

INTERIOR DESIGN

MARCH
2009



reimagine renew redesign



Top: Joel Sanders Architect and Meeoh Architecture's rendering shows the Seonbukdong sustainable housing complex in Seoul, South Korea, where planting on each unit's roof change color with the seasons. Image courtesy of Joel Sanders Architect.

“here's really no reason that every roof shouldn't be a green roof. Now. It's better for buildings, and for cities, not to mention for the environment.”



Top: ArchitectonicaGeo's redevelopment proposal for New York's Hudson Square district features a floating salt marsh and planted ribbons that, supported by columns, drape various buildings. Image courtesy of ArchitectonicaGeo.

— Laurinda Spear, principal of ArchitectonicaGeo

Bottom: As shown by this model, the Bjarke Ingels Group's Mountain Dwellings, a 350,000-square-foot, 100-unit residential complex in Ørestad, Denmark, will be replete with green roofs, terraces, and courtyards when completed in June. Photography courtesy of BIG.





ghetto fabulous

At-risk students in Copenhagen take refuge in a youth center by Bjarke Ingels and Julien de Smet

text merio schellenberger photography vegor moon

JDS/JULIEN DE SMEDT ARCHITECTS

"Ghetto Fabulous," page 292

FOUNDER:

Julien De Smedt.

COMPLETED PROJECTS: A residence in Copenhagen; exhibition design for Louis Poulsen Lighting; bowls for Muuto.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Buildings in Trøjborg, Denmark, and Brussels; a ski jump in Oslo.

THEN: At the age of 9, De Smedt discovered his first hero, Prince, through the 1984 album *Purple Rain*.

NOW: As someone who's had a variety of obsessions, he's amazed that his interest in architecture remains steady.

69 Vesterbrogade,
1620 Copenhagen V,
Denmark; 45-3378-1010;
jdsarchitects.com.



STUDIO CLAUDY JONGSTRA

"Signs of the Times," page 242

FOUNDER:

Claudy Jongstra.

COMPLETED PROJECTS: Wall covering at the Amsterdam Public Library; installations at Triodos Bank in Zeist, Netherlands; installation at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Berlin.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Wall covering at AVL Hospital in Amsterdam; wall covering at Commujon children's behavioral facility in Almelo, Netherlands; installation at an office building in Wijchen, Netherlands; installation at the De Pont museum in Tilburg, Netherlands.

SHEEP: Jongstra's flock represents 20 percent of the Drenthe heath population in the Netherlands. *lamb:* Never—she's a vegetarian.

21 Lytse Buorren, 8843 KJ
Spannum, Netherlands;
31-51-734-25-14;
claudyjongstra.com.



CLIVE WILKINSON ARCHITECTS

"No Reservations," page 276

PRESIDENT:

Clive Wilkinson.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

Meguire Properties in Los Angeles; Disney Store headquarters in Pasadena, California; Google in Mountain View, California; Mother in London.

CURRENT PROJECTS: JVT

in New York; Vitra in Birsfelden, Switzerland; Nokia in Helsinki, Finland; Macquarie Bank in Sydney, Australia.

HONORS: *Interior Design*

Hall of Fame and Best of Year Awards; AIA National Honor Awards; Chicago Athenaeum Good Design Award.

IN THE OFFICE: Wilkinson is writing a book about workplace design.

IN THE SAND: He plays beach volleyball weekly.

144 North Robertson Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90048; 310-358-2200; clivewilkinson.com.



ZMICHAELS

"Wood Is Good," page 284

PRINCIPAL:

Jayne Michaels.

PRINCIPAL:

Joan Michaels.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

Apartments, a town house, and Balber Pickard Maldonado & Van Der Tuin in New York; a cottage on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts; a house in San Diego; a villa in Fiesole, Italy.

CURRENT PROJECTS: An apartment in New York; a house in Short Hills, New Jersey; a house in Michigan.

RESEARCH: Joan spent years trying to find Swedish 1960's rugs.

DEVELOPMENT: Jayne snapped them up for her own apartment.

360 Central Park West,
New York, NY 10025;
212-662-5358;
zmichaelsdesign.com.



Denmark has long, proud traditions of promoting civic-mindedness and empowering young architects. When these two traditions dovetail, unexpected and wonderful things appear, quite literally, on the horizon. Case in point: the nonprofit Sjakket organization's Ghetto Heroes Academy youth center in Copenhagen's immigrant-heavy northwest quarter. Founded 16 years ago as an after-school program to help underprivileged kids keep up with the city's rigorous school system while sweeping off the street, Sjakket is named for the Danish slang word for gang—more in the sense of *Little Rascals* than *Snop Lige*. The Copenhagen municipal government had become a partner and supporter by 2000.

