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HISTORY AS CATALYST

Aarhus School of Architecture takes history as point of departure for the exhibition History as Catalyst. By doing so, we wish to re-think the way we practice architecture and show how we as designers and architects can contribute to improve people's everyday lives in a society of constant change. History as Catalyst is a guide to action in the present, using the resources of the past to imagine alternative possibilities and thereby qualify and inform future practice.

Around the world towns and cities are undergoing massive changes which make it necessary to re-think practice and propose radical and sustainable solutions. For that reason, Aarhus School of Architecture focuses on transformation, habitation and sustainability. In the exhibition, structures in straw, brick, clay, and wood together with robotic thatching, casting, and CNC milling address a reflective knowledge and interest in both materials and digital production methods.

In order to spark off a discussion embracing the numerous challenges architects are facing today, History as Catalyst presents experimental and transdisciplinary collaborations and inventions rather than finished products. We wish to push the boundaries and go a step further to demonstrate our knowledge of design, fabrication, and the use of materials, and to discuss the relevance of design to society.

Torben Nielsen
Rector

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THE SCHOOL

Aarhus School of Architecture is an institution under the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science founded in 1965. The School has a student population of 750 and employs a staff of 145. By our vision **Engaging Through Architecture** we focus on educating architects who deal with our future material and immaterial surroundings by engaging actively and critically with society.

We offer teaching at Bachelor, Master and PhD level within architecture and areas related to the architectural profession. We also offer a range of professional studies and specialised courses aimed at qualified architects and designers.

Our education and research are based on a professional architectural practice characterised by an artistic and research-based approach to architecture.

In 2015 RIBA validated Aarhus School of Architecture as the first architecture school in Scandinavia.

THE STUDIES

The education at Aarhus School of Architecture is based on three equally important approaches to architecture: An artistic, a scientific and a practical approach. All three approaches constitute the knowledge base of our research and teaching, enabling our graduates to contribute to changing our physical environment.

Based on a Scandinavian architectural tradition, we aim to educate the very best architects in an international study environment. We emphasize the traditional core skills of architecture, design and form creation as a process and the ability to work in spatial and visual terms based on an artistic and holistic approach.

Our teaching is based on individual supervision and dialogue between teachers and students. Our professors are present in the studios, facilitating dialogue and feedback to students on their projects.

The Bachelor's degree programme is a three-year academic and artistic programme on which a further architectural education and career can be based.

The Master's degree programme is studio-based - a teaching form allowing students to immerse themselves in subjects of their choice.

The School's PhD programme is a three-year research education carried out as an independent project under the guidance of experienced researchers at the PhD school.

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THE ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

The academic staff is divided into three research labs:

1. Territories, architecture and transformation

Focus on research and devoted to qualifying current transformation processes in the field of architecture and urbanism.

2. Technology and building cultures

Focus on technology in the light of the original concept of "techné" - a concept closely related to the realm of the arts, poetics and tectonics.

3. Emerging architectures

Focus on research in the field between growing and changing societal and environmental challenges: How do we produce space and competences, mindsets and methods of the architectural profession to adress these challenges?

THE FACILITIES

Aarhus School of Architecture has positioned itself as one of the best schools in the world when it comes to access to the latest fabrication technologies. The high standard of our lab facilities enables our students to carry out interdisciplinary research in cooperation with the industry.

Using the School's fabrication facilities, students develop physical models on all levels of scale. Processes range from traditional craftsmanship in wood and metal to digital fabrication in synthetic materials. As part of assignments students explore and test ideas in 1:1.

The School's library is on an international level and excellent for architectural research as well as a quiet workspace. A material lab (MLAB) connects theory and practice and offers hands-on inspiration. Students have access to a print shop, a canteen and a book and materials shop.

A wide range of social activities and our project-based way of teaching, makes the School a round-the-clock experience of work and socialising.

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THE RESEARCH

Our vision **Engaging Through Architecture** focus on developing our relationship with architectural practice and strengthening project-oriented and innovation-driven research, also known as research by design.

We use architectural disciplines such as drawing, modeling and experiments as academic research methods.

We also focus on artistic development work, meaning the creation of products of high aesthetic quality combined with reflections on artistic practice.

The School offers research communities within digital design, tectonic culture, and urban landscape planning, and within our three focus areas: Transformation, Habitation and Sustainability.

THE CITY

With only 300,000 inhabitants the city of Aarhus can nevertheless pride itself on having a large student community as well as the highest concentration of architectural practices in the world per capita: 142 architectural practices in Aarhus employing more than 1000 people.

The city also offers plenty of cultural events, such as the world-class art museum AROS, award winning public media house DOKK1 and archaeological museum Moesgaard. The city is located on the Danish coastline with easy access to the sea and the beach. The woods in the northern and southern parts of the city are highly recommendable for quiet contemplation.

We have a well-functioning public transportation system, but most students prefer to bike around the city.

In 2017 Aarhus is cultural capital of Europe, which gives an increased focus on culture and events in the city.

AROS.DK

DOKK1.DK

MOESGAARDMUSEUM.DK

***THE
CITY***

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WANT TO STUDY IN DENMARK?

20 % of our students come from abroad creating an international environment with great opportunities for networking and sharing knowledge across borders. The School is internationally oriented and cooperates with architectural communities all over the world. Our cooperation includes exchange programmes, internships, visiting scholar programmes, international lecturers, and joint studios.

We offer an international master in architecture taught in English. The high admission requirements for both Danish and international students guarantee a learning environment characterized by highly qualified and motivated students.

Please find more information about our programmes at

aarch.dk/international

History as Catalyst is an exhibition by Bachelor Students, Master Students, and PhD Fellows assisted by Teaching Staff from Aarhus School of Architecture

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