



Accessibility policy of DANSKE ARK, Dansk Landskabsarkitektforening, The Danish Architects' Association and Danske Designers

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms (DANSKE ARK), the Danish Council of Landscape Architects, the Architects' Association of Denmark and Danish Designers (Danske Designers). The group of organisations mentioned in the following text are jointly referred to as "the organisations".

To whom - concepts according to the UN - United Nations

Accessibility and universal design are key concepts in creating better conditions and increased

equal treatment of people with functional impairments. "Universal design", "design for all" and "fully accessible" mean that people with functional impairments have access to the same information, services, products and physical activities as people without functional impairments. Accessibility is a wide concept covering accessibility to physical outdoor and indoor environments, public transportation, websites, IT systems, etc. According to the UN Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Organisation policies

The organisations' accessibility policies form part of the architectural and design sectors' social responsibility and overall sustainability policies in the social, energy and environmental area. The organisations acknowledge the 30 articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will work to direct attention to a broader way of thinking and enable implementation of relevant initiatives in architecture and design.

The organisations intend to promote awareness among architect and design companies about the optimum degree of accessibility for all and how to achieve it, as well as diversity in such accessibility, in a manner that embeds it as a logical and integral part of architecture and design – universal design – design for all. We will achieve this aim through respect for and understanding of the needs of different individuals. This will engender various qualified options, alternatives and freedom of choice and provide access for all according to their individual capabilities. Initiatives to establish accessibility must ensure architectural and design quality in accordance with the architectural and design policies pursued in Denmark.

The organisations will cooperate with other organisations, networks and public authorities to create political awareness of the importance of accessibility. As part of this work, the organisations will influence the framework to ensure that accessibility is both functional, holistic and established to ensure architectural and design quality.

The organisations must focus on the general business possibilities all architect and design companies can reap by handling accessibility in a responsible, business-related sound manner and the possibility of turning this approach into a business speciality.

The organisations must be instrumental in developing the companies' competencies through relevant supplementary training in accessibility aspects and persuading the relevant training institutions to integrate accessibility into their training programmes.