Around that time, 27-year-old Bjarke Ingels moved back to his native Copenhagen—after a stint at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam—and set up Plot Architects with fellow OMA alum Julien De Smedt, 26. (He two have since parted ways to form the Bjarke Ingels Group, aka BIG, and JDS/Julien De Smedt Architects.) Among the first clients to come calling

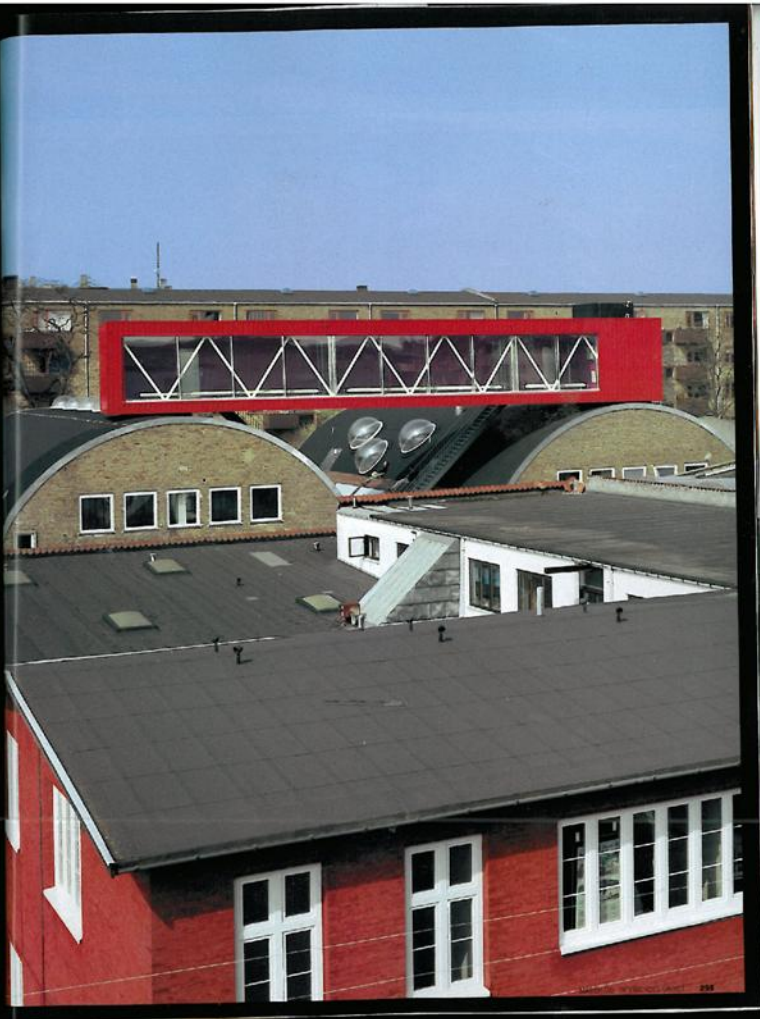
Previous spread: At the Ghetto Heroes Academy, a youth center run by the nonprofit Sjakket, Plot Architects covered windows in polycarbonate film. Photography: Metax Lobasco Clausen.

Left: In the sound studio, perforated gypsum-board fins the ceiling. *Right, from top:* The community hall and the playground can open to each other, photographing Metax Lobasco Clausen. The community hall's custom re-up chairs are constructed of jugs and bottle caps. The sound studio's painted steel enclosure is perched above the playground.

Opposite: The sound studio is approximately 100 feet long.

or Plot was Sjakket, which had plans to open a youth center in an abandoned 1937 building that has achieved landmark status as the auto-repair shop serving His Royal Highness, the King of Denmark.

Along with the usual client requisites was a particularly unusual one: street cred. "Sjakket's founders had to believe we'd connect with the kids in the community and make something they'd actually use," says Kai-Uwe Bergmann, now a senior architect at BIG. With employees from around





the world, Flat's aim diversity was a good start. The firm had also worked on a mosque in Denmark and enjoyed an excellent reputation in Copenhagen's Muslim community, much of which is concentrated in the northwest quarter.

