## Arkitema ··



The Beat Box housing as seen when arriving

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# Containers and steel frames will form housing in Roskilde, Denmark

A previous industrial area in Roskilde, Denmark is being transformed into a new neighborhood with a creative atmosphere. As part of the development Arkitema Architects has designed 30 apartments, formed by containers and stored on steel frames, to fit the atmosphere of the area. The apartments will be built in three blocks and will be constructed by Container Living, who specializes in transforming containers into homes.

Over the past few years, a large previous industrial area in the southern part of Roskilde, 30 km west of Copenhagen, has transformed into a creative neighborhood called Musicon. The area already has a centrally located rock

museum called Ragnarock and another 70 stakeholders also have plans in motion to develop the new neighborhood that is rising on the land where a concrete factory used to lay. Over the next 15 years, the strategy for the 250.00 m<sup>2</sup> is that Musicon will develop into a vibrant area with 1.000 jobs and 1.000 homes. Thirty of these homes are part of the project Beat Box that is designed by Arkitema Architects.

The extent of the project is a ground floor in concrete with big panoramic windows, which will create a connection between the building and the history of the area. Steel frames will be built on top of the concrete base and will hold the 48 containers that will make up about 30 apartments of 30, 60 and 90 m<sup>2</sup>. The structure of the buildings makes it possible to easily move the container homes to a new location in a sustainable way that will save both resources and time. The steel frames also allow the architects to work in a more flexible way, despite the restriction that the containers hold.

"Beat Box is a fun and challenging project. We are working within the very specific and set shapes of the container but are still able to transform them into something different and new. By preserving every containers exterior appearance, and placing them on the concrete base and the significant steel structures, we are providing Musicon with a whole new and authentic residential building. These apartments will match the simple and rough appearance of the area perfectly," says Rolf Kjær, Head of Business Area at Arkitema Architects.

#### **Containers as future homes**

Beat Box is the result of one and a half years work, where the options of the containers have been inspected, to make sure that they meet the requirements for housing –both the official requirements and the wishes of the future residents. The plan is to build three blocks of apartments where most of the containers will be assembled in pairs of two to form the apartments. The rough and simple exterior of the containers will be preserved to fit the atmosphere of the neighborhood, which means that all isolation will be internal. Each container pair contains 60 m² which will be distributed into one large apartment or to small apartments of 30 m² each. Simultaneously, the solution offers a quick construction period which in unison with the material selection contributes to making sustainable housing in the containers.

<sup>&</sup>quot;The apartment blocks will offer the residents anything they would expect of

their apartment – thus a container is no different than regular housing. As architects, we are challenged by the fixed measurements of the containers but it also offers a lot of advantages, when we are building with them. The establishment of the buildings will happen much faster, which is why it will be a great alternative to conventional housing in the future. I am sure, we will see a lot more container houses, both in Denmark and internationally, in years to come," Rolf Kjær predicts.

Windows, doors and in some cases balconies will be constructed in each end of the containers to bring light into the apartments. The three blocks will be placed in a half circle with the facades facing two central streets of Musicon. Stairwells will be constructed at the back of the buildings alongside outdoor spaces with barbeque facilities and bike parking to ensure a vibrant environment around the future container homes.

Arkitema Architects er grundlagt i Aarhus i 1969 og er i dag Skandinaviens 5. største og Danmarks største arkitektvirksomhed med over 500 medarbejdere fordelt på kontorer i København, Aarhus, Oslo, Stockholm og Malmø.

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