DANISH ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Danish Architecture and Urban Design is a course in English for international students. Architecture is seen as a much wider practice in Denmark than merely the art of making buildings. The course gives an overview of Danish architecture, urban design and planning over the last 100 years, with an emphasis on the human perspective of architecture. Examples of architecture with a Nordic approach to the planning and design of the physical environment will be discussed. The culture, climate and scale are important elements in the way the profession and the Nordic welfare states have been dealing with the international trends and styles, as they have been translated into the local settings. Excursions and self-guided field trips to see and experience the architecture and planning first hand are important elements of this lecture course.
**Location:** University of Copenhagen, Amager, Karen Blixens Plads 8, room 15A-2-11.

**Time:** Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m.
First lecture is September 11th and last lecture is November 20th.
Furthermore, there will be two excursions on Saturday September 22nd and Saturday October 13th. A total of 10 lectures and 2 excursions.

**Coordinator:** The course is organised by The Saxo Institute.
The coordinator is Lars Gemzøe, Danish Culture Courses, University of Copenhagen.

**Lecturers:** Lars Gemzøe, Danish Culture Courses
Camilla Richter-Fris van Deurs
Kristian Skovbakke Villadsen

**Assistants:** There will be a teaching assistant from Danish Culture Courses, who will assist with practical matters.

**Website:** [www.danishculturecourses.ku.dk](http://www.danishculturecourses.ku.dk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/danishculturecourses](http://www.facebook.com/danishculturecourses)

**E-mail:** dcc@hum.ku.dk

**Registration:** Find the registration form on our website, fill it in electronically and send it to dcc@hum.ku.dk from your alumni-mail. The deadline is October 4th 2018. The course is only offered to international students enrolled at the University of Copenhagen through IUS (International Education & Grants) or through Open University: [www.aabentuniversitet.hum.ku.dk](http://www.aabentuniversitet.hum.ku.dk).

We can only admit 60 students at this course. Students will be admitted according to the date, they hand in the registration form.

Exchange students are expected to take on a full course load of 30 ECTS each semester. It can however be difficult to sign up for precisely 30 ECTS. Therefore the University of Copenhagen has approved a minimum and maximum range of 22.5 ECTS and 35 ECTS per semester. If you exceed that, you have to withdraw from one of your courses in order to sign up for Danish Culture Course. Once you have room for the amount of ECTS of the exam form you wish to sign up for, please fill in a DCC registration form and send it to dcc@hum.ku.dk from your KU-mail, and we will make sure you will be enrolled in the course. The DCC deadline for changes and new registrations is October 4th 2018.

**Examination:** When you register for the course you are automatically registered for the exam.
**Danish Architecture and Urban Design - HCDB01031E.**
**Form of exam:** Written take-home assignment, optional subject, following active student participation. The subject of the assignment is agreed between the student and the teacher.

**Assessment:** Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale.

**Exam language:** English.

**Extent:** Max. 20 standard pages.

**Group exam:** The exam can only be taken individually.

**Special provisions:** Active student participation consists of a synopsis of 2-3 standard pages.

**Make-up exam/re-exam (if not fulfilling requirement for active student participation):** Written take-home assignment, optional subject. The subject of the assignment is agreed between the student and the teacher.

**Assessment:** Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale.

**Exam language:** English.

**Extent:** 20-25 standard pages.

**Group exam:** The exam can only be taken individually

The assignment must be uploaded in Digital Exam no later than December 20th at 12 p.m. (noon).

After evaluation of the exam, the grade is automatically added to your transcript and reported to your home university by IUS (International Education & Grants). The grade will be published on KU-net Self Service four weeks after deadline for submission of exam paper.

**Literature:** Your personal syllabus is the binder unless otherwise arranged. The binder will be sold at Publi@kom in room 11A-0-02 at KUA2. It will contain all the relevant texts.

A collection of pertinent books is available in the reference library. These books are only to be studied in the library, cf. list of books, which you can find in the Absalon room. The location is Saxo Knowledge Centre 13B, 2nd floor at KUA2.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Oct. 4th:** Deadline for registration, change of exams and withdrawal.

