

# ARCHITECTURAL POLICY FOR VEJLE MUNICIPALITY

## January 1997

### Preface

#### Page 2 in the Architecture Policy

##### **The purpose of the architecture policy**

The city council has decided to actively engage in the architecture debate with an architecture policy to make Vejle a more beautiful city. Here, architectural quality plays a major part in the experience we receive from the physical environment. A conscious policy in the field of architecture must help promoting the efforts of the constructing partners and strengthen the interests of the citizens.

The state has made a presentation of architectural policy in the area of the state, and it is therefore natural that Vejle Municipality follows up this presentation in the areas where the municipality is a party as and owner or a builder or as an authority.

##### **Architecture's expression**

The architecture is a manifestation of the lifestyles and attitudes of changing times. It helps to give our society identity, and at the same time it constitutes an essential part of the coal heritage we leave for future generations.

The architecture plays an important part in the quality of the physical surroundings we visit in Vejle, both in the city and in the rural areas. It is therefore important for the individual's upbringing and quality of life.

##### **The City Councils responsibility**

Through law, the state has a significant responsibility for the conditions of architecture, but the municipality also plays a major part in the framework for construction, construction and landscaping. The City Council has previously only formulated a general attitude to this responsibility in the municipal plan and local plans. Now the City Council clarifies goals and attitudes to the role of owner, builder, construction agency, planning authority or subsidiary.

##### **Targeted and coordinated efforts**

It is important for the City Council that the architecture has conditions that ensure that Danish building culture will also be of high quality and quality in Vejle in the future. This requires a targeted and coordinated effort by the municipality.

The city council will therefore present an architecture policy that provides some overall goals for Vejle. These objectives will be followed by concrete initiatives in an action plan based on the work already carried out within different parts of the municipality. At the same time, policy is an invitation to other public authorities and to private builders to promote architectural views.

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### **What is architectural quality?**

The essential and at the same time very difficult is to define what architectural quality is. In the Housing Ministry's action program, it is described as follows: (abbreviated form)

"Architecture has an artistic dimension, where the aesthetic and visual plays an important role.

Buildings, buildings and cities must be beautiful, exciting and experienceful. Good architecture is not

a particular style of architecture. When in the design of the individual house there is an overall artistic idea that gives the house its structure, shape and space, it is good architecture. It has taken a position on light and shadow conditions, fullnesses and details, variety and harmony, proportions and balance, materials and interactions with the surroundings.

Buildings with the aesthetic sense of being designed for solid and marked and beautiful houses and buildings is more than good construction. It is architecture with high quality that is worth preserving for the future.

But architecture is more than art. Buildings always serve a purpose - such as housing, office, factory, school, museum, etc. It must have good technical qualities, be practically designed for its purpose, comfortable to stay in, ecologically responsible and affordable to the user.

Architecture is therefore also about quality of use, buildings must provide a good framework for people's everyday life. This is especially important in the home, but also in other places where we spend our time, for example at work. There are many quality conditions that are important in all buildings. The building must be built in order. There must be the necessary technical installations. It must be resource-saving and economical. It must have a good indoor climate and ample daylight, and the decor must be practical - also for the elderly and the disabled. It is also important to think about the surroundings, the integration of the building, the neighborhood, the city, the landscape and the countryside.

Good architecture is also about good building practice. Architecture plays an important role in the development of building methods, components, and constructions. In this context, good architecture is a matter of developing and summarizing the modern constructions, functions and materials in such a way that well-functioning wholesalers are created both in the existing and in the future construction - well to feel without the artistic and the experiments are lost ".

The task is therefore to further define the architectural quality that matches Vejle.

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### **Architectural objectives for Vejle**

In general, for all areas of Vejle, the architectural qualities need to be improved. This applies to residential areas, business areas, regions, areas with public functions such as schools, institutions and sports facilities, green areas, farms and places, villages and the open countryside. Everywhere we can create a more beautiful physical environment, if we think in whole every time we make a new plant or change the existing one.

#### **The municipal plan has set the following objectives:**

##### **Urban and residential areas - the goal is:**

to create residential and urban areas that have a high-quality urban environment in terms of architectural tuning, function and opportunity for social gathering  
that when planning new buildings, consideration is given to characteristic and valuable buildings or building environments  
to search for urban ecological aspects incorporated into future projects, whether the developer is private or public and to support urban ecological projects as much as possible

##### **Business areas - the goal is:**

to achieve greater visual delight in renewal in business areas. This applies to both the buildings' architecture, the outdoor facilities and the surroundings.  
to create a business landscape that can satisfy the demands made by many modern companies

and institutions for location, environment and landscape.

**Landscape areas - the goal is:**

that Vejle's hills, ridges, hills and forests must be preserved and protected to improve the natural values while improving our environmental conditions and maintaining the open nature of the lands

These goals will be further elaborated in local plans and guidelines that show good examples of architectural quality.

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**Action plan**

The action plan will ensure that the stated goals can be realized and that the focus is more focused on architecture than today. Some of the mentioned activities are already taking place, but new ones have been added and they must take form in the first 2 years.

