

Henning Larsen explores upscaling low carbon construction in new exhibition

Explore materials and methods of the future which can pave the way for building on the planet's terms. From November 17, everyone is welcome at Danish Architecture Center to the *Changing our Footprint* exhibition, where the global firm Henning Larsen Architects are showcasing their ideas on forging a sustainable transition of architecture.

The exhibition looks at how the climate-friendly architecture of the future will look: Will we have to get used to living in houses made of straw? Will there be new urban districts built of soil and grass instead of asphalt and cement? How do architects work with biodiversity at different scales? And are the building methods of the past the savior of the future?

The built environment accounts for up to 40% of global carbon emissions. The climate crisis means that it is more important than ever for the entire building industry to look in a new direction. If the building industry is to take its responsibility seriously, there will have to be a shift in perspective, so buildings are based on the planet's terms instead on our own terms as human beings.

The *Changing our Footprint* exhibition provides visitors to Danish Architecture Center a tangible insight into the architect's journey towards future building that could, and must, be more climate-friendly than today if there is to be any hope of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The exhibition is being organized by Henning Larsen Architects, a global firm with architectural gems throughout the world. Today, many of Henning Larsen's projects are designed in biogenic materials, and overall the firm is working on almost 400,000 m² of timber building in Europe alone.

How much is one kilogram of CO₂?

Changing our Footprint provides an insight into the world of architecture and hope for the building industry of the future. The architects roll out their sketches in the exhibition to give us a peek into their systematic work with research and scalable, climate-friendly solutions - from minor biogenic projects such as a small school in Djursland, to enormous construction projects such as a new logistics center made of wood. All the projects have been developed gradually through careful studies of new materials, methods and research. All small steps on the way towards the green transition of the building industry.

Eva Ravnborg, Partner and Country Market Director at Henning Larsen Architects, talks about their work on scaling:

"We're testing new materials and solutions at small scale, and we're working on adapting them to larger projects. Our main objective is to transfer our innovative methods from small buildings of 200 square meters to areas of up to 200,000 square meters. This scaling is our important contribution to meeting the goal to reduce the carbon footprint of the building industry."

Visitors can enter the Gallery Stairs at Danish Architecture Center and explore projects and processes, as well as some of the most important lessons the architects have learned.

The exhibition displays models of future construction projects, a cross-section of a new type of wall insulated with straw, and windows with seagrass ventilators. Also, learn more about how much CO₂ is emitted by different materials, and how resources such as straw, flowers and wood are important elements in the journey towards a more green built world with space for all living species. Furthermore, visitors can test their own knowledge by ranking materials such as brick and cork according to their carbon footprint.

The exhibition has previously been shown at Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin and it was developed by Henning Larsen Architects. It has now been recurated into a smaller version for the Gallery Stairs in Danish Architecture Center. The exhibition is open from November 17, 2023 until March 3, 2024. The exhibition is being funded by the philanthropic association Realdania.

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About Henning Larsen

Henning Larsen is an international studio for architecture, landscape, and urbanism with design hubs in Copenhagen, New York, Singapore, Berlin, and Oslo. At the heart of our design philosophy is the play of light and nature. We bring joy to those who occupy our spaces by shaping the conditions for human interaction. We work at the nexus of creativity and experimentation, always looking to the lasting impact on communities and their environments. Drawing on a Scandinavian ethos, we develop context-driven, sustainable designs that provide lasting value to users, local communities, and cities. We aim to contribute social spaces that engage people and inspire human interaction. We approach our clients with curiosity and a desire to listen, inspire, collaborate, and innovate. Our distinctive portfolio has received some of the highest honors in our profession, including the Architecture Laureate of the Premium Imperiale, The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award, and the European Architect of the Year Award, 2019.