**Nov. 20th:** Deadline for uploading approved synopsis on Absalon.

**Dec. 13th:** End-of-term celebration.

**Dec 20th:** Deadline for submission of exam papers at 12 p.m. (noon) in Digital Exam.
# SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture/Excursion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 11th</td>
<td>Lecture 1: &quot;The Human Way&quot; Danish Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 18th</td>
<td>Lecture 2: Experiencing Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 22nd</td>
<td>Excursion 1: Housing and Planning, Copenhagen Harbour and Malmö</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 25th</td>
<td>Lecture 3: Landscape Architecture and Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2nd</td>
<td>Lecture 4: Public Life and Public Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9th</td>
<td>Lecture 5: Housing for People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13th</td>
<td>Excursion 2: Museums and Housing: Louisiana Museum of Modern Art and Denmark’s Maritime Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23rd</td>
<td>Lecture 6: Ghettos &amp; Rebuilding of the Large Housing Estates of the 1960s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30th</td>
<td>Lecture 7: Making Other Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 6th</td>
<td>Lecture 8: Collective Architecture and Urban Monuments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 13th</td>
<td>Lecture 9: Regional Architecture, Human Scale and Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 20th</td>
<td>Lecture 10: Export of the Danish/Nordic Way?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The programme is subject to alteration.
PROGRAMME

**Lecture 1:**  
*"The Human Way" Danish Architecture*  
(Sep. 11th)  
Introduction to Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning and Design – what is it? What are architects doing? How is the architecture education structured, and how is it set up in Denmark compared to other countries? The lecture paints a broad picture of how architecture in Denmark is seen, not only as the art of building, but also as a praxis that gives form to the environment from the small details to the landscape at large. Architects in Denmark work with design of the physical environment at all scales, from design of bridges and highways to buildings and public spaces. A lot of the city planning and design of public spaces in Denmark as well as the street furniture are shaped by architects.

(Lars Gemzøe)

**Lecture 2:**  
*Experiencing Architecture*  
(Sep. 18th)  
Architecture can only be fully experienced live, by walking through and around it on site. The scale, massing, the way openings let light get into the spaces. The feeling of cold or warm, high or low is something, which is “measured” with your human body and experienced by all your senses. Architecture is also a statement in time. Whether it is brand-new or older – in all cases it expresses an idea and a solution to the needs of a certain time. The lecture will work around questions like: How do we experience architecture? How does the architecture influence our perception of time? How does architecture relate to time? What “time” is this building?

*Expected reading:  
(Lars Gemzøe)

Self-guided tour prior to the session on Experiencing Architecture:  
Go and see the BLOX building on the waterfront both inside and outside. You can walk through it and see some of the inside for free but you are more than welcome to see the exhibition “Welcome Home” about Danish housing. (Student price for the exhibition is 85 DKr). Think about what your experience was like.
Excursion 1: Housing and Planning: The Copenhagen Harbour and Malmö, Sweden (Sep. 22nd)

This excursion begins with a boat trip through the Copenhagen Harbour, which allows us to see some of the important buildings like the Opera, the Playhouse and new housing along the waterfront. The boat trip ends at the new housing district at the North harbour where we will leave the boat to take a closer look at the variation in building designs. A bus will take us from the North harbour to Sluseholmen where we will see another example of newer housing and city building. The trip continues to Sweden where we will see one of the most interesting newer urban developments in Scandinavia, Bo01, on the Western Harbour in Malmö. This new city district has a lot to offer on how to deal with climate and sustainability as well as on variation in building design and open spaces. The tour includes a visit to Jakriborg, a controversial new development, which looks like it was made in the 17th Century.

We meet at The Anchor at the Nyhavn Canal next to Kongens Nytorv at 08:45 a.m. unless otherwise announced. Please bring your own lunch. **IMPORTANT: Bring your passport and visa.**

(Lars Gemzøe)

Lecture 3: Landscape Architecture and Recreation (Sep. 25th)

Recreation, health, and landscape architecture. From adventure playgrounds, to waterfront and beach parks. Danish landscape architects have been strongly involved in both designs of site plans for housing as well as designs of new gardens and large-scale urban recreation facilities. Urban recreation has developed from the formal promenade parks to areas for strong physical activities. A strong movement for organized forms of sports recreation developed in the 1930s and created sports fields all over. In this century informal and self-organized urban sports activities have taken over and new areas for skating, basketball and parkour has emerged. Urban recreation is now covering both lean back relaxing as well as high physical activity in the middle of the cities in mixed spaces. The need for easy access to green spaces for the citizens in Copenhagen has led to the development of small “pocket” parks and the challenges of climate change has led to new strategies for water management integrated into urban landscapes.

