

PRESS KIT: THE NORDIC PAVILION 2010, LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA ARCHITETTURA

General Press Information

The 12th International Architecture Biennale in Venice opens to the public on August 29, 2010. The Nordic Pavilion in Giardini will show Nordic Public Spaces, relating to the general theme "People Meet in Architecture", declared by this year's Biennale director, the Japanese architect Kazuyo Sejima.

The Swedish Museum of Architecture is the coordinating commissioner for the 2010 Nordic Pavilion, and is responsible for the exhibition concept. The architecture exhibition in the Nordic Pavilion, called "Stay in Touch", presents 18 built proposals by Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish architects, where architecture contributes to interaction, approachability, contemplation and activity. In complement to the exhibition "Stay in touch", the Nordic Pavilion also presents a combined lounge and residence programme called "At Work With", where 12 young architecture offices are present in the pavilion one week each during the 12 weeks of the 2010 Venice Biennale.

Commissioners and Collaborators

Commissioner/Coordinator: Karin Åberg Waern

Commissioners: Kristiina Nivari, Eva Madshus

Deputy Commissioners: Lena Rahoult, Malin Zimm, Hannu Hellman, Nina Berre

Collaborators: The Nordic Pavilion is a collaboration between:

The Swedish Museum of Architecture, Stockholm - www.arkitekturmuseet.se

The Museum of Finnish Architecture, Helsinki - www.mfa.fi

Nasjonalmuseet Arkitektur, Oslo, Norway - www.nasjonalmuseet.no

The Nordic participation 2010 is supported by The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Nordic Culture Fund.

Opening information

Official opening of the Nordic Pavilion: Friday August 27, 1 pm. Inauguration by the Swedish ambassador in Rome Anders Bjurner. Venue: Nordic Pavilion at Giardini.

Press tour of the Nordic Pavilion: Friday August 27, 10:30 am

Biennale opening hours: The exhibitions are open from 10 am – 6 pm. The Giardini exhibitions are closed on Mondays (except on August 30 and November 15). The Arsenale exhibitions are closed on Tuesdays (except on August 31 and November 16). The 12th International Architecture Biennale in Venice is open from August 29 until November 21, 2010.

Press contacts

General press contact - Nordic Pavilion: asa.svensson@arkitekturmuseet.se

Press images: http://www.arkitekturmuseet.se/english/press_information

Official webpage for the Venice Biennale: www.labiennale.org

Follow the Nordic Pavilion blog August 27 – November 21, 2010: www.atworkwith.com

Summary of exhibition concept

The concept for the Nordic Pavilion 2010 is two-fold and continuous. The exhibition **Stay in Touch - Public Architecture in the Nordic Context**, presents 18 built projects by Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish architects. In addition to this, the Nordic pavilion hosts a social lounge and workshop area, **At Work With**, where 12 young Nordic architect offices will be present as hosts and discussion partners during the 12 weeks of the Biennale. In combination, the two concepts allow the 2010 Nordic Pavilion to become the meeting point between architecture as representation and architecture as process.

Accessibility: The exhibition Stay in Touch will be equipped with audioguides in English. The Nordic Pavilion is accessible by wheelchair. For wheelchair and level access of the Giardini exhibition area, please see labiennale.org.

STAY IN TOUCH

Stay in Touch - Public Architecture in the Nordic Context, displays eighteen Nordic projects responding to the social dimensions and values of resilient and dynamic architecture. Finland, Norway and Sweden are represented by six projects each, showing architecture that put humans in contact with their senses, from the intimacy of the sauna to the opulence of the opera house, and invite the public to meet, make contact, and stay in touch.

Presentation

What constitutes a meeting place? We assume that architecture has the power to assign meeting places. Yet meetings take place anywhere, in places without any particular design intentions, under a tree, in the only gas station for many miles, on the sunny corner of the street. The unintended meeting place is as valuable as the place where architecture is summoned to support interaction between people. The capacity of society to offer accessible and inclusive public spaces for any human interaction, from the chance encounter to the organized assembly, is part of what fundamentally constitutes a democracy. Being a citizen is being a part of this. Architecture enables humans to establish and maintain relationships - to stay in touch.

