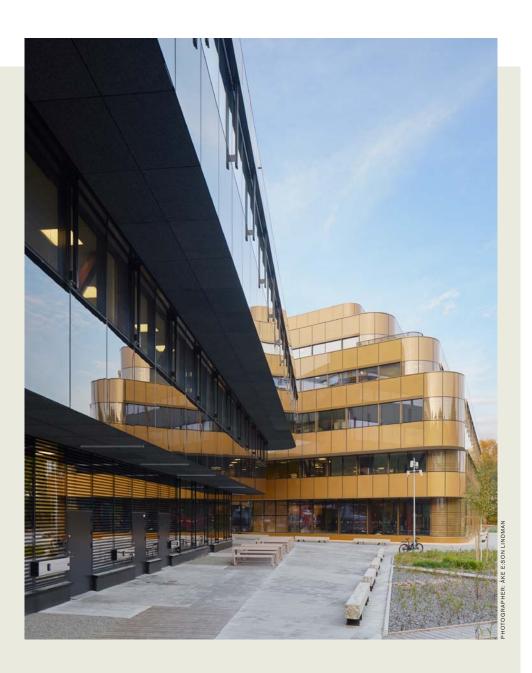
Client: Skellefteå Municipality

Opened in 2003, the GoDown Arts Centre was the first centre for contemporary arts and culture in Nairobi and Kenya. The key achievement has been in the establishment of relations between Nairobians hailing from different communities. In the past years, White has been involved in conversations and workshops with the city, artists, visitors and communities of Nairobi. The collective effort has resulted in shaping a vision for a new cultural space. Development of the centre and the site acts as a catalyst for the regeneration of the entire area and serves to connect different parts of the city. The GoDown Arts Centre has the aim of handling diversity at many levels as a space for wellbeing, supporting creativity and human exchange.

Project: The GoDown Arts Centre,

Nairobi (2015-)

Client: The GoDown Arts Centre



An open arena for new relations

The open and public ground floor of the new Johanneberg Science Park building will support a new culture of co-operation and a forum for mixing of tenants and campus life with the outside community. Common conference spaces, informal meeting places, a campus café and restaurant are all elements to create a new meeting place. The project exceeded the highest Swedish environmental standard Miljöbyggnad Gold when client and tenants united to support a common sustainability pro-

gramme which considered everything from energy, daylight and construction materials to its restaurant's ecological footprint. Sustainable mobility is promoted by the city's first electrical bus line and indoor bike parking, in lieu of car parking.

Project: Johanneberg Science Park, Gothenburg (2012–2015) Client: Chalmersfastigheter, Akademiska hus, Johanneberg Science Park

Human rights for all

We have a human-centred perspective on architecture. Sustainable cities and communities are inclusive, secure and resilient. It comes down to ensuring human rights by creating healthy environments for the wellbeing of everyone.



Goal no 11 is relevant in most of our projects; we have great possibilities to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Achieving a sustainable urban development requires cooperation between different stakeholders, but also the involvement of citizens. We believe in dialogues and engagement.

Growing cities can create new opportunities for economic growth. However, they can also contribute to increased social inequalities and stresses on the ecosystem. Urban equity and a home for everyone is a major challenge. All people have the right to feel safe and at home in a city. Studies show that there are many people, especially women, who feel insecure in our urban environments.

Health is a human right and an important driving force for social and economic development, especially today in light of increasingly poor mental and physical health in society. Well designed archi-

tecture and environments can contribute to wellbeing in our homes, workplaces and cities by reducing stress, increasing recovery and motivating physical activity. Goal 11 points out that sustainable urban development should take into account the needs of women and girls, persons with disabilities, children and the needs of older people.

White has had an active involvement in most of these issues during the year in seminars, projects and media. What does it mean to create democratic environments? What needs do women and girls have? How do we create better conditions for children in our cities? How do we manage to create housing for all, with quality, in the acute housing shortage that exists in our cities?





Architecture as medicine

At the psychiatric clinic in Borås, the basis of design comes from our research and experience that has led us to believe in "Architecture as Medicine". The building is characterised by an intimacy of scale, freedom of movement, participation, bright spaces and varying outdoor environments. As daylight is proven to have a positive healing effect, the design and orientation of the building is adapted to take advantage of maximum daylight. Interior spaces are formed with the

purpose of allowing patients the choice of solitude or community. Nestled into the surrounding greenery, the building offers diverse views of nature. The courtyards are filled with sensory experiences and invite activity and exercise as well as encouraging social interaction. In 2013 we were awarded the WAN Award for Best Future Health.

