NORDIC BUILT

We, the Nordic building sector, will join forces and capitalise on our common strengths to deliver the sustainable solutions the Nordic region and the world demands. The time is now and the principles of the Nordic Built Charter will lead the way.

OUR COMMITMENT

We commit to taking leadership and implement the Nordic Built principles in our work and our business plans. We commit to taking the necessary actions to deliver competitive concepts for a sustainable built environment that benefit users, the building sector, our region and the world.

OUR NORDIC BUILT PRINCIPLES

WE WILL CREATE A BUILT ENVIRONMENT THAT:

01 Is made for people and promotes quality of life

02 Pushes the limits of sustainable performance, as a result of our innovative mind-set and high level of knowledge

03 Merges urban living with the qualities of nature

04 Achieves zero emissions over its lifecycle

05 Is functional, smart and aesthetically appealing, building on the best of the Nordic design tradition

06 Is robust, durable, flexible and timeless - built to last

07 Utilizes local resources and is adapted to local conditions

08 Is produced and maintained through partnerships founded on transparent colla-boration across borders and disciplines.

09 Employs concepts that are scalable and used globally

10 Profits people, business and the environment

OUR INVITATION

We, the Nordic building sector, invite the Nordic governments and public authorities, investors and financial institutions, end-users and building owners, energy sector and all others who have a stake in our mission, to join us in our efforts to accelerate the transition to a sustainable built environment.

Signed by:

norden
Nordic Innovation

NORDIC BUILT

OUR NORDIC FOUNDATION

The Nordic building sector shares important values, promoting a balanced and integrated societal development based on environmental, economic and social sustainability.

A human-centred approach defines the Nordic building sector across national and regional borders. The Nordic building sector embodies our welfare society's deeply rooted pillars; democracy, consensus-based decision-making and solidarity.

The many structural similarities within the Nordic region provide the basis for further collaboration. All five countries have progressive regulations, a highly skilled work force and well-functioning infrastructure.

Collaboration within the Nordic region comes naturally due to similarities in culture, language and tradition.

THE NORDIC BUILT PRINCIPLES EXPLAINED

O1. Made for people and promotes quality of life

We will put the human perspective at the centre of everything we do. This results in a healthy, safe, accessible and pleasant built environment that enhances quality of life.

Our indoor and outdoor climate promotes human health through fresh clean air and unharmful materials, and surroundings that inspire a healthy lifestyle.

Our built environment shall provide safety for all inhabitants during construction, use and demolition.

O2. Pushes the limits of sustainable performance, as a result of our innovative mind-set and high level of knowledge

Our approach is progressive and solution-oriented, and it is our responsibility to create the changes needed. We will use our high level of knowledge and broad expertise to create innovations and implement new solutions.

Our education system will be the key lever in the transformation to a sustainable built environment. Professional values and skills in interdisciplinary cooperation are learnt in school and are vital to the sustainable building industry.

NORDIC BUILT

O3. Merges urban living with the qualities of nature

Our built environment actively includes nature's properties by bringing the outdoors indoors and connecting urban living to nature.

We will use daylight as a vital element in designing our built environment, creating a natural, pleasant and stimulating living and working environment.

Our urban built environment will include qualities of nature to promote biodiversity and improve living conditions and quality of life for urban dwellers.

O4. Achieves zero emissions over its lifecycle

We will strive to create a built environment with zero carbon emissions related to production, operation and demolition.

We will combine energy efficiency and renewable energy by integrating smart technologies for resource optimisation and clean energy production in our buildings. Through this, we will contribute to the transformation to zero carbon emission.

Through cooperation between companies, organisations and governments, we will aim at the following goals:

- Always offering solutions aiming at zero carbon emissions as the first alternative to the customers.
- Avoiding harmful pollutants to the health and the environment.
- Eliminating carbon emissions from buildings.
- All retrofitting projects result in reduction of net energy consumption by at least 50 %.
- All our new projects will be zero carbon emission from 2018– making us European frontrunners.
- Raise the yearly renovation rate for existing buildings to 3% by 2020
- No use of direct fossil-fuel energy in any new buildings.

O5. Is functional, smart and aesthetically appealing, building on the best of the Nordic design tradition

Based on the idea that beautiful and functional everyday objects should be affordable to everyone, Nordic design is characterized by simple designs, minimalism, functionality, daylight, quality and efficient, industrialized production. Our built environment will reflect this Nordic design tradition.

Our built environment is intuitively user-friendly, with functional and effective solutions that are reliable in the long term.

NORDIC BUILT

Underlying systems may be complex, but their operation and successful implementation is always simple and user friendly.

O6. Robust, durable, flexible and timeless - built to last.

Our built environment will consist of high quality solutions that are robust and durable.

We will reduce the environmental impact of our building materials through a total life cycle approach.

We will create a timeless built environment that will stay attractive, functional and stimulating in the future.

Our built environment will have a high degree of flexibility to accommodate users' habits and changing needs over time, without requiring significant rebuilding.

O7. Utilizes local resources and is adapted to local conditions.

There are no "one size fits all" solutions. We will adapt to each location and utilise its specific natural resources and surroundings, as well as local knowledge and traditions.

We will adapt the built environment to local conditions, making it able to handle existing and future climate conditions.

We will strive to use locally available materials and base our choice of materials on life cycle assessment (LCA).

We will reuse materials when retrofitting and demolishing, and strive to achieve a zero waste attitude for our activities.

We will adapt the built environment to local ecosystems.

O8. Is produced and maintained through partnerships founded on transparent collaboration across borders and disciplines.

We will change the way we work together, to secure effective collaboration and knowledge sharing through the entire value chain utilising the strengths and complimentary competences within the different sub-sectors of the building sector. In this manner, we will ensure that the principles of the Charter are included in all stages of the building process.

NORDIC BUILT

We will create a less fragmented and more collaborative building sector through cross border knowledge sharing and business alliances within the Nordic region and beyond. By joining forces, we strengthen our chances to win global markets.

We will be open-minded and democratic in our stakeholder involvement to ensure that product supply matches user demands.

09. Employs in concepts that are scalable and used globally.

We will realise the vast business potential in sustainability for the Nordic building sector through scalable concepts that can be implemented and exported.

10. Profits people, business and the environment.

Long-term environmental and social performance is currently undervalued in the business models of the building sector. We will develop business models that capture and boost the value for people and the environment.

We will achieve sustainable development in all three pillars of sustainability; people, business and the environment.

Our sustainable concepts and solutions will be profitable to a degree that will drive change, improving quality of life and environmental performance.

Our solutions will be attractive to average citizens: Affordable, realistic and scalable everywhere.