
UN GLOBAL COMPACT 2017

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS



AART / archi
tects



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AART ARCHITECTS

AART architects is an award-winning architectural firm with Danish roots and Nordic reach. From our offices in Aarhus, Copenhagen and Oslo we provide highly specialised advice on architecture of every conceivable scale, from buildings and public spaces to entire master plans – always based on close dialogue with developers, users and business associates.

OPPORTUNITY MAKERS

We strongly believe that architecture is all about exploring, challenging and developing the environment we all share, so it can provide us with the opportunity to live healthier, smarter and more connected lives. This is the essence of everything we do.

We, thus, make a virtue of exploring how contemporary life constantly evolves and changes – always with a view on combining the unexpected and spotting the unseen opportunities that deliver beyond people's expectations. So, rather than being architects, we work as opportunity makers across traditional disciplines.



We keep challenging everything we know and shape this insight into architectural solutions that provide people with the opportunities to live healthier, smarter and more connected lives.

Torben Skovbjerg Larsen
Partner / CEO





GLOBAL COMPACT

In our desire to provide people with the opportunities to live healthier, smarter and more connected lives, we have joined the UN Global Compact, which is the largest voluntary corporate social responsibility initiative in the world.

As a member, we are proud to commit our strategies and operations with the UN principles in the areas of human rights, labour rights, environment and anti-corruption. By doing this and promoting the principles within our sphere of influence, we take part in improving the quality of life and the health of the environment.

In this Communication on Progress report, we express our continuing commitment to supporting advances in the building industry in ways that benefit everyday life, the economy and the environment. The purpose of this report is thus to give our stakeholders and the wider community an insight into how we promote and have implemented corporate social responsibility in our core business.



Torben Skovbjerg Larsen
Partner / CEO

TRANSPARENCY

We joined the UN Global Compact in 2008 to be part of the partnership between the UN with the objective of promoting transparency and social commitment in the global business community. This is our sixth Communication on Progress report in which we commit ourselves to all four areas of the Global Compact: Human Rights, Labour Rights, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Our Communication on Progress report 2016 is uploaded to the website of the UN Global Compact. It will also be available on our own website, just like it will be a natural part of how we present our company. We attach great importance to communicate our sustainable ambitions to all our stakeholders – employees, developers, business associates and the wider building industry.

SUSTAINIA LIVING

We are proud to be one of the leading partners and lifestyle pioneers in Sustainia Living: a global movement whose mission is to turn Denmark into a global lab exploring how a nation can turn the 17 UN Global Sustainable Development Goals into a new model for the world of tomorrow and of how sustainability can reinvent what competitiveness is all about.

Sustainia Living was launched the 8th of February 2017 in the Royal Danish Opera House. At the launch, we and other lifestyle pioneers shared our stories of how sustainable innovations create new opportunities and business ventures. These stories all have one thing in common: they highlight how some of the biggest global risks can be turned into sustainable lifestyle opportunities.



Royal Danish Opera House
Sustainia Living / 8th of February





Architecture can provide new perspectives on how to build better lives and make the UN Sustainable Development Goals relevant for the average consumer, according to Anders Tyrrestrup, partner and CIO.

— What does commitment to sustainability mean to AART architects, and how does it create value?

Sustainability is more than just a commitment, it is an integral part of our business, as we strongly believe buildings and public spaces should provide people with the opportunities to live healthier and more sustainable lives. This is at the heart of everything we do. We work with architecture to provide new perspectives on how to build better lives – all with a focus on showing that buildings and public spaces can benefit the young and elderly alike, while at the same time reducing our environmental impact. Thus, we want to show that sustainability is not about making compromises; it's about enriching people's lives. This is how we create value for our stakeholders and society in general.

— How can AART architects help the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to become “a people's agenda”?

Many take for granted the impact architecture has in our lives – but, in reality, nearly every moment of every day is influenced by it. We are constantly inside and surrounded by buildings. Alongside this, we should consider that buildings account for about 40% of the energy used globally. Thus, architecture offers a unique opportunity to help the Sustainable Development Goals become relevant for the average consumer. Architecture is all about setting the stage for our lives. It is about building the world we want to see for ourselves and for our children – socially, sustainably, and aesthetically.