Public architecture in the Nordic context is not a monument - if there is an expression of grandeur, it is often delegated to the natural settings. In the exhibited projects, a contemporary interpretation of the monument can be detected. The architecture articulates, a kind of soft monumentality in terms of a lasting evidence or a reminder, that relates to the Nordic legacy of sustainable architecture. The buildings aspire to stay in touch with nature, whether you are protected from or exposed to the elements. These contemporary common places put humans in contact with their senses, from the intimacy of the sauna to the opulence of the opera house.

In response to the Nordic cultural and social identity, public space is embraced as a place to stay, quite casually, whether the public space involves people in activity or invites to contemplation (reflection). A strategy to activate urban public spaces is to invest quality in the architectural surfaces, as seen in some of the exhibition's projects, while a more contemplative public space may adopt the motif of the hearth or the bonfire. In response to the social dimensions and values of resilient and dynamic architecture, the Nordic exposition invites the audience to meet, make contact, and stay in touch.

The exhibition "Stay in Touch" presents the following architects and projects:

Finland, Selection by The Museum of Finnish Architecture:

- **Cultural Center Sandels**, Helsinki, Finland, 2007.
Arkkitehtitoimisto Helander Leiviskä/ Juha Leiviskä and Rosemarie Schnitzler.
helander.leiviska@kolumbus.fi
- **Finland Pavilion Kirnu**, Shanghai World EXPO 2010, China
JKMM Architects/ Teemu Kurkela.
www.jkmm.fi
- **Katajanokka Guest Harbour and Winterswimmers Centre**, Kanavaranta, Helsinki, Finland, 2005
Arkkitehtitoimisto Häkli Ky/ Seppo Häkli and Risto Huttunen.
www.arkhakli.fi
- **Kyly Sauna**, Billnäs, Raasepori, Finland, 2009.
Avanto Architects/ Anu Puustinen and Ville Hara.
www.avan.to
- **Lilja - a Movable Chapel**, Oulu, Finland, 2005.
Anttinen Oiva Architects Ltd/ Vesa Oiva.
www.aoa.fi
- **Public Toilets**, Suomenlinna Fortress, Helsinki, Finland, 2006
Arkkitehtitoimisto P&P Manner Oy/ Bitumi Manner and Pekka Manner.
www.pbmanner.fi

Norway, Selection by The National Museum – Department of Architecture, Oslo:

- **The Geopark**, Kjerringholmen, Stavanger, Norway, 2008.
Helen & Hard/ Siv Helene Stangeland and Reinhard Kropf.
www.hha.no
- **Gurisentret - Outdoor Stage and Visitors` Centre**, Edøya, Smøla, Norway, 2009.
Askim/Lantto ArkitekterAS/Jens Petter Askim AS with Niels Marius Askim, Lars Lantto and Jens Petter Askim.
www.askim-lantto.no
- **Norway Pavilion Powered by Nature**, Shanghai World EXPO 2010, China
Helen & Hard/ Siv Helene Stangeland and Reinhard Kropf.
www.hha.no
- **Outdoor Fireplace**, Trondheim, 2009.
Haugen/Zohar Arkitekter/ Marit Justine Haugen and Dan Zohar.
www.hza.no
- **Roof of the Oslo Opera House**, Bjørkvik, Oslo, Norway, 2008
Snøhetta.
www.snohetta.com
- **Viewpoint and Landscape Hotel Gudbrandsjuvet**, Valldal, Trollstigen, Gerianger, 2008.
The project is a part of National tourist routes with projects by different architects.
Jensen & Skodvin arkitektkontor/ Jan Olav Jensen and Børre Skodvin.
www.jsa.no

Sweden, Selection by The Swedish Museum of Architecture:

