

NORD ARCHITECTS COPENHAGEN

UN Global Compact
COP 2021



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WE SUPPORT THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE AND THE TEN PRINCIPLES



17.03.2022 Copenhagen

NORD Architects is a Copenhagen based office, that has been working with architecture, urban development, process and advisory since foundation in 2003. We have always been engaged in fields that has involved social and healthy progression and development in a way that has increased life quality in general and in specific areas and projects of either health care or human living environments.

Supporting the UN Global Compact is completely in line with our core business and values, and our professional approach towards clients in the building sector. We develop remarkable building that are healthy and support people in social interactions that promote vibrant environments. We prioritize dialogue with our clients and collaborator and invite to participation in co-creation processes which improve possibilities of innovation and higher quality in content before design.

NORD Architects became a member of UN Global Compact 2017 and support the initiative and ten principles fully. This Annual Sustainability Report, the COP, reaffirms our support and describes our actions to continually improve the integration of the Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, employee rights and the protection of the natural environment and actively opposing corruption in all its forms.

We look forward to an exciting 2021 year with our clients and collaborators with continued focus our efforts on delivering leading sustainable solutions both in terms of social and technical matters.

Morten Gregersen
Partner & Architect AA Dipl RIBA II

HUMAN RIGHTS

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

LABOUR

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

WE ARE BASED IN COPENHAGEN



Denmark is a small country in Northern Europe, with a population of 5.8 million people. The capital, Copenhagen is a livable, bicycle and pedestrian friendly city with 1.3 million inhabitants. Denmark is a democratic country with a tax-funded welfare system.

WE WORK INTERNATIONALLY

We live and work in Copenhagen — but our projects are located in several different countries. Currently we have projects on site in Denmark, Norway and France and many more along the way.



NORD ARCHITECTS



NORD Architects was established in 2003 by founding partners Johannes Molander Pedersen and Morten Rask Gregersen. In 2017 Mia Baarup Tofte joined the partnership.

We are often invited to participate in international conferences, public debates, seminars, exhibitions and publications on contemporary architecture, design and planning.

In recent years, we have designed and innovated educational and healthcare projects, housing, sports facilities and urban spaces. All are focused on social sustainability and cohesion.

‘Design with sympathy’ is our trademark and we create healthy and remarkable buildings that promote sustainability.

OUR MISSION

We create sustainable projects based on co-creation within building and landscape design, urban planning, programming, client consultancy

We work in the fields of healthcare, education, living, sports, culture and urban design

We strive to implement the UN17 sustainable development goals in every action we take and in every project we participate

We are a team of architects, urbanists, interior designers, creative thinkers, landscape architects, building technicians, communicators

We have an international reach through exhibitions, lectures, publications, judge deeds, panel discussions and debates - and our design

NORD Architects was founded in 2003 in Copenhagen

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS INVOLVE INNOVATION

We think of content before we create solutions, and make way for user-involvement and innovation.

NORD Architects is renowned for our approach to developing projects at an early stage, where the assignment or scope of the building is still open for improvements or knowledge input. We formulate the basis for the project in close collaboration with the client and the projects' complexity is solved with an understanding for the social or commercial dynamic that defines the project for the client.

Co-creation is an accommodating process, that NORD has practised and prioritized for almost every project because of its opportunities to improve the basis, program and solutions of the final building schemes.

We have developed an extensive knowledge on co-creation for a targeted process based on our refined methodology and connected tools for this. It involves the end-users, the clients, experts or stakeholders that possess a valuable knowledge of e.g. workflows, regulations, behaviours, patient's experiences and needs, procedures and preferences in the daily logistical patterns. This approach is part of our DNA and collaborative attitude towards often large-scale buildings or complex projects that involve many stakeholders, public institutions and different advisors.

Co-existence

We believe designing for co-existence is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Co-existence could make way for radical changes in sustainability and ways people live together, health and health care in both treatment and prevention, sustainability, infrastructure, life quality, social interactions and climate impact.

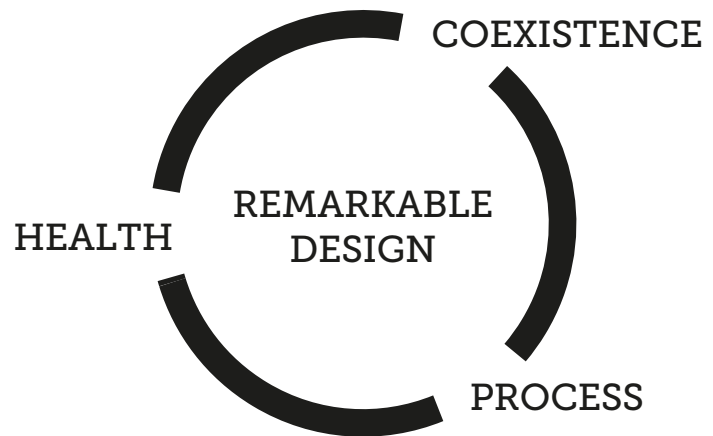
Process

We know the process through which we generate physical environments, has a huge impact on the result.

We involve the users in our architecture both before and during the creative process. This approach enriches the projects and results in the best possible solution for each user.

Health

We design healthy cities and buildings. We use sustainable materials and integrate nature into our projects. We design active environments that are vibrant.

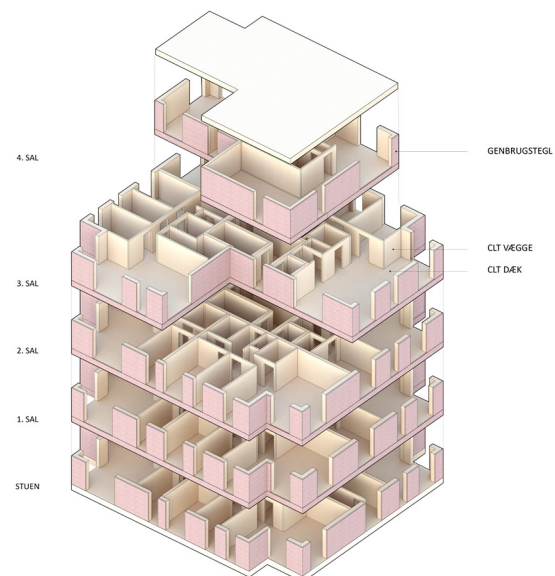


BUILDING IN WOOD

Why build the future on wood constructions?

MATERIALS & BUILDING METHODS

Wood in buildings reduces the total CO₂ footprint and provides a healthy indoor climate.



The building sector in Denmark accounts for approximately 40% of the country's total CO₂ emissions. It calls for new ways of planning, thinking, designing and using buildings, both socially and technically.

If wood is used instead of concrete and steel as a load-bearing structure in buildings, the total CO₂ footprint can be reduced by up to 75%.

A growing tree absorbs and binds CO₂, which makes wood one of the only building materials that has a negative CO₂ footprint. During the life span of the building, new forests can replace the wood used for construction and thereby absorb new CO₂. Forestry can have a positive impact on CO₂ emissions as 1 kg of wood absorbs approx. 1.47 kg CO₂. At the same time, wooden structures can achieve similar static and constructive properties as steel and concrete.

