

JULY 20, 2016

## Dubbeldam Architecture + Design awarded prestigious Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture for research in sustainable housing

Toronto, ON - Dubbeldam Architecture + Design has been awarded the 2016 Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture from the Canada Council for the Arts. The Prix de Rome is one of the oldest and most prestigious prizes in architecture, first established in France in 1663 and adopted in Canada in 1987, and is awarded annually to an architecture firm that has demonstrated exceptional artistic potential. It encourages the development of artistic excellence in contemporary architectural practice by supporting prize recipients to travel the world to develop their skills and creative practice through research and study, and to strengthen their position in a global architectural context.

The award will support Dubbeldam's research project entitled 'The Next Green – Innovation in Sustainable Housing', which entails travel to Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Germany to study cutting-edge research and sustainable housing precedents for northern climates. The firm intends to explore how architects in these countries set new standards for buildings that surpass current protocols for sustainability, while developing a unique spatial and artistic architectural language in which energy efficiency and design merge seamlessly. The project will engage Scandinavian and German architects, research institutions and industry leaders in these countries, and will include the study of passive houses, Net-Zero Energy homes and regenerative design (buildings that produce more energy than they consume). Furthermore, investigations will be undertaken into technologies such as building-integrated photovoltaics, and new developments in responsive or 'intelligent' materials – all features of tomorrow's buildings.

Dubbeldam's intent is to stimulate a dialogue about the role of sustainable design as a generator for design excellence in architecture. The knowledge gained during their two-year agenda of ongoing travel and research will not only shape the work of this dedicated practice and its continued commitment to innovation in sustainable architecture, but will be openly shared with the architecture profession and public alike. Follow Dubbeldam's travels and documented research on a research blog and on Dubbeldam's social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For further information, please visit [www.thenextgreen.ca](http://www.thenextgreen.ca)

### About Dubbeldam Architecture + Design

Dubbeldam Architecture + Design is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary design studio committed to advancing an architectural and social agenda through built work and design research. Central to the practice is the exploration of contemporary architectural issues in which a desire to improve the public realm figures prominently—demonstrated not only by professional advocacy but by the projects undertaken by the studio. Founded by architect Heather Dubbeldam, the practice has been recognized by numerous awards for design excellence and sustainability initiatives, and has received wide media attention in local, national and international publications.

Promoting the idea that living small is a type of social and environmental sustainability, the studio is exploring a broader vision of sustainable design through building form, alternative programme, and consideration of the existing urban fabric. The studio is actively pursuing the integration of sustainability without compromising design excellence; moreover, it employs sustainable strategies as a means to explore innovation in architectural design.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Heather Dubbeldam, Principal

[press@dubbeldam.ca](mailto:press@dubbeldam.ca)

401 Richmond Street West, Studio 258

Toronto, ON, Canada

T. 416-913-6757

###



JULY 20, 2016

## The Next Green - Press Package



*'Climate change is a huge opportunity to build greener cities. We should stop pushing nature away and stop pretending that we can push the weather away.'*

—Flemming Rafn Thomsen, Architect, Tredje Natur

A new neighbourhood in the port city of Copenhagen, St. Kjeld's was revitalized in 2014 as the world's first climate-change-adapted neighbourhood in response to \$1 billion of damage due to flooding a few years earlier. Designed by the Danish architecture firm Tredje Natur, it is built around the concept that we can't turn our backs on nature, we must embrace it, and is designed to utilize topography, vegetation and water to prepare for rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

Countries and municipalities have set aggressive goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy demands in new buildings to mitigate climate change. Denmark, for example, aims at being 100 % independent of fossil fuels by 2050. Buildings use 40% of the world's energy, and in larger cities they account for up to 80% of carbon emissions. This represents a prime opportunity for architects to apply their skills and experience to lead the charge. However, sustainable high-performance and low-energy building is often considered solely a technological discipline, a series of systems and tactics to be applied to the construction of a building. In reality, real low-energy results are achieved through the design and form of the building, and sustainability must be considered as part of an integrated design process at the very outset of the project.

The highest concentration of innovative and award-winning sustainable architecture and urban design is found in northern Europe – in the Nordic countries of Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway, as well as in Germany. Historically, these countries have been early adopters of many sustainable initiatives and standards, and their governments have made a substantial investment in dedicated research, likely due to high energy costs and northern climates. Many sustainable and innovative programmes originated in this region; for example, the Passivhaus (Passive House) concept originated in Germany and Sweden in the 1990s, and research on Net-Zero Energy buildings began in Scandinavia in the mid-2000s. By championing new designs, incentives and standards, Nordic countries are leading the way to more energy-efficient buildings, and inspiring a global trend where new buildings become energy producers rather than energy consumers.

