

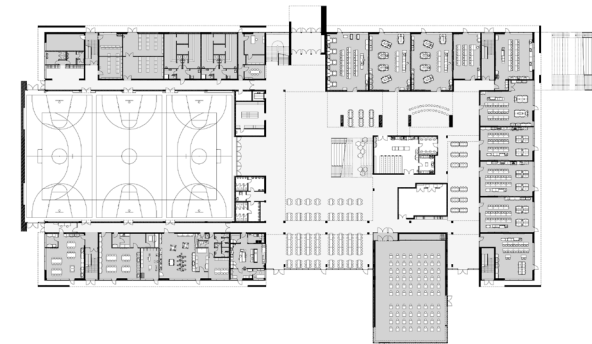
A. P. Møller School

– created for modern, democratic teaching

The AP Møller School, a Danish school in Germany, consists of a co-educational school and a secondary school section.

The school's architecture is simple and timeless, with a clear form and a recognizable profile: a solitary, sculpturally-formed brick body on a wide green lawn with outdoor teaching facilities.

The interior, unified by a large sloping copper roof, is an open 'Learning Landscape' in which not only classrooms, but the entire school provides a teaching environment for individual work, group work and plenary sessions. The school's interior openness and organisation accommodates modern, personalized and democratic teaching in a varied educational environment.



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Description

The AP Møller School, Schleswig – created for modern, democratic teaching

A. P. Møller School
Danish Secondary School in Schleswig, Germany

C. F. Møller
Architects

Brief & Concept

The AP Møller School, a Danish school in Germany, is for the 7th-10th grade of elementary school and three secondary school years. The combination of Danish school curriculum and German legislative context meant that the client's brief called for a hybrid school typology uniting the better of these two worlds. The 2005 Danish secondary school reform altered the character of key educational principles; replacing classroom periods with the broader concept of 'teaching time', and largely obliterating the use of traditional classrooms in order to stimulate co-operation between the subjects and accommodate new, more flexible working methods.

The physical environment should offer new interdisciplinary possibilities and environments, and these requirements have found expression in a new school architecture with open spatial sequences, transparent teaching areas and common, unbounded functions such as 'interaction spaces' in central locations. The widespread use of information technology, via wireless networks, further reinforces the trend.

The German school principles, which the building also had to fulfil, in contrast rely more on a typical classroom structure, to which the response has been a design that avoids traditional corridors, instead turning all circulation into open balconies surrounding two large interior spaces: An assembly hall, with canteen, relaxation areas, performance hall and knowledge centre in the southern part, and a gymnasium/multi-purpose hall in the northern part, both spanned by a unifying sloping roof.

Both of these central areas are open to daylight coming in from many directions and are connected visually with the surrounding town and landscape. They work naturally as community spaces, for sports, cultural activities, concerts and meetings outside of school hours.

The resulting interior is an open 'Learning Landscape' structure in which not only classrooms, but the entire school provides a teaching environment for individual work, group work and plenary sessions. The school's interior openness and organisation accommodates modern, personalized and democratic teaching in a varied educational environment.

Site

The attractive site, a former naval base closely associated with the Schlei fjord and the town of Schleswig, is an important factor in the building's location. The great potential of the surrounding nature and landscape prospects have been included in the planning of the sports and learning park, and direct access to a protect nature reserve can be included in the curriculum.

The park embraces the school to the south and west in continuation of the teaching rooms, the canteen and the main hall. Outdoor teaching facilities for science, art and other classes as well as sports and play areas are placed freely in the landscape, and the grounds and facilities are accessible to all citizens to be used as a recreational park.

The main entrance and common room are designed to provide a view of the nature reserve Holmer Noor

and the profile of Schleswig, with the cathedral standing out as a fixed point in the landscape. On further movement through the building, new views continuously open up of the town and the natural surroundings, while the upper storeys, especially the student's lounge, offer a magnificent prospect of the entire Schlei fjord-landscape.

Building & Materials

The school's architecture is simple and timeless, as specified in the client's brief, with a clear form and a recognisable profile: a solitary, sculpturally-formed brick body on a wide green lawn, its interior spaces unified by the large sloping copper roof with skylights like a changing sky. The school's facades are a carefully composed play of transparency and mass, to allow a maximum use of daylight while controlling overheating and glare.

The facades contain two layers: outermost are light yellow bricks with deep niches and cantilevered storey ledges, while behind the bricks lay the glass panels. This deep facade frames the view and provides shelter from the sun, rain and wind. The structure is pre-fabricated concrete parts, with part of the bricks cast in, and completed by brickwork laid on-site.

The building is designed to optimise the available natural resources of sunlight, passive solar energy, rainwater, views and ventilation. All materials have been chosen to provide high-quality, durable and low maintenance finishes. The use of brick, solid wood flooring, glass balustrades, acoustic wood veneer panelling and copper roof instil a sense of pride in students as well as

creating a light and comfortable internal atmosphere.

Acoustics play a vital part in the design, to allow the spaces to accommodate multifunctional and simultaneous use all through the day. A high degree of integration means that the careful acoustic control remains discrete and unobtrusive in the design, and a special acoustic ceiling-panel system was developed for the project to ensure a calm and uncluttered appearance in the classrooms.