Project: The Psychiatry Quarters, Borås (2020)

Client: Västra Götalandsregionen



Create your own city

Forgotten areas in the city can be democratised by creating temporary arenas for meetings and activities, free of charge and open for everyone. "Pallis", White's concept for a pop up park is such an initiative. In a growing and densified city, parks and other green spaces will soon be rare; Pallis offers a temporary solution for a citizen-driven initiative to create a green oasis, a meeting place, a playground and a social hub. Inspired by "Pallis" a new handbook was launched in Stockholm with guidelines for flexible ways of leasing public areas. The new rules will make it also easier to create citizen-driven city planning of temporary parks in unexpected locations, like parking areas. Behind the project are White Arkitekter and "Fastighetsägarna Stockholm" (the Stockholm office of the-Swedish Property Federation) with the common goal of encouraging people to take initiative and breathe life into the urban space creating the city we all wish to live in.

Project: Pallis pop up park, Stockholm/ Handbook for citizen-driven city planning (2015)

Client: Swedish Property Federation, White and local partners



A city for all

Room for 15,000 residents matched by as many jobs, Frihamnen is part of Älvstaden which is the largest urban development project in the Nordics. The basis for design was determined by extensive dialogue with district residents, collecting their expectations and needs. White has formulated an ambitious sustainability programme and there is a clear objective; Frihamnen will be a neighbourhood with room for everyone. Achieving this aim requires planned housing with half delegated to rental units at different rent levels. The district is slated to receive a Jubilee

Park, dedicated to the celebration of Gothenburg's 400 year anniversary in 2021. Each block will also get smaller parks with alotments. The entire area will be adapted for climate change, including open storm water management for example. Sustainable mobility will be promoted by cycling paths and public transportation, such as electrical buses, ferries and a cable car.

Project: Frihamnen, Gothenburg (2015–2035)

Client: Älvstranden Utveckling AB

Energy & climate







Goal no 7: The aim is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Goal no 13: The world needs to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

> Goal no 15: It's our responsibility to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

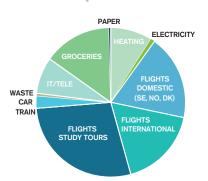
In December 2015, the world successfully agreed on common objectives for limiting the climate changes. White engaged in the Swedish government's initiative for a Fossil Free Sweden.

As architects, we can contribute to a fossil-free society by promoting sustainable urban mobility, by creating energy efficient buildings with renewable energy and by selecting materials with low embodied carbon. Our expertise in Digital Design embraces energy calculations and daylight simulation. The optimisation of energy performance relates to the possibility of taking advantage of daylight and creating good indoor qualities.

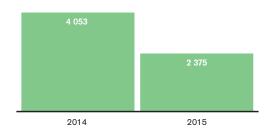
Through the use of wind, sun and climate simulations, we can plan urban

environments which ensure optimum microclimate conditions but also have the capability to handle climate changes. By taking advantage of the natural ecosystems we not only contribute to increased urban ecology but also can mitigate the consequences of climate change. During the year, we continued to disseminate our expertise and ecosystem services: through our projects in physical urban installations and workshops for local communities.

CO2-EMISSIONS 2015



KG CO2-EMISSIONS/FULL TIME-EMPLOYEE



Our targets for our daily operations is to reduce the climate impact and reduce the combustible waste. We have reduced the CO2 emission by 42% per employee compared to 2014. The main reason is that we have decreased international travels by flight and we have reduced combustible waste by 28%. Other positive efforts is that we have only renewable electricity and serves only vegetarian food.

Our travel policy dictate that we prioritize train and in 2015 was 96% of all our domestic travel by train. This is equivalent to 38 times around the world and resulted in that we were awarded the Swedish Railway Society's SJ Environmental Prize. Emissions from rail travel causes only 3 kg of CO2 while air travel produces 942 tons.



Zero energy in symbiosis with nature

White's winning proposal for a visitor centre will tell the story about the site's revived nature on a former brownfield site. The design uses passive house construction and is to be well insulated and airtight resulting in a zero energy building. The heating demand, 15 kWh/m², is covered by biogas and a heat exchanger while solar cells on the asymmetrical roofs generate a surplus of energy. Materials specified

for construction are natural and local: wood, clay and natural fibres. The visitor centre's exhibition space is designed to receive maximum natural daylight and features views of the nature, water and the landscape.

