
Desirable, democratic architecture that empowers people

Annual & Sustainability Report 2016



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Annual and Sustainability Report 2016
 This is White's second sustainability report (the third COP), but the first combined with the annual report. It covers the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2016. It summarises our sustainability performance for 2016, related to our commitment to UN Global Compact and the four aspects: Human rights, Environment, Labour and Anti-corruption. The report also serves as our communication on progress-report to UN Global Compact and will be published on their website. The previous report was published 8 July 2016.

Report boundaries
 This combined Annual- and Sustainability report covers the global activities of the White concern, including White arkitekter AB and the wholly-owned White arkitekter A/S in Denmark. In case of data not pertaining to all offices or markets, this is mentioned.

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CEO'S STATEMENT

Take Action!

We want everyone to be able to relate to urban public space with a feeling of entitlement and ease. However the geopolitical situation of 2016 reflect a widespread uncertainty about sharing resources and growing protectionism. As architects and urban planners we take action and deepen our understanding through spatial, cultural and social expertise – especially as White expands internationally. White performed very well 2016 – 900 million SEK in turnover and 7 percent in profit margin. This reflects the good work we are doing. So let's keep it up and guide new and existing clients towards building a sustainable future.

A growing appreciation for architecture's vital role in creating a sustainable future resulted in an outstanding 2016 for us: we welcomed many talented new people to our offices, won prestigious competitions and continued our studio expansion in London. This puts us in a great position for innovation, including exploration of the opportunities that digital technology offers for engagement as well as analysis.

Strengthening our commitment to democratic values has become more important than ever. Our responsibility is to help create inclusive and equitable communities in our cities, as they face the twin pressures of greater densification and diversity. Finding an affordable place to live, work and play and travelling easily and safely between them – these are the challenges everyone faces, from London to Stockholm. Our response to these challenges differs from one project to the next, but our presence in London and working internationally gives us extra insight and the opportunity to learn.

We have benefited greatly from a strong market with major investment in housing as well as the public sector. We know our approach must be successful, as we have won 33 percent of all proposals submitted to architecture competitions last year, and enjoyed a turnover of 900 million SEK with a 7 percent profit margin. The rewards enable us to invest in the things that we believe in: people, research and innovation.

Our ambition is to create truly engaging architecture with people in focus, inspiring sustainable ways of life. We are confident we will achieve this through our ongoing commitment to research and the refinement of our knowledge and experience.

Our investigations into resource efficiencies – making the best use of light, energy, materials, nature – and the ways in which design can enhance wellbeing are key research areas that will help us achieve effective changes in society through architecture and masterplanning. We are excited by the potential of digital technology as a tool for enhancing citizen participation in planning decisions, as well as optimizing designs and embedding sustainable behaviours.

Looking forward, we will continue to be inspired by the power and beauty of the natural environment around us, the pure magic of Scandinavian daylight and the sensory pleasures and honesty of our favourite material, wood. With these inspirations and our passion for truly sustainable places and cities, we continue to support the principles of the UN Global Compact. We place this commitment at the heart of our company's activities.

Monica von Schmalensee

Monica von Schmalensee
 CEO/Partner/Architect

SUSTAINABILITY: A HOLISTIC VIEW

Promote Change!

At White, we take a holistic view of sustainability. Our focus, first and foremost, is on creating values for people. As architects we play a vital role in the way our cities and our societies are shaped. Our buildings and environments create the basic conditions for people to live their lives; to meet, move, work and live. Their homes, schools, hospitals and streets are our canvas.



The world faces enormous challenges in tackling social inequality, climate change and diminishing resources. We fully support the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as the United Nations agreement for the Global Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals. These agreements and goals set a new agenda for businesses and can be a true inspiration and challenge for working in new ways and seeing new business opportunities. Six of the Global Goals are especially relevant within our own practice, and we have incorporated them into our new business plan.

Global Goal 11 states that sustainable cities and communities should be “inclusive, secure and resilient” and that cities should be a place for everyone. We also need to ensure that qualities that are important for our health and wellbeing, such as daylight, green spaces and playgrounds for children are not unprioritised in new, dense urban developments. To be sustainable, a city needs to prioritise the wellbeing of all its inhabitants. We have the knowledge and drive to make the design of our cities better.

We also need to take action for climate change. Over the next few years, we have set an ambitious target: by 2019, we will design 30 projects with zero carbon footprint. The reason for giving ourselves this challenge is to help speed up the pace of change, because the building industry is moving slowly. We can't affect change on our own, but we can take responsibility for leading our clients, colleagues and stakeholders to embrace more sustainable practices.

To that end, we have also strengthened our skills in wood technology, knowing it to be a construction material with low climate impact. This has resulted in a commission in Skellefteå to build the world's tallest wood-framed structure. We want to help those who are seeking positive new models, and are delighted to be working with the city of Leeds in the UK, to create a zero carbon district. Our winning proposal for Runavik at the Faeroe Islands, a zero carbon development, is an excellent example of sustainability being a driver for the design.

As architects we can also influence the goal for more responsible consumption. Influenced by the ‘circular economy’, we are exploring ideas for prioritising recycling and repurposing in our designs: last year, we completed new offices for telecommunications company Telia, which feature 86 percent recycled furniture.

We have to be innovative in our responses, and that includes exploring the role of digitalization. Already today we use VR-cameras and games for involving citizens in crucial planning decisions. New technologies can create smarter buildings, and self-driving technics can release the pressure on space for future cities. Digital design methods can support sustainable, optimised design and lift the architecture and constructions to an even higher level. While it is vital to improve the environment for whole communities, change begins with the individual. Within White, we have an opportunity to demonstrate best sustainability practice through our own behaviour. Therefore, we are proud that in the last two years we have reduced our own carbon footprint by 62 percent per employee.

We hope that, through our willingness to challenge ourselves, our clients, and wider society, we can contribute to a better, more sustainable future.

I believe that architecture can make a change!