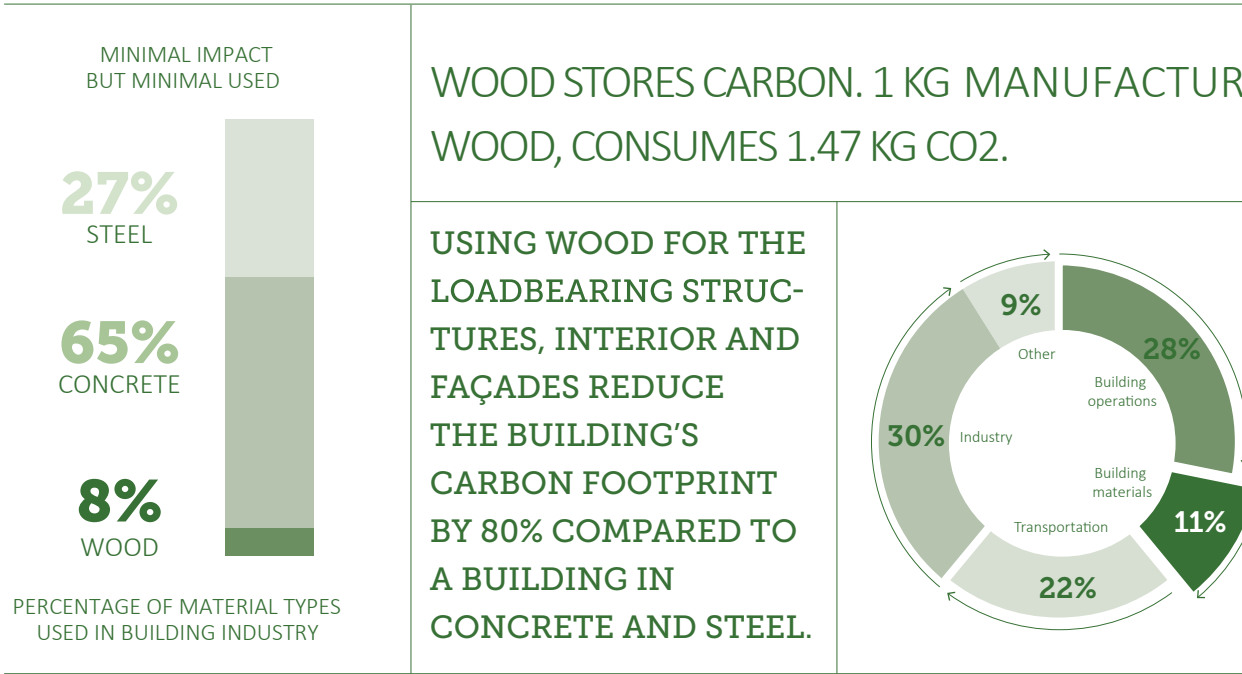
The durability of building materials is a crucial marker for building longevity and overall environmental footprint. Therefore, it is also important to combine the social usage patterns and housing typologies with great flexibility and diversity, which can make the housing developments sustainable in the long-term and suitable for diversity of people and their lifestyles.

The same can be said for the sustainability of office building. Designing to accommodate different type of companies and organizations allows for adaptability of building use over generations. The longer a building can last and perform at the same time, the lower the carbon footprint.

This lifetime perspective, where different generations are able to live alongside one another in combination with wood construction can create optimal sustainability and life quality.



WHY BUILD IN WOOD?



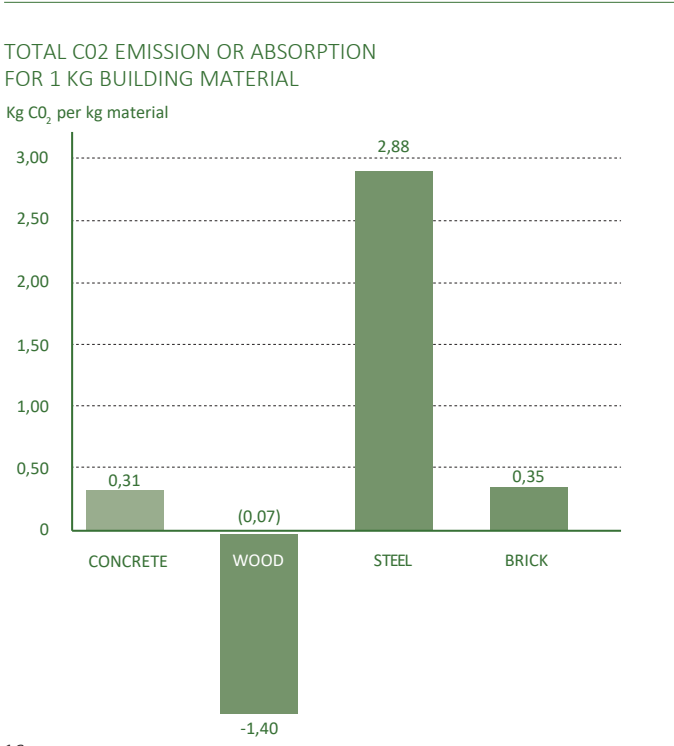
FOUR ADVANTAGES

LESS CO₂ AND MORE BIODIVERSITY

COSTSAVING BUILDING PROCESS

IMPROVED INDOOR CLIMATE AND CSR VALUE

DISASSEMBLY AND 100% REUSABLE



NATURE

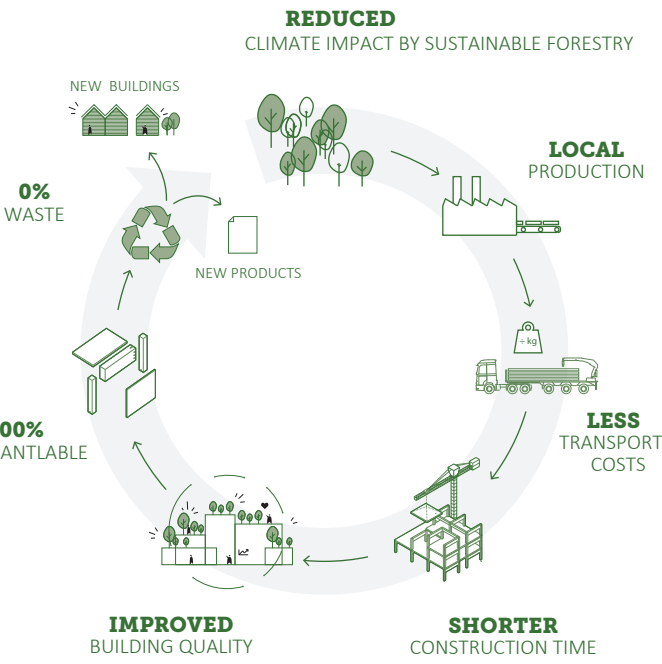
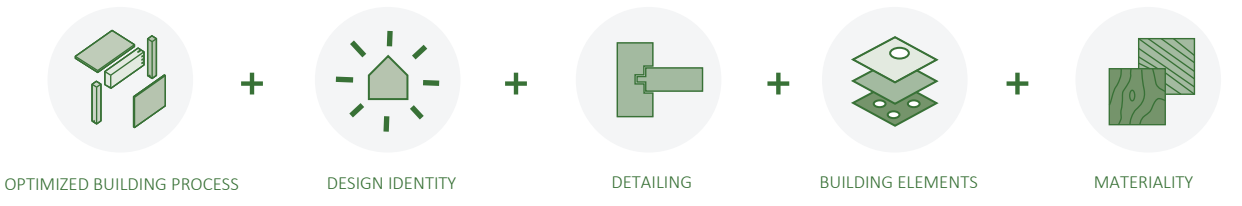
By increasing the use of wood, industrial farmland could be transformed into rich forests, with a balance between production and reproduction.

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Wood Construction helps to reduce fossil carbon emissions when timber comes from responsible driven forests. Sustainable, growing forests store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and improve local biodiversity.

