

Giant Land Art project in Broken Hill



Press release

120 students and 10 teachers from the Aarhus School of Architecture, Denmark are these days working on a Land Art project in the desert opposite Broken Hill, Australia. The project operates in the cross field between architecture and art. It takes its starting point in readings of the landscape and the local culture. Only the materials of the landscape and the potential made up of the size of the working group are used in the project.

The project deals with uncovering traces and establishing new connections in the desert. As one of the participants in the project Anders Kjærgaard says,

“The project takes its starting point in the work with nature. We bring out what is already there instead of adding something new. When we met the desert for the first time, we had to realise that it was not barren and infertile as we had imagined. Actually, it had quite a lot of vegetation to offer – the result of a heavy, newly fallen rain the like of which had not been seen for the past 10 years. The water and the small brooks had dug into the ground and had made fantastic imprints which we are going to fill up with white stones and thereby make clear the source of life of the green vegetation. At the same time, this forms a strong graphic expression that will hopefully stand long after the green areas have disappeared again, and with its simple approach, it invites people to build further on the work after we have left”.

Broken Hill has met the Danes in a very positive way. One of the town's art interested citizens has made an area of 1,500 hectares of land available for the project, and he has expressed the wish to preserve it as a permanent work of art there. The area is about 3 km north-east of Broken Hill in immediate proximity to one of the town's attractions: Broken Hill Racecourse.

The project will have been finished on 22 March at 4 p.m.



Broken Hill

Broken Hill is located in the Australian "outback" about 1,200 km west of Sydney. The town has 20,000 inhabitants and is known for its mining industry that goes all the way back to the end of the 19th century.

Today, the town is especially known for its lively art scene that includes both local and international artists. It is also well-known from the Australian film industry, and popular films such as *Mad Max 2*, *A Town Like Alice*, *Razorback* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* were all made in or around Broken Hill.

The Danes' visit to Broken Hill is part of a major programme at the Aarhus School of Architecture where all teaching of first-year students has moved to Australia for the whole month of March. This was done based on the wish for a broader internationalisation of the education, and it is at the same time an expression of a search for the architectural potential linked to cultural exchange in the architectural education.

The course of the study started on 1 March with an extensive workshop in Sydney where the 120 Danish students worked with an equivalent number of Australian students from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). The workshop was a 2-week intensive mapping study of Utzon's Opera House. The Sydney workshop had its main focus on architecture in its urban context and is thereby in total contrast to the Land Art project in Broken Hill.

Participants in the project:

Teachers from the Aarhus School of Architecture:

Visiting professor Gerard Reinmuth
Assistant Professor Stefan Nors
Assistant Professor Rasmus Grønbaek Hansen
Assistant Professor Louise Heebøll
Assistant Professor Lars Holt
Assistant Professor Lars Vilsgaard
Assistant Professor Ove Søndergaard Christensen
Associate Professor Lena Kondrup Sørensen
Associate Professor Anders Gammelgaard Nielsen
Associate Professor Anne Elisabeth Toft

Students at the Aarhus School of Architecture:
120 first-year students

Contact:

In Australia:

Niels Ove Kildahl (+61) 22687230 nielskildahl@gmail.com
Louise Heebøll (+61) 402300936 louise.heeboll@aarch.dk
Anne Elisabeth Toft (+61) 423516983 anne.elisabeth.toft@aarch.dk

In Denmark:

Leif Leer Sørensen, Head of Communications,
Aarhus School of Architecture
Norreport 20
DK-8000 Aarhus
T: (+45) 89360108
M: (+45) 22687246
leif.leer.sorensen@aarch.dk

For further information, see also:

<http://rum1.aarch.dk/index.php?id=131413>



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