**Expected reading:**

*In favour of Public Space, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona and ACTAR 2010,* Lars Gemzøe, *pp. 59-62 in binder.*


(Camilla Richter-Friis van Deurs)

Self-guided tour prior to session on Body and Architecture: See the Islands Brygge Waterfront Park.
Lecture 4: 
(Oct. 2nd)

Public Life and Public Spaces
Public Spaces are important pieces of architecture with an impact on society, culture and daily life. The public spaces are the living rooms of the city. They are the places where you meet your fellow citizens; they are the streets and squares where people come very often. They are, or should be, treated as the true “monuments” of the city. Most people come through the main street of the city more often than to the City Hall or other monumental buildings. The lecture will give an overview of the changes in urban life – on foot and on bicycles – during the last 50 years. It will demonstrate how data, which has been collected about what people really do in public spaces, has influenced the gradual changes of Copenhagen from a car dominated to a people friendly city.

Expected reading:
New City Life, Jan Gehl, Lars Gemzøe, Sia Kirknæs and Britt Sternhagen Søndergaard, Danish Architectural Press 2006 pp. 1-32 in the binder.
(Lars Gemzøe)

Self-guided tour prior to session on Public Life and Public Spaces:
See one of the newly regenerated spaces at your own choice: Israel’s Plads, Nørreport Station Square or Superkilen at Nørrebro (The Red Square begins where the green cycle route crosses Nørrebrogade).

Lecture 5: 
(Oct. 9th)

Housing for People – Danish Housing Over the Last 100 Years
The development of social housing, collective housing and the single-family house is linked to the rise of the Welfare State. Major changes have taken place in the preferred shape and form of housing in the last 100 years. Where the housing before the Second World War was dominated by multi storey housing in a modest scale the period after the war Modern Movement, or Functionalism as it is called in Scandinavia, was breaking through in a large scale introducing new types of prefabricated architecture for housing. The new types were often higher and the site plans were larger. A housing debate in the 1960s changed the housing into low-rise high-density schemes instead. More and more people moved into single-family houses and moved out to the suburbs. In the 1980s new housing districts with a more urban character, designed around streets and squares, were developed. At the end of the last century new housing was located on former industrial sites made vacant by the effect of globalization and new types of housing along the waterfronts took place followed by the new town development of the Ørestad all with much higher densities than before.

Expected reading:
(Camilla Richter-Friis van Deurs)

Self-guided tour prior to session on housing: See the “Big House” also known as “the figure eight” by Bjarke Ingels. (Last metro stop
“Vestamager” on the line to the Ørestad). Also take a look at the Tietgenkollegiet. (The circular student housing next to KUA).

**Excursion 2: Museums and Urban Development: Louisiana, Museum of Modern Art and Denmark’s Maritime Museum**  
(Oct. 13th)

On the way to the museums, we will make a short visit to the city district Egebjerggård in Ballerup. The district was built as a housing exhibition with low-rise buildings in the 1980s. It offers great variation in housing types with a site plan, which resembles a village with buildings along small streets. The next stop is at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Humlebæk. The museum is a fine example of architecture from the 1960s with numerous additions over the years. It blends in with the landscape and takes full advantage of the views of the surroundings. We will spend the lunch break at the museum. In the afternoon we will take a quick walk through the old town of Elsinore (Helsingør) and visit Denmark’s New Maritime Museum, which is hidden underground in an old dry dock. The museum is designed by Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG).

We meet at Njalsgade in front of KUA2 at 9:45 a.m. Unless otherwise announced.
Please bring your own lunch.
(Martin Hedevang Andersen)

**Lecture 6: Ghettos and Rebuilding of the Large Housing Estates of the ‘60s**  
(Oct. 23rd)

In the 1960s and 1970s alone, housing for half of the Danish population was built, of which 1/3 was in multi-story housing in the social housing sector, and 2/3 was in the growing sector of single family houses. In the 1990s and after, there has been a strong focus on rebuilding the large-scale site plans to adapt to new times. With the changes in society towards easier ways of becoming owner rather than tenant, a social segregation has taken place in the social housing estates that increasingly had to take care of the new immigrants, the unemployed or people with social problems. Many of the large-scale plans needed repair and a whole series of attempts to change the design has been put into practice. In the later years a debate has emerged about to what extend the estates have become “ghettos”. The focus is now on both the quality of the architecture as well as the composition of the tenants. The lecture will show Nordic examples of the changing design of the housing from changes in the open spaces to pulling down and reshaping the entire estates.

