

New City- and Administrative Court

Malmö, Sweden

Client: Castellum

Architect and landscape architect: Henning Larsen Architects

Gross area: 27,000 m²

Type of assignment: Dialogue competition

Team at Henning Larsen Architects: Søren Øllgaard (responsible partner), Ingela Larsson, Daniel Baumann, Senad Gvozden, Charlotte Søderhamn Nielsen, Araceli Lopez, Lydia Madsen, Vaia Vakouli, Anne Ejlsmark Berthelsen, Per Ebbe Hansson

Landscape: Lærke Dyrholm Møldrup

Visualizations: Christian Schjøll, Omar Dabaan

Sustainability: Jakob Strømman-Andersen

Architectural concept

The winning proposal strives to create a dialogue between the city and the courthouse. By adjusting the height and scale of the building, the new courthouse meets the context of small and large buildings and connects the city across the historical city center and the future neighborhood of Nyhamnen.

The city- and administrative court building consists of a two-storey horizontal base with four volumes of 8-10 storeys on top. A transparent space between the base and the superior buildings makes the upper part appear light and floating.

The new courthouse stands out as a unique plaza and building with its own character and symbolism. The sober design with the extraordinary roof expresses light and elegance at the same time. It is a reference to the classical courthouse typology, and an interpretation in one.

Function and daylight

The arrival plaza and the main entrance is located West of the courthouse. At this point, the façade is lifted and withdrawn in order to create a spatial experience upon arrival. The entrance is where the courthouse meets the city and invites the public inside, visually and physically. A plaza south of the building is designed to accommodate functions such as café with outdoor serving, media interviews, etc.

Inside a certain attention is paid to all the different user groups, from passersby to staff and indigents. Everyone is to experience a worthy and welcoming environment with a great variation in daylight. All programs and functions are clearly and logically disposed.

The house contains a foyer space with a waiting zone, a certain area for detainees, public functions, administration and shared facilities for both courts such as canteen, library, offices, court rooms, and negotiation rooms.

The offices are located in the four upper buildings with a view to the shared courtyards in between. The storeys are interconnected across the building volumes, but at the same time horizontally displaced ensuring optimal daylight conditions for all staff members.

Sustainability and materials

Valget af facade har stor betydning for bygningens fremtidige performance og fleksibilitet. Derfor er byggeriets facader beklædt med vertikale teglstenselementer. Tegl patinerer smukt, udtrykker holdbarhed og soliditet og er samtidig et materiale, som har en lang historie i den nordiske arkitektur. Husets klare nordiske udtryk i facaden understøttes af et lyst interiør, hvor nordisk natursten og træ i form af lameller og paneler dominerer materialevalget.

Studier af mikroklimaet omkring byggeriet sikrer gode opholdsmuligheder og uderum, hvor der er taget hensyn til sol- og skygge-, samt læ- og vindforhold. Samtidig indbyder varme og taktile materialer som tegl og træ til ophold.

About the competition

The judging committee, consisting of representatives from The City of Malmö, The Swedish National Courts Administration, the owner of the site, and the client, agreed on Henning Larsen Architects' proposal. The competition was based on dialogue. Henning Larsen Architects was the only non-Swedish participant out of four. The other participants were Wingårdhs, Johan Celsing arkitektkontor and Yellon.

The regulatory process is expected to begin early 2017. If all parties agree, the construction work can begin late 2017.

About Henning Larsen Architects

Henning Larsen Architects was founded by Henning Larsen in 1959. Today it is the most international architectural company in Denmark with 300 employees and offices in Copenhagen, Munich, Riyadh, Hong Kong, and Faroe Islands.

In Sweden, Henning Larsen Architects is behind the Malmö City Library which was awarded Sweden's most recognized architecture award, the Kasper Salin Prize in 1997. Henning Larsen Architects also designed Uppsala Concert and Congress Hall, and the Umeå Arts Campus - School of Architecture and Arts Museum in Umeå.

Currently Henning Larsen Architects is detailing the world's largest and most advanced research facility for neutron-based research, the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Lund, and Forum Medicum, a new medical faculty at the University of Lund. Henning Larsen Architects also designed a new city hall in Kiruna in the Northern part of Sweden, which is expected to be completed in 2018.

Henning Larsen Architects

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