

**The Norwegian contribution to  
The 11th International Architecture Exhibition,  
La Biennale di Venezia.**



La Biennale di Venezia

11. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura  
Partecipazioni nazionali

**Architect**

# **SVERRE FEHN**

**in the Nordic Pavilion, Venice 2008**

The National Museum has its focus on architect Sverre Fehn in 2008. The National Museum – Architecture, designed by Fehn, had its official opening in March, with the opening show displaying the work of Sverre Fehn and with Mr. Fehn himself as the guest of honor at the opening festivities. We are proud to announce that in August the National Museum took over Sverre Fehn's archives and we are excited to be able to fill the Nordic Pavilion in Venice, designed by Fehn, with a version of the exhibition from Oslo.

The exhibition is called:

**Architect**

# **SVERRE FEHN**

**intuition – reflection – construction**

The most important project in this exhibition is the Nordic Pavilion in Venice. Here you can experience the architecture of Sverre Fehn in full scale. In addition 25 projects are presented: 2/3 of them have been built while the rest have remained on the drawing board.

Sverre Fehn is Norway's most prominent architect. In 1997 he was awarded The Pritzker Architecture Prize, the highest award an architect might obtain. Sverre Fehn is 84 years old and in the twilight of his career. His crowning achievements are the two magnificent constructions in Oslo: The Gyldendal House, which opened in December 2007, and The National Museum – Architecture, which opened in March 2008.

50 years ago, as a young architect, Sverre Fehn received international acclaim for Norway's Pavilion at the Brussels World Fair. Since then he has designed about 100 projects, and his three exhibition pavilions stand as some of his best works: Norway's pavilion in Brussels from 1958, the Nordic Pavilion in Venice from 1962, and the pavilion for temporary exhibitions at The National Museum – Architecture in Oslo from 2008.

This exhibition is in honor of Sverre Fehn. But he himself has selected the projects included in the exhibition and the catalogue. Guaranteed, this will not be the final exhibition devoted to Sverre Fehn. It will require years of research in the abundant material in Fehn's archive to be able to present his collected works in a new exhibition.

We hope that the exhibition will provide the public with a rich experience and unique insight into a major architect's achievements. After completing its run in Venice, a version of this exhibition subsequently travels to the architecture museums in Stockholm and Helsinki.

Eva Madshus

Commissioner

Senior Curator, The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF ART, ARCHITECTURE  
AND DESIGN**

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## **Biography – Sverre Olav Fehn, born August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1924 in Kongsberg, Norway**

– Diploma in Architecture, Oslo School of Architecture, 1949 – In Morocco 1951 – In Paris between 1953 and 1954, studied and worked with the French architect Jean Prouvé – Formed, in the 1950s, the PAGON Group (Progressive Architects Group Oslo Norway) along with Arne Korsmo and seven other young architects – First major project, in partnership with Geir Grung, 1955 (Økern Home for the Elderly) – Established his own architectural practice in Oslo in 1949 which he maintained until 2008 – Professor at the Oslo School of Architecture from 1971 until he retired in 1995 – Lectures at the Architectural Association School, London, Yale University and Cooper Union, New York. He has also lectured in Paris, Stuttgart, Barcelona, and Rome, and has spoken at numerous congresses, architectural schools, universities etc. in Norway and abroad.