Anders Tyrrestrup
Partner / CIO

— Towards 2030 what will be the biggest sustainability challenges for AART architects and the sector you operate in?

Developing 360-degree sustainable solutions and documenting their impact is our main goal – and an ongoing key challenge. We continuously strive to make sustainability attractive and accessible for everyone, from our clients or the actual users of our buildings and public spaces, and to succeed with this we must constantly strive to develop projects that bring together the “hard” economic values with the “soft” social and environmental values.

— How can Denmark become the global frontrunner in sustainable quality of life and lifestyle products?

For many years, Denmark has been known as an innovation leader within several industries that have a significant sustainable impact. However, ongoing globalization and digitalization continue to disrupt many traditional industries. Thus, to stay in front, Denmark must promote new kinds of partnerships and new ways of sharing knowledge – and Sustainia Living is an excellent example of how to transcend traditional barriers and give like-minded partners a common setting for exploring the sustainable opportunities of tomorrow.

DOCUMENTING THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ARCHITECTURE

Our work with architecture goes far beyond designing buildings. For us, it is equally important to document the impact we make through our architecture.

We, therefore, visit our completed buildings. We do this in collaboration with anthropologists and organisation analysts, among others from the Danish Alexandra Institute, who over the years have documented our work. With projects such as Musholm, we have strengthened the quality of life for people with disabilities. The Culture Yard revitalised Helsingør's waterfront and VUC Syd gives unskilled young adults a chance to get back into education. Common to all these projects is how we have created opportunities with added value – both socially and economically.

01

Vision meeting

We identify the essential goal of the project

02

On-line research

We gather quantitative insights from various sources

03

On-site

We gather insights from



Musholm
Korsør / Denmark



The Culture Yard
Elsinore / Denmark

3

survey

qualitative
in the users

04

Insight matching

We study and compare
our insights

05

Story telling

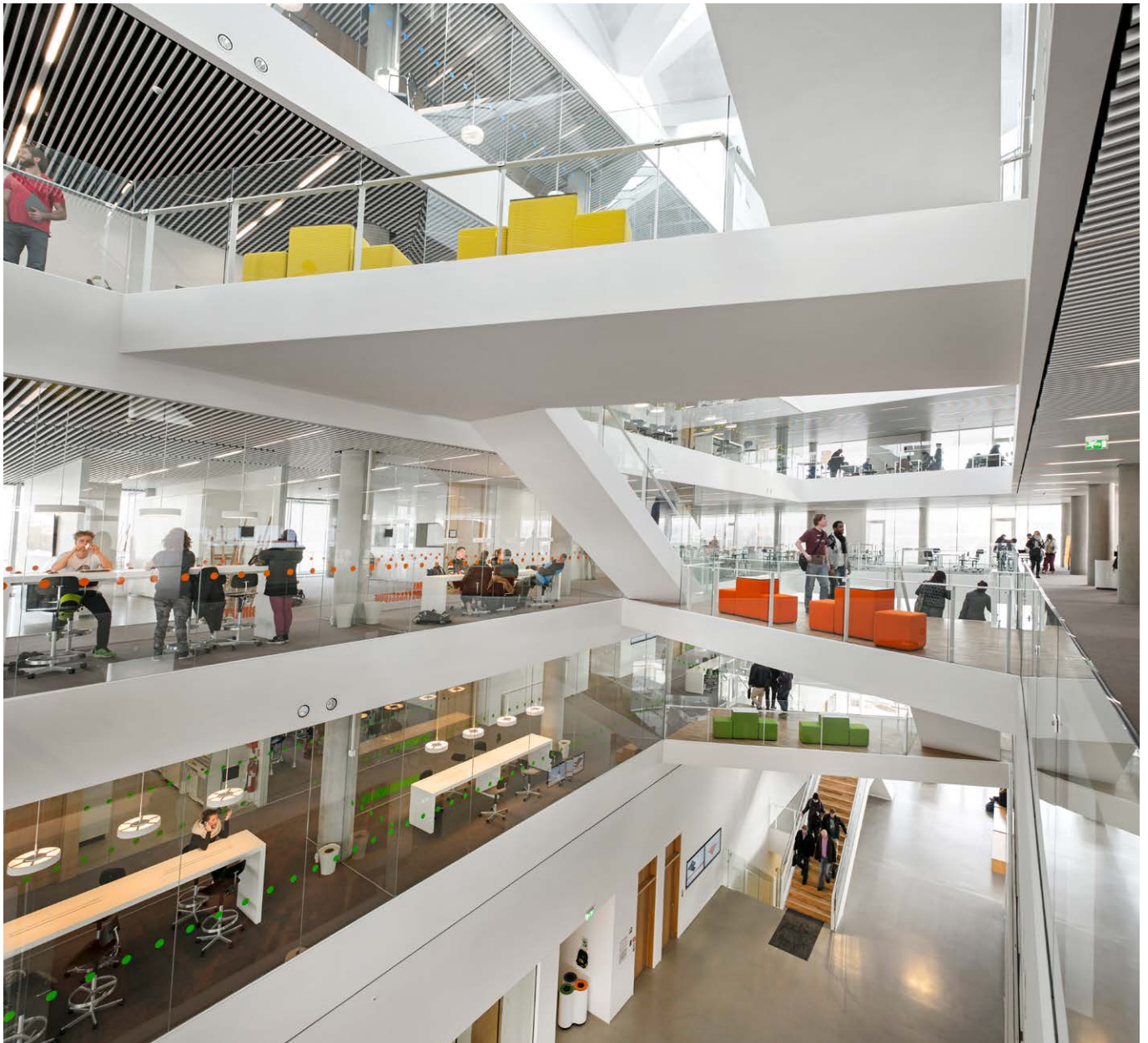
We unify our insights into a
productive narrative

