

EUROPE SPOTLIGHT ON... DENMARK, AARHUS & VIA

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DENMARK

You may know that the word 'Denmark' dates back to the Viking age and is carved on the famous Jelling Stone from around 900 AD.

You may even know that Denmark was a superpower between the 13th and 17th centuries.

But did you know that Denmark has an average wind speed of 7.6 m/s, 406 islands, 7314 km of coastline and the highest point in the country is only a mere 170m above sea level?

Why not visit the official website of Denmark to find out more about Denmark at:

<http://denmark.dk/en>



The Danish National Flag

DENMARK

Denmark is a Scandinavian/Nordic country with around 5.7 million inhabitants, a member of the European Union and consists of the peninsula, Jutland, and over 400 islands. Greenland and the Faroe Islands are part of the realm but enjoy extensive home rule.

Denmark is one of the world's oldest monarchies with a history that stretches back to the Viking Age and its strong welfare state ensures economic equality in society and the virtual non-existence of corruption. Denmark also prides itself on having a healthy work-life balance, which maybe why the Danes are considered to be one of the happiest people in the world!

The Denmark we see today is the result of 400 years of wars and religious and political upheaval. To discover more about Denmark's history you can download a free fact sheet from the official web site of Denmark here:

<http://denmark.dk/~media/Denmark/Documents/Society/History-2003-en.pdf?la=en>



Political map of Denmark.

AARHUS.

The city of Aarhus was founded around 770AD making it one of the oldest cities in Scandinavia. But today it is a University city and is now considered one of the youngest cities in Scandinavia in terms of the average age of its inhabitants.

Aarhus is a dynamic city on the Jutland peninsula in Denmark. 315,000 people live in Aarhus and 1.2 million people live in the greater Aarhus Area.

Aarhus is known as the Capital of Wind Energy and has the world's largest concentration of companies covering the entire value chain within wind turbine design, development and production.

Greater Aarhus has one of Europe's highest concentrations of specialist businesses within food manufacturing and the Port of Aarhus is Denmark's international port and largest container port.

Aarhus was European Capital of Culture in 2017 and can also boast world class museums, architecture, music festivals, cuisine and of course sailing!

You can find out all about Aarhus by visiting the official Aarhus website at: <https://www.visitaarhus.com>

You can also watch the following stop-motion videos produced by Jonas Høholt: <https://vimeo.com/jonashoholt>

Aarhus: <https://vimeo.com/234299819>

European City of Culture: <https://vimeo.com/201257252>



Den Gamle by - The old city of Aarhus..



Sunny evening in the Student Quarter.



The "Iceberg" is no ordinary residential development!



ARoS Art Museum with "Your Rainbow" panorama.



Where the sea meets the sky, they'll be sailing!.

VIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE -CAMPUS AARHUS C.

VIA University College is one of Denmark's largest institutions of higher education. It offers bachelor degrees in Danish and English, master degrees in collaboration with partners, double degrees and vocational training as well as continuing education.

The strength of its programmes is the combination of research-based teaching and practice placements/ professional training.

VIA's approach to education is very "Danish". It encourages students to exchange ideas with their lecturers and staff in informal learning environments. VIA offers small-size classes, where students easily share ideas and ask questions. And the students integrate new ways of learning such as simulation-based training and e-learning.

Campus Aarhus C is a totally new and modern educational institution with many different programmes. and its students form part of the busy academic and social student life in Aarhus.

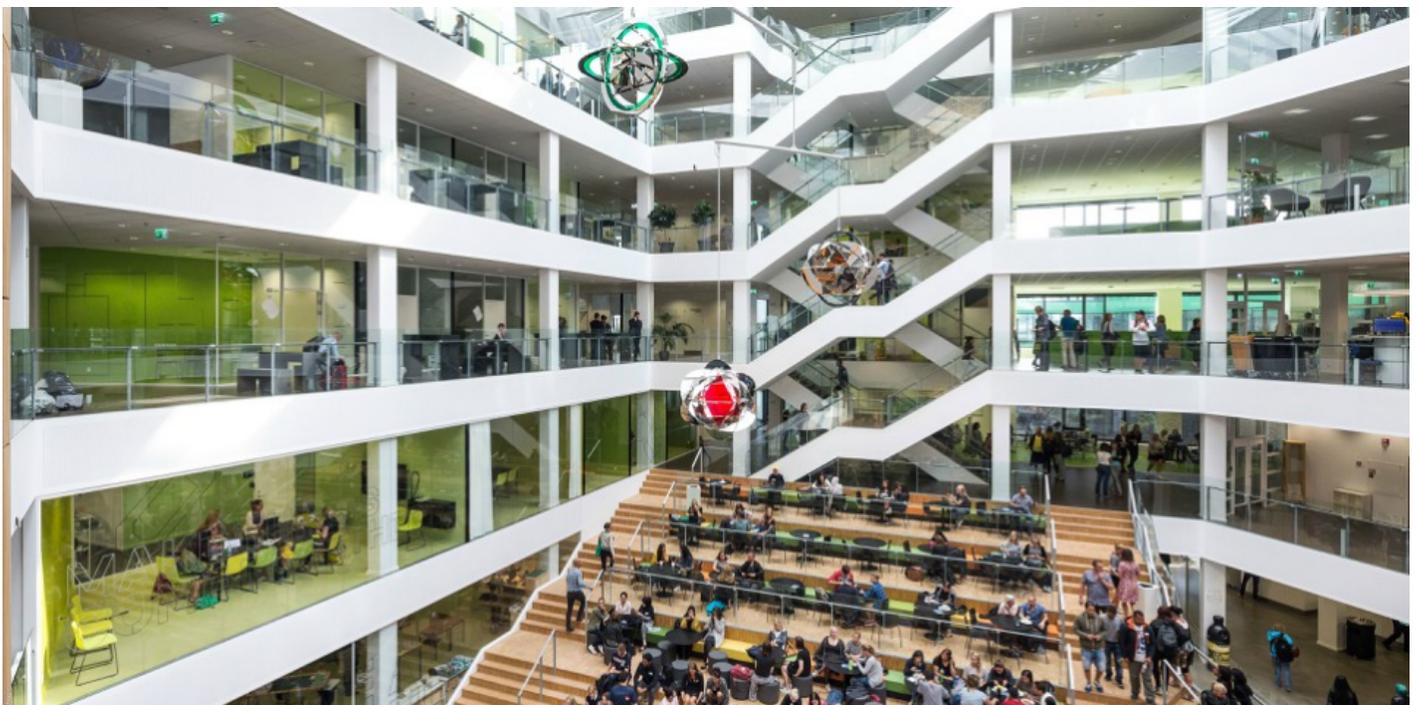
For full details of Campus C take a look at the VIA University website here:
<https://en.via.dk/programmes/student-life/campus-aarhus-c>