- **The Citadel Bath**, Landskrona, Sweden, 2006.
Wingårdh Arkitektkontor/ Gert Wingårdh.
www.wingardhs.se
- **Entrances to the Skuleskogen National Park**, Ångermanland, Sweden, 2010.
Andersson Jönsson Landskapsarkitekter/ Thomas Andersson, Håkan Blanck, Anders Jönsson, Brita Holmberg in cooperation with Formverkstan Söder/Per Liedner.
www.aj-landskap.se
- **Kalmar Museum of Art**, Kalmar, Sweden, 2008.
Tham & Videgård Arkitekter/ Bolle Tham and Martin Videgård.
www.tvark.se
- **Observatory**, Hammarby Sjöstad, Stockholm, Sweden, 2002.
Gunilla Bandolin.
www.bandolin.se
- **Piazza Taxingeplan**, Tensta, Sweden, 2006.
International Festival/Tor Lindstrand and Mårten Spångberg in collaboration with Tensta Centre of Contemporary Art, Front and LLP/Larsson Lindstrand Palme arkitektkontor.
www.international-festival.org
- **Stapelbäddsparken - The Slipway Park**, Malmö, Sweden, 2005-2011.
The City of Malmö in collaboration with Placed To Ride and Entre-Prises Sweden.
www.stapelbaddsparken.se

AT WORK WITH

At Work With is a social lounge and a residency program during the three months of the biennale. The project "At Work With" is produced in collaboration between Economy (Tor Lindstrand) and Testbedstudio (Anders Johansson and Erik Wingquist). At Work With is conceptualized as a continuous staging of meetings between practitioners and visitors, a social meeting point that emphasizes exchange and conversations about the limitations of as well as the possibilities for architecture.

We invite all visitors to the Architecture Biennale 2010 to come, visit and take part in the creation of an intensive environment on site, and to follow the accumulation of work online at www.atworkwith.com.

Presentation

The idea for "At Work With" is to exhibit architecture as practice rather than as representation. We invite all visitors to the Architecture Biennale 2010 to come, visit and interact with a variety of Nordic offices and architecture related practices.

Office spaces frame and influence the work we produce: from the obsessive efficiency of Taylorism, over the concept of Bürolandschaft, the cubicles of the Action Office to the Virtual Office by Frank Gehry and beyond. With this project we are interested in focusing on the practise of architecture, both as activity and as organisation of space.

In a time when architecture to an increasing extent is consumed through images, architecture as a product is being pushed to the forefront, obscuring the underlying structures for the production of architecture. At the same time architecture today is an expanding field, unfolding through a multitude of trajectories where traditional boundaries are being re-negotiated and challenged.

"At Work With", produced in collaboration between Economy (Tor Lindstrand) and Testbedstudio (Anders Johansson and Erik Wingquist), creates an intensive environment in which visitors can participate in an accumulative work process, a series of activities or just kick back at the Nordic Pavilion during this year's Architecture Biennale in Venice. The project work as an extension and a plug-in for the main exhibition "Stay in Touch", which display eighteen Nordic projects responding to the social dimensions and values of resilient and dynamic architecture.

"At Work With" takes form as an office consisting of a number of stations that potentiate different situations, practices, projects, displays, debates, whims, meetings, coincidences, projections, provocations, interactions, broadcasts, objects, dreams and more. Each week a young and upcoming architectural practise from Finland, Sweden and Norway are invited to work as hosts and caretakers of the Nordic Pavilion. Each group will create their own office environment. Depending on how the settings are utilised, each group and week will develop its own unique combination of work and events. The accumulation of work will be possible to follow on-site and online as it unfolds.

Economy is working in architecture, art, education and management, in order to stretch architectural practice to the horizon and beyond. Testbedstudio is an architectural office working with the urban field, founded in 2000, with offices in Stockholm and Malmö.

*- I hear they're going to tear you down and put
up an office building where you're standing.
/Groucho Marx*

At Work With, August 26 – November 21, 2010

List of participants, selected by Economy/Testbedstudio,
in order of appearance in the Nordic Pavilion 2010:

August 26 – August 29: **Office party** with Economy and Testbedstudio

www.this-is-economy.com

www.testbedstudio.blogspot.com

August 31 – September 5: **Testbedstudio** www.testbedstudio.blogspot.com

September 7 – September 12: **0047** www.0047.org

September 13 – September 19: **XYM** www.xym.no

September 21 – September 26: **Svensk standard** www.svenskstandard.org

September 28 – October 3: **Economy** www.this-is-economy.com

October 5 – October 10: **Conditions magazine** www.conditionsmagazine.com

October 12 – October 17: **Uglycute** www.uglycute.com

October 19 – October 24: **Meike Schalk and Apolonija Sustersic** www.apartma.org