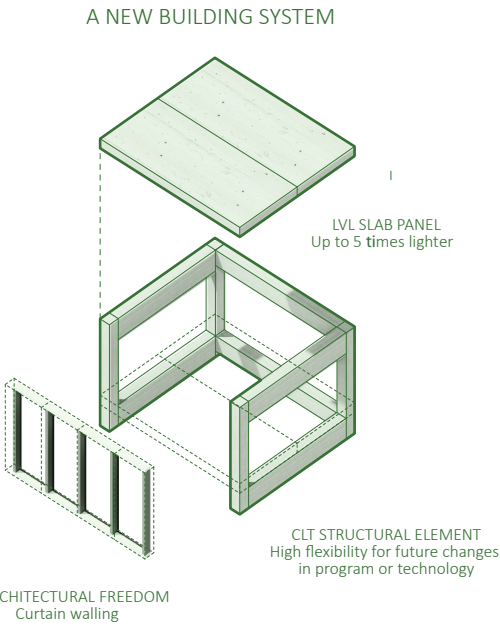


WOOD – A MATERIAL BUILT BY NATURE



INCREASED WELL-BEING
IMPROVED REUSE,
BETTER INDOOR CLIMATE
AND MANY OTHER ADVANTAGES

International studies have shown that through biophilic design in the workplace the health and well being of employees can increase.

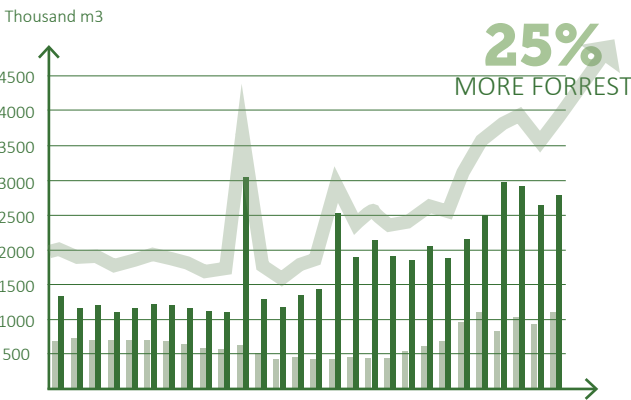


"ARCHITECTURE FOR THE FUTURE"

Life cycles of wood buildings are proven to be longer than those of concrete and steel, by focusing on high quality and reuse.

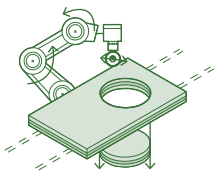
1 KG WOOD STORES

1,47
KG CO₂



Denmark's total area of forest has been growing since 1997 – if we changed our building industry, traditional farmland could be transformed into new sustainable forests.

The forests protect the groundwater. Almost no pesticides are used in the forests in contrast to farmlands. Planting forrest on agricultural land will reduce the leaching of nitrate within just a few years.



ADVANCED AND FAST PRODUCTION

Wood production is one of the most innovative and precise production technologies including cnc-milling, prefabrication and assembly.

THE LOCAL CONTEXT: A NEW SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

A wood building can ensure a strong sustainable lifecycle and create an architectural identity that focuses on user wellbeing, and the atmosphere and tactile quality in our surroundings.



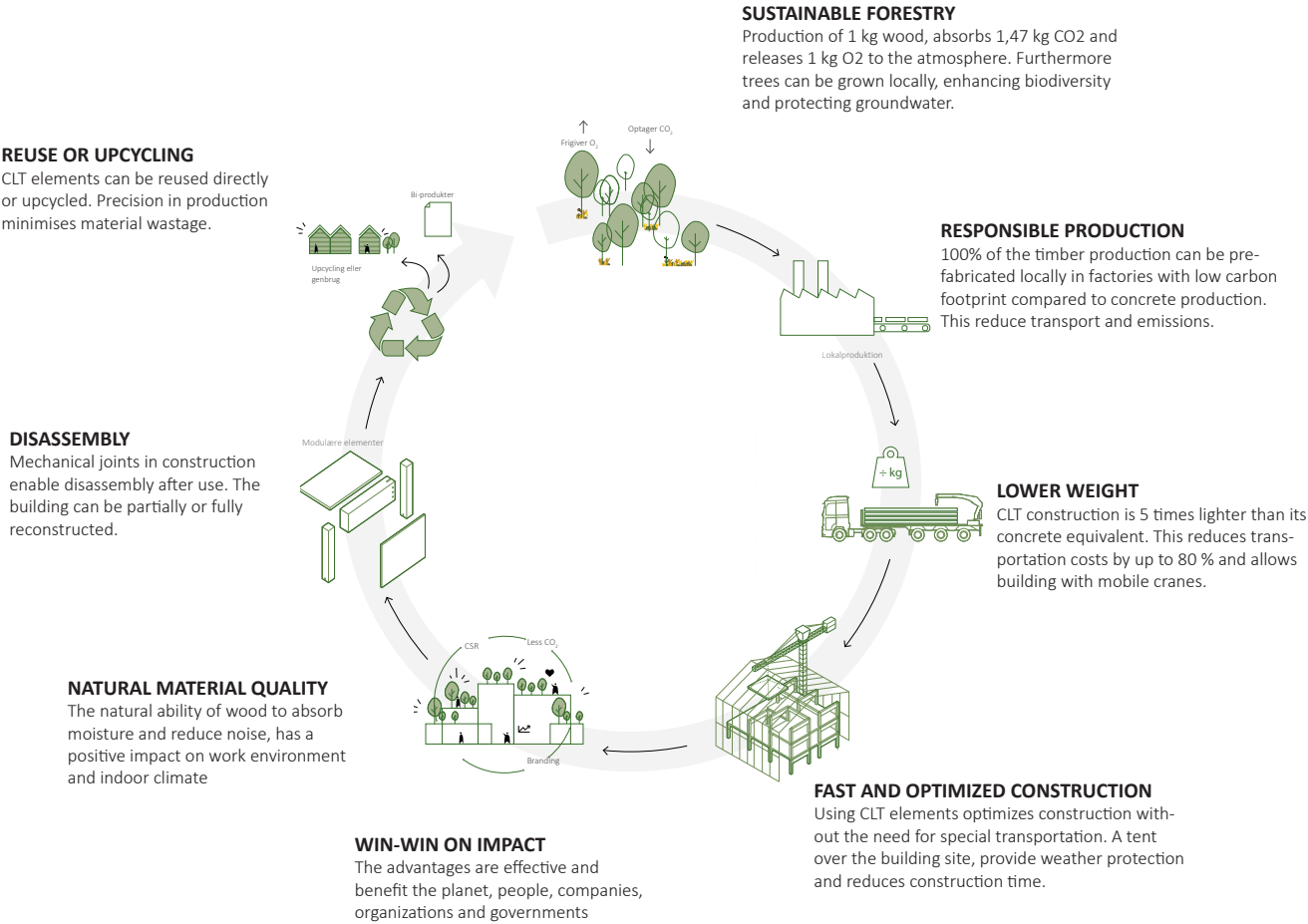




CASES WITH CROSS LAMINATED TIMBER ELEMENTS
Easy mounting and protection / Villa Wood, Brønshøj Copenhagen



RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION CYCLE FROM FORESTRY TO BUILDING INDUSTRY
The advantages of using wood in buildings



THE SIX MAIN ADVANTAGES OF WOOD CONSTRUCTION

From techniques to thinking



SUSTAINABILITY

If wood is used as a structural alternative to concrete and steel, the total carbon footprint can be minimized by up to 75%.



FLEXIBILITY

A modular design is flexible for all types of businesses and functions, providing a long life cycle.



BUILDABILITY

Building in wood reduces CO₂ emissions during construction and economic costs as CLT elements are 5 times lighter than concrete.



Absorb CO₂

Forestry can have a positive impact on CO₂ emissions as 1 kg of wood absorbs approx. 1.47 kg CO₂.



Flexible room module

Well-tested and optimized room modules provide many opportunities for continuous office adaptations.



Modular building system

CLT elements with mechanical joints provide a high degree of flexibility.