Project: Naturum Oset, Örebro (2015,

competition)

Client: Örebroporten



Recycling and innovation

A creative, attractive and competitive campus environment at Linköping University inspired White to create an open and welcoming student building taking into consideration all aspects of sustainability, both in the building and in its surrounding areas. Reuse of materials from the old student house is the project's most dominant sustainability concept. Incorporated into the project are energy-efficient ventilation and sun protection using printed solar cells that reduces the amount of cooling required, developed by researchers at the university. The roof

is designed for the maximum production of solar electricity as well as storm water management. Maximising the use of daylight, the building reduces the need for lighting and through the use of parametric design, the window sizes have been optimised and partitioned with regard to daylight versus sun protection. The student house will be certified according to Miljöbyggnad Gold.

Project: Student House Valla, Linköping. (2018) Client: Akademiska Hus





A sustainable and democratic arena

Our proposal for the new Bristol Arena aimed to create a unique innovative performance venue and a dynamic new meeting place in Bristol. The heart of our scheme is an environmentally sustainable and democratic "palace for people", housing the new 12,000-seat arena. It will generate spaces and new uses that will create a major new waterfront destination, and contribute to its neighbourhoods and the city centre beyond. Our ambition

is high – to create Europe's most sustainable arena. A truly green building, it uses the natural resources close to hand: sun, daylight, and the cooling potential of the river Avon. We proposed the use of timber as a construction material as part of an innovative hybrid structure, minimising the Arena's carbon footprint.

Project: Proposal Bristol Arena, UK (2015) Client: City of Bristol





The eyes of Runavík – a climatic challenge

The winner of the Nordic Built Challenge 2016, "The Eyes of Runavík" is White's proposal for housing in the Faeroe Islands. Steep terrains, strong winds, humid climate, geothermal heat, basalt rock and local materials are some of the elements which have been carefully considered in the design. The three storey buildings, with a combined total of 100 residential units, will be built using timber construction methods and local sheep wool as insulation. Combined

with the efficiency of a passive house and renewable energy, it will be possible to live by zero emissions over the long term. Each building is a self-contained settlement, enveloping an inner microclimate, with a unique climate zone making it possible for growing a wider variety of vegetables and other vegetation.

Project: The eyes of Runavík, Faeroe Islands (2016)

Client: The Community of Runavík

Reduce, reuse & recycle

One of the biggest challenges for the construction industry in the coming years is to reduce the climate impact from the construction process and materials. It concerns reducing resources such as the raw material supply and using materials with low carbon footprint.



Goal no 12: We can contribute to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Research shows that the building materials along with the building process can have as much impact on the climate – or even more – as the operation of a building during 50 years. As architects, we have a great opportunity to influence the choice of materials used in our projects. To be successful in reducing the carbon footprint of materials, the industry needs to work together by investing in pilot projects, research and development. This will be one of our areas of focus in the coming years.

During 2015, we increased our focus on sustainable materials. We have strengthened our network in wood construction and have pursued several projects where "reuse" has been the guiding concept. Our intention is to urge the development of a more circular material handling. In several competitions we have been challenged to create buildings according to the concept of Cradle to Cradle; we hope to continue with this mindset, working together with our clients.



The recyclingcentre as a new meeting hub?

Can we get people to dispose of fewer things? Or, better yet, can we inspire people to reuse and recycle more? During five days in October the "Future Recycling Centre" was tested at the Royal Seaport in Stockholm. White created a warehouse where materials were sorted and, additionally, a workshop was established for swapping, repairing and creating new products from old ones. At the Future Recycling Centre, an amazing 30% of the products got new owners and a further 45% were passed on to aid agencies. The percentages are as low as 2% at a traditional recycling centre. Proximity and the ability to leave all products in the same place seems to be a key to success.

Project: Future Recycling Centre, Stockholm. (2015) Client: Cooperation with Stockholm Water and Ragn-Sells.



Old interior gets new life

White won the commission to design and furnish the interiors of Orangeriet in part due to our previous success with projects incorporating recycling and repurposing furnishings. An impressive 81 pieces of furniture, especially chairs, were re-used. Furniture once purchased by the city of Borås, was pulled from storage, re-lacquered and re-upholstered and given a new home at Orangeriet. Past is intertwined with the present and for some residents, a chance to sit in the beloved seating from a time gone

by. Furniture rooted in the local history is re-used, like armchairs from the City Hall and conference chairs from an old city theatre are incorporated into the new interior design. Brass plates attached to the furniture are engraved with the story of their origins. The remainder of furniture specified for the project is ecolabeled and upholstered with locally designed fabric.