Anna Graaf
Director of Sustainability/Partner



The Eyes of Runavik, Faeroe Islands

The winner of the Nordic Built Challenge 2016, Vertical challenge, “The Eyes of Runavik” is White’s proposal for housing in the Faeroe Islands. Steep terrains, harsh weather 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 carbon 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.

Location: Runavik, Faeroe Islands.
Completed: 2022

ABOUT WHITE & OUR TEAM

Democratising Architecture

We are Scandinavian pioneers in architecture and have been for 66 years. Our employees are our most valuable asset. Their knowledge and engagement form the basis which makes our company a success. We are not just one star – but 1000! We believe that diversity is necessary for tackling the societal challenges we are facing. This is why we have built our collective from multiple disciplines and a balanced gender representation. It is important for us to attract – and hold on to – talent with different cultural backgrounds.



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 more than 900 employees, about 600 are shareholders. Our vision is to create architecture with people in focus, inspiring sustainable ways of life.

Creating truly engaging architecture, challenging ourselves to improve the way in which we practice, exploring the field of architecture with dedicated, applied research – these are the ways to reach our goal of becoming the leading sustainable and innovative Scandinavian architectural practice on the international market.

We measure our success by the quality of our projects and ultimately the difference we make for people. Our market is currently mainly Scandinavia and UK and we work across all sectors, private as well as public. Our projects range from residential, offices, hospitals, schools to urban planning, landscape architecture, interior design, project management and sustainability expertise.

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. Sustainability and responsibility is described in our Code of Conduct, which is based on the ten principles of the UN Global Compact.

* WhiteQ does not apply to Denmark.

OUR TEAM

PROMOTING DIVERSITY

Promoting diversity with a broader perspective is our aim. This is why we have built our collective out of multiple disciplines: architects side by side with anthropologists, planners next to designers, sustainability experts along with researchers.

We have a balanced representation of women and men in different professions, as well as in various positions and levels of management.

It is important for us to attract – and hold on to – talents with different cultural backgrounds. Currently, about a quarter of our employees are from outside of Scandinavia. In 2016 we have cooperated with the Swedish Department of Employment to help newly arrived individuals into available positions at White.

QUALITY OF LIFE, NOT JUST QUALITY OF WORK

Quality of life, not just quality of work is a motto at White. Striving for a good balance between work and private life is

an essential part of our culture. Available to everyone are stipends for healthy activities, such as gym, dance classes, mindfulness or yoga.

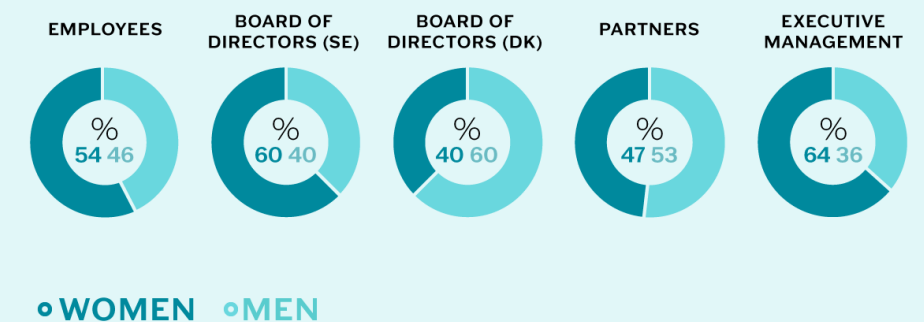
EMPLOYEES TREATED EQUALLY

In our plan for equal rights, we state that every employee will have the same rights, obligations and opportunities and we do not accept any form of harassment or discrimination. During 2016 we have set up new guidelines in our policy against alcohol and drugs, as well as guidelines for anti-discrimination.

NEVER STOP LEARNING

In addition to White's well-established leadership programmes, the introduction of White Academy and e-learning systems brought a high investment into internal skill development in 2016. There is a clear parallel between the opportunity to diversify and retaining our staff. In 2017, White will see the implementation of the new Mentor Programme to facilitate knowledge sharing between generations.

GENDER BALANCE



SUSTAINABILITY FOR US

A Way of Life

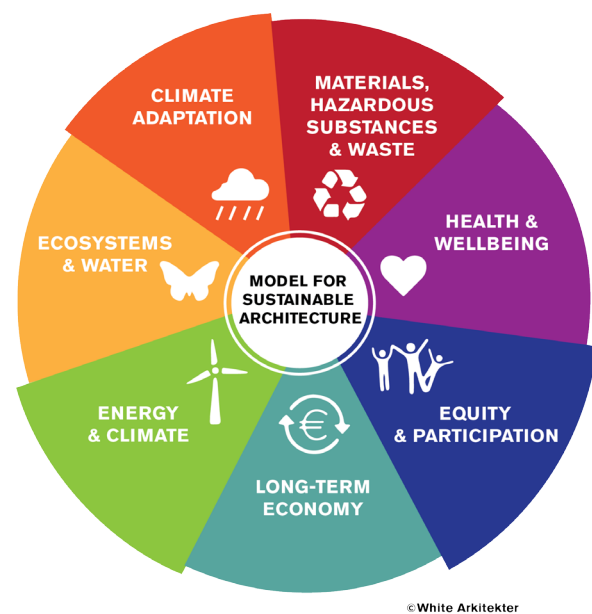
Sustainability is a driver for creativity and good architecture. For us, it also means taking a holistic approach and a long-term perspective. Our aim is to create environments with people in focus for improving quality of life and wellbeing. Fighting climate change is our obligation, now and for the coming generations. We have the opportunity for change every day, but we can't do it alone. Engagement with our stakeholders is crucial.

In 2016 we launched a new Sustainability Policy, which points out our definition for sustainability. Truly sustainable architecture is ensured by incorporating sustainability from inception, throughout the design process and in the delivery of every project. Our Sustainable Architecture Model, including seven primary aspects, is most successfully adopted when the sustainability focus of a project is clearly defined; usually this takes place in workshops with our clients and other stakeholders. It is an iterative process; ideas are tested and evaluated, revised and evaluated again.