Social sustainability cycle

Combining the workplace, community and sustainability increases social value.



Adaptive

The CLT design can be easily adjusted, transformed and expanded according to the changing needs of the user.



Shorter build time

Construction site tents and mobile cranes provide an efficient and optimized construction process.



100% reusable

Improved life cycle value by allowing all wood elements to be recycled, upcycled or used for energy production.



Effective occupancy rate

Flexible distribution of work stations and the possibility of varying occupancy rates.



Light weight

CLT elements are 5 times lighter than concrete, giving reduced building weight and minimizing transportation costs.



Long life

Wooden buildings can be easily modified and adapted to future requirements and new features. This extends the life of the structure.



Prefabricated facade elements

Attached facade elements allow for great contextual customization, integration of technical requirements and aesthetic appearance.

THE SIX MAIN ADVANTAGES OF WOOD CONSTRUCTION

From techniques to thinking



DESIGN

The simple structure of CLT allows for new architectural solutions and increased use of natural materials.



HEALTH

By using wood in commercial buildings, indoor climate, well-being and productivity can be improved.



FUTURE WORKPLACE

Sustainable timber buildings can be used as an active element in business development, among other things in CSR strategies and branding.



Design freedom

With a simplified construction, new types of design and space, can be more easily applied.



Indoor

Wood can absorb and release moisture, helping to reduce fluctuations in air quality and temperature.



Identity

Architectural identity and innovative work environment can attract employees and be used in targeted climate strategies.



Exact details

Low tolerance and high precision using optimized production and CNC machines allow for special details and minimal material waste.



Tactile surfaces

Wood surfaces can provide better space quality and create a homely and stimulating work environment.



Flexible working environment

A flexible working environment and physical construction allow for adaptation to future working methods.



Natural materials

More tactile surfaces of natural materials and patination, can enhance spatial quality and user well-being.



Influence on everyday life

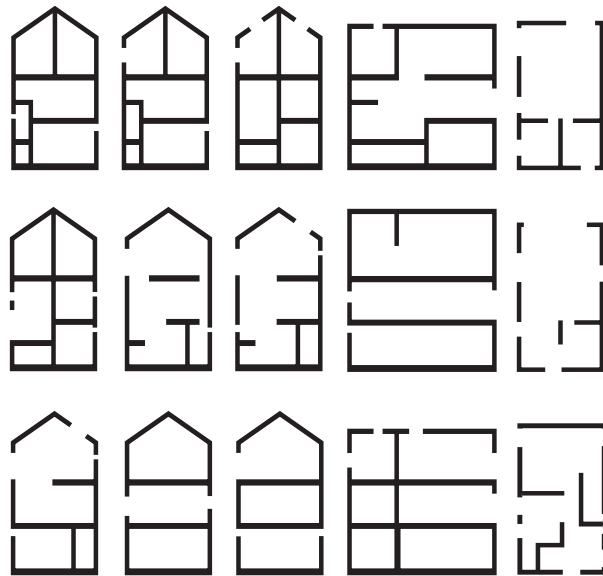
With integrated technical solutions, flexible room sizes and manual operation, the wooden building can enhance well-being and have a positive influence on everyday life.



Eco footprint

Businesses' sustainable climate goals can be significantly reduced with concrete climate-conscious solutions.

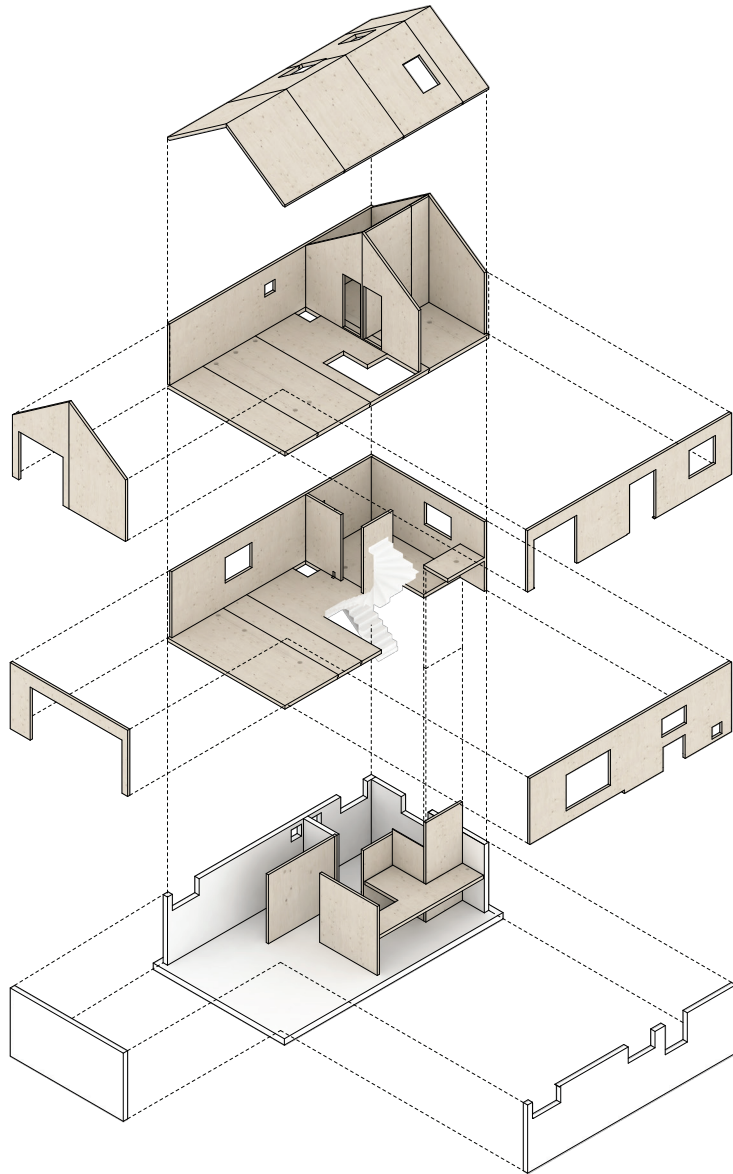




VILLA WOOD

New possibilities of customization for individual families with wood elements

Location Brønshøj, Copenhagen Client Morten Gregersen Year 2016-2017 Typology Private house, prefabrication, CLT massive wood elements Size 200 m² Status Built





Community center
built in massive wood
promoting technical and social
sustainability



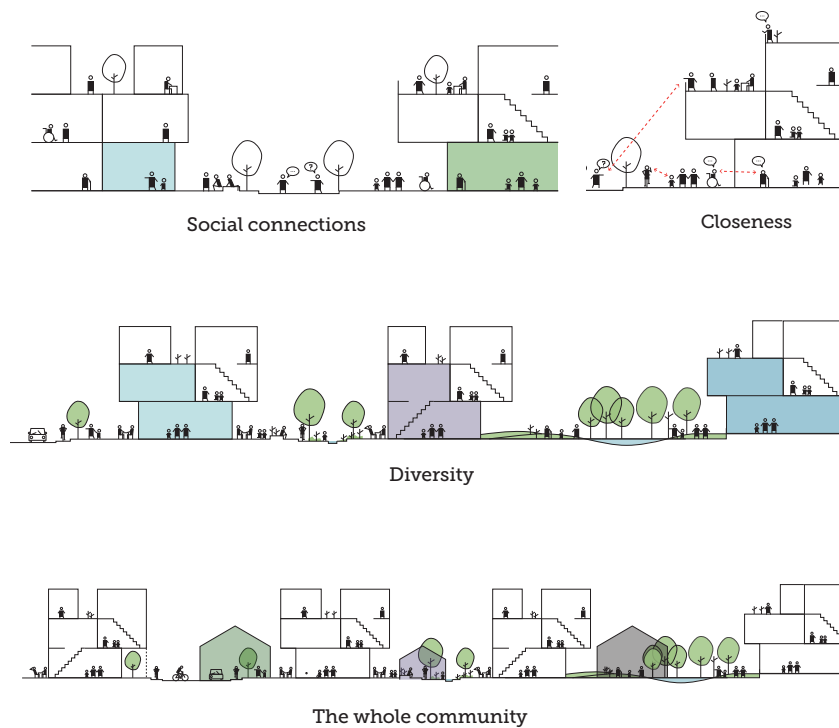


LIVING & LEARNING

Durability and diversity in everyday
communities

LIVING AND LEARNING

Social interactions, sharing activities and co-existence between people, create new healthy and sustainable communities with vibrant environments.