Together with the Danish Alexandra Institute and subsidized by the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education, we have developed a method for documenting the impact of our projects. Based on this methodical foundation, we revisit of completed projects.

IMPACT THROUGH ARCHITECTURE

CASE / BACK INTO EDUCATION

The idea behind the design of the education centre for VUC Syd in Haderslev, Denmark, was to provide unskilled young adults with the courage, desire and skills to further their education. By challenging the traditional notion of a school, the ambition was to give VUC Syd the best possible setting for giving young adults a new and far more positive approach to learning – all with the focus on creating value for each individual and society in a broader sense.



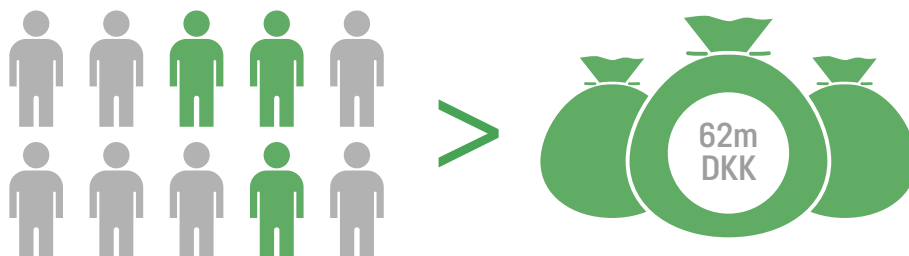
*“We expected good results,
but it has really surprised us
that they are this amazing.”*

This quote is from a Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR) news feature in which the VUC Syd development manager, Vinnie Lerche, talks about the education centre's success – a success that has captured the interest of both Danish and international media, as the figures tell their own tale. Since its opening, the education centre has increased its number of students by 53 per cent, while the dropout rate is significantly reduced.

Even more impressive is that the number of students who, after final exams, go on to university or the like has increased by no less than 200 per cent. This corresponds to an extra 1,000+ young people – and if the education centre moves just 30 per cent of them from social security to employment, society gains 62 million Danish kroner. Not to forget the renewed quality of life it gives each individual young person. This increased value creation and renewed quality of life is an example of how to drive change and create impact through architecture – for people and society in general.