Our sustainability commitment aligns with the UN Global Compact's ten principles on Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Six of the goals are in particular alignment with our business strategy and our daily work: ensuring sustainable energy, taking action to reduce climate change, making cities inclusive, safe and resilient, reducing the use of resources, protecting the ecosystems, working in partnerships.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

By understanding and considering our stakeholders' interests and opinions, we can develop ourselves and take responsibility within our sphere of influence. Our stakeholders are end-users, developers, real estate owners, consultants, contractors, municipalities, local communities, organisations, academy, media and our employees.



Our Sustainable Architecture Model includes seven 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.

We involve our stakeholders in various ways; to ensure people's needs are met is fundamental to our projects. Therefore, we frequently begin projects with a workshop or other forms of civic or end-user dialogues. Our model for involvement is the White Innovation Process.

Every two years we conduct a brand survey and in every project we do a client survey for evaluating our work. Equally important is how our employees view their work situation which is captured in employee surveys of various kinds. Through social media channels, we have the ability to engage through dialogue and spread company news rapidly and widely.

Global Compact's 10 principles

HUMAN RIGHTS	LABOUR	ENVIRONMENT	ANTI-CORRUPTION
<p>Principle 1 / Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and</p> <p>Principle 2 / make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.</p>	<p>Principle 3 / Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;</p> <p>Principle 4 / the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;</p> <p>Principle 5 / the effective abolition of child labour; and</p> <p>Principle 6 / the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.</p>	<p>Principle 7 / Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;</p> <p>Principle 8 / undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and</p> <p>Principle 9 / encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.</p>	<p>Principle 10 / Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.</p>



Our six prioritised Sustainable Development Goals.

It is also a great way to simultaneously capture reactions to what we do.

ETHICS & ANTICORRUPTION

Responsibility, respect for each other and ethical, democratic ethos are core values for White. 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.

We expect our business partners to act either according to the Swedish Construction Sector's Ethical rules and/or the Global Compact principles. An evaluation is performed before an agreement is signed. Based on the analyses of Transparency International, we perform country based risk analyses for assignments outside of Scandinavia.

We have not been involved in any form of corruption.



Skellefteå Cultural Centre, Skellefteå

The international competition winner for Skellefteå's cultural centre and hotel, is a new home for the arts, stage performances and literature. Inspired by the region's long tradition of timber architecture, it will be the tallest building using wood frame construction in the Nordic countries. The glass façade will reflect the sky and reveal the interior's spectacular exposed wood-framed ceiling. The centre is designed to endure all weathers with an efficient energy consumption record and will have a green roof, contributing to thermal insulation, noise blocking, biodiversity and rain water absorption.

The construction is composed of a stack of prefabricated timber modules reinforced by concrete slabs. A hybrid of glue-laminated timber and steel construction will allow for a flexible, open-plan space, able to host all of the different facilities. The venue has other design elements which continue the theme of flexibility of use, such as retractable walls for rooms to be expanded or divided so as to better serve the function at hand – from an exhibition to a large congress.

Location: Skellefteå, Sweden.
Completed: 2019



Selma City, Gothenburg

Designing with a human perspective was the aim when creating the new district Selma City, a joint venture for the development of a major city square in Gothenburg. At the heart is White's mixed-use municipal building formed like a three-dimensional theatrical stage with façades that whimsically resemble an enormous billowing curtain.

Vibrant, creative and beautiful will characterize Selma City and the building provides an inviting forum for creativity inspiring collaborations between the citizens, the municipality and the city's cultural offerings. It includes a library, theatre, café and

restaurant, multi-purpose and meeting rooms, media rooms, dance and music halls as well as offices for the local municipality. The façade communicates openness through the connection between interior and exterior. By treating all façades with the same focus and attention to detail, there is neither a front entrance nor back entrance. The space will become the true cultural pulse and meeting place of the neighbourhood, for all ages, day and night.

Client: GöteborgsLokaler/Göteborgs Stad
Completed: 2019

EXPLORING NEW CONTEXTS TOGETHER

Curiosity Equals Innovation

White nurtures innovative collaborators, not admirers. We are investigative and curious and our explorative culture is reflected in our investment – 10 percent of our annual turnover – in research and development. For us research is about challenging, for creating better architecture and a better society for all. A great advantage of being a large collective is the amount of valuable knowledge we amass when combined as a whole. The key to using this knowledge is to share it, to build upon it and continually develop it.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

We explore through practice based research and knowledge exchange. In line with the Sustainable Development Goal 17 we believe that sustainable development requires partnerships between academia, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.

Our participative culture is the starting point for collaboration within the office, with stakeholders and with clients, while our interdisciplinary expertise constitutes a solid knowledge base for creating architecture. By integrating our different disciplines in an even closer relationship with our architectural commissions, we have the ability to unlock new levels of sustainability in our projects making them easier to communicate.

Our investment in R&D is allocated to our research fund, ARQ, and to our internal network for practice based research, White Research Lab. We are also supporting six PhD-students and we have professors and lecturers at Chalmers in Gothenburg, University of Lund and KTH in Stockholm. Over the last years we have developed our toolbox to include cutting edge methods within digital design, new tools for developing physical scale models, new processes for analysis, conception and presentation.



The opening of Light Lab for Children.