Architects in these countries are continuing to set new standards for buildings that live up to and even surpass protocols for sustainability, without compromising design excellence. They are creating building-integrated sustainable solutions that generate a unique spatial and artistic architectural language, one in which energy efficiency and design merge seamlessly in process and result. The poetry inherent in this architectural language emerges from both utilizing and resisting the natural elements—rain, sun, snow and wind. Furthermore, numerous architecture



**ST. KJELD'S NEIGHBOURHOOD**  
Copenhagen, Denmark



**TIETGEN DORMITORY**  
Lundgard & Tranberg Architects -  
Copenhagen, Denmark



**8-HOUSE**  
BIG - Copenhagen, Denmark



**RÅDALSLIEN COMMUNITY**  
Architect Group Cubus AS - Bergen,  
Norway



JULY 20, 2016

practices in these regions operate government-funded research divisions within their practices that investigate sustainable materials and technologies, paving the way for the next generation of sustainable architecture.

In Canada the population is rapidly increasing; it is anticipated to reach 43.8 million by 2036, an increase of 10 million in 20 years.<sup>1</sup> The Greater Toronto Area is projected to be the fastest-growing region in Canada, with its population expected to reach 9.4 million by 2041.<sup>2</sup> Developers are responding with a vast number of high-rise condominiums and suburban developments in and around major Canadian cities. These forms of housing are not culturally or socially sustainable, and with a few exceptions, are also not environmentally sustainable, despite the fact that Canadians increasingly aspire to live in communities that produce a lower carbon footprint.

The Toronto practice of Dubbeldam Architecture + Design has been awarded the Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture by the Canada Council, a \$50,000 prize that recognizes outstanding achievement in Canadian architecture, awarded to an architectural firm to develop their skills and creative practice as well as work with specialists worldwide. Dubbeldam plans to use this grant to study and disseminate sustainable housing prototypes and research for Northern climates, applicable to the Canadian context. Their research project, entitled "The Next Green – Innovation in Sustainable Housing" entails travel to Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Germany, countries in which the climate is similar to Canada, to study innovative sustainable architecture and cutting-edge research focusing. The program of study will include meetings with Scandinavia and Germany's leading architectural practices in sustainable design and architecture, visits to significant high-performance buildings, participation in conferences and symposia on sustainable architecture, and explorations of cutting-edge research on building-integrated sustainable systems/materials at research and academic institutions.

Dubbeldam's broad areas of study will focus on resiliency, responsive design, and innovative sustainable design and systems. They will study firsthand passive houses, Net Zero Energy homes, and regenerative design in housing (buildings that produce more energy than they consume). They have developed a research program that includes integrated technologies such as building-integrated photovoltaics, new materials such as biocomposites, and responsive or 'intelligent' materials – all features of tomorrow's buildings. This knowledge, documented research and established networks will form a body of information that will be shared with architects, developers and schools of architecture in Canada to stimulate dialogue about the role of sustainable design as a generator for design excellence in architecture. The ongoing research will be disseminated online through a blog [www.thenextgreen.ca](http://www.thenextgreen.ca) and through participation in Green building expos and symposiums, lectures, and a travelling exhibition.

Dubbeldam Architecture + Design has been increasingly recognized as a young architecture practice dedicated to design excellence and sustainable design. Through their practice, they have been developing a body of built and conceptual projects that explore social and environmental sustainability. They embrace the challenge of building sustainably in Canada, educating clients on the long term vision of sustainable design and systems, and would like to position sustainable design in a broader cultural context by exploring the synergy between social, economic and environmental sustainability. As Canada's population grows, the increased pressure on our cities is creating a demand for housing projects that are liveable and sustainable – not just as a political or marketing tactic, but as a comprehensive strategy. There is an interest in and a need for sustainable housing and architecture in Canada, and Dubbeldam's intent is to advance the discussion and practice of architecture in meeting these challenges. The goal is to encourage a building culture that positively reflects the world in which we live, both architecturally and environmentally.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada, Statistics Canada website <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-520-x/2010001/part-partie3-eng.htm>  
<sup>2</sup> Ontario Ministry of Finance website <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections>



**SVARTLAMOEN HOUSING**  
Brendeland and Kristofferson -  
Trondheim, Norway



**FORESTVIEW HOUSE**  
Atelier st - Leipzig, Germany



**ZEB PILOT HOUSE**  
Snøhetta - Oslo, Norway



**BIQ HOUSE**  
Splitterwerk - Hamburg, Germany