NORD Architects designs a large variety of typologies in different housing projects that share social sustainability as a common feature. We are involved in youth housing, senior housing, housing for elderly as well as villages for people with dementia. These projects often break down the borders between young and old, singles and families, home and institution, being sick and well. We challenge the conventional ways of living by suggesting more diversity, co-existence and intergenerational relations between people.

NORD Architects works with urban residential projects that create new neighborhoods where generations can live side by side, or where the city supports Alzheimer's patients, as an example. The co-existence of different people, typologies and activities creates new possibilities for establishing communities that are more diverse and vibrant.

We design for a high degree of flexibility and differentiation, with integration of the local community, landscape or urban areas and often link facilities. Integrating public functions, like a daycare center, restaurant, research center or a foodbank into a

residential project can create new synergies and destinations for the neighborhood.

By this we encourage the development of cities that are livable, compact and sustainable.

Sharing activities in an inclusive community brings a mixed social life and environmental sustainable living to front. Communities could be based on circular economy, exchange of services, products and an overlay in functions, could increase the social quality, creativity, life joy and entrepreneurship.

The diversity in communities could generate a more prosperous and vibrant living that have positive impact on society in such and from which even welfare institutions could benefit from. Social and healthy interactions show improvements in life quality that could encourage social achievements.

Changing demographics call for new innovative solutions for living areas and we make an effort to take the challenges into consideration.





STEJLEPLADSEN, COPENHAGEN

Pioneering housing development focusing on social sustainability and circular economy

Location **Copenhagen, Denmark** Client **City of Copenhagen** Year **2019**

Typology **Masterplan for mixed sustainable housing**


Commission **Head consultant**

Size **72.000 m2** Collaborators **MASU Planning and Sweco**

Status **Competition completed**

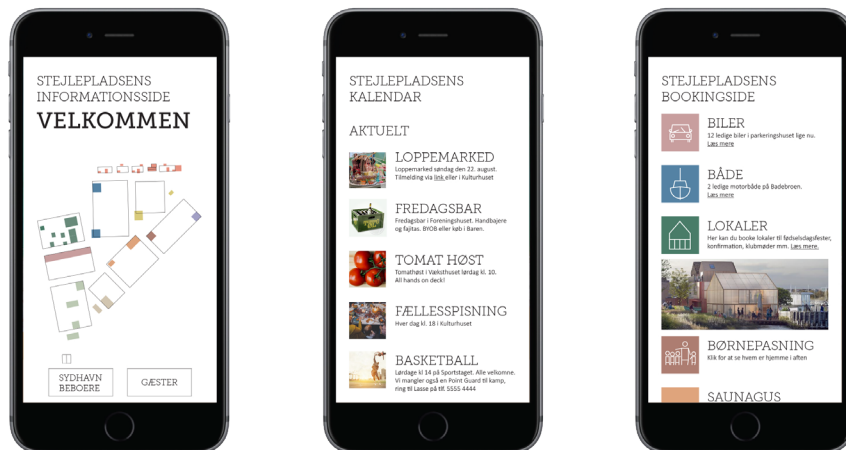






Sustainable community with
shared activities, diversity and
circular economy

SHARED FACILITIES AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY



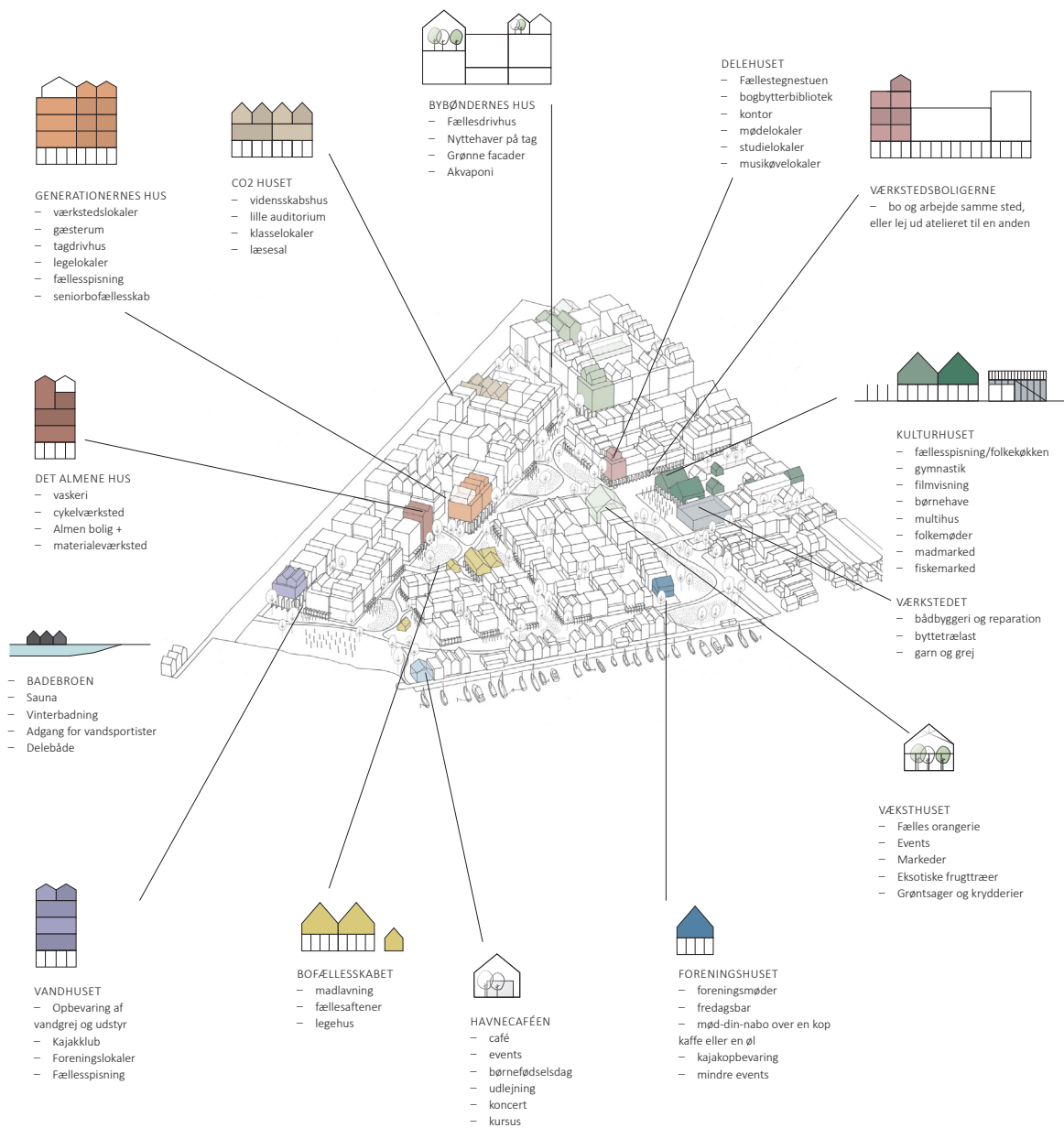
The residents of Stejlepladsen (meaning Stakes' Square) will live in a community where they share with each other inside and outside the district. The common facilities are for all residents of the area and a digital platform is designed and developed to help people keep up with activities, manage the shared economy, circulate products, book spaces for events and engage themselves.