*Expected reading:*
(Kristian Skovbakke Villadsen)
Lecture 7: Making Other Plans
(Oct. 30th)
Physical urban planning is often taken care of by architects from new city districts and new towns to development plans for cities. The planning of Copenhagen will be the case study from the Industrial Revolution, the post Second World War famous “Finger plan” to the transformation of the city in the era of Globalization. From the development at the edges of the Metropolis primarily on open land (“green fields”) to the development in this Century of former industrial sites (“brown fields”) in the central parts of the city. The planning changed also from the separation of functions to mixed-use city districts. The “return to the city” will be illustrated by the most recent examples of new city districts like the Ørestad, the South and North Harbour. The lecture will give a broad and critical view upon the development of the large plans and introduce the strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Expected reading:
(Lars Gemzøe)

Self-guided tour prior to session on planning: Holmen, the former naval base transformed into mixed use of housing and schools of higher education (The Schools of Architecture, Film, Theatre. Modern Dance and Rhythmical Music) around Danneskjold-Samsøes Allé.

Lecture 8: Collective Architecture and Urban Monuments
(Nov. 6th)
The collective pieces of architecture are often monumental buildings of great importance and meaning like city halls, churches, theatres and museums. These buildings are not only landmarks in the cityscape, but often monuments in the history of architecture. Architects design not only large and complex buildings but also the many buildings in the small-scale, which are linked to the development of the welfare state. They are the buildings for daily life of collective importance without being dominant in the urban landscape. Many architects have been engaged in new ways of designing schools, kindergartens, day cares and common houses. A younger generation of architects have transformed the thinking of collective architecture. The lecture will show examples of different collective pieces of architecture from the monumental to the small scale of daily life. Cases like the Opera and the New Royal Theatre (Skuespilhuset) will be discussed as well as the development of schools and other institutions of the welfare state.

Expected reading:
(Lars Gemzøe)
Self-guided tour prior to session on monuments:
See the Opera and the New Royal Theatre (Skuespilhuset), both on the waterfront in the Inner City and Holmen. (You can walk through and around the Playhouse. The Opera is only open when there are opera performances).

Lecture 9:  
(Nov. 13th)  
**Regional Architecture, Human Scale and Sustainability**
Modernism was understood as a universal type of architecture in contrast to the idea that there is a local, regional type of architecture, which expresses the local climate and culture. Nordic examples of the transformation of Modernism into “functional tradition” and the revival of the simple “village house” as an inspiration to the fight against the mass-produced Modernism in the post war period will be discussed. The emphasis on the regional climate, local traditions and scale was reintroduced in the 21st century in Nordic housing and in city districts like Egebjerggården in Ballerup and Bo01 on the Western Harbour in Malmö, Sweden. Climate change and the needs to integrate sustainability at all levels of planning and design will be discussed. The development from low energy buildings and zero energy buildings to plus-energy buildings, that produce more energy than they use, will be illustrated. Climate change and sustainability have also changed the design of outdoor spaces.

*Expected reading:*
(Lars Gemzøe)

Lecture 10:  
(Nov. 20th)  
**Export of the Danish/Nordic Way?**
Danish architecture has continuously been inspired by architecture from outside but in the last 20 to 30 years Danish architects are increasingly working internationally. Nordic architects are often winning international architecture competitions, but what is it that is exported? Is it the international trends or is there some core of the “Nordic Way”, which is part of the export? The Sydney Opera House by Jørn Utzon is possibly the most well-known piece of Danish architecture export. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Saudi Arabia by Henning Larsen is an example of a piece of architecture designed for a very different culture and climate. The young office of Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) has designed buildings abroad with fresh new ideas. Is there any common background between the different contributions? Not only monumental buildings but also town planning has been exported and some of the works by Gehl Architects in Australia and New York will be mentioned. The lecture will be concluding the course on
the “Human Way” by discussing what it is that is exported when Nordic architects work abroad.

Expected reading:
Cities for People, Jan Gehl, Island Press 2010 pp. 57-58 in binder.
Too Perfect - Seven New Denmarks, Bruce Mau et.al, pp. 153-160 in the binder.
(Lars Gemzøe)
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