

/ DANMARKS NATIONALBANK

RESTAURERING OG BEVARING AF ARKITEKTURIKON

København er rig på arkitektoniske mesterværker, heriblandt den ikoniske bygning, der huser Danmarks Nationalbank tegnet af den danske designer og arkitekt Arne Jacobsen. Dette monumentale bygningsværk stod færdigt i 1978 og gennemgår netop nu den største restaurering i dets eksistens. Copenhagen has many architectural masterpieces, including the iconic building, designed by the Danish designer and architect Arne Jacobsen, which houses Danmarks Nationalbank. This monumental structure was completed in 1978 and is currently undergoing the largest restoration in its history.

/ DANMARKS NATIONALBANK

THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF AN ARCHITECTURAL ICON

Feature / By Johanna Nyborg





Danmarks Nationalbank har i byen en ikonisk status. Dens udpræget moderne formsprog fremstår som et monoment i en naturlig symbiose med de omkringliggende markante bygningsværker; Holmens Kirke, Christianborg og Børsen. Dets kulturelle status og betydningen for byen er absolut. Af samme årsag blev Nationalbanken i 2009 fredet af Slots- og kulturstyrelsen (red: dengang Kulturstyrelsen), som den på daværende tidspunkt yngste bygning nogensinde i Danmark. Selv beskriver enhedschef for Slots- og kulturstyrelsen Merete Lind Mikkelsen, at det er en af de mest præcise fredninger, der nogensinde er blevet lavet. Fredningsgrundlaget indbefatter stort set alt ved bygningen - dets arkitektoniske fremtoning,

Danmarks Nationalbank is an iconic part of Copenhagen. Its distinctively modern design makes it a monument that harmonises perfectly with the prominent buildings that surround it: Holmens Kirke, Christiansborg, and Børsen. Its cultural significance and importance to the city are undeniable. For this reason, in 2009, the Nationalbank was listed as a protected cultural heritage site by the Agency for Culture and Palaces (formerly known as the Agency for Culture). At the time, it was the youngest building ever in Denmark to achieve this status. Merete Lind Mikkelsen, head of sections at the Agency for Culture and Palaces, describes it as one of the most precise preservation orders ever issued. The order encompasses virtually every aspect of the building,

planløsningen, materialeanvendelsen, de gennemarbejdede detaljer samt haveanlægget. Hvert eneste aspekt ved denne bygning er dermed kulturbeskyttet og karakteriseret som enestående dansk kulturarv. Med en fredning kommer naturligvis også visse restriktioner, der skal overholdes i den igangværende restaureringen af bygningsværket, for at sikre dets oprindelige fremtoning, så den kulturelle betydning bibeholdes og bevares fremover.

En mesterværk skabes

Arne Jacobsen vandt projektet om en ny Nationalbank i en arkitektkonkurrence 1961. Opførelsen af den nye bank foregik over tre etaper fra 1965 til 1978, hvilket betød, at mesteren bag aldrig nåede at se og opleve det endelige resultat, da han gik bort i 1971. Med en så minutøs planlægning og øje for detaljerne fra start, har det dog næppe gjort nogen forskel. Bygningsværket er et testamente til ikke blot arkitekten bag, men også den tidsånd bygningen er skabt i. Et sandt pionerbyggeri gennemarbejdet på alle niveauer - fra det funktionalistiske formsprog til materialevalget, de perfekte tolerancer, designelementerne og ikke mindst detaljerne. I de velbevarede arbejdstegninger ses det tydeligt, at bygningsværket og arkitekturens struktur har trukket inspiration ude fra verden, men er fortolket og oversat til et moderne dansk formsprog. Specielt templet Akropolis i Athen med dets søjletakt har været en stor inspirationskilde for Arne Jacobsen. Bygningen har en helt særlig karakter, hvis hovedstruktur er bestående af systemer og moduler, der tilsammen danner »

including its architectural appearance, layout, building materials, the meticulously crafted details, and the garden grounds. Thus, every aspect of this building is protected and characterised as an iconic part of the Danish cultural heritage. Naturally, such a level of protection means restrictions that must be adhered to in the ongoing restoration of the building to ensure its original appearance, so its cultural significance can be preserved for the future.

A masterpiece in the making

Arne Jacobsen won the project for a new Nationalbank in an architectural competition in 1961. The construction of the new bank took place in three stages from 1965 to 1978, which meant that the mastermind behind it never had the chance to see and experience the result, as he passed away in 1971. However, with his meticulous planning and attention to detail, it likely made little difference. The building stands as a testament not only to the architect but also to the era in which it was created. A masterwork for its time, it was meticulously worked through from top to bottom – from the functionalist design to the choice material, the perfect tolerances, design elements, and, above all, the details. In the well-preserved drawings, we can clearly see how the structure of the building and its architecture drew on inspiration from around the world but were interpreted and translated into modern Danish design. The Acropolis temple in Athens, with its columned portico, was a significant source of inspiration for Arne Jacobsen. The building is unique, with a supporting »



Page 23 /

The lobby, the Danmarks Nationalbank building.