### **Projects, selection**

- Museum Building for The Sandvig Collection, Lillehammer 1949–56, with Geir Grung
- The Larvik Crematorium, project, 1950
- Design for Row Housing, project, 1951, in partnership with Geir Grung and Jørn Utzon
- Competition for Church in Harstad, project, 1953, in partnership with Odd Østbye
- Økern Home for the Elderly, Oslo, 1955, with Geir Grung
- Competition for Norwegian Exhibition Hall, Oslo, project, 1956, with F.R. Hougli
- Norwegian Pavilion, World Exhibition, Brussels, 1956–58
- Competition for King Haakon Church, Copenhagen, project, 1956–58
- Museum Installation in Leopoldville, Congo, project, 1958
- Nordic Pavilion, Biennale in Venice, 1958–62
- Villa Schreiner, Oslo, 1959–63
- Camera Shop, Oslo, 1960
- Villa Underland, Ski, 1960–62
- Competition, Auditorium Maximum for Agricultural School, Ås, project, 1961
- Competition, Spiral Top Restaurant, Drammen, project, 1961
- Villa A. Bødtker, Oslo, 1961–65
- Villa Wessel, Oslo, 1962–65
- Bøler Community Centre, Oslo, 1962–1972
- Competition, Karl Johan Quarter, Oslo, project, 1963, assistant: T. Willoch
- Competition for Art Museum at Høvikodden, project, 1963
- Rebuilding of the Colosseum Cinema, Oslo, 1963
- Villa Norrköping, Sweden, 1963–64
- Competition for Eternit-House, project, 1963–64
- Villa Skagestad, Oslo, 1963–64
- Competition for Church in Honningsvåg, North Cape, project, 1965
- Competition for Grieghallen, Bergen, project, 1965
- Competition for Norwegian Forestry Museum, Elverum, project, 1965–66
- Villa C. Bødtker I and II, Oslo, 1965–67 and 1982–85, assistant: T. Ovrum (Villa I)
- Villa Sparre, Skedsmo, 1965–67
- Competition, Rossabø Church, Haugesund, project, 1966
- Competition for Hotel and Conference Centre in Riyadh, Saudi-Arabia, project, 1966, assistants: T. Kleven og T. Ovrum
- Hedmark Museum at Domkirkeodden, Hamar, 1967–69, assistants: T. Ovrum, T. Wike, A. Neegaard (Protective Buildings 2001–05, project supervisor: M. Mowe)
- Villa Johnsrud, Bærum, 1968–70, assistants: T. Ovrum, J. K. Schultz
- The Wiggen House, Stockholm, project, 1968–72
- Competition for Norwegian Pavilion at World Exhibition, Osaka, Japan, project, 1970
- Skådalen School for the Deaf, Oslo, 1970–77, Assistants: J. K. Schultz, T. Ovrum, T. Wike, B. Larsen, E. Andersen, A. Neegaard, T. Orlien
- Competition for Museum Extension at Tullinløkka, Oslo, project, 1972, assistants: J. K. Schultz, T. Wike
- Exhibition of Medieval Art, Henie-Onstad Art Centre, Høvik, 1972, assistant: J. K. Schultz
- Villa Holme, Holmsbu, 1972–75, built 1995–96
- Competition for Trondheim City Library, project, 1977, assistants: J. K. Schultz, T. Wike
- Competition for Conference Centre for the Medical Association, Oslo, project, 1978, assistant: T. Wike
- Grafitti Coverings at Svartskogodden, project, 1978, assistant: T. Wike

- Competition for Cultural House, Stavanger, project, 1979, assistant: T. Wike
- Mining Museum, Røros, project, 1979, assistant: T. Wike
- Permanent Exhibition of Medieval Art, Historical Museum, Oslo, 1980
- Competition for Wasa Ship Museum, Stockholm, project, 1982, assistant: B. Bergendoff
- Competition for Opéra de la Bastille, Paris, project, 1983
- Exhibition of Chinese Soldiers, Henie-Onstad Art Centre, Høvik, 1984–85
- The Brick House, Bærum, 1986-87, assistant: H. Hille
- Villa Busk, Bamble, 1987-90, assistant: H. Hille
- Verdens Ende Art Gallery, Tjøme, project, 1988, assistant: H. Hille
- Competition for Palazzo del Cinema, Lido, Venice, project, 1989–90, assistant: H. Hille
- Norwegian Glacier Museum, Fjærland, 1989–91, assistant: H. Hille (Extended 2001–07, project supervisor: M. Mowe)
- Villa Kise, Skien, 1990
- Competition for Leisure Centre, Mauritzberg Castle, Sweden, 1991, one prototype built 1992, assistant: H. Hille
- Competition for Information Centre at the Viking Graves, Borre, project, 1993, assistant: H. Hille
- Rock Carving Museum, Borge, project, 1993, assistant: H. Hille
- Aukrust Centre, Alvdal, 1993–96, assistants: H. Hille, E. Strandskogen
- Competition for Hydro Electric Museum, Suldal, project, 1994–95 assistants: H. Hille, E. Strandskogen
- Proposal for Cultural Historic Information Centre, Ulefoss, 1995
- Competition for Extension to The Royal Theatre, Copenhagen, project, 1996 assistants: H. Hille, E. Strandskogen
- Ivar Aasen Centre, Ørsta, 1996–2000, assistants: H. Hille, E. Strandskogen
- Preus Photo Museum, Horten, 1997–2001, assistants: H. Hille, E. Strandskogen, B. E. Hoff
- Homansbyen Station, project, 1997–2001
- Chapel in Olavsundet, Ny-Hellesund, project, 1999, assistant: M. Dietrichson
- Gyldendal House, Oslo, 1995–2007, project supervisor: I. Hareide, assistant: K. Moe Bøksle
- The National Museum – Architecture, Oslo 1997–2008, project supervisor: M. Dietrichson, assistant: M. Mowe

## **Awards and Honors, selection**

- Norwegian Wood Award, 1973
- Prince Eugen Medal for Outstanding Artistic Achievement from the King of Sweden, 1982
- Le Grande Medaille d’Or d’Architecture Academie d’Architecture, Paris, 1993
- Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav, 1994
- Pritzker Architecture Prize, 1997
- Heinrich Tessenow Gold Medal, 1997
- Arts Council Norway, Honorary Prize, 1998
- The first to be awarded the Grosch Medal, 2001
- The Anders Jahre Culture Prize, 2003
- Honorary Fellow, the Royal Academies in Copenhagen and Stockholm
- Honorary Fellow of the Architects Associations of Norway, Finland, Scotland, Britain and America