



ARKKITEHTUURIMUSEO  
FINLANDS ARKITEKTURMUSEUM  
MUSEUM OF FINNISH ARCHITECTURE



la Biennale di Venezia

13. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura

Partecipazioni nazionali

# LIGHT HOUSES ON THE NORDIC COMMON GROUND

FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN, NORDIC PAVILION  
"COMMON GROUND" 13TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA, 29 AUGUST – 25 NOVEMBER, 2012

## INSPIRED NORDIC APPROACHES AT THE VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

The exhibition celebrates the jubilee of the Nordic Pavilion designed fifty years ago by the Pritzker Prize winning architect Sverre Fehn. Thirty-two architects born after 1962, the year the pavilion was designed – eleven from Finland and Sweden, and ten from Norway – have been invited to create a model of a conceptual "house" that reflects their personal philosophy of architecture. The exhibition also highlights topical social and environmental themes, looking at the sobering economic constraints and diminishing environmental resources that challenge architects all over the world in their efforts to achieve maximum quality in their designs. Contemporary Nordic architectural culture offers both exemplary approaches and significant constructed works addressing these most challenging circumstances of our time. The classic hallmarks of Nordic architecture – simplified form, frugal use of materials and sensitive treatment of daylight and the natural setting – embody the basic principles of responsible, sustainable architecture.

The Nordic Pavilion at the Venice Biennale is Sverre Fehn's distilled, elegant version of a Nordic "house" – a design evoking sensations of light, material, structure, space, nature and atmosphere. It embodies what might be called a metaphysical "house of the North", one of specific primary architectural images, elements and details. The Nordic Pavilion is a physical and metaphorical "common ground" for Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Visitors will encounter an exhibition that can be viewed nowhere else, and in no other format. The works have been commissioned specifically for the Venice venue from Nordic architects new and established, urban and rural, less-renowned and widely celebrated. The exhibits are displayed as installations, forming a "chorus" of contemporary Nordic architecture in polyphonic dialogue with Fehn's iconic pavilion. The exhibits are mounted on pedestals designed by Professor Juhani Pallasmaa, Fehn's colleague and personal friend.

The exhibition process has been a means of developing not only 32 site-specific projects for the pavilion, but also of developing "common grounds" of discussion and critique among the participating architects, though a series of workshop meetings held in May and June at the



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collaborating museum institutions. The exhibition aims to be more phenomenal and direct, rather than virtual and distant. The adjacencies between the 32 projects will be as stimulating as the projects themselves.

The show is curated by Professor Peter MacKeith and organised by the Museum of Finnish Architecture in collaboration with The Swedish Museum of Architecture and The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design (Norway).

The show is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway; the Nordic Culture Fund and the World Design Capital Helsinki 2012.

The exhibition is part of the World Design Capital Helsinki 2012 programme.

The "New Forms in Wood" Exhibition in the Finnish Pavilion is also produced by the Museum of Finnish Architecture.

#### LIGHT HOUSES: ON THE NORDIC COMMON GROUND

COMMISSIONER Juulia Kauste

CURATOR Peter MacKeith

#### DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

The Swedish Museum of Architecture

The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design (Norway)

#### EXHIBITORS:

##### FINLAND

ALA Architects

Anttinen Oiva Architects

Avanto Architects Ltd

Lundén Wikar Österlund

Hollmen Reuter Sandman Architects

JKMM Architects

K2S Architects Ltd

Lassila Hirvilammi architects

NOW (Toivonen Tsuboi)

Sanaksenaho Architects Ltd

Verstas Architects

##### NORWAY

Atelier Oslo

Brendeland & Kristoffersen Arkitekter AS

Fantastic Norway AS

Haugen/Zohar Arkitekter

Jarmund / Vigsnæs Architects

Manthey Kula

Reiulf Ramstad Arkitekter

Rintala Eggertsson Architects

Space Group

TYIN tegnestue

##### SWEDEN

Arkitektstudio Widjedal Racki AB

Elding Oscarson

General Architecture

happyspace

In Praise of Shadows Arkitektur AB

Kjellander + Sjöberg Architects

Marge Arkitekter AB

(nod) Combine

Nordmark & Nordmark arkitekter AB

petra gipp arkitektur AB

Tham & Videgård

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#### FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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