

Henning Larsen Architects

October 2016

United Nations Global Compact **Communication on Progress**



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Statement of Continued Support

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

Since we joined the United Nations Global Compact, we have put our efforts into promoting sustainability in the planning, design and operation of our building projects. This is within our sphere of influence. We engage in research projects with universities and partnerships with private and public stakeholders. New insights and results are actively communicated to a broad audience within the building sector.

Across global markets, there is a growing demand for a responsible approach to architecture and sustainable buildings. Being present internationally enables us to share know-how and solutions across borders and apply them on projects globally. Knowledge-sharing is a priority within Henning Larsen Architects.

To promote a construction sector which understands how sustainability can create long-term societal and economic value, we continue to invest in research and development projects. Currently, we are involved in several three-year-long research projects with Danish universities (more on page 13).

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 work to develop a systematic approach to collecting knowledge of these aspects and continue to work globally with projects in countries where architecture can have a significant impact on the development of society.



Mette Kynne Frandsen
CEO and Partner,
Henning Larsen Architects

Introduction to Henning Larsen Architects

Henning Larsen Architects is an international firm practicing architecture and urban design. Our goal is to create vibrant, sustainable buildings that reach beyond themselves and become of durable value to the users, the society and the culture into which they are built.

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

Henning Larsen Architects is the forerunner of sustainable expertise in Scandinavia. We are committed to designing environmentally integrated energy-efficient solutions.

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

A Diverse Workforce

The company has offices in Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong. Henning Larsen Architects employs 285 people. The employees at Henning Larsen Architects are a diverse group. As of October 1, 2016, the staff represents 36 different nationalities of which 53 % are men and 47 % are women. We strive for an even distribution of gender.

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 experiences, the international offices arrange exchange programs and study trips.

Status on Support

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 sixth Communication on Progress (CoP) in which we address and renew our commitment 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 and in the media. In 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. Our 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 our collaboration partners.

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.

Our Commitment

Henning Larsen Architects supports the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Actions Taken

Henning Larsen Architects complies with the provisions of national Danish legislation, which are aligned with 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 in which we choose to engage, 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 today's globalized economy, is the 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.

Lesvos Relief Effort

Henning Larsen Architects and nine other Danish architectural firms initiated a joined relief effort on the Greek island of Lesvos and Chios, where groups of refugees arrived after a long and hard journey across the Mediterranean Sea.

It was possible for employees to volunteer and travel to Greece where they took part in practical tasks: the construction of windbreakers, shelters, coverage and other initiatives that protected the refugees from the cold and downpour of the Greek winter. The Relief effort was coordinated by Henning Larsen Architects and the expenses for the volunteers was financed by the firms.



The employees at the Copenhagen office donated 43 boxes of clothes for the refugees on Lesvos.

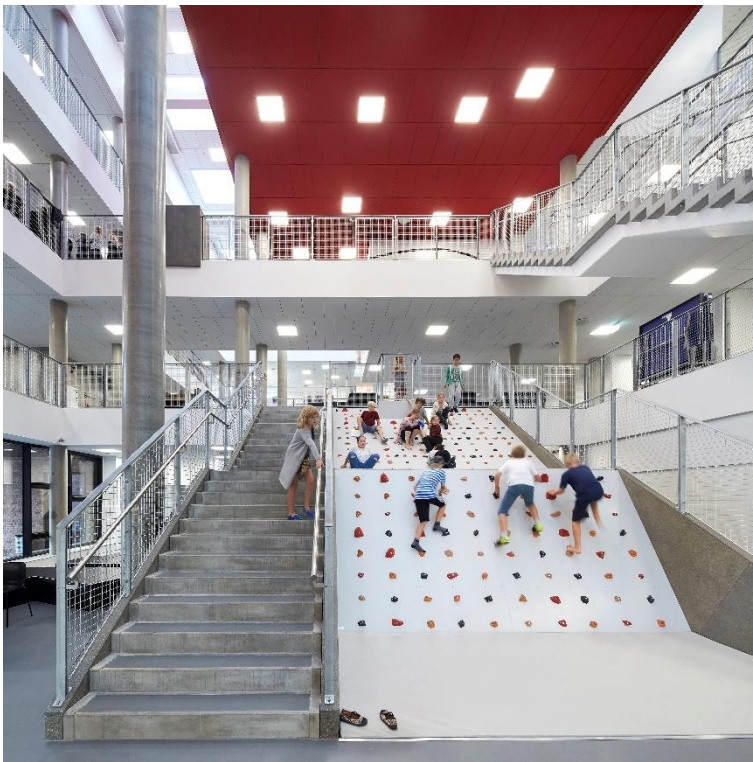


Many refugees coming across from Turkey to Greece landed at an abandoned light house where a simple shelter was constructed.

