

For immediate release

BLOX

New Book by Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)



Arvinus + Orfeus Publishing is proud to present BLOX, by OMA Architects.

In 2018, BLOX was opened on the waterfront in Copenhagen. Designed by the Dutch architecture studio OMA and funded by Realdania philanthropic association, BLOX is more than just a building. It is a mix of homes, offices, exhibition spaces, cafés and public areas with a vibrant urban life – elements that, when taken together, form a new destination at Bryghusgrunden, one of Copenhagen's perhaps most challenging construction sites.

BLOX also provides a framework for projects such as the Danish Architecture Centre's changing architectural exhibitions on Danish and international architecture, and for BLOXHUB – an interdisciplinary, international innovation environment for sustainable urban development.

Through interviews and essays, this book tells the story of the building's inception and foundational concept. It takes an extensive look at the many decisions and issues that arise in a project where ambitions of architecture, urban space and the life of the building always were extremely high – from the birth of the concept in 2004 to its uses today. It is at the same time also a history of the development of Copenhagen's waterfront into one of the city's key recreational spaces.

Ellen van Loon, partner at OMA, recounts the architects' thoughts on the building and its final design – which in its complexity is one of the most challenging buildings that OMA has designed. The Managing Director of the Danish Architecture Centre, Kent Martinussen, offers an insight into the lived lives in the building and the space for new knowledge and exhibitions that BLOX above all represents. Professor Carsten Thau writes about Bryghusgrunden's rich history and the multiple failed attempts over the years to create a project for this central, urban location. And the American critic Aaron Betsky introduces OMA's widely respected work in the city – not least its buildings.

BLOX has been edited by Kristoffer Lindhardt Weiss, who has a background in philosophy and is a former co-owner of the Danish architecture studio Effekt. He has represented Denmark at a number of Danish and international exhibition projects – including the Venice Biennale of

Facts

Language:	English
Authors:	Aaron Betsky, Kristoffer Lindhard Weiss, Carsten Thau
Editor:	Kristoffer Lindhard Weiss
Graphic design:	Atlant Studio
No. of pages:	264
Format:	150 x 260 mm
Binding:	Hardcover
Publisher:	Realdania
Distribution:	Arvinus + Orfeus Publishing
Publication date:	October 2018
ISBN:	978-87-92230-97-3
Retail price:	54 EUR

For press inquiries:

Sofia Hedberg,
Administrator
sofia@arvinus.se
t: +46 (0) 8 32 00 15



Arvinus + Orfeus Publishing
Olivecronas Väg 4,
113 61 Stockholm, Sweden
www.ao-publishing.com

Architecture in 2006, which earned Denmark the Golden Lion for best national pavilion. He is co-editor of the book *The New Wave in Danish Architecture* (2012) and a partner in the consultancy firm Wallner Weiss.

The book contains extensive photographic material, architectural drawings, process sketches and architectural models that illustrate BLOX as the architects conceived it when they designed this spectacular construction.

For more information:

Marie Arvinus,
Publisher
marie@arvinus.se
t: +46 (0) 705 277 015



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Olivecronas Väg 4,
113 61 Stockholm, Sweden
www.ao-publishing.com