Project: Orangeriet, Borås (2015) Client: Borås City



To preserve an identity

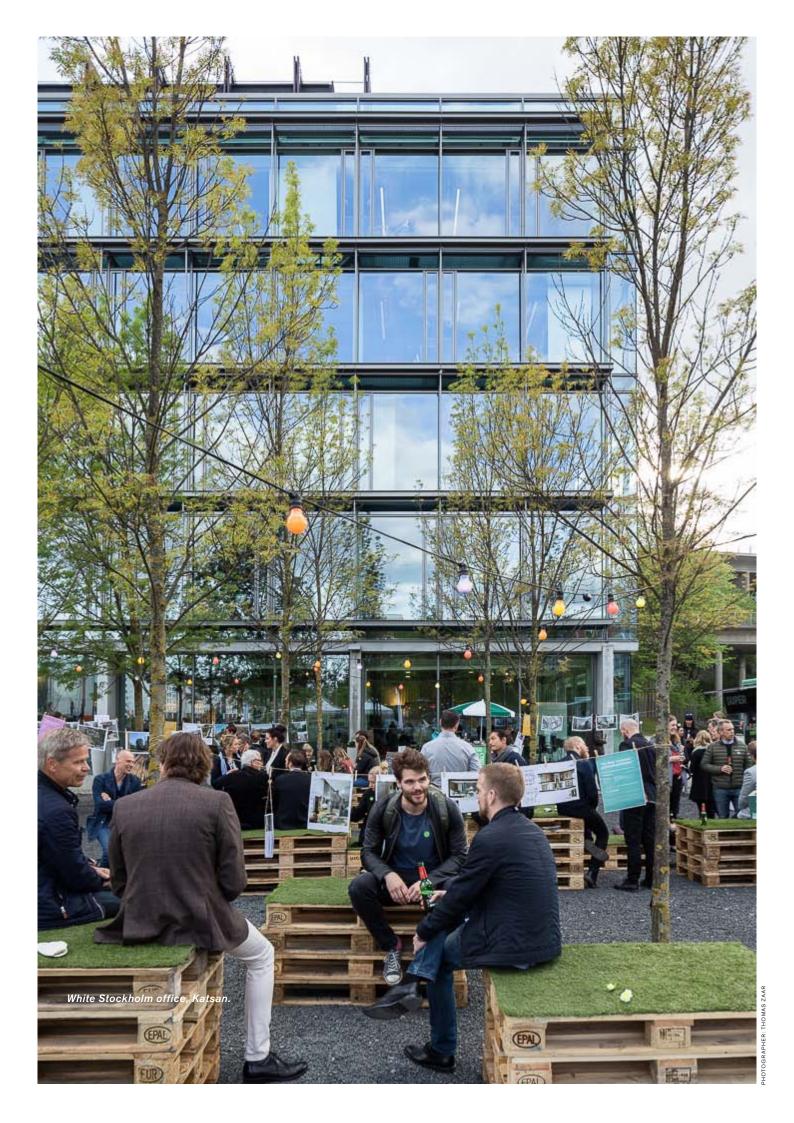
Kiruna's first architecture studio, opened in 2015, is a platform for White to engage the community of Kiruna as the city is re-planned and relocated east. Moving the city is a huge challenge, and one that provokes both anxiety and anticipation among the citizens of Kiruna. As well as its function as a workspace, the new studio will act as a community centre, welcoming the public for informal coffee mornings, hosting events and exhibitions. "One Architecture Office" has a design concept in line with the masterplan for the new Kiruna: to recycle,

rebuild and reclaim from the former city. Furniture and other materials have been collated from the city and reused to construct a studio interior imbued with a local identity. This hands-on approach of the studio's interior design allows it to evolve over time to accommodate its users' needs.

The project was nominated for WAN Interior Design Award 2015.

Project: One architecture office, Kiruna (2015)

Client: White



Anti-corruption & ethics

Responsibility, respect for each other and ethical, democratic ethos are core to our way of working. We oppose corruption, strive for competition on equal terms, promote social responsibility in the value chain, and respect ownership.

All employees are required to act according to the ethical rules of the Swedish Construction Sector and Swedish Architects. We decline assignments and collaborations that we deem to be undemocratic, corrupt or where human rights are infringed.

Based on the analyses of Transparency International, we perform country based

risk analyses for assignments outside of Scandinavia. We expect our business partners to act either according to the Swedish Ethical rules (above) and/or the Global Compact principle. An evaluation is performed before an agreement is signed.

We have not been involved in any form of corruption.

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