Stejlepladsen's design and organization is based on relationships and coexistence. We have been occupied by finding the answers

for an essential question: What creates the good city and how should people be engaged in their community?

All residents potentially have a role to play and needs that can be met. Young people can help the elderly. The elderly can help the busy family of children. The single can find a social community. The Steeple Square is a neighborhood for all people- an engaging neighborhood. The resident composition must ensure that social synergies and natural inclusion can arise.

COMMUNITIES FIRST

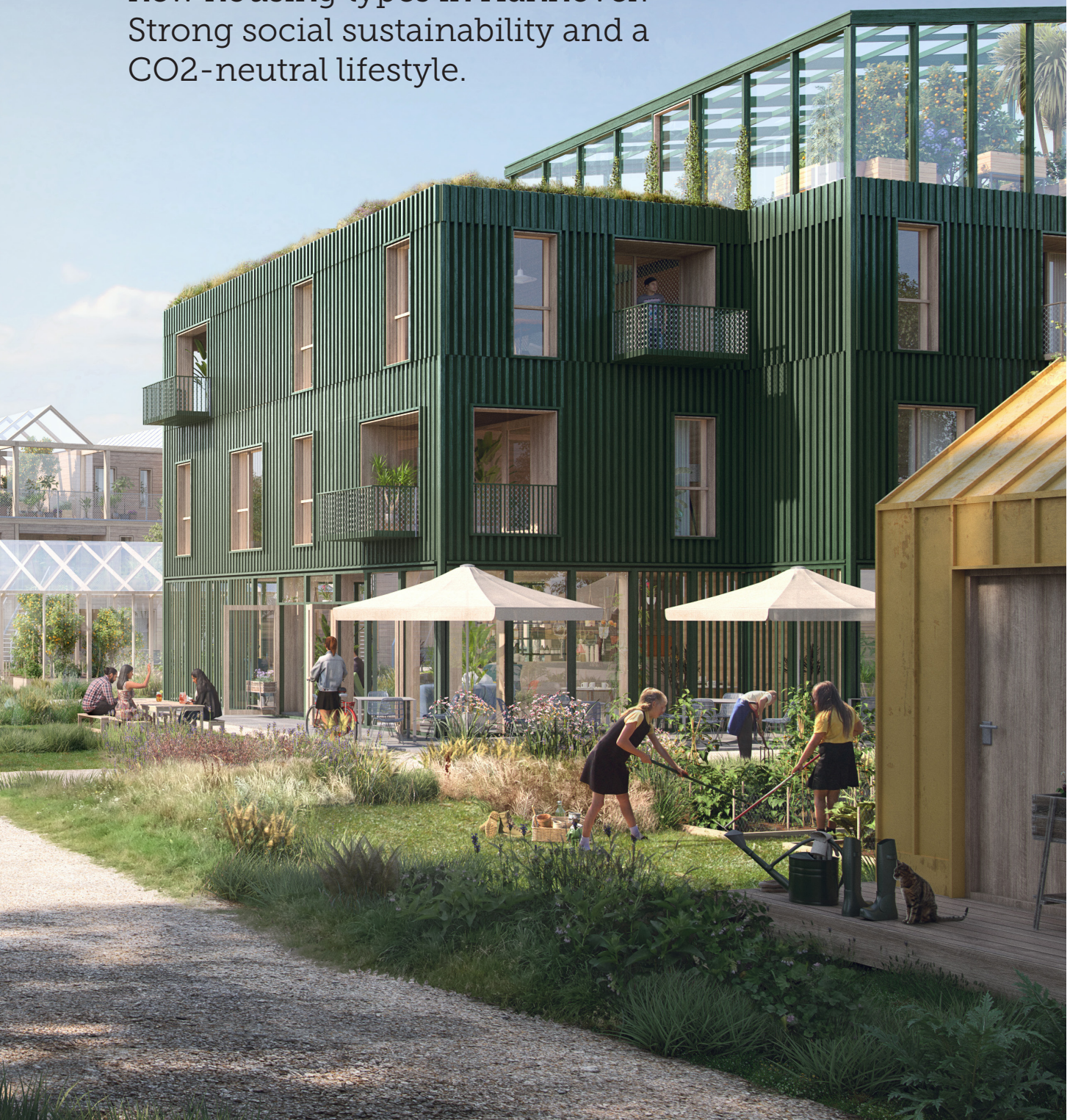


Communities of all scales are a prerequisite for area sustainability. It is through community and social context that we can rethink the way we live and consume. The steeple has the potential to integrate several elements of the circular economy- you don't need to own a car, a drill or your own backyard when you

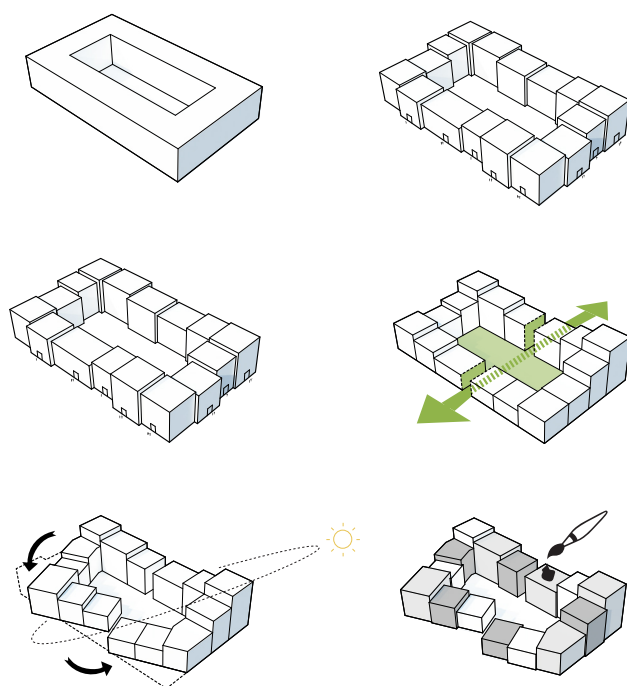
can share it all. At Stejle Square, residents share things and share activities: here you can set up shared cars, shared dining, temporary offices, (joint) workshops, foodsharing, exchange centers, etc. The physical setting of these community facilities is an essential part of the neighborhood's culture and architecture.



An eco friendly masterplan and design of
new housing types in Hannover.
Strong social sustainability and a
CO2-neutral lifestyle.







AARHUS KOLLEGIET

A new neighborhood with youth housing and start-ups.
Urban development and renewal of Gellerupparken

Location **Gellerup, Aarhus, Denmark** Client **Brabrand Boligforening**
Year **2016-19** Typology **Student housing, urban renewal**
Commission **Architect in turn-key contract**
Size **12,500 m2** Status **built**
Collaborators **Dansk Boligbyg, Rambøll, DAI Engineers, ARKPLAN**



Community of young people,
students and start-ups
at the youth college in Gellerup Aarhus.



HEALTHY AGING

Living together in healthy communities
and dementia villages

HEALTH CARE ENVIRONMENTS

Good design is based on a deep understanding of the users' needs and the local or urban context.

NORD Architects has always approached the healthcare sector with an open-minded perspective that has led us to groundbreaking and internationally appreciated architecture with a unique focus on the end users. Our built projects are characterized by high quality design with a Nordic expression and understanding of scale and materials.

NORD Architects has played a major role in the innovation of international healthcare sectors and social sustainability in new housing concepts. These concepts are based on creation of vibrant communities with diversity and co-existence between people.