Basically there are mentioned the areas where a special effort must be made.

**The municipality as authority - consultancy**

All buildings require permission under the Building Act, which allows the municipality to advise the individual builder regarding the architectural design and adaptation of the building in the area. This may involve creating a particular character in a new area, or maintaining and strengthening a character in an existing urban area. Special efforts are needed in some areas such as:

**The City center:**

The city council will in the coming years make a special effort to make the city center more attractive.

It must be ensured that all new buildings, renovations and facilities will provide the city center with a higher architectural quality. The same applies to the improvement of the urban environment, places, traffic and the city's cultural content.

All buildings must therefore be adapted specifically for architecture, fitting in the street carriage and functional adaptation to the district.

In particular, the demolition must ensure that the new one has a higher architectural value than that which is removed.

**Business Areas:**

There is a continuous improvement in quality of our business areas. Therefore planning and advice must ensure high architectural quality.

It is necessary to divide the business areas into sub-areas where there is room for "lawn companies" and "storage companies". Regardless of the type of activity involved, good architecture and proper property must ensure that all types of areas appear well-maintained.

Special attention must be paid to the fact that companies along the roadside and other significant areas present themselves with harmonious and exciting archives, so that Vejle's driveway becomes beautiful and signals quality.

Already at the sale of municipal areas, the architecture the company plans and which planning and architectural requirements the municipality has in the individual business areas, will be clarified to ensure that the best solution is achieved and adapted in the chosen area .

In the case of a private business area, the same conditions should be considered.

**Residential areas:**

Special efforts must be made in our elderly conservation areas, and advice should be given to ensure the character of the areas both in terms of rebuilding and new construction. A closer assessment of the conservation areas must be prepared, but immediately Mølholm, Bredballe and Vinding village can consider.

Also in some newer areas there is a need for a special effort. This applies for example Lille Grundet because there is a special architectural expression desired.

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### **The municipality as a subsidiary**

The municipality approves buildings with public support for Urban Renewal Act and the Housing Act.

#### **Urban renewal:**

To ensure architectural quality in urban renewal, emphasis must be placed on sustainable urban renewal, which ensures both contemporary housing and facades. Façade controlling is involved in all projects.

The municipality's guidelines for ecology in urban renewal must be met.

The municipality must actively support and initiate initiatives regarding pilot projects within the framework allocated from the state.

#### **Public housing**

New housing construction must have high architectural quality in both the interior design and the facade expression.

People-managed projects must be prioritized high.

When approving projects, emphasis must be valued on the development of new ways in plan design, facade expressions and land areas.

In all cases, the guidelines for ecology in housing construction must be met. (These must be prepared and adopted).

As a goal, an architectural contest is going to be held every three years on housing construction in a municipally owned area where housing associations are invited to participate.

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### **The municipality as an owner /builder**

The municipality is a developer in a wide range of areas such as children's institutions, public housing and schools. In addition, there are special buildings for sports, culture and administration. The role of builders takes place both in new buildings and rebuilding.

In order for the municipality to be in the forefront of the development of new architecture, a competition such as open competition or public idea competition must be held in one of the areas every three years. The subject can for example be the design of the future school or day care institution.

This applies to:

1. Children's institutions
2. Schools
3. Buildings for sports

4. Buildings for cultural purposes
5. Housing

In municipal buildings, the guidelines for ecology in the municipality's procurement policy must be met.

### **The urban environment**

By renovating and renovating urban spaces such as streets and spaces, an assessment of the connection with the surrounding buildings must be undertaken and emphasis must be placed on the choice of materials and urban equipment that provide high quality and overall urban image.

### **Urban Planning**

In municipal and local planning, great importance must be given to the architectural dimension in the plans. Architectural assessment is part of structural plans, urban analyzes, nature and landscape planning, etc. The planning shall include Ensure that cultural heritage values are preserved and strengthened, and new neighborhoods and natural areas are designed with high quality.

When planning large areas or neighborhoods, public or invited architectural competitions must be held every third time to highlight the latest trends.

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## **Other issues of action**

### **Instructions / information**

As follow-up to instructions issued by other public authorities, guides / sample collections should be prepared in architecture, urban environment, etc. to deepen the municipal plan's goals and show concrete conditions in Vejle.

This applies to:

1. Facades and signs of real estate
2. Conservation of townhouses
3. Green yard and ecology on private properties in the city center area
4. Older parcel houses
5. Villages and agricultural properties
6. Commercial construction
7. Collection of good architecture in Vejle
8. Architectural and urban history for Vejle

(Nos. 1 and 2 are prepared, No. 3 is under planning)

The goal is to produce one guide per year.

### **Competitions (12)**

In order for the municipality to be in the forefront of the development of new architecture and planning, a competition must be held every four years in collaboration with the Architectural Association as an invited competition or a public contest. This may be in connection with a task where the municipality is builders or in cooperation with other authorities or organizations. Topics can for example be the design of future schools, residential areas, urban spaces, town houses or a landscape plan.