Left: Kim Naver's Tapestries 1978-79 © National Banken

Page 24 /

The boardroom for the Board of Directors, also called the R-Room, the Danmarks Nationalbank building © National Banken

Page 25 /

The Danmarks Nationalbank building © National Banken

» rammen for hele bygningsværket, indvendigt som udvendigt. Der er ingen tvivl om, at dette er et mesterværk, hvor intet er tilfældigt, og hvor der har været en æstetisk og funktionel tanke bag alt.

Særlige rumligheder

Arbejdet med restaureringen ligger i hænderne på Varmings Tegnestue med Anne Lene Jørgensen i spidsen. Projektet er allerede godt i gang, og en stor del af forarbejdet har allerede fundet sted; indsamling af viden omkring bygningen og undersøgelser, der gør, at man

lærer de forskellige elementer, bygningen har, bedre at kende, samt udarbejdelse af en strategi så disse særegne karakteristika bliver bevaret. Anne Lene Jørgensen påpeger, at et af de centrale elementer, der har været i arbejdet med Nationalbanken er, at tage hensyn til de særlige rumligheder, bygningen har. Bygningen er fuld af små rumlige perler, der på hver sin måde fortæller en lille historie i den store fortælling som bygningen er; den kileformede forhal med dets katedrallignende, skæve og pompøse rum; banksalen præget af modulernes struktur i udform-

ning, loft og gulv; møderummet for bankens repræsentantskab (R-salen), den tidligere rygesalon, de modulopbyggede kontorer, kantinen og ikke mindst det tidligere seddeltrykkeris maskinhall. Alle disse særlige rum er præget af den overordnede modulbaserede struktur samt de nøje udvalgte materialer i pætræsfiner, glas og stål og ikke mindst detaljerne integreret i rummene, såsom Arne Jacobsens egne dørgreb (oprindeligt tegnet til SAS-hotel) samt Bankens ur, som var noget af det sidste Arne Jacobsen færdiggjorde inden sin bortgang. Et ur, der som design-

» structure that consists of a system of modules that collaborate to form the framework for the entire building, both internally and externally. There is no doubt that this is a masterpiece, where nothing has been left to chance, and that there is an aesthetic and functional idea behind all parts of the building.

Distinctive spaces

The restoration work is in the hands of architectural firm Varmings Tegnestue, led by Anne Lene Jørgensen. The project is already well underway, and much of the preliminary work has already been completed; the gathering of knowledge about the building and conduction of investigations to better understand its various elements. A strategy has also been developed to preserve these distinctive characteristics. Anne Lene Jørgensen explains that one of the unique things about working on the national bank is that you need to consider the distinctive spaces the building contains. The building is filled with small spatial gems, which each tell their own story within the larger narrative of the building: the wedge-shaped foyer with its cathedral-like, skewed, and grand rooms; the bank hall marked by the structure of its sections in terms of its shape, ceiling, and floor; the meeting room for the bank's board (the R-room), the former smoking lounge, the modular offices, the cafeteria, and last but not least the former machine hall where banknotes were printed. All these unique spaces are characterised by the overarching module-based structure and the carefully selected materials such as pearwood veneer, glass, and steel, as well as the details integrated into the rooms, such as Arne Jacobsen's own door handles (originally designed for the SAS Hotel) and the Bank's clock, which was one of the last things Arne Jacobsen completed before his passing. In terms of design, the



produkt har opnået international klassikerstatus den dag i dag.

Modulbaseret struktur

Den særlige modulbaserede struktur gør sig også gældende for bygningens karakteristiske ydre facade med de åbne glasbeklædte karnapper og den lukkede lysegrå Porsgrunn marmorfacade. Ved at anvende lodrette bygningshøje paneler samt curtain walls-princippet på glasfacaden understreges hele bygningens struktur, og skaber dets egne unikke arkitektoniske detaljer, såsom de skyggenoter, der er indarbejdet i facaden, det vil sige de mellemrum, der opstår mellem to dele, når man undlader at støde dem helt tæt sammen. Alt dette er med til at præge bygningens udformning i bybilledet. //

Renoveringen af den 48.000 m2 store bygning finder sted i løbet af de næste 6-7 år og har et budget på omkring 1,9 milliarder.

clock has achieved international classic status to this day.

Module-based structure

The distinctive module-based structure is also present in the building's characteristic exterior facade, with its open glass bay windows and the closed-off light grey Porsgrunn marble facade. Through the use of vertical full-height panels and the curtain wall principle on the glass facade, the entire building's structure is emphasised, and unique architectural details are born, such as the shadows that play across the entire facade, which are created by the spaces that occur between two parts when they are not completely joined together. All of this contributes to the building's status as an icon in the cityscape. //

The renovation of the 48,000 square meter building will take place over the next 6-7 years and has a budget of approximately 1.9 billion.



Page 26 /
The lobby, the Danmarks
Nationalbank building
© Danmarks Nationalbank

Page 27 /
Facade, the Danmarks
Nationalbank building
© National Banken

arkitektur/design

/ INCL.
**ENGLISH
ARTICLES**

TEMA / #3 / 2023

TRÆBYGGERI