DOCUMENTATION



Imagine if VUC Syd moves just 30 per cent of the increased number of students from social security to employment, then society gains 62 million Danish kroner each year.

The figures are based partly on surveys of the Danish Economic Council of the Labour Movement and partly on studies conducted by VUC Syd and AART architects together with the Danish Alexandra Institute, focusing on documenting the extent to which new teaching methods and innovative learning settings affect students' well-being, ability to learn and desire to embrace further education.

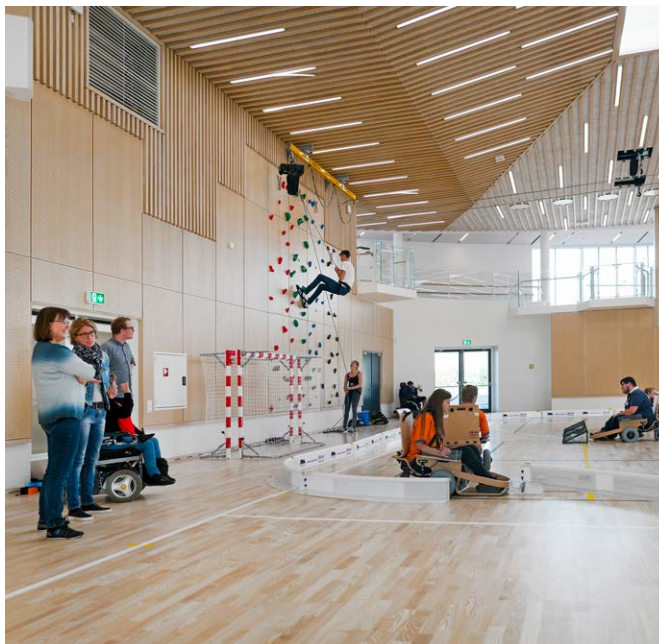
PEOPLE, PLANET AND PROFIT

We support all four areas of the UN Global Compact: Human Rights, Labour Rights, Environment and Anti-Corruption. However, we have interpreted these four areas and combined them into the triple bottom line: People, Planet and Profit.

The first (People) includes Human Rights and Labour Rights and focuses on our socially responsible approach to developing buildings and public spaces. The second (Planet) includes Environment and focuses on our environmentally approach, while the third (Profit) includes Anti-Corruption and focuses on our aim to lead the development of a more transparent and economically sustainable building industry.

PEOPLE

We believe that buildings and public spaces should empower people to live healthier, smarter and more connected lives. Therefore, we support the UN universal principles concerning human and labour rights.



Our design for the holiday centre Musholm received the 2016 IAUD Award, acknowledging the world's most socially sustainable places.

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.

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 labour.

Principle 5

Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour.

Principle 6

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

PLANET

We believe that buildings and public spaces should have a positive impact on the environment. The environment is the field where we as architects can make the greatest difference, since the energy consumption of buildings is responsible for 40 percent of global energy consumption. Therefore, we support the UN universal principles concerning the environment.



Our winning proposal for the new Aarhus University Campus shows how adaptive reuse can reduce the material consumption in architecture.

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.

PROFIT

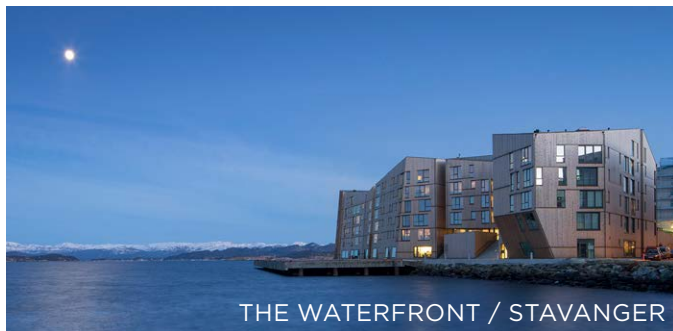
We believe that investments and enterprises should be powerful forces for good. Therefore, we support the UN Convention Against Corruption and its universal principle concerning anti-corruption, just like an open and respectful relationship to developers, business associates and the wider community is at the heart of everything we do.



We provide architectural advice on how businesses can be financially successful while creating social impact.

