

Future Nordic Architecture

- tradition and renewal



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Nordic Concrete Architecture



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-In Scandinavia there exist conditions different from the most other places in the world.

-The Nordic climate causes a varied weather during the 4 seasons. This results in significant fewer hours with sun. Add to this that the sun stands low in the sky – especially in the winter season.

-These conditions has had great influence on the architecture.

-And off course the cultural development in Scandinavia plays a significant role. The style of building has always been inspired of the neighbours in the south – but always with a local interpretation and the usage of local building materials.



-Concrete has not played a bigger role in the Nordic architecture compared to other countries.

-But special about the nordic concrete architecture is among other things the distinguished usage of concrete with a special feeling for the interaction between the detail and the whole.





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The modern white reinforced concrete



-The exhibition in Stockholm in 1930 was an important event for the Nordic architecture – and especially for the usage of concrete

-It marked a shift from the classicism in the 1920's to the modernism





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-Concrete was an integrated part of the functionalism

-Earlier the concrete had not been popular among architects who claimed that concrete was missing symbolic value and a cultural history

-But in this new style concrete became very interesting

-Although white painted concrete was the aim - a lot of the buildings was actually built in bricks and plastered with mortar – and then whitepainted.

-But the whitepainted concrete surfaces was considered the most honest examples



The brutal concrete



-As a contrast to the pure white architecture a demand for a more honest architecture came after second world war

-This new architecture was characterised by emphasized structures and raw surfaces

-This period was called the brutalism and concrete played a leading role





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Organized concrete elements



-The industrialisation reached the Nordic countries in the late 1950's – and as a solution to the alarming need for housing, a mass production of building component was started – just like in the rest of Europe

-This caused a demand for standardisation of building components which could be seen in the architecture the following years.

-The architecture became rational and without variation





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Utzons floating concrete structures



-Jørn Utzon – probably the Danish architect who has had most influence on the development of the Danish concrete architecture

-That's why we have dedicated a special category for him

-He has challenged the potential of concrete and created unique architecture

-Especially his creativity with concrete elements is worth mentioning.





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Fehns site-storytelling in concrete



-The Norwegian architect Sverre Fehn is probably the most recognized architect in modern Norwegian history of architecture

-And concrete was often a preferred building material in his works



Large scale concrete structure





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New concrete ideals





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Nordic concrete architecture in the future



-Architecture of the future faces major challenges.

-Digital 3D-modelling tools is used among architect to create new advanced shapes which is characterised by the digital architecture of the future





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