NORD has designed some of the newest and most innovative health and nursing homes in Scandinavia and Europe, among these the development of one of Europe's first centers targeted at patients with Alzheimer's and dementia - the Alzheimer's village in Dax, France. The village concept is a unique way to create local communities where people can live together in active social networks and experience cohesion and a continuation in the everyday life.

The village concepts are generic and adaptable for other housing typologies like senior or youth housing or intergenerational communities, where people share facilities and support each other in many common activities. Taking the local context into account

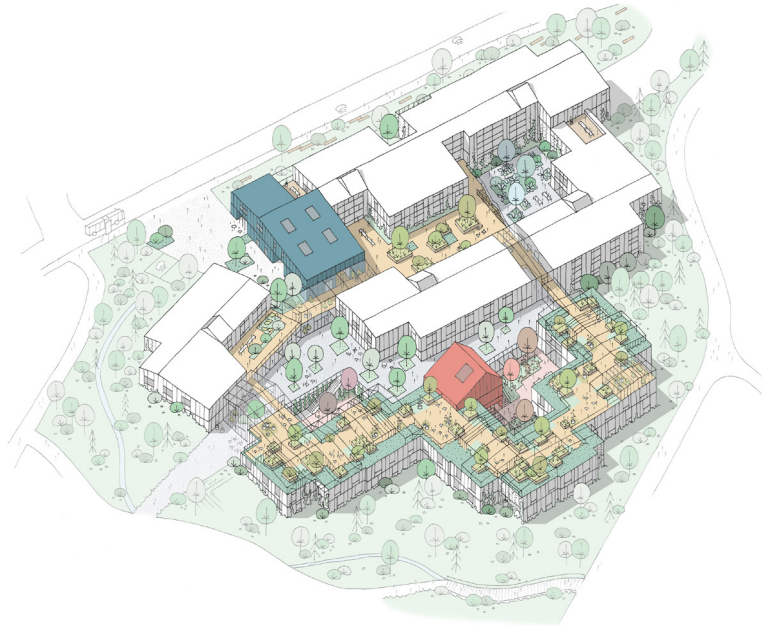
and integrate architecture, buildings, healthcare centre or housing in the existing surroundings and enhance the characteristics of the site, creates a layout for co-existence between people inside and outside institutions.

Being involved in healthcare design is, in our opinion, a matter of taking care of and embracing the essential issue and fundament in a modern welfare system. We thrive to create an environment and atmosphere that lets patients and relatives relax and heal in the best possible way, paying respect to the employees' work environment.

The creation of our architecture is rooted in a deep understanding of the users' needs, behaviors and actions which we translate into spaces and spatial relations. Our method can be used in all building typologies, and we carry the knowledge across different projects. Being involved in healthcare design is, in our opinion, a matter of taking care of and embracing people. We thrive to create an environment and atmosphere that lets patients and relatives relax and heal in the best possible way.

Furthermore, the healthcare buildings we design are created with an understanding for the employees' work environment as well as the users' needs in what might be very sensitive life situations.





FURUSET HAGEBY

Inclusive dementia village - a pioneering nursing home setting new sustainability standards. Integrated in the local community

Location Oslo, Norway Client Municipality of Oslo, Omsorgsbygg Oslo

Year 2018-22 Typology Nursing home Size 11.500 m²

Collaborators 3RW, Christian Mong

Status 1st prize in competition, ongoing in detailed design phase





Healthy aging and care in sustainable environments which create social relations and meaningful surroundings.





ALZHEIMER VILLAGE IN DAX

The first dementia village in France - a home for people with Alzheimers, a workplace and a research center

Location Dax, Frankrig Client Departement des Landes Year 2016-2020

Typology Housing for people with alzheimer

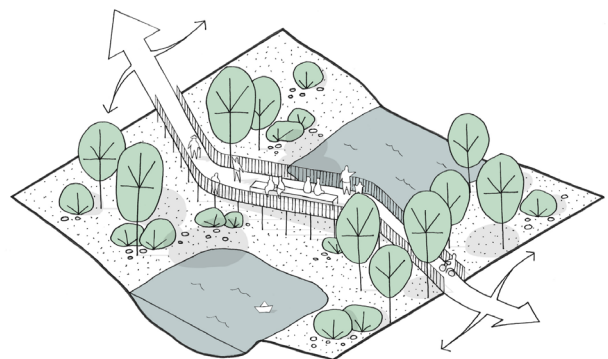
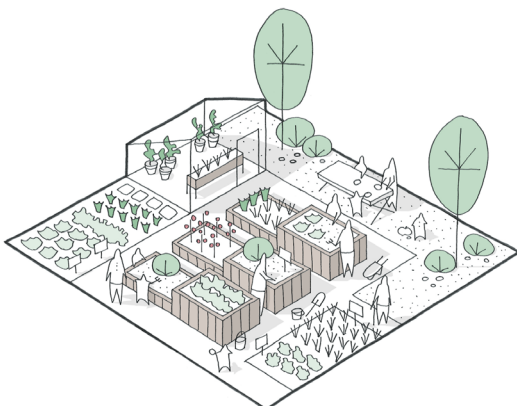
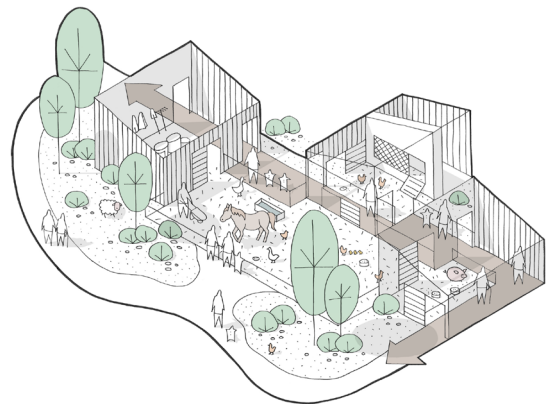
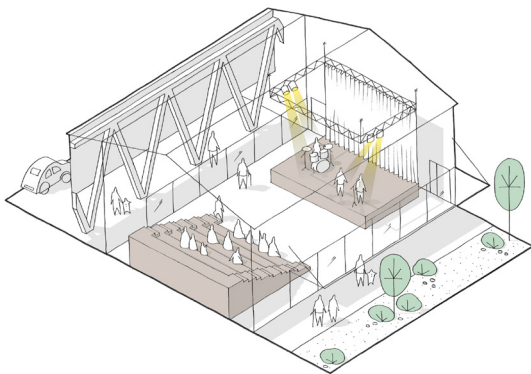
Commission Architect in turn-key contract Size 10.700 m2

Collaborators Champagnat & Gregoire / Groupe Cauros

Status Built



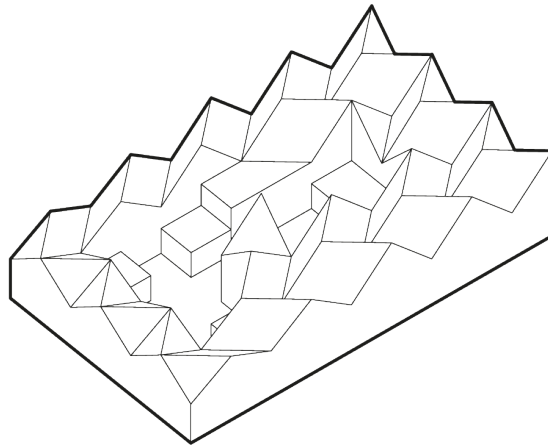












HEALTH AND CANCER CENTER

Innovative approach to health care architecture
in Copenhagen

Location **Copenhagen, Denmark** Client **Municipality of Copenhagen**
Year **2005-2012** Typology **Cancer and health care center** Commission
Prequalified competition Size **2,200 m2** Collaborators **Wessberg**
Status **Built**



The Cancer Centre in Copenhagen is drawing worldwide attention due to the innovative take on healthcare.