Principle 10

Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.



THE WATERFRONT / STAVANGER



CAMPUS FOR AARHUS UNIVERSITY /



THE CULTURE YARD / HELSINGØR



VUC SYD / HADERSLEV



HINDSGAVL NATURE CENTER / MIDDELFART



OLD BERGEN MUSEUM / BERGEN



MUSHOLM / KORSØR



INSPIRIA SCIENCE CENTER / GRAALUM



HOME FOR LIFE / AARHUS



THE WAREHOUSES / AARHUS



VIKING AGE MUSEUM / OSLO



NICOLINEHUS / AARHUS

PROJECTS WITH PERSPECTIVES

On the following pages, we have gathered some of our latest projects that encapsulate our sustainable ambitions in their very own ways – ranging from a terraced building landscape in the new port district of Aarhus, Denmark, to a new national rowing stadium at Bagsværd Lake, Denmark.



ON THE DRAWING BOARD





DENMARK'S ROWING STADIUM

Denmark's Rowing Stadium at Bagsværd Lake will fulfil the vision of creating a rowing stadium in an international league of its own. Here, in a location poised between the lake and the forest, the sporting elite will meet the broader public, and the classic discipline of rowing will interact with other forms of sport.



FACTS

LOCATION	Bagsværd / Denmark
SIZE	110,000 m ²
STATUS	2017 / Winning proposal
DEVELOPER	Fonden Danmarks Rostadion
ARCHITECT	AART architects
LANDSCAPE	LIW Planning

"The rowing stadium is a major milestone in a shared and long-held desire for new, unique facilities that cater for both grassroots and elite sporting environments here on Bagsværd Lake. It is a wonderful project that reaches out to the entire capital region."

***Frank Jensen /
Lord Mayor of Copenhagen and Chairman of Team Denmark***

VRÅ PUBLIC SCHOOL

Vrå Public School provides new perspectives on how to stimulate children's ability and desire to learn. This is done by combining learning and landscape so that children can play and learn in a complete ecosystem that changes over time – during the day and year and over time.



FACTS

LOCATION	Hjørring / Denmark
SIZE	10,000 m ²
STATUS	2017 / Winning proposal
DEVELOPER	Hjørring Municipality / Idrætscenter Vendsyssel
ARCHITECTS	AART architects JAJA Architects

"The winning proposal is based on a groundbreaking concept where the forest becomes the school. It is sustainable in every aspect and implements sustainability completely into the pedagogical use of the school."

Excerpt from the jury report

THE UNIVERSITY TOWN

The development plan paves the way for new prospects, which will transform Aarhus Municipal Hospital into a new campus for Aarhus University named the University Town. With the new campus Aarhus University will interact with urban life and the local business community in brand-new ways.



FACTS

LOCATION	Aarhus / Denmark
SIZE	110,000 m ²
STATUS	2017 / Winning proposal
DEVELOPER	FEAS
ARCHITECT	AART architects
LANDSCAPE	Møller & Grønborg

"In architectural terms, the new University Town will come across as one of Denmark's most significant urban areas."

***Tom Nielsen /
Professor at Aarhus School of Architecture***

NICOLINEHUS

Nicolinehus is a mixed-use development in the heart of the new port district in Aarhus, shaped by the pulse of the city centre and merging with life on the waterfront. It mixes conventional ingredients such as living, leisure, working, parking and shopping, all with a view to injecting life into the new port district.



FACTS

LOCATION	Aarhus / Denmark
SIZE	40,000 m ²
STATUS	2016 / Winning proposal
DEVELOPER	Bricks
ARCHITECT	AART architects
LANDSCAPE	Schönherr

"It is astounding. In all my 20 years in the industry I have never seen anything like it. The reason that several hundred people have already signed up for a freehold flat is their interest in Nicolinehus' unique location, inspiring architecture and quality materials."