Timetable & budget

The entire planning and building process, from initial design to completed structure, was accomplished in 30 months, due to an intense planning phase and the subsequent use of pre-fabricated building components on the site.

The school is a donation by The A. P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation, to the Danish School Association of Southern Schleswig. The budget for the basic building matches comparable public education facilities in Denmark, at a cost roughly equivalent to 1300 pounds/m². The high standards of fit out and furnishing throughout the building, including artwork by Olafur Eliasson in the main hall, are specific to the client's ambition of creating a world-class educational environment.

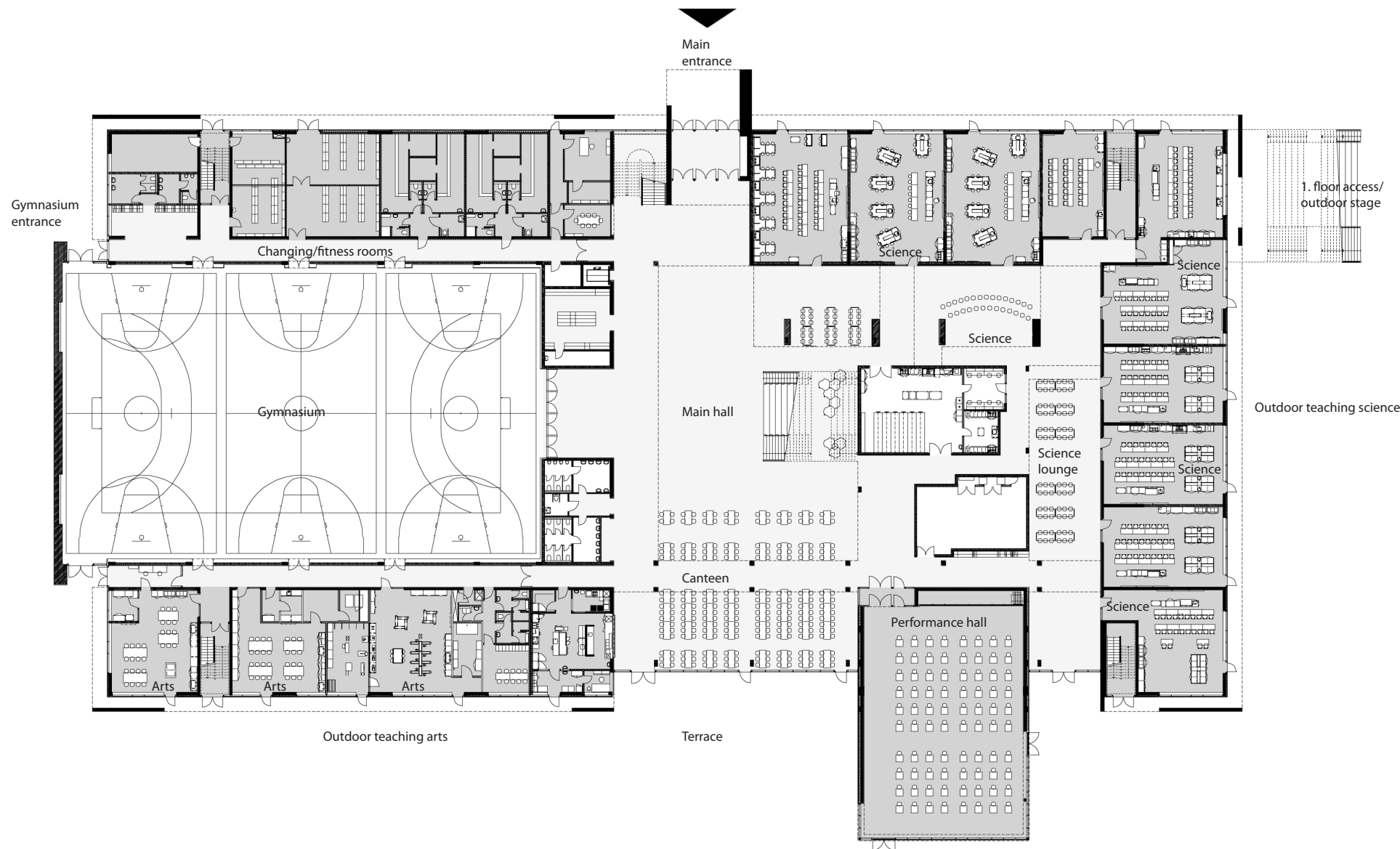
As a result, students can enjoy bespoke furniture including Arne Jacobsen seating – an investment which has proven successful, insofar that there have been no acts of vandalism, and students appear to have assumed 'responsibility' for the quality of their surroundings.

The school building is structured in a simple and straightforward way, avoiding closed corridors by arranging all floors around two large internal spaces. This enables easy wayfinding and orientation all through the building. All floors are level, without thresholds, and accessible by a conveniently located central elevator. Indoor and outdoor are equally connected by flush transitions, and all exterior level changes are negotiated by ramps.

