

Press release

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Rem Koolhaas/OMA chosen as architect for Bryghusgrunden in Copenhagen

One of the world's most influential and internationally recognised architects, the Dutch Rem Koolhaas and his firm OMA, will design Realdania's project at Bryghusgrunden in Copenhagen. A judging committee were in full agreement of the selection.

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.

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.

"We are delighted that Koolhaas/OMA accepted the project. In our opinion they have the expertise to create a dignified conclusion for the historic site which incorporates Bryghusgrunden. And they will do this in a modern language which respects both historic and modern urban life," says the Realdania CEO, Flemming Borreskov, and he adds that "Koolhaas/OMA are also known to select only projects where they can feel that they can make a personal and marked difference. For them, it is not the number of projects that counts. Therefore we are even more pleased that they have chosen Bryghusgrunden".

Flemming Borreskov stresses that, "We are at the start of a long planning and projecting phase and initially we only have an architect – there is no concrete project. Therefore there remain many unanswered questions, including development of the playground and the open areas for children and adults".

There will be four aspects to the development – external activities in exhibitions (Danish Architecture Centre), café and restaurant; housing; offices for Realdania and offices for rent. There will also be a large car park underground.

The idea is to gather a number of activities under one roof of exceptional architectural quality. At the same time the building, with the open areas and playground will help bring more life to the area around Bryghusgrunden, and they will enhance the link between the inner city and the port of Copenhagen

Koolhaas/OMA will be part of the project from the start of the planning phase and will be working closely with Realdania.

The choice of Koolhaas/OMA was on the basis of three qualifications: architectural visions and competences, specific qualifications of the key personnel involved, and Koolhaas/OMA's experience with similar projects.

The OMA team in Copenhagen will be led by partners Rem Koolhaas and Ellen van Loon. Mr Koolhaas and Ms van Loon received jointly the Mies van der Rohe prize in 2005, and among the projects they are responsible for is the redevelopment of the market place Mercati Generali, near the Forum Romanum and the Colosseum in Rome.

Further information

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