Research for the project included a scouting trip to see converted industrial buildings in Germany's Ruhr Valley. "The biggest question was how to create a state-of-the-art facility while preserving the energy of an industrial space," Ingels says. "The Copenhagen kids had already been hanging around in this abandoned building, skateboarding, tagging it with graffiti—and the roughness was what they liked. So we couldn't make it too nice!" Still, it had to be just as comfortable for tutoring as for shooting hoops.

The 10,000-square-foot structure is composed of two barrel-vaulted hangars set side by side, with a single-story connector. Denmark's Category Four landmark status allowed for serious alteration—a good thing, considering the state of the two structures. "They were infested with such a pervasive fungus that there was a giant mushroom growing on the floor the first time we visited," Ingels says. So Flat stripped the building to its brick walls and started again.

One hangar remains a single space, complete with a basketball court. The other hangar is divided into two studios. Upstairs, classrooms and administrative offices are connected by catwalks, allowing maximum sunshine from bubble-shape skylights to penetrate a multi-purpose room below. Both hangars are a hazy riot of bold blue, hot pink, and traffic-light red. "The graffiti that was there became the basis for our palette," Gerbruggen says. The west-facing walls of both hangars, carved out with rows of windows covered in multicolored polycarbonate film, create a light show every afternoon. ▶

Opposite top: Polycarbonate panels will egg two of the learning center's conference rooms. **Opposite bottom:** Physical-class garage doors allow the kitchen and two storage rooms to become pass-throughs between the hangars. **Top:** In the community hall outside the kitchen are storage rooms, a wall painted into the polycarbonate-clad floor indicates the route to the other hangar. **Bottom:** Custom skylights dot a hangar's asphalt roof.

Between the two hangars, Plot filled the narrow connector with a series of rooms, essentially big plywood boxes. Three of them, the kitchen and two storage rooms, have garage doors on either side to allow passage from hangar to hangar. The others are locker rooms, blue for boys and pink for girls. Particularly nice touches include porcelain tiles and rain showers, not usually found in urban youth centers.

More noticeable than these interior details, however, is the giant red box

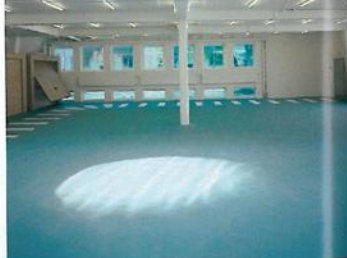
PROJECT TEAM

SEPHIR SHAYEL (1) PROJECT ARCHITECTS LTD
 BENJAMIN CHAYENSON (2) GUYER SARKIS (3) JACOB
 SCHWIMM (4) NIELSEN KLEIN (5) DANIELLE LOESE
 STEFFENSEN (6) WAFFER FROSTEN (NABA)
 BYRONLAR HOLLER (7) NINA FITH BOND (8) ELLI
 BLASER (9) LARSEN (10) KAWING (11) BRAY
 AN HANAL (12) SETH LAMBERTSON (13) ATOU
 HELET (14) BRICH (15) ANDREAS FENNER (16) STRA-
 TEGUT (17) HALLING (18) GIL CHONGKER (19) BOND
 WISBERG (20) BEN (21) LAMBERTSON
PRODUCT SOURCES
 THROUGHOUT LUMER, PARAL, METERIAL,
 CLOSET (22) POKA (23) PRODUKTIV (24) DE
 DREHL (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30)



sitting on the building's roof—and described by Plot as the Ghetto Noise Studio, "showing out the center's identity to the whole neighborhood." Most of the box is corrugated steel, like a shipping container, but one long wall is glass. Inside, other walls and the ceiling are lined in perforated gypsum-board painted an inspiring shade of fuchsia. Still awaiting digital equipment, it's primed to become the heart of the Ghetto Heroes Academy.

Sjaakot cofounder Khosrow Bayel calls the whole facility the "a great foundation for our educational purpose." As for the neighborhood kids, they're pretty into it, too. They're the ghetto heroes who came up with the academy's name.



Left, a staircase leads up to indoor-outdoor offices. Right, from top: A table-topped table dominates a conference room. An existing concrete column supports the connector lounge on the mezzanine. At sunset, fluorescent tubes backlight the window wall of the sound studio.

Opposite: Windows were carved into both hangars' west-facing walls.