Daylight intakes and the electrical lighting design accommodate a natural differentiation of zones, while maintaining bright and glare-free interiors. Acoustics have been fine-tuned to the highest standards, equally differentiated in zones, to allow optimal recognition of either the spoken word or music etc, and allow private conversation even in large spaces.

Great care has been given to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the interior, especially since it is used for personalized learning and group work. Students and teachers have a wide array of choices regarding space and furniture, from small and intimate to grand and panoptic, giving everybody the opportunity to find their preferred environment for a good learning experience.

Indoor climate control and choice of materials are of high quality to ensure a healthy, non-allergenic learning environment.



1. Floor Plan

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2. Floor Plan

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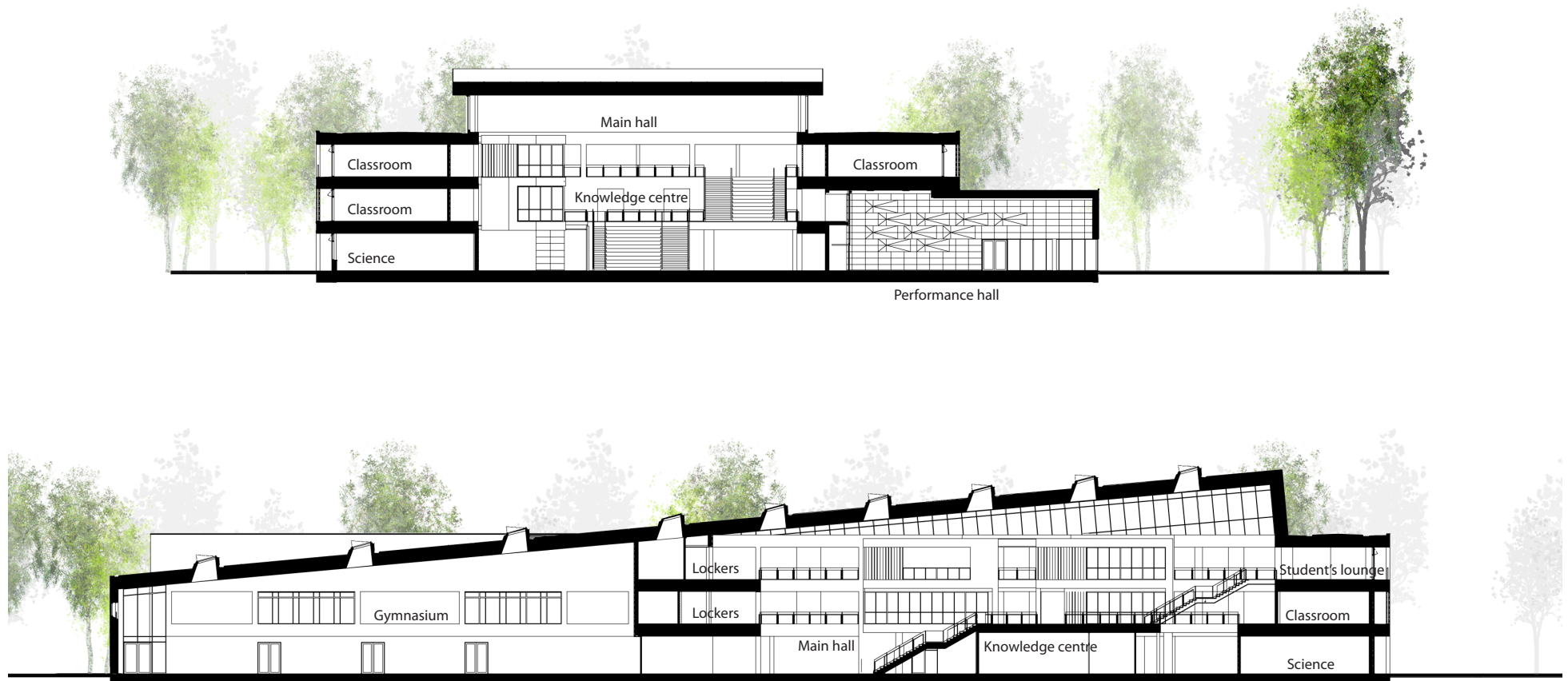




Sections

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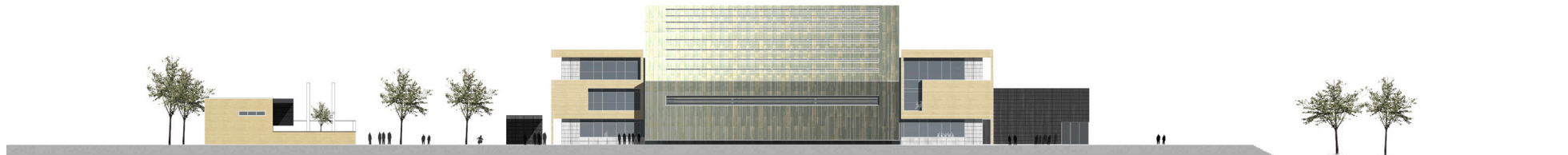




West elevation



South elevation



North elevation



East elevation