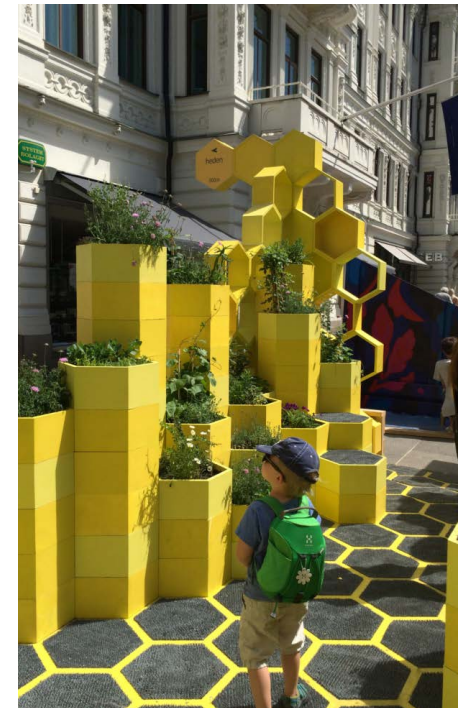
Annual study tours, offered to all employees, are also part of our explorative culture. The theme in 2016 focused on architecture in the Nordic countries.

During 2016 we have performed around 40 practise based research projects in close relation to our commissions. Some of these are:

The “Light-Lab for children” is a public exploration of light and its phenomenon, in workshops, for inspirational learning and sustainable development. In collaboration with Swedish Exhibition Agency and The Gothenburg Opera. The project



Goal no 17: The aim is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.



Bee Connected.



Study trip to Norway 2016.

was awarded the 2016 Environmental Prize of Göteborg Energi (Energy company of Gothenburg).

In the exhibition “Live. Now. Then.” (ArkDes, Stockholm) we explored the role daylight has played in architecture for centuries, and the importance it has for our health and wellbeing.

“Bee Connected” was a full scale showcase in collaboration with Chalmers University of Technology and c/o City, showing how urban biological diversity and ecosystem services can be integrated in the city centre of Gothenburg.

The “Book about Rågården” (Stefan Lundin) is a condensed version of a long research project about Architecture as Medicine. It shows the importance architecture has on physical health in psychiatric care.

ENGAGEMENT

By sharing our knowledge broadly, we increase the awareness about the ways in which we can contribute while we also can attract collaborators that share the same passion and goals.

We want to be a game-changer. Leading the debate on sustainability in architecture, organising seminars throughout the year and partaking in conferences both locally and globally are some ways we reach thousands of people inside and outside of our branch. In 2016, we presented our work and projects at the UN Habitat Urban Agenda in Quito, C40 Mayors Summit in Mexico City, Ecobuild in London, Venice Architectural Biennale, House of Sweden in Washington and COP 22 in Marrakech, amongst others. Because of our engagement and knowledge, we are frequently asked to take part in policymaking forums in several branch organisations such as the Swedish and Norwegian Green Building Councils, Sustainable Innovation, Arkus and the Swedish and Danish Association of Architects.

During 2016, we signed up as partner in the Swedish think tank *Global Utmaning* (Global Challenge). We are also committed to Fossil free Sweden – the Swedish governments initiative for Climate action in accordance with the Paris Agreement.



The Museum of Making, London

At the 2016 Clerkenwell Design Week, a temporary pavilion invited residents and visitors to engage in the art of making. The Museum of Making was built on St John's Square at the centre of the festival, which celebrates Clerkenwell as one of the most important design hubs in London, home to more creative businesses and architects per square mile than anywhere else in the world.

Drawing on Clerkenwell's rich history of craft and industry, this

pavilion was an architectural tribute to the sensorial and social qualities of making, and host for workshops, talks and demonstrations.

The form of the pavilion – a Swedish barn – is a reference to White Arkitekter's Scandinavian heritage, transposing the Scandinavian archetype and showcasing its structural simplicity in an urban context.

Location: Clerkenwell, London.
Built: 2016

INSPIRING ARCHITECTURE WITH PEOPLE IN FOCUS

A Place for All

White has always had a human-centred perspective in designing neighbourhoods and buildings. As architects, it is our privilege as well as our responsibility to help create the best conditions for modern life. We fully support the Global Goals objective to create democratic cities and urban public spaces where everyone feels welcome. We must ensure that each citizen has a place to call home and a place where they feel they belong. We wish to support human rights by creating healthy environments for all.

Global Goal 11 states that sustainable cities and communities are “inclusive, secure and resilient” and that urban development should take into account the needs of women, the disabled, children and elderly. Yet the needs of young women and girls are rarely considered. This issue is something White raised in 2016 with our project Places for Girls.

From the night-lighting and landscaping of public space to the facilities on offer in our parks and towns, these young women we spoke to often feel alienated and excluded. If parks don't seem safe, ball games are not appealing, and the only other available public space is a shopping mall, then where can you go?

Culture is a driver for innovation and integration and, as architects, understanding the different cultural, economic and social issues of different demographics helps us to provide the right environments – to be catalysts for positive social transformation. How can we create more

places where all individuals can interact and thrive, enriching the soul and substance of their community?

A HOME FOR EVERYONE

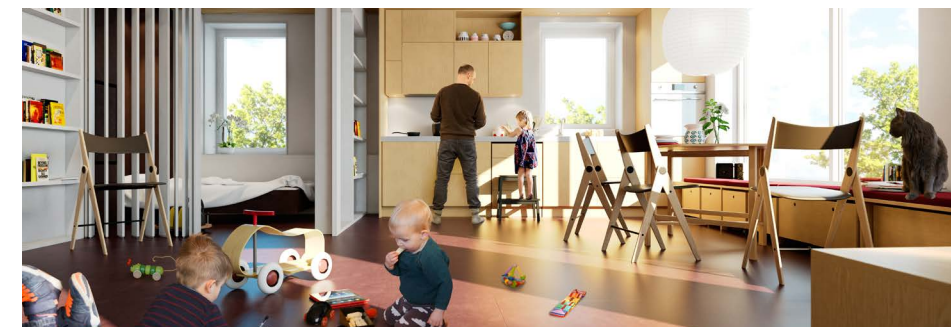
In Sweden, the housing shortage has reached crisis point: there is a need to create 700,000 new homes over the next 10 years. But how do we create the right home for everyone? What is ideal for one person may be far from it for the next.

