

United Nations Global Compact

Danish Association of Architectural Firms (formerly DANSKE ARK)

Communication on Engagement

April 2016 - February 2019

I am pleased to confirm that the Danish Association of Architectural Firms reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles, and its support of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for Business Associations like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders.



Lene Espersen

Chief Executive Officer

Danish Association of Architectural Firms
Vesterbrogade 1E
DK-1620 Copenhagen V
Denmark

Nature of business

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms is a business association for architectural firms based in Denmark. Our objective is to represent the commercial interests of practicing architects and strengthen the position, quality of work and professionalism of our member firms. We have more than 650 member firms which employ about 5000 persons combined and account for 85-90% of the aggregate building contract sums in Denmark. Most members are small and medium size enterprises.

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms works strategically to promote sustainability by pursuing political influence towards smart regulation of the built environment for resource efficiency and social value. We strive to build competencies and develop business models for the life cycle processes of design, construction, operation and reuse of buildings, urban areas and landscapes that our members are involved in.

We are continuously engaged in the public debate on urban development, building standards and the quality of the built environment. We aim to communicate and discuss how architecture can create value for society, users and clients in terms of social, environmental and economic sustainability combined. As a member of Green Building Council Denmark we work to build alliances with other progressive organizations and companies in the building and design sector to push the boundaries of quality and sustainability performance of the built environment.

Key focus areas

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms has four committees, one of which is entirely devoted to address and pursue questions of sustainability in the profession and discipline of architecture. The other three committees deal with political issues, business development and legal issues.

Though sustainability has its own committee, sustainability is - in varying ways - a core consideration in all committees. The committee on sustainability has identified three focus areas that are given priority among the various questions the committee addresses:

Building a knowledge base, identifying and communicating how sustainable architectural solutions create value - socially, environmentally and economically

Building frameworks for sustainable construction in building and planning codes as well as green building standards

Developing services and business models for sustainability in architectural practice.

Activities

UN Global Compact Network Denmark

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms is a member of the UN Global Compact Network Denmark as a business organization.

The 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms embraces the 10 principles and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and works to support these in action with the participation of our members. In the period since February 2016 we have taken several initiatives to support and promote the SDGs directly:

UIA World Congress 2023 Sustainable Futures

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms is an organizing partner in the International Union of Architects' World Congress in Copenhagen in 2023, which has the 17 SDGs as its theme. The congress will host 10-15000 architects from across the globe discussing and demonstrating the progress made in architecture and planning of the built environment towards achieving the SDGs..

Building Green & Folkemødet

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms has arranged several talks and debates on the SDGs. The most recent major event was the opening debate on BUILDING GREEN November 2018, when key officials, investors and architects discussed how to turn SDGs to business opportunities. Possibly the most high-profile (and entertaining) event we have hosted yet was at Folkemødet 2018, when a group of graduates from the Royal Danish Academy of Arts School of Architecture presented their thesis projects and their contribution towards the SDGs to a 'Dragon's Den' panel including the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Partnerships, Decent work and Sustainable Growth

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms is presently building a Partnership with the Confederation of Danish Industries, the Confederation of Indian Industries, the India Green Building Council for SDG 8: Decent work and sustainable growth. The purpose is to share knowledge and develop tools to document the progress towards the SDGs in the built environment, based on The Danish Association of Architectural Firms' research into documenting the value of architectural design and planning in sustainability terms. As the partnership develops, the tools defined can be shared with even more partners.

UNLEASH LAB 2017 - 1000 young global talents

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms hosted a workshop on SDG12 on the inauguration of UNleash 2017, a world congress of 1000 young talents meeting in Denmark to work on 7 of the SDGs arranged by the Confederation of Danish Industries.

Promoting Green Architecture and Planning

A key aim in The Danish Association of Architectural Firms' political work is improving the quality of the built environment through smart regulation and creating incentives for resource efficiency and achieving higher social, environmental and economic value through architecture and design. We are continuously engaged in discussions with government bodies on local, national and EU levels on legal frameworks with a view to promote sustainable architecture and planning.

At the EU level we are working with the European Architects' Association (ACE) to promote more ambitious EU policies for sustainability and circular economy in the built environment. We are warmly supporting the development and implementation of Level(s) - a new framework for shared common European sustainability reporting developed by the EU Commission's DG Environment and DG Growth. The Danish Association of Architectural Firms is leading the Danish contribution to the test phase of Level(s), collaborating with The Danish Association of Consulting Engineers, The Danish Association of Construction Clients and the Danish Building Research Institute supported by the Realdania Foundation and the Danish Transport, Construction and Housing Authority. 17 projects are committed to the test, making it the 4th largest contribution among the EU member states.

In a Danish context we are arguing politically for an incentive scheme to increase energy efficiency retrofitting and climate adaptation of housing. The Danish Association of Architectural Firms is - along with other business associations for stakeholders in the construction sector - working for political awareness that the built environment needs to be considered an inherent part of the energy system, when policies for the transition to renewable energy are decided. The Danish building regulations are currently in a reform process which The Association of Danish Architectural Firms is engaged in. We seek to develop a system that not only defines a base standard of construction, but offer incentives and standards for superior performance and resource efficiency as well.