Danish School Building of the Year

The new Frederiksbjerg School in the center of Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark, aims to give children an ideal environment for unfolding and learning. In the design of the building an architectural focus lies in numerous spatial qualities such as daylight and materials creating an environment that invites to learning through movement and sense-perception. The school houses approximately 900 students, a youth club and a day care center. The school's outdoor areas are open to public year-round.

The architecture responds to the new visions within the Danish school system. It makes space for movement indoors as well as outdoors despite the scarce size of the site. The design inspires children to move and play. The building follows Aarhus City Council's program for new learning environments. The program focuses on a merge between the building's organization and educational practice and purpose, which research proves has immense impact on children's learning.



Children are motivated to climb to the second floor instead of walking the stairs in the center atrium at Frederiksbjerg School.

Labor Rights

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 labor.

Principle 5

Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labor.

Principle 6

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

Our Commitment

Henning Larsen Architects support the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

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 through our membership in 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 upholds the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

The international offices of Henning Larsen Architects are subsidiaries and comply with local legislation and collective agreements.

All employees are offered the opportunity for further training. This is a requirement according to the Danish collective agreement, but the staff outside Denmark are also offered further training.

Social Activities

Social activities are organized and encouraged to strengthen the relationship of colleagues, promote a pleasant working environment and help introduce new employees to the organization. Among the recurrent events are different sporting activities that in addition to the social benefits also improves health and well-being for the employees participating.



Creating Job Satisfaction

We acknowledge that working in an architectural firm can at the same time be both demanding, inspirational and satisfying. The work environment can be complex and sometimes even stressful due to the many deadlines, the number of stakeholders and collaborators. Also the high degree of unpredictability in the work can be a challenge.

An internal course has been offered to provide tools for the employees to handle these conditions; prevent stress, enhance job satisfaction and strengthen relations and cooperation in the many different interactions they engage in. The course consisted of two workshops. The course was offered across offices and almost half of all employees chose to participate.



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.

Our Commitment

Henning Larsen Architects is committed to protecting the environment through adoption of voluntary charters as well as through sectoral and international initiatives, including Nordic Built.

Actions Taken

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

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.

Henning Larsen Architects currently employs three industrial PhD students conducting their research within the office.

PhD Research Projects

Knowledge and innovation are important drivers in the Henning Larsen Architects' sustainability design strategy. By implementing knowledge from industrial PhD-programs in the early phases of the design process, Henning Larsen Architects has improved design proposals. The goal is to transform evidence based knowledge into applicable practice adding greater social and commercial value to the projects.

Ongoing PhD research projects in collaboration with The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation:

'The New Facade Paradigm: Recycling – Upcycling – Disassembly in Facade Design'. The project aims to explore how the lifetime of a facade can, and should affect the architectural expression so that future demands for a broader and more complete sustainability profile are met.

'Lighting Design – Improving Learning Environments through Lighting'. The project will examine the factors that constitute quality of light, and the nature of interaction between people, context and light in current lighting design.

'Acoustics as a Design Parameter'. The project investigates design processes using integrated hybrid room acoustic simulations to analyze and create better indoor acoustic conditions with fewer materials.