Family constellations fluctuate: divorced parents may have no children one week and a full house the next; grown children leave and then come back; an elderly family member needs care and moves in. In Sweden 35 percent of children of separated parents now live alternate weeks with each parent*. Housing must be flexible enough to accommodate different lifestyles as well as stages of life.

We recently had the chance to create The Dream Apartment in Linköping, where we put all our research and insight



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.



The dream apartment in Linköping.

* Statistics, SCB.se. Nr 2014:8



to work to create the most flexible and space-efficient home. This apartment can be transformed from five rooms to one room thanks to its moveable walls. Rooms can be configured in a variety of ways, to adapt to everyday needs, or the expansion or contraction of the family.

Nordic countries have the highest numbers of single-person households in the world. In Sweden, it is 38 percent of the population which is 1.7 million people**. Loneliness and isolation are also increasing. If more people found a way to cohabit – if homes could balance perfectly the need for sociability with privacy – it would reduce pressure on housing while offering improved social support. In our proposal “The Collective Living”, we are exploring how to create desirable, modern cohabiting spaces.

To ensure a home for everyone we also need to challenge the stereotypes that exist around affordable and social housing, while dissolving conventional boundaries between public and private space. There is an unfortunate stigma attached to social housing: the stereotypical idea is of a huge, grey, generic building surrounded by car parking. In our winning competition scheme Housing Allerød in Denmark, we decided to let nature lead the way. Nature is dynamic and resilient, just like we want this neighbourhood to be.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health is a human right and an important driving force for social and economic development, especially today, in light of the challenges to mental and physical health raised by modern, sedentary

1. Ved Skoven, Housing in Allerød, Denmark.
2. “The Collective Living”.
3. The New Karolinska Hospital in Solna, Sweden.

** Statistics, SCB.se. Nr 2015:144

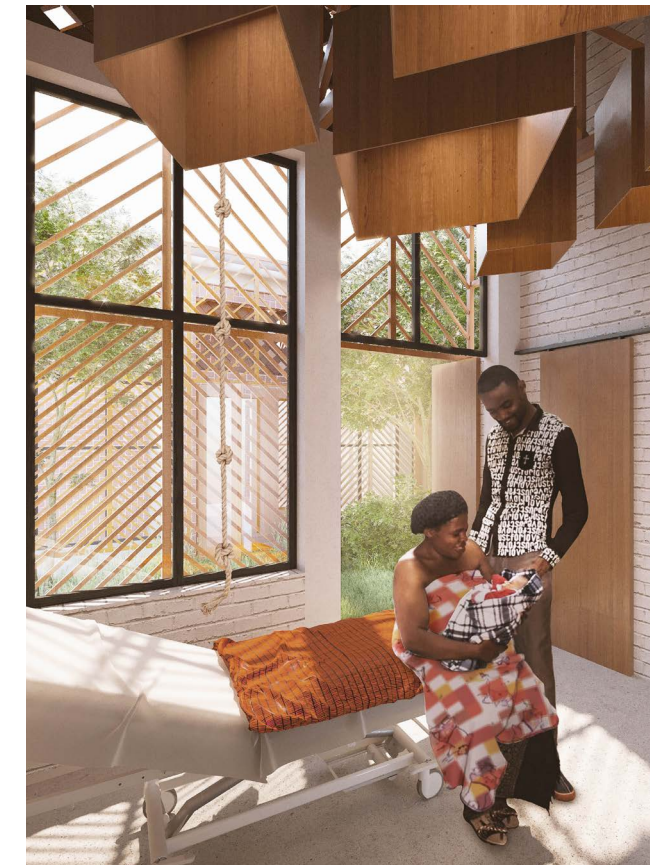
lifestyles. Good architecture and well-designed environments can contribute to wellbeing in our homes, workplaces and cities by reducing stress, increasing recovery and inspiring physical movement.

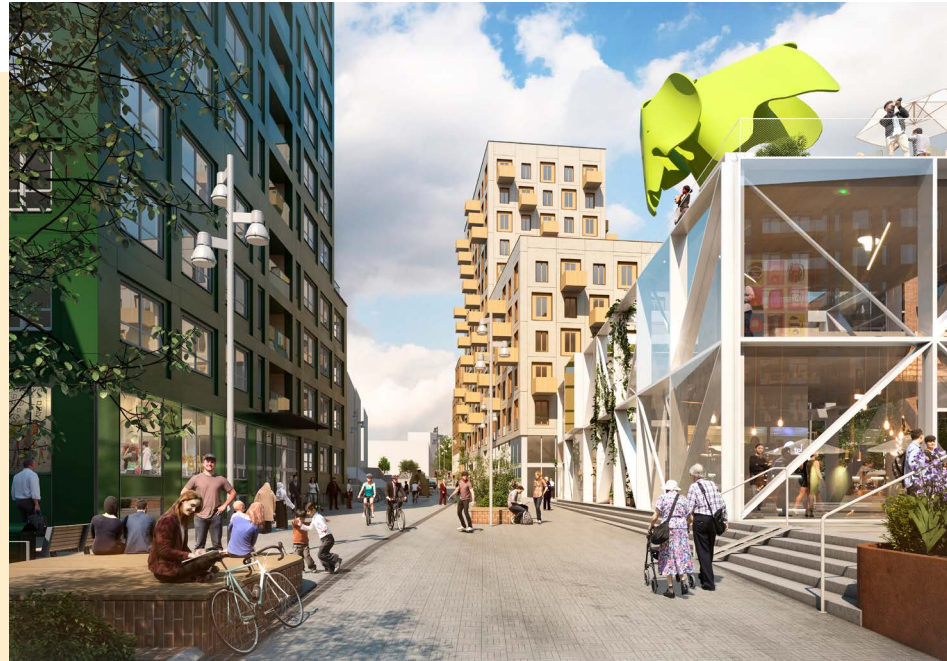
In Scandinavia, a new generation of hospital planning has emerged focusing on human needs, sustainable design and the influx of new technologies. White is at the forefront of this healthcare evolution, with designs that also consider the urban context and community. During 2016 we finalised some of the largest hospital projects in Scandinavia. The New Karolinska Hospital in Solna, at 300,000 sqm, is Northern Europe’s largest hospital development for decades. However, through building designs and layouts our masterplanning and architecture aims to create the best possible environment for staff and patients, and an integrated and welcoming presence within its neighbourhood. Meanwhile, in Linköping we have designed the Hospital of the Future,

with spacious single-patient rooms, increased daylight and an uplifting atmosphere.