Green Building Council Denmark, DK-GBC

As a premium member of DK-GBC, The Association of Danish Architectural Firms is part of a non-profit association of businesses and organizations that work to promote green building standards, education, business models and design across the value chain of the building industry. app. 25% of DK-GBCs member firms are architectural firms.

Senior adviser Peter Andreas Sattrup is member of the board of the DK-GBC, and chairs the Criteria Committee which is charged with developing the future standards of the DGNB sustainability certification standard that the DK-GBC uses. The upcoming revision of the DGNB criteria will have direct references to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals, allowing architects and clients to measure their contribution to the SDGs when certifying their projects.

Social Responsibility

The Association of Danish Architectural Firms is a member organization of the Danish Council on Health and Safety in Construction - BAR - that works to improve health and safety on Danish construction sites. Key activities are education, guidelines and awareness building. The Association of Danish Architectural Firms is a contributing partner in a new Nordic educational initiative, and a partner in the Health and Safety Hotline and knowledge center. The Association of Danish Architectural Firms is also a member the Association for Social Responsibility in the Construction Sector.

Communication

The Association of Danish Architectural Firms is regularly participating in public debates on sustainability, through print, broadcast and social media. We encourage debate on the quality of the built environment, and pursue awareness of the influence of architecture on the social, environmental and economic sustainability of society.

A key communication initiative is the 'Architecture creates value' collection of built cases and research documenting social, environmental and economic value creation in the built environment through sustainable architectural design. Our collection now has more than 75 cases of projects creating value for clients, users and society. The cases are arranged according to overall themes:

- Productivity & Learning
- Urban Life
- Health
- Resources
- Social Cohesion
- Climate
- Constructability
- Economy

A booklet in English presenting a selection of cases can be found here:

<https://www.danskeark.dk/content/Architecture-creates-value>

Documenting Value and progress towards the SDGs

One of the key learnings from 'Architecture Creates Value' is that the value created by design is rarely documented, which means that very important knowledge on the impacts is lost. In order to empower architects, clients and users to document and understand how the quality of the built environment affects quality of life, The Association of Danish Architectural Firms has published a guide to creating and documenting value 'ARKITEKT - Dokumenter din værdiskabelse'. The guide offers a methodology and hands-on advice to both beginners and experts on how to describe and measure values created through the design and use of the built environment. The publication has received a lot of international interest, and an English version will be published in 2019. Future editions are intended to include a section on how to use the methodology to document and communicate progress towards achieving the SDGs. The guide can be downloaded here (in Danish): <https://www.danskeark.dk/content/arkitekt-dokumenter-din-vaerdiskabelse-1>

Sustainability in Scandinavia

2018 also saw the publication of 'Sustainability in Scandinavia' an anthology of Scandinavian architects' experiences with sustainable architectural design. Initiated by the Center for Green Cities and Buildings at Harvard University and the architecture schools AHO, KADK and KTH, The Association of Danish Architectural Firms contributed to a chapter on the Transformation of historical buildings and cultural heritage. The book is published by Axel Menges Verlag. An excerpt can be found here: www.axelmenqes.de/buch/makawi_scandinavia.pdf

Knowledge sharing

The Association of Danish Architectural Firms is occasionally hosting delegations from abroad interested in knowledge transfer and Danish experiences and competencies in green building and urban development: Recent visits include delegations from Ghana, South Africa, India, Belgium, Canada and the United States.

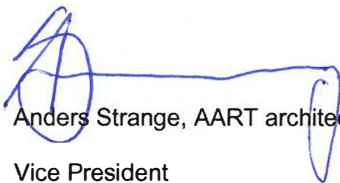
The Association of Danish Architectural Firms remains fully committed to the United Nations' Global Compact and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The following members of the Board of Directors in Danish Association of Architectural Firms, hereby declare that adhere to the present document.



Katja Viltøft, JJW Arkitekter,

President



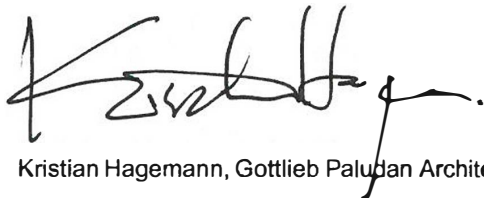
Anders Strange, AART architects,

Vice President



Niels Jakubiak Andersen, Krydsrum arkitekter A/S,

Vice President



Kristian Hagemann, Gottlieb Paludan Architects,



Jeanette Hansen, 3XN A/S.



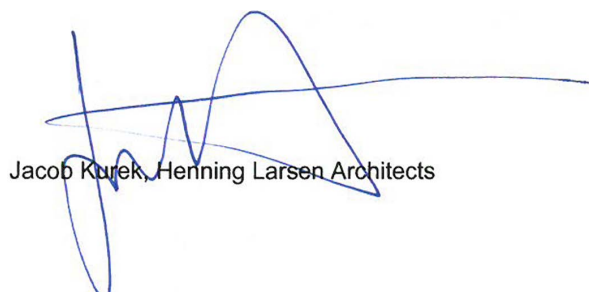
Trine Troelsen, Lundgaard & Tranberg Arkitekter,



Jens Ole Bahr, Friis & Moltke,



Torben Møbjerg, GHB Landskabsarkitekter,



Jacob Kurek, Henning Larsen Architects