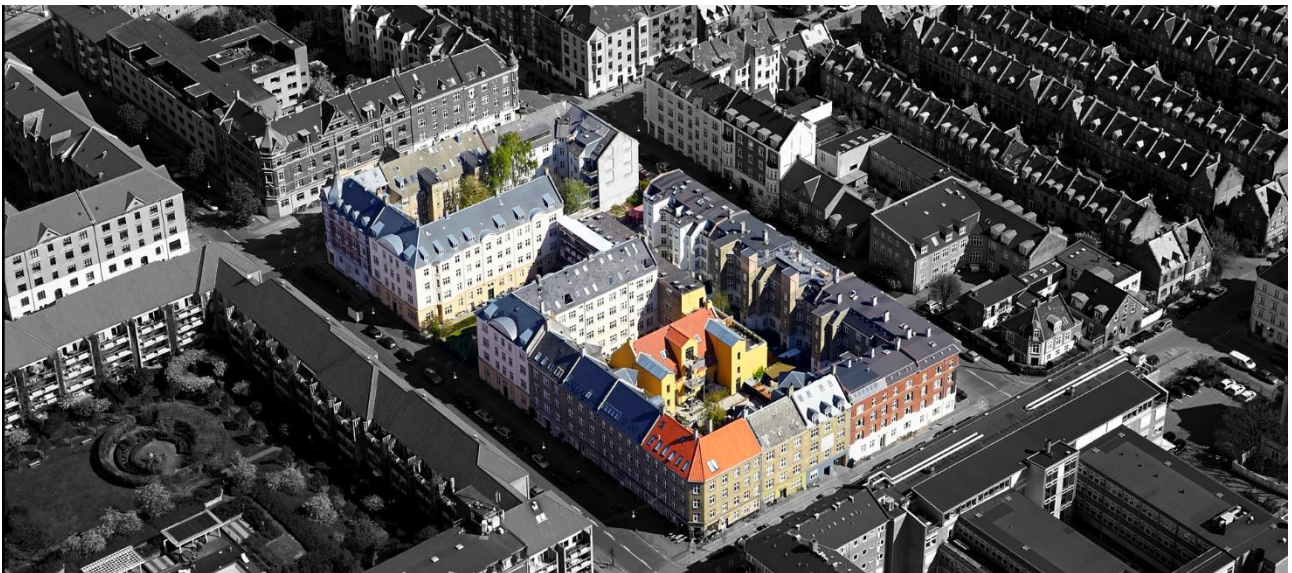


Climate Resilient Block

Since April 2015, Henning Larsen Architects has worked on an overall solution for the renewal of buildings, courtyards, and streetscapes in a selected residential block of Skt. Kjelds Climate Resilient Neighborhood in Copenhagen. The block represents a globally well-known building typology.

The neighborhood is a showcase of holistic and sustainable approaches to urban renewal. The climate resilient block demonstrates a holistic and innovative approach to renovation and rainwater management that creates a better living environment. The designated block will become a climate-frontrunner, implementing new solutions that can inspire other blocks—not only in Copenhagen but also in the many other cities in Europe and North America - where blocks are a dominant type of housing.

From start to finish, the execution of the project will be implemented in close dialogue with Copenhagen Municipality and especially the residents and the building owners in the block. Throughout the project, physical prototypes, exhibitions, mock-ups, and other visual tools contribute to give the residents a realistic insight into the transformation of their block and keep the process alive and relevant.



Working with Certifications

Certification systems contribute to improve the quality of buildings by creating social, environmental and economical standards for building performance. At Henning Larsen Architects, we implement certification systems as a driving design parameter in order to ensure that the certification systems serve as a strategy for enhancing quality of new builds, rather than a validation tool.

We encourage employees to become trained consultants and auditors in order to ensure guidance and quality assurance in any project pursuing certification. Henning Larsen Architects is a member of Denmark's Green Building Council, a nonprofit organization working with developing and implementing sustainability requirements in future certification systems.