**Martin Busk /
CEO and co-owner of Bricks**

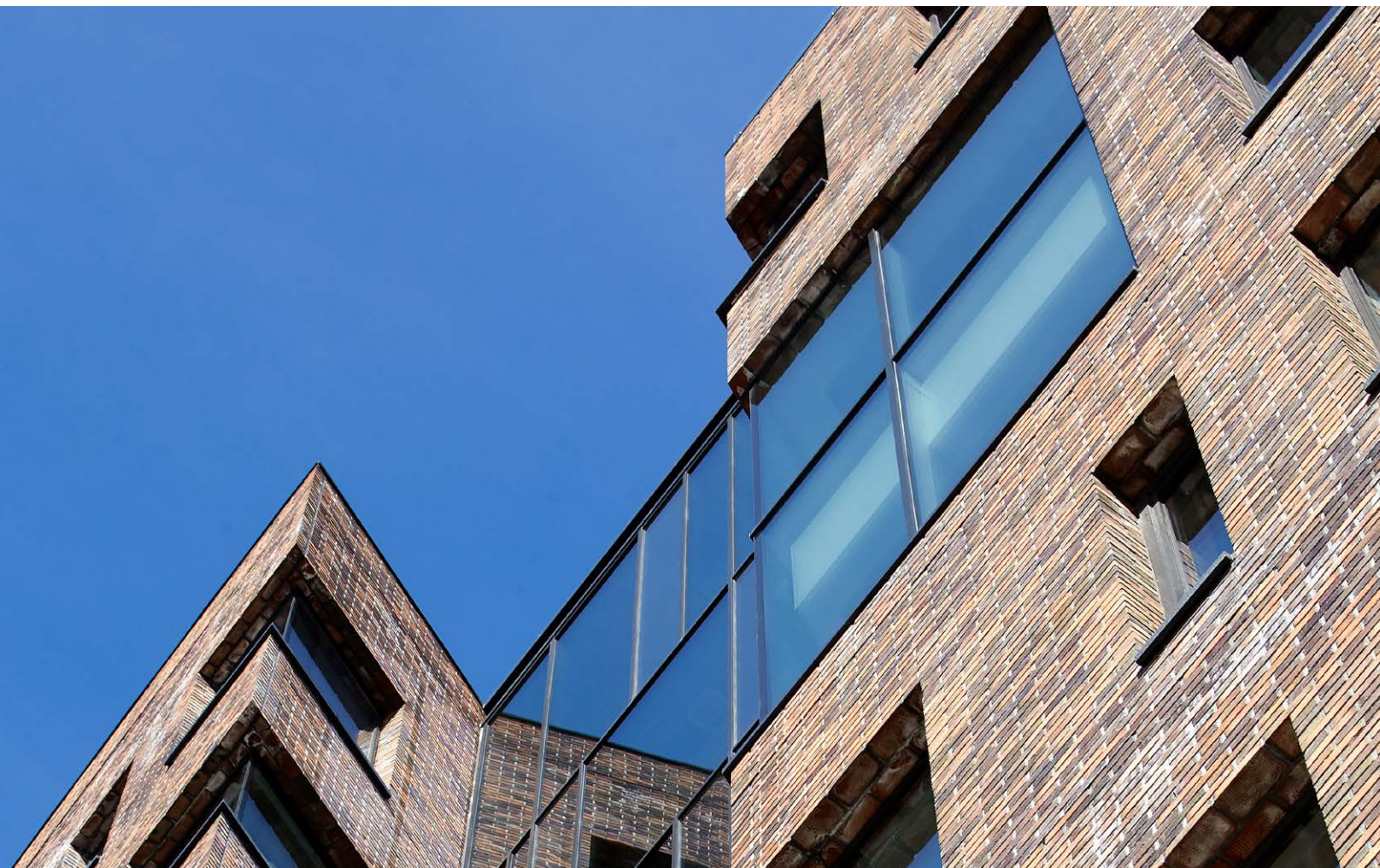
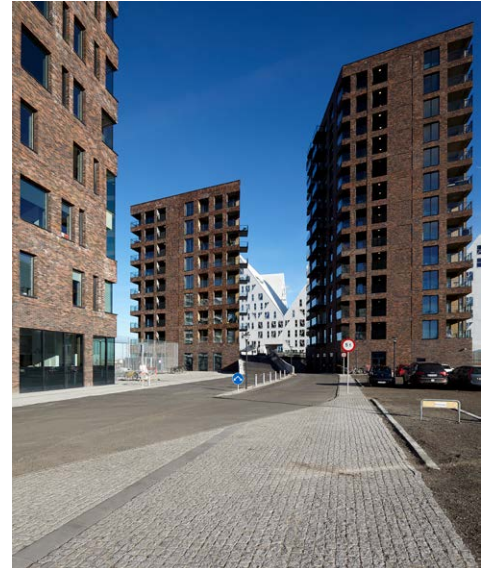
AWARD-WINNING PROJECTS