EVERY-DAY PRACTICE AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Incorporating tools and targets on sustainability and taking action
on a daily basis - and being thought-leaders sharing
unique knowledge and experience globally

TOOLS AND TARGETS

We are continuously on the track of more effective ways to obtain sustainable solutions and reduce the carbon-footprint.



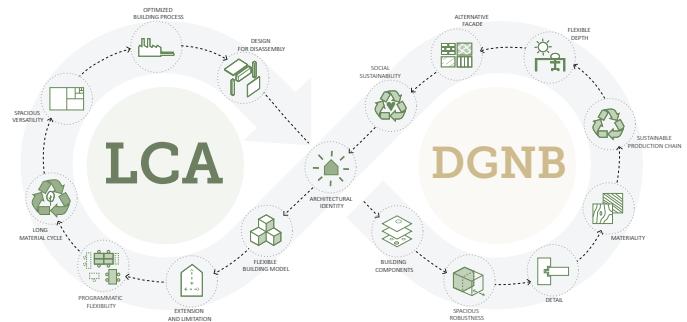
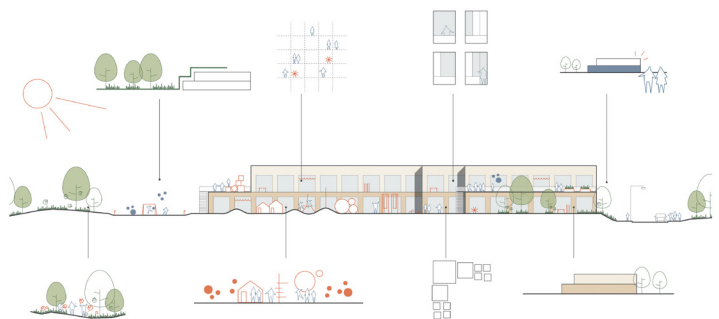
We have several tools, certification models and guides in Denmark and Europe to measure and direct a building concept towards a reduced level of CO₂- and at the same time increase health, life quality, environment and economy. Fortunately, both public and private clients are getting more and more conscious about their impact and imprint, and strive for higher ambitions in sustainable acts and performances. The building sector are sharpening their goals and asking for more sustainability in the built environment.

We have to be constantly aware of 'greenwashing' in communications and market sales of actors and companies in the supplier chain. The building business is indeed a complex sphere with a huge amount of materials, production chains, physical performances, durability and so on. We need tools to equate actions and adjust references in order to speak of sustainable outputs in a common and measureable language. By using a combination of

the economic model "Doughnut economy" and the 17 UN SDGs, we can create unique development models for buildings and city development.

We also use LCA evaluations and calculations to predict a more adequate and true CO₂ imprint on the planet, which takes the whole lifespan of buildings into account. This brings us closer to the impact of construction from cradle to grave/cradle in reality over the years, still knowing that there are extremely many parameters to consider and some uncertainties.

The perspectives of LCA calculations and the consensus it can create, are valuable for setting goals that reflect real ambitions and impact. We integrate and work with these tools and targets in our daily business, in every project and building we design and we keep pushing towards a more sustainable world in thought and action.



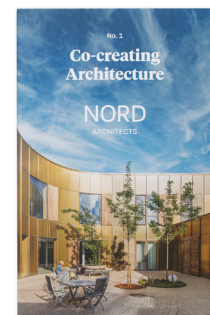
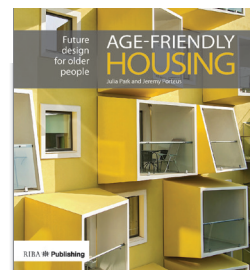
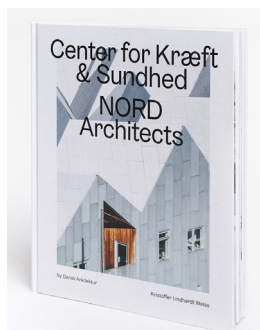




NORD Architects will continue
to design buildings and learning
landscapes that integrate and
communicate modern takes on
how we can improve sustainable
living.

SHARING THOUGHT & KNOWLEDGE

Through lectures, debates, networks and publications
NORD engages clients, users, students, stakeholders
and decisionmakers in innovations on sustainability.



NORD engages clients, users, students, stakeholders and decisionmakers by sharing knowledge and experience on innovations in the fields of architecture, health care science, urban developments and sustainability. NORD has gained a unique knowledge of the conditions and potentials related to healthy aging and in combination with a collaborative and inclusive approach, this makes NORDs position influential.

Thus NORD is often invited to participate in international conferences, seminars and networks. These lectures stress and share key topics that engages people to live, learn, work and invest in sustainable environments that build on responsible and professional businesses.

A selection of lectures held worldwide the last years at international universities, conferences and research-centers.

"Healthy Aging and Age integrated urban development"

Nova Scotia, Canada, 24.02.2021

"Nursing Homes"

Nova Scotia, Canada, 09.12.2020

"Healthy Aging – building for vulnerable people"

Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy, 30.10.2020

"Dementia Villages and Healthy Aging"

School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University, Finland, 30.10.2020

"On Sustainability"

Building Green, Copenhagen (livestream) 29.10.2020

"Healthy Aging"

Toronto, Canada 28.10.2020

"Danish Housing – ensuring life quality for the many"

MSD at HOME with NORD,
Melbourne School of Design. 22.10.2020

"Nordic Healthcare Design"

Salutogenic Hospital Design & Urban Health. Global Perspectives and Local Identities in Healthcare Architecture Symposium, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy, 2019

"Architecture & Healthcare"

Living and Care: Living environment for young and old, BAU 2019, AIT Dialog, Munich, Germany, 2019

ARCHITECTS DECLARE

We support the joint worldwide forces of architects and signed the Danish Climate & Biodiversity Emergency.

NORD Architects has signed the Declaration of Architects, Danish part, to support sustainable initiatives and strive for actions.

The climate crisis and biodiversity loss are the two most serious crises of our time. Buildings and structures play a major role here, accounting for almost 40% of energy-related CO2 emissions. At the same time, buildings have a significant impact on our natural surroundings.

If the entire building industry is to meet the needs of society without taking on the environmental resources of the earth, it requires a paradigm shift in our behavior and workflows. Together with our customers, we must develop and design buildings, cities and infrastructures as an underlying part of a larger, constant regeneration and self-driving sustainable system.

We have both research and technology that will allow us to begin the transformation, but we simply lack cooperation.

By recognizing this, we are committed to strengthening our work approaches, which can help create architecture and urbanization that has a more positive environmental impact on the world around us.

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Raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and the urgent need for action amongst our clients and supply chains.

Advocate for faster change in our industry towards regenerative design practices and a higher Governmental funding priority to support this.

Establish climate and biodiversity mitigation principles as the key measure of our industry's success: demonstrated through awards, prizes and listings.

Share knowledge and research to that end on an open source basis.

Evaluate all new projects against the aspiration to contribute positively to mitigating climate breakdown, and encourage our clients to adopt this approach.

Upgrade existing buildings for extended use as a more carbon efficient alternative to demolition and new build whenever there is a viable choice.

Include life cycle costing, whole life carbon modelling and post occupancy evaluation as part of our basic scope of work, to reduce both embodied and operational resource use.

Adopt more regenerative design principles in our studios, with the aim of designing architecture and urbanism that goes beyond the standard of net zero carbon in use.

Collaborate with engineers, contractors and clients to further reduce construction waste.

Accelerate the shift to low embodied carbon materials in all our work.

Minimise wasteful use of resources in architecture and urban planning, both in quantum and in detail.

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