Ensuring a healing environment for children requires extra creativity and playfulness. The Queen Silvia Hospital for Children, Gothenburg, will create a safe environment for children and their families, where they can escape the intensive, clinical atmosphere of a traditional hospital ward.

A project that we hope will make a difference and ensure healthcare for women who are living with conflict is the The Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo. The aim for Dr Mukwege (the founder and medical director) is to develop a new centre where women will be cared for and can give birth in a safe and professional environment. It will become a benchmark for modern maternity and neonatal care in DR Congo. With this project, we can – by offering our knowledge and skills – support human and women’s rights for better healthcare.





Lilla Tellus, Stockholm

How do you repurpose abandoned industrial venues for residential use with the aim of creating a diverse area which breathes creativity? White is currently engaged in the transformation of Stockholm's former industrial quarter Telefonplan, into Lilla Tellus, a new residential district which will be home to thousands of the city's residents at a time when permanent accommodation is scarce.

The new vision preserves heritage buildings and creates new housing and public areas which reference the district's industrial identity, creating a well-connected and greener area. The project contributes to the densification of the larger Stockholm and making the most of underused areas between districts. The ambition is to preserve the qualities of the buildings of historic value while developing modern attributes.

Location: Stockholm, Sweden
Completion: 2036



Public Spaces for Girls, Stockholm



The multidisciplinary project concerns the existence and usage of public spaces from the perspective of the teenage girl. The aim is to highlight the inequality issue and propose a practical method for solving it. As cities are planned today, public spaces aren't used equally amongst girls and boys; from the age of seven, girls occupy public spaces to a lesser degree than boys of the same age. This uneven and disproportionate usage continues as girls become women and boys become men.

The project group consisted of architects and social sustainability specialists from White, the Stockholm based theatre company UngaTur, teenage girls from the youth council of Skarpnäck municipality and peda-

gogues from the local municipal administration. Moving from dialogue to creation during a workshop, the participants had the opportunity to construct 1:50 models to represent a public space – by girls, for girls.

The girls chose a familiar site to work with and gave it a strong character with places for sitting together face to face, protected from weather and wind and the possibility to see without necessary be seen. Their design for a public space offered a sense of intimacy without being constrictive; and – just as important – the opportunity for girls to leave an imprint on their city.

Location: Stockholm, Sweden
Completion: 2016

CHALLENGE TOWARDS ZERO CARBON

Climate Action

A sustainable life is one lived within our planetary boundaries. We need to take action on our use of planetary resources, in order to combat climate change. We take this challenge seriously and have set targets for ourselves and our clients to achieve zero carbon projects, wherever possible. This amplifies the focus on responsible sourcing and the climate impact caused by building materials. Examples include the increased use of wood in our projects or an office interior consisting of 86 percent reused furniture.



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

Goal no 12: We can contribute to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

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.

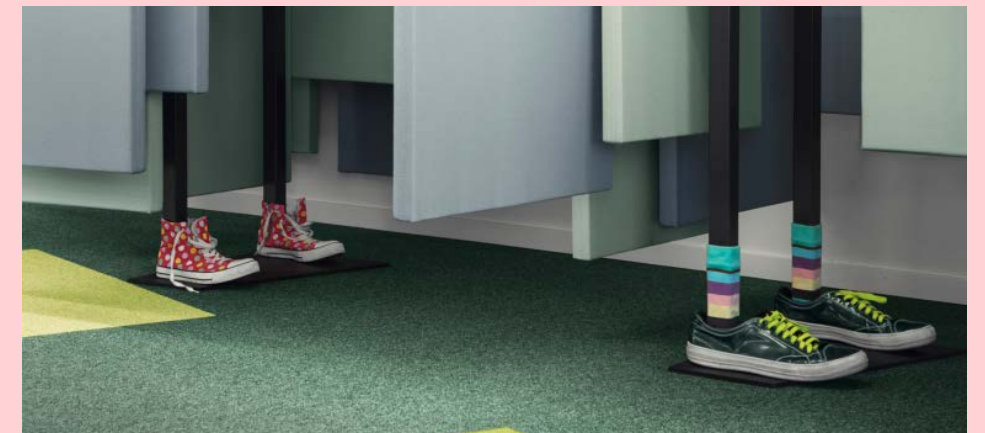
Global Goal 13 urges everyone to take action to slow climate change, and we are embracing this challenge. As our buildings become more energy efficient and our focus shifts to renewable energy sources, we need to address the important issue of building materials. Research shows that the building materials we specify can have as much impact on the climate – or more – than the energy used in operating a building over a span of 50 years. One of our new business goals for 2019 is to create 30 projects with zero carbon footprints. This will challenge not only ourselves but also our clients. The aim is to strengthen the focus on and knowledge of the impact that building materials have on the climate, and introduce a more holistic approach.

During 2016 we have increased our focus on wood architecture and we have designed over 2000 apartments making substantial use of this renewable material. Wood is not only a low carbon material, but its aesthetic qualities contribute to a really high quality environment. Several

outstanding projects from last year will be constructed from timber, such as the new cultural centre in Skellefteå, the residential settlement in Runavik and the city hall in Växjö. All of these have the potential being zero carbon developments. In the Climate Innovation District in Leeds, UK, we hope to extend an entire zero carbon neighbourhood.