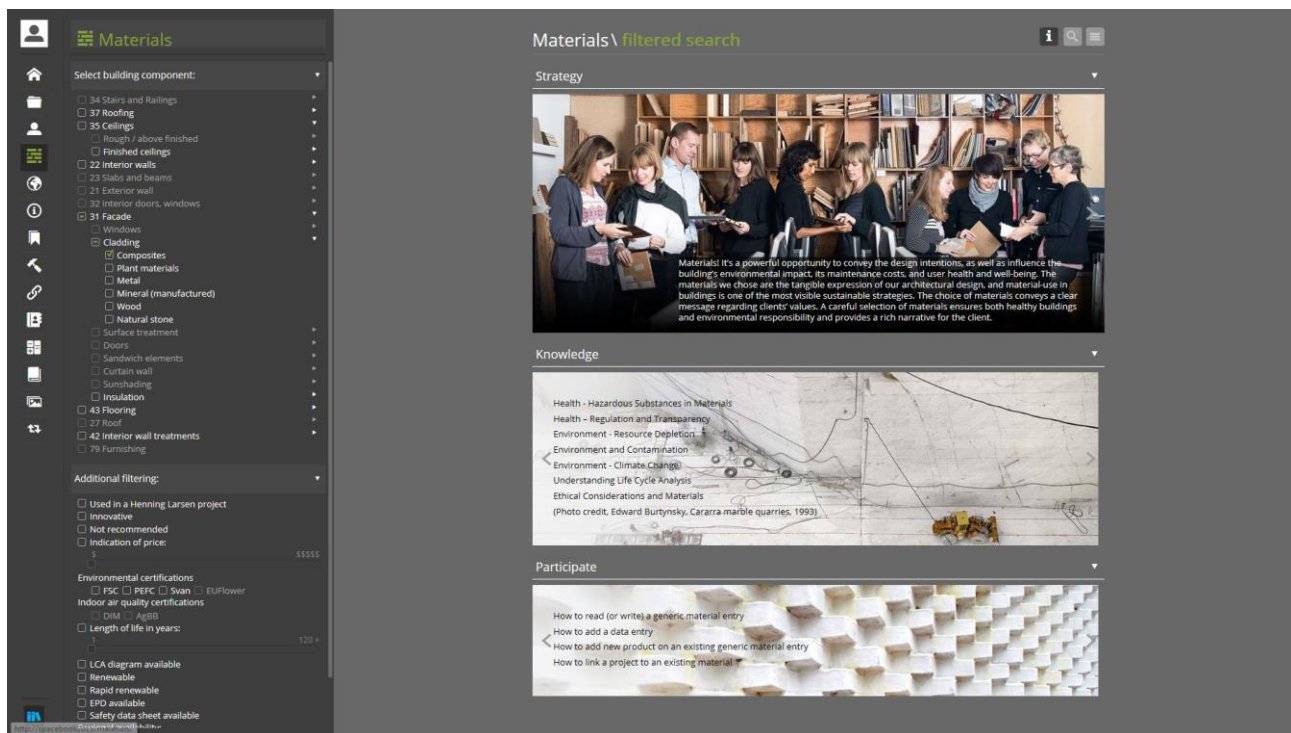
Siemens' new headquarters combines an ambitious architectural design with high-efficiency technologies. It has received the highest certification possible (platinum) at the national level from the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) and at the international level from the U.S. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system.

Database of Sustainable Materials

In the work with sustainable design it has been an inevitable step to focus on the use and reuse of materials and construction components. Information on materials has been collected and organized in an internal database; a powerful tool available to employees to evaluate materials, their properties, toxicity and ethics, and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

LCA evaluates the products from cradle to grave: from the extraction of raw materials and natural resources, through the production and use of the product. This includes maintenance and reparations, and furthermore considers the final disposal and possible reuse of the discarded product. The less strain on the environment, the longer the lifespan of the product, and the easier it is to reuse, the better the assessment of the product will be in relation to sustainability.

The knowledge has also been shared externally. Henning Larsen Architects has acted as knowledge partner on a catalogue concerning the use of sustainable materials with a long lifespan. The catalogue compiled by the Danish Building Research Institute will function as an advisory tool in the selection of 100 of the most common composite materials used in both new construction and renovation.



Anti-Corruption

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 with our clients, employees and the societies in which we work is essential in all our projects.

Actions Taken

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

Charter for Social Responsibility in the Building Sector

The Association for Social Responsibility in the Building Sector was founded in November 2014 by 42 Danish companies, including Henning Larsen Architects. The initiative aims to develop and strengthen collaboration across the building sector to raise the standards for labor conditions, sustainability and stakeholder dialogue. The association is supported by the Realdania Foundation.

The platform for the association is a charter comprising six principles:

1. We will systematically assess to what extent the principles of the charter are followed on projects in which we are involved.
2. We will assess our collaborators' and suppliers' work with social responsibility.
3. We will enter into dialogue with collaborators and stakeholders.
4. We aim for sustainable solutions.
5. We have good conditions of employment and work.
6. We demonstrate independent and anti-corrupt practice.

Nordic Built Charter

Henning Larsen Architects supports the Nordic Built Charter. The charter is an initiative aimed at accelerating 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.

The ten principles of the Nordic Built Charter include a focus on aesthetically appealing design while maintaining the highest possible standards of sustainability, which is central to all Henning Larsen Architects projects.

Architect Louis Becker, Partner and Director at Henning Larsen Architects is one of the leaders from the Nordic building sector committed to implementing the ten principles in their strategies 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 an innovative mind-set and high level of knowledge;
3. merges urban living with the qualities of nature;
4. achieves zero emissions over its life cycle;
5. is functional, smart and aesthetically appealing, building on the best of the Nordic design tradition;
6. is robust, durable, flexible and timeless - 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.

Colophon

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