THE WAREHOUSES

The Warehouses are a new and unusual residential-cum-commercial development on Aarhus Island. It is based on the concept of community and created to buzz with life from early morning until late evening, seven days a week.



FACTS

LOCATION	Aarhus / Denmark
SIZE	35,000 m ²
STATUS	2016 / First phase completed
DEVELOPER	Kilden & Hindby / Domis / PFA
ARCHITECTS	AART architects
AWARD	DGNB Gold Certification

"We have now taken over the first stage of the office building of the future in the shape of the Warehouses. With this type of high quality building, we will enhance the profile of Aarhus as a commercial city, while pension-savers will get a good return."

***Michael Bruhn /
CEO of PFA Properties***

THE SCHOOL AT DUEVEJ

The extension of the School at Duevej meets Frederiksberg Municipality's ambitions to create a public school that will be an asset not only for the pupils but the whole community. Thus, the extension adds new features and experiences to the school based on the idea of creating a close interaction with local associations and leisure activities.

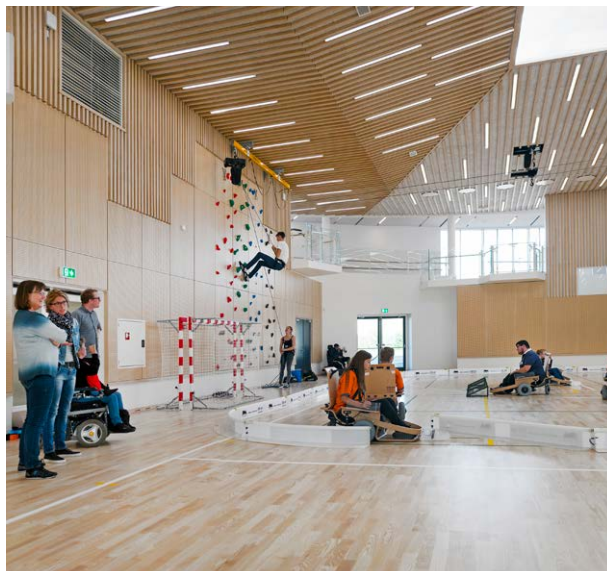


FACTS

LOCATION	Frederiksberg / Denmark
SIZE	1,150 m ²
STATUS	2016 / Completed
DEVELOPER	Frederiksberg Municipality
ARCHITECTS	AART architects
AWARDS	DGNB Certification

MUSHOLM

The new and extended Musholm challenges the traditional notion of accessible architecture with a view to becoming the preferred sports and holiday resort for people with any type of handicap – both in Denmark and abroad.



