

Press release

Monday, 7 April 2008

Rem Koolhaas/OMA's Bryghusprojekt in Copenhagen announced today

An exhibition place. A residence. A rendezvous. A place of work. A place of play. A place of recreation. A place to eat. A connecting line where the city meets the harbour. Where traffic meets construction. Where work meets leisure. Where people of all ages meet each other. This is the plan with Bryghusprojektet - now available to the public in the form of an outline proposal.

The project is composed of a multi-functional building with a number of external activities, primarily initiated by the Danish Architecture Centre (DAC); with a café and restaurant, housing, offices for Realdania and offices for rent. In addition, there will be a large underground car park.

The idea is to gather many activities around the development in one building; a building of outstanding architectural quality. At the same time, the building and its open areas and playground will help bring more life to the area around Bryghusgrunden, enhancing the link between the inner city and Copenhagen harbour.

"Creating a multi-functional construction of exceptional architectural quality has always been at the top of Realdania's wish list. We believe that the architects at Rem Koolhaas and his design office, OMA will grant us our wish", says Realdania CEO, Flemming Borreskov, who also states that "Copenhagen deserves a building that enhances the link between the city and the harbour, and which houses many different activities, such as housing, café, restaurant, workplaces, exhibition places, as well as inviting play and recreational spaces – both indoors and outdoors. In addition, we wish to challenge ourselves by taking new paths in selection procedures and collaboration forms".

One of the world's greatest architects is behind the construction in the Bryghusprojekt

One of the world's most influential and internationally recognised architects; the Dutchman Rem Koolhaas and his design office OMA, has designed Realdania's project at Bryghusgrunden in Copenhagen.

Rem Koolhaas/OMA is one of the leading international firms of architects in uniting theoretical practice with a playful, original and dialogue-oriented approach to architecture. These characteristics are also apparent in the firm's think-tank AMO (the mirror image of OMA), whose urban planning work is typified by reflecting architecture in sociology, technology, politics and the media.

Ellen van Loon, OMA's partner in charge of the project, concluded that "unlike the typical 'stacked' section where individual programs remain autonomous, the program 'heap' of the Bryghusprojekt has the elements stacked in a seemingly random order. The public program, the urban routes and the DAC reach into the heart of the building and create a broad range of interactions between the different program parts."

Koolhaas/OMA are well-known for their open approach to projects, and they were among the first who saw the new opportunities in developing different collaborations between owner, architect, contractor and the surrounding community.

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A building that creates life and appeals to everyone

The Bryghusprojekt is significant because it faces the city, and accordingly the city is inviting people to the harbour. The plan is to create a new space between the building and the listed building, Materialgård. The space will be sheltered from traffic and wind; and is west-facing, so the sun can take its natural course. Instead of the existing playground, four new playgrounds for children of various age groups will be created, both in the building and at several other places on the site.

"DAC has found it amazingly inspiring to work with Rem Koolhaas/OMA and Realdania; creating proposals for the settings of this architectural and urban development centre of the 21st century. With Bryghusprojektet OMA has not merely designed a building with new premises for DAC – they have also contributed with surprising ideas on how DAC, as a public institution, can encourage people to use and experience the overall urban area between the metropolis zone and Slotsholmen", says Kent Martinussen, CEO, Danish Architecture Centre. He continues, "at the same time, OMA has created internal frameworks for DAC which will lay down completely new international standards for how the audience might be included in the presentation of architecture and urban development. Bryghusprojektet is a unique chance for Denmark to acquire an architectural centre of international standard, matching the Danish architectural tradition".

Better traffic-related dynamics and interaction with the neighbouring buildings

Bryghusgrunden is currently intersected by Ring 2; an arterial road that will also be there in the future. The building will be erected above and beneath the road so that traffic can move through the building. Completely new passageways for cyclists and pedestrians will also be created, helping to improve the traffic-related dynamics of the area. With its volume, the idea of the building is for it to interact with the many impressive buildings of the area, e.g. New Christiansborg, the Brewery of Christian IV and the Royal Library's "the Black Diamond".

For more information about Bryghusprojektet visit www.bryghusprojektet.dk.

For further information, please contact:
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