VIA Campus Aarhus C - Resources/library space



VIA Campus Aarhus C - Main atrium



VIA University college - Campus Aarhus C Main atrium

GET TO KNOW VIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - AARHUS

Situated in the center of Aarhus, Denmark - VIA University College offers a three and a half year degree program in the field of architectural technology & construction management (or 'bygningskonstruktør' as it is referred to in Danish). The course is offered in both English & Danish - whereby classes are divided based on their preferred language of instruction. Classes run parallel to one another, with the majority of Danish students entering their studies after some years of building trade-related occupation, and the international line made up predominantly of younger students from all reaches of Europe and in some cases, beyond.

The course itself is oriented around group-based learning, with assignments or assessments seldom being submitted through an individual basis. Students learn early in the education that this emphasis on group-based problem solving and co-operation is reflective of real-world demands in the Danish architecture and construction field.

Students work in these groups each semester, with individual semesters having a different overall 'theme'. Beginning with single-family house design, the course guides and builds students overall responsibility and learning capacity through industrialised building design, multistorey building design, and renovation design & implementation.

Students can expect an intensive and rigorous work load - with demands and responsibility including (but by no means limited to); planning and overall design in the preliminary phases, implementation of building services and installations, compliance with relevant building codes and regulations, structural and static design, energy related considerations (thermal efficiency, daylight and acoustic analysis), detail design drawings, estimation and cost, production and implementation, and construction management factors.

This demand is met by equally passionate and motivated lecturers, who each 'specialise' or offer expertise in set disciplines. Lectures are frequent and specific to set learning disciplines, however lecturers and professors frequently make themselves available for group consultation, whereby student groups can seek out one to one advice or guidance on their individual semester project.

Each semester also has it's own unique semester goal. In the early stages the goal is oriented around 'learning to learn' through which students are encouraged to seek out knowledge in a documented and informed manner - emphasis is placed on planning and management. Later on the learning goal's shift towards professionalism whereby informed decisions reflect real-world industry protocol & documentation standards. Students are now expected to provide comprehensive detailing and documentation on project related measures and decisions - all of which the student has the opportunity to elaborate and present at the final semester exam.

In the latter stages (5th semester onwards), students are expected to decide on a field of specialisation; either architectural design or construction management. Thereafter, the 6th semester is dedicated to practical experience - with students taking internships to hone their skills in a professional environment.

The architectural technology & construction management programme also offers students a study abroad option. Students can choose from a wide range of global partner institutions. Recently the programme had two students take an exchange semester in New Zealand, with others opting for experiences closer to home, ranging from Barcelona to London, to Lisbon. Furthermore in the 4th semester, students are offered a week long exchange experience at partnered institutions in Brugges, Belgium, and Rotterdam, Holland. Students partake in study-related workshops - both of which are collaboration projects with an overall theme.

Although being relatively small in size Aarhus offers no shortage of academic related inspiration to architectural technology related students. The city has an array of either upcoming or well-established construction projects. Aarhus Ø (or Aarhus Island) is a rapidly developing urban area, situated a short distance from the city centre. It is set to become home to Denmark's tallest building of a projected 140m. The city also boasts some of Denmark's well known architectural accomplishments - the ARoS museum and it's iconic rooftop rainbow panorama, and Moesegard Museum with it's incredible landscape defining pitched-green-roof to name just a couple. The city also lays home to several of the countries top architectural companies - Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects and C.F Møller amongst others.

Aarhus is nicknamed the 'smilets by' which translates to the city of smiles, and prospective students at the architectural technology and construction management programme at VIA can look forward to a diverse, extremely youthful, and hospitable city that reinforces that untranslatable word of 'hygge'. A five minute walk from the university campus lays the peaceful Botanical Gardens of Aarhus, and (weather permitting!) taking an afternoon out of the demands of studies to visit will reflect the cities overall laid-back, young and happy atmosphere. This happy-go-lucky feeling of the city provides a fantastic living environment to pair your architectural technology studies with. So with that, I would like to wholeheartedly invite prospective students to apply and inquire about our educational programme here in Aarhus.

Until then, vi ses! (goodbye)

Tom Houlton

Student, Architectural Technology & Construction Management (4. Semester)

VIA University College

HYGGE

Hygge: The Danish Art of "Cosiness"

Hygge (pronounced Hoo-gah) is as Danish as æbleskiver (traditional Danish spherical pancakes) and it goes far in illuminating the Danish soul