FACTS

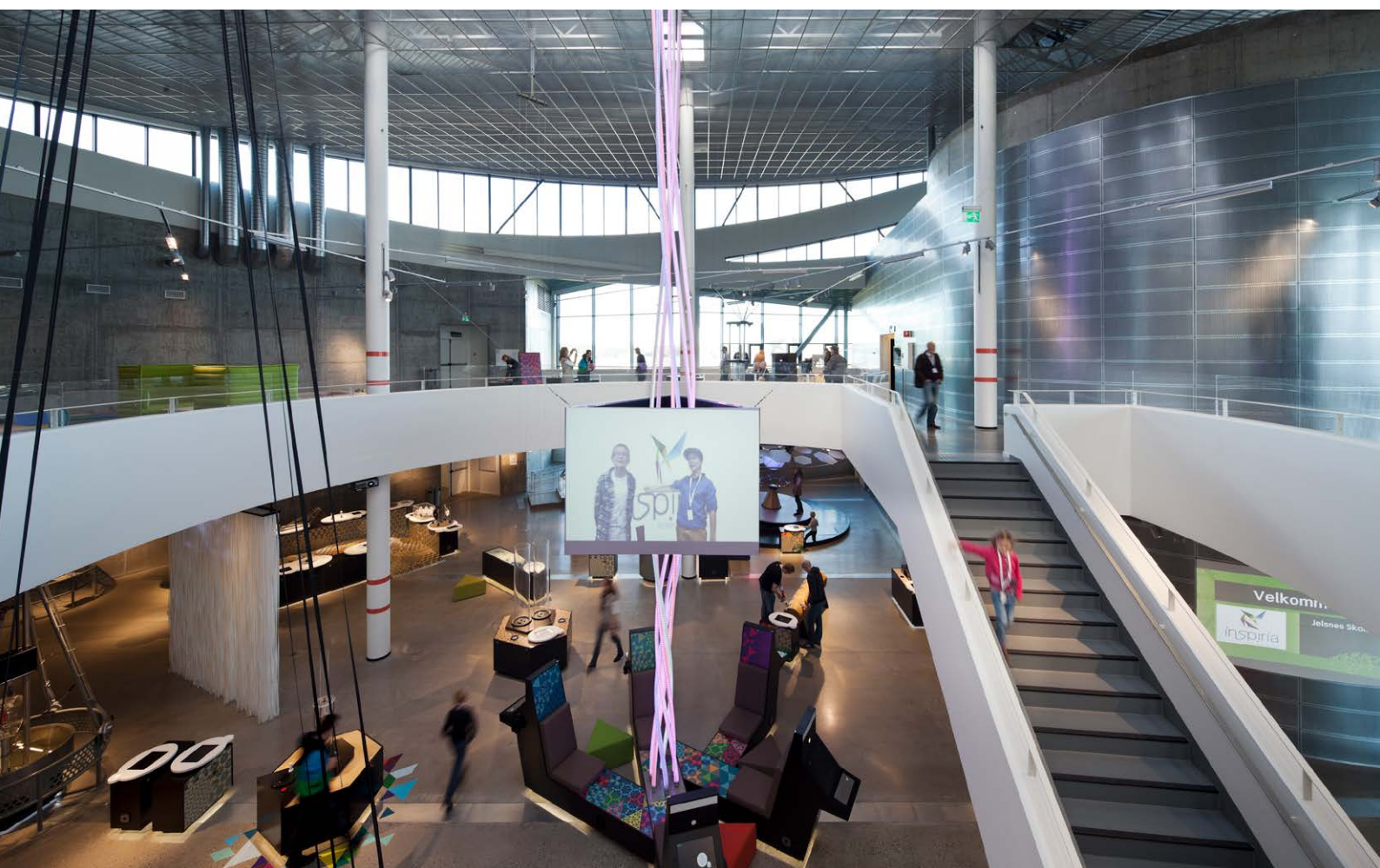
LOCATION	Korsør / Denmark
SIZE	3,200 m ²
STATUS	2015 / Completed
DEVELOPER	The Musholm Foundation
ARCHITECTS	AART architects
AWARD	IUAD Award / IOC Award / IPC Award

"This amazing place shows clearly that there is no problem in making handicap friendly buildings that are beautiful. You simply long to be here."

*Mette Bock /
Danish Minister of Culture*

INSPIRIA SCIENCE CENTER

Inspiria Science Center combines learning and architecture into an eventful venue with a high educative value. Designed with school children in mind, the venue inspires and educates through 70 interactive exhibitions.



FACTS

LOCATION	Graalum / Norway
SIZE	7,000 m ²
STATUS	2011 / Completed
DEVELOPER	Inspiria Eiendom
ARCHITECTS	AART architects
AWARDS	Iconic Award / Prime Property Award / Arnstein Arneberg Award / Østfold Universal Design Award

"It is impressive, what Inspiria Science Center has accomplished."

*Jens Stoltenberg
/ Former Prime Minister of Norway*



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