October 26 – October 31: **Byggstudio** www.byggstudio.com

November 2 – November 7: **Rintala Eggertsson architects** www.rintalaeggertsson.com

November 9 – November 14: **Boing Being** www.boingbeing.com

November 16 – November 21: **Fantasic Norway** www.fantasticnorway.no

ARCHITECTURE HISTORY OF THE NORDIC PAVILION

Architect: Sverre Fehn
Date completed: 1962
Location: Biennale Garden in Venice, Italy.

Sverre Fehn won the competition to design this exhibition pavilion, famously reconciling the building with nature, allowing trees growing through the roof. Fehn (1924-2009) was Norway's most prominent architect. He has received numerous awards and prizes for his work throughout the years. In 1997 Fehn was awarded The Pritzker Architecture Prize - regarded as "The Nobel Prize of Architecture" - the finest recognition you can receive as an architect, as well the Heinrich Tessenow Medal.



Photo: Ferruzzi
High resolution images: http://www.arkitekturmuseet.se/english/press_information

Stay in Touch - Images

High resolution images: http://www.arkitekturmuseet.se/english/press_information

Finland, Selection by The Museum of Finnish Architecture:

- **Cultural Center Sandels**, Helsinki, Finland, 2007.
Photo: Arno de la Chapelle



- **Kyly Sauna**, Billnäs, Raasepori, Finland, 2009.
Photo: Kai Kuusisto



- **Finland Pavilion Kirnu**, Shanghai World EXPO 2010, China
Photo: Hanne Granberg



- **Lilja - a Movable Chapel**, Oulu, Finland, 2005.
Image: Vesa Oiva



- **Katajanokka Guest Harbour and Winterswimmers Centre**, Kanavaranta, Helsinki, Finland, 2005
Photo: Jussi Tiainen



- **Public Toilets**, Suomenlinna Fortress, Helsinki, Finland, 2006
Photo: Jaanis Kerkis



Norway, Selection by The National Museum - Department of Architecture, Oslo:

- **The Geopark**, Kjerringholmen, Stavanger, Norway, 2008.
Photo: Helen & Hard



- **Outdoor Fireplace**, Trondheim, 2009. Photo: Unni Skoglund



- **Gurisentret - Outdoor Stage and Visitors' Centre**, Edøya, Smøla, Norway, 2009.
Photo: Bjarne Ytrøy



- **Roof of the Oslo Opera House**, Bjørkvika, Oslo, Norway, 2008
Photo: Snøhetta



- **Norway Pavilion Powered by Nature**, Shanghai World EXPO 2010, China
Photo: John E. Krøll



- **Viewpoint and Landscape Hotel Gudbrandsjuvet**, Valldal, Trollstigen, Gerianger, 2008.
Photo: Jensen&Skodvin



Sweden, Selection by The Swedish Museum of Architecture:

- **The Citadel Bath**, Landskrona, Sweden, 2006.
Photo: Åke E:son Lindman



- **Observatory**, Hammarby Sjöstad, Stockholm, Sweden, 2002.
Photo: Michael Perlmutter



- **Entrances to the Skuleskogen National Park**, Ångermanland, Sweden, 2010.
Photo: Per Liedner



- **Piazza Taxingeplan**, Tensta, Sweden, 2006.
Photo: Tor Lindstrand



- **Kalmar Museum of Art**, Kalmar, Sweden, 2008.
Photo: Åke E:son Lindman



- **Stapelbäddsparken - The Slipway Park**, Malmö, Sweden, 2005-2011.
Photo: Berne Lundqvist



At Work With - images

Collage draught/visualization of At Work With with lounge and work area, occupying a section of the Nordic Pavilion. Image credit: Economy and Testbedstudio



Concept sketch plan for At Work With lounge and work area, occupying a section of the Nordic Pavilion, and timeline for guest appearances/pavilion hosts during the 12 weeks of the Biennale. Image credit: Economy and Testbedstudio