In line with Global Goal 12 we are also promoting strategies for re-use and recycling. The new office for telecommunications company Telia shows that this is possible even at the largest scale – 86 percent of its new office furniture are re-used.

Climate action is also about reducing the impacts of existing climatic conditions. Through the use of wind, sun and climate simulations, we can plan urban environments in such a way as to ensure optimum comfort for residents and occupants through passive and holistic means. By taking advantage of natural ecosystems we can not only improve the urban ecology, but alleviate some of the damage that has already been done.



Telia Office, Luleå

Telia's Luleå office is an example of how reuse can create engaging office space. Conducted by White, the furniture concept consisted of the reworking of furniture from half a dozen former workplaces, mainly from Telia's previous office in Stockholm. An inventory of the company's vast range of products from different brands was compiled, a selection of these items were hand-picked by White from across the country. The chosen items were subsequently redesigned and recrafted according to the architects' drawings. 86% of the projects interior design contain White's re-designed furniture. Despite the costs of this transformative process the cost of the project was

20% lower than if newly produced furniture was used.

Regarding layout, the office is divided into a collection of spaces, from the customer service department's focused work stations, open areas and demo stations to the lounge with its spaces for solving urgent tasks. The Aurora Borealis serves as inspiration for the colour scheme due to the shifting nature of the palette as you move through the space. Now a total of 700 employees sit in a modern office space in which functional durability and pleasing aesthetics go hand in hand.

Location: Luleå, Sweden
Completion: 2016



Växjö City Hall and Station, Växjö

A city needs a living room! The city of Växjö, home for around 90.000 people, initiated the architecture competition to give the city an innovative multi-purpose building of 14,000 square meters. The building houses the train station and the city hall. The new 'urban living room', a beautiful vertical room in wood, is open around the clock and welcomes everyone from teenage girls and senior citizens to municipal employees and visitors.

Included in the proposal is a station square and a park – two places that have the potential to

become well-visited outdoor spaces at the heart of the city. The park is a multi-functional oasis for many; it creates meeting places, offers biodiversity and retain the rainwater. The building has the potential of being a zero carbon development, because of its wood construction and PV-modules on the tilted roof. The timber construction frames all the functions of the building as a warm embrace and grants the highest level of sustainability of Swedish certificates.

Location: Växjö, Sweden.
Completed: 2019



Climate Innovation District, Leeds

The task: transforming an industrial environment into a walkable, healthy, family friendly environment. The goal: embracing natural resources. The sun's natural energy will be used through daylight, passive solar gain, photovoltaic (PV) modules and active solar panels. High levels of natural light penetration within this tight urban fabric is achieved by optimising the solar potential of the site by orientating buildings broadly to the south. Green areas encourage social interaction and integration, provide space for physical activity and play, improve air quality and reduce urban heat island effects. The result: architecture that makes sense.

As the name of the district suggests, the development aims to address climate change through outstanding innovations and methods for building economically viable zero carbon neighbourhoods. A unique feature in this project is the on-site manufacturing facility – Citu Works – which will manufacture the timber frame housing system for the district's 516 passive house homes. Once home to iron, steel and chemical works, Leeds is now taking the lead in sustainable building design and production, turning its identity sharply towards a greener future.

Location: Leeds, Great Britain.
Completed: 2022

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Live as You Learn

True change begins with the individual. As such, we have an opportunity to demonstrate best sustainability practice through our own behaviour. Every year we follow up our environmental impact, both in our own business and in our projects. The trend is very positive. For the past two years, we have decreased our own carbon footprint by 62 percent.

White's commitment to reduce environmental and climate impact is embedded in our projects, but it is also important that these ambitions are reflected in our own operations.

Reviewing our 2012–2016 Business Plan, we can state that we have been successful in reaching our environmental goals. Our overall target has been to reduce the carbon emissions from our own activities, such as travel, energy, purchases and waste. We have gradually reduced our CO2 emissions since 2014 (when we started our calculations for carbon emissions). In two years, we have reduced our emissions by 62 percent per full-time employee. This result has come about through making conscious decisions and prioritising environmentally sound alternatives. For example, we only purchase green electricity, we prioritise electrical rental cars and taxis, and we have a policy to only serve vegetarian food at internal events and lunches (in 2016, 92 percent were vegetarian).

However, the most important measure for reducing our carbon emissions has been the reduction of national and international business flights. Our travel policy is clear: train is the first choice. In 2016, this resulted in White receiving train company SJ's environmental award. In 2016 80 percent of the journeys within

Sweden and between Sweden, Norway and Denmark were made by train. It is difficult to avoid flights for longer distances, but sometimes a combination of flight and train can be a solution. Using video and teleconferencing more extensively has also reduced travelling, but in addition has saved personal time for employees.

The major reason for the decrease in our carbon emissions is that our study tours have been focused on the Nordic countries for the last two years, instead of places further away. We think it is important to explore other countries, but we will strive to find the knowledge and insight we need in different ways each year to keep our environmental impact low over time.

We always offset our carbon emissions for travel. Through this offsetting, we contributed with 133,100 kronor to the Kariba Forest Protection project in Zimbabwe in 2016.

As a company, we also want to encourage and promote sustainable behaviours among our employees. Across our offices, we arrange activities such as free bike workshops, bike challenge competitions, clothes swapping events and sports competitions. Some offices offer electrical bikes; others provide travel cards for public transport. We also use



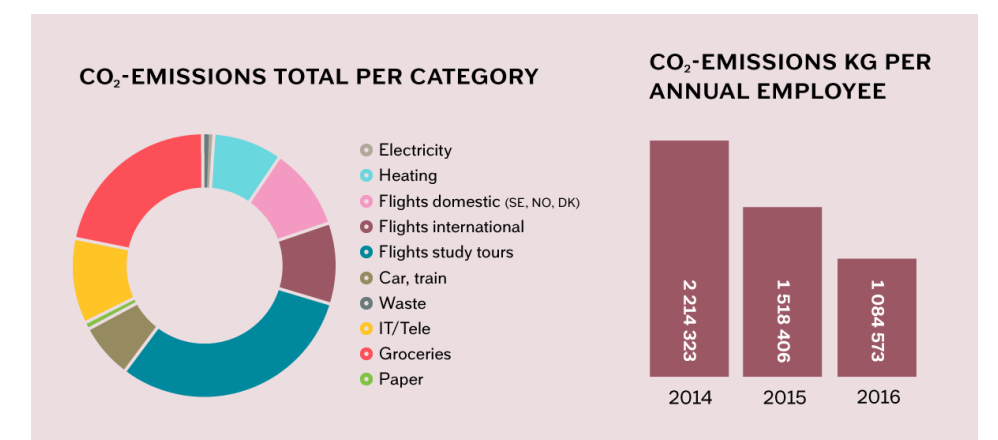
Tiveden National Park.

our offices as test labs for environmentally friendly initiatives such as placing bee hives on the office roof, urban farming or testing out green walls.

Additionally we also follow up our projects to measure impact. We are ambitious, but we are not always in control of project outcomes. In 2012, we set a goal that by 2016 all our major projects would

be planned and designed according to an environmental certification system. The trend has been positive, but appears to have plateaued in 2016. 36 percent of our major projects are designed according to an environmental certification (47 percent in 2015). We will continue our effort towards climate neutrality both in our business and in our projects.

Data apply for offices in Sweden, except for flights which apply for SE, NO, DK and UK. CO2-emissions per category is based on key figures from 2050, except for flights which is based on figures from South Pole Group.



WHITE IN FIGURES

Generations Rather than Financial Quarters

The results show good profitability and strong development of the company throughout 2016. Our obligation is to ensure a high quality of design in a world with heightened geopolitical turbulence at a time with intense demand for housing. Thanks to the creativity and expertise of all our employees, we are one of the leading influencers in the development of a sustainable society. This is evident in the projects we accept, how we lead and influence the public debate and also the steps we take to reduce our own environmental impact.

Turnover in the Group amounted to SEK 892 million (SEK 824 million in 2015). Profit after financial items was SEK 60.7 million (SEK 47.0 million). Operating profit before and after foundation provision amounted to SEK 76.3 million and SEK 60.3 million respectively, equivalent to an operating margin of 9 percent and 7 percent respectively. At the end of the year there were 850 (805) employees, and of these 60 percent were architects and 33 percent engineers. Employee turnover was 13 percent (9 percent), with 151 (140) people starting and 106 finishing (69).

The Group's average age was 40. Our largest individual market service was architect-related services, accounting for 85 percent of our turnover, which corresponds to SEK 758 million. As per the balance sheet date, the Group's 220 000 shares were allocated as follows: 122 partners owned 112 970 shares, two ownership foundations owned 5 590 shares and 494 other employees owned 101 440 shares. During the year the ownership group acquired 93 new shareholders. In 2016, 244 individuals purchased a total of 28 920 shares. There was high demand for shares and the decision was there-fore taken to implement a new issue of 10 000 shares.

Since last year there has been increased geopolitical risk in Europe as well as in other parts of the world. It is unclear how this will impact on our current situation of a very strong economy but we are taking the prevailing uncertainty into account. In Sweden there is a great deal of discussion around whether we are in a housing bubble with low interest rates and rising housing prices. Simultaneously, there is a risk that urban development is hampered if we are unsuccessful in building the required number of residential buildings.

Our responsibility is to ensure the quality, form and design of all our projects at a time when the demand for housing is at its greatest. Thanks to the creativity and expertise of all our employees, we are taking a pioneering role in demonstrating how a sustainable society can be designed and operated. This is evident in the kinds of projects we are winning and being offered, as well as in the influence we can have in speaking out and supporting these issues through public debate. Ultimately, the proof of our commitment is in the measures we take to reduce our own environmental impact as we go about our business and our lives.

Financial information

With respect to the financial development of the Group, refer to the multi-year financial overview below.

From the income statement, KSEK	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Operating revenues	892 156	824 278	759 466	764 670	757 769
Operating profit	60 280	42 605	64 354	43 261	22 705
Profit after financial items	60 307	47 020	63 693	42 893	21 383
Tax on profit for the year	-13 583	-11 147	-15 922	-10 715	9 594
Profit for the year	46 724	35 873	47 771	32 178	30 977
Minority share of profit for the year	-272	-83	-65	35	-952
Profit for the year	46 452	35 790	47 706	32 213	30 025

From the balance sheet, KSEK

Intangible fixed assets	141	666	2 094	3 219	5 850
Tangible fixed assets	9 558	20 901	30 500	35 522	43 442
Financial fixed assets	985	1 190	2 394	2 567	10 231
Current receivables	303 560	271 188	284 688	245 083	253 712
Cash and bank balances, incl. short-term investments	57 076	40 400	37 927	13 841	21 616
Total assets	371 320	334 345	357 603	300 232	334 851
Shareholders' equity	158 779	141 670	143 426	119 529	115 990
Minority share of equity	6 987	6 715	6 632	6 568	6 603
Provisions	23 957	19 973	20 819	20 959	19 568
Current liabilities	181 597	165 987	186 726	153 176	192 690
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities	371 320	334 345	357 603	300 232	334 851

Key figures

Return on shareholders' equity (%)	31,0	25,1	36,3	27,4	27,1
Profit margin (%)	6,8	5,7	8,4	5,6	2,8
Revenues per employee (KSEK)	1 308	1 304	1 303	1 373	1 419
The equity/assets ratio (%)	42,8	42,4	40,1	39,8	34,6
Average number employees	682	632	583	557	534

Definitions

Return on shareholders' equity (%):	Profit for the year after minority share as a percentage of average equity excluding minority share.
Profit margin (%):	Profit after financial items as a percentage of operating revenues.
The equity/assets ratio (%):	Shareholders' equity excluding minority share as a percentage of total assets.

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