### **Municipality atlas – cultural heritage / conservation of buildings**

In order to strengthen the conservation efforts, we will try to make a municipality atlas in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment. In a municipal atlas, all buildings built before 1940 are assessed from a cultural heritage point of view, and special valuable urban and landscape features are assessed. Vejle Municipality has been on the waiting list since 1992.

### **Art and architecture**

We need to clarify whether in connection with all municipal construction work a fixed percentage of the amount of the artwork for artistic decoration should be used.

### **Strengthening public interest**

In order to strengthen the citizen's interest in architecture and urban environment, the aim is to arrange at least 2 guided tours for city citizens to urban areas each year, either as a walk or bus ride.

### **Schools and high schools**

The connection to primary and lower secondary schools, Technical Schools in Vejle and educational institutions in other cities must be maintained.

Special attention should be paid to cooperation on architecture and design in primary and secondary schools. Work must be done to establish a school service that can guide schools with architecture in teaching.

Leaflets about architecture will be sent to schools and institutions.

### **The press (13)**

The press will regularly be invited for cooperation in the field of architecture.

### **Debate with the professional advisors and craftsmen**

Meetings will be held once a year with Vejle's architects, engineers, contractors, real estate agents, finance, lawyers and others. to inform about new plans and guidelines in the field of architecture and urban development.

Meetings with Vejle's craftsmen will be held every second year to inform about new plans and to discuss architectural quality architectural solutions.

### **Training (14)**

As part of the training of new architects, at least 2 practicals are required every year from the Aarhus School of Architecture, so that the students can gain insight into the practice and to keep the municipality informed of the latest trends in the subject.

Trainees can be hired for 14 weeks with subsidies from the Ministry of Culture.

### **Architecture Day**

The municipality will actively participate in the Architecture Day, which is held annually on October 1 as a national and international event. The marking will happen in collaboration with Vejle's practicing architects.

The event may have different characters, which will vary from year to year, but the theme should in principle be linked to the nationwide theme of the day.

The event must in principle be open to all, with special invitations to the City Council, the parties to the construction industry, etc.

## **Vejle Prize**

The Vejle Prize has been given since 1972, and it is the City Council's appreciation for owners and architects who have made special efforts in newbuilding, rebuilding or interior design.

The prize is awarded by the City Council on recommendation from the Technical Committee. A technician group has been set up with the participation of an architect appointed by the Danish Architects Association to conduct the case processing.

The prize is given on Architecture Day at the City Hall.

## **Yearbook**

Every year, a yearbook will be compiled describing the status and development elements of the parts of the construction in Vejle, which are considered to be architecturally important. The book should contain brief text and photos to give an overview of the architecture of the building. There must be an assessment of:

1. Urban renewal
2. Housing construction
3. Commercial construction
4. Institutions and schools
5. Sports and culture
6. Competitions
7. Vejle Prize

## **Architecture Group**

An Architectural Group should be set up, which is responsible for ensuring that the case management in the municipality lives up to the action plan and to create the architectural debate in the municipality.

Technical Department is responsible for the group and there will be hoc attendance from the department of children and culture (schools, institutions, culture and sports), the staff (sales of land for housing / occupation, municipal buildings and harbor areas) and social administration (municipal housing).

There are currently three interdisciplinary teams in Technical Management, working with architectures:

1. The facade group deals with facade cases in all urban areas.
2. Vejle-Prize Group evaluates buildings in connection with the distribution of Vejle Award. This group is almost identical to the Facade Group.
3. The urban environment group assesses the correlation between public design on offerings and places and the surrounding buildings.
4. The Forest and Nature Group works with plants, water holes and plantations in the open country.

The group's function and composition in the future will be assessed in more detail in relation to the Architectural Group.

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## **Architects on all construction tasks**

As part of architectural policy, the goal is to have architects attached to all building and construction tasks to get the architectural dimension into all projects.

In order for Vejle to maintain a number of well-qualified architectural firms, we will help create good

cooperative relations with builders, architectural firms and the municipality.

### **The municipality as a builder**

The municipality is a developer in various areas such as institutions, schools, elderly homes, sports halls, farm areas in urban renewal areas, urban spaces and streets and places and green areas. As a major form of cooperation, the municipality will use architects in Vejle as collaborators for these tasks. The choice of tasks can be done in several ways. This may be by selecting a single firm, choice after consulting several companies, by invited competition or the like. In some projects, the municipality will seek to establish cooperation between architectural firms from Vejle and international architectural firms.

In some projects, the municipality will collaborate with companies in Denmark or abroad.

Finally, the municipality will invite to public or invited competitions in collaboration with the Architectural Association, where both Vejle firms and other of the country's companies can participate. For invited competitions with a limited number of companies, a number of companies from Vejle will always be invited.

### **City Council evaluation**

Architecture policy must be evaluated after 2 years, where experience is gathered within the area of action, and the policy is revised if needed.

The City Council then deals with architecture policy at a theme meeting every 4 years, while the Technical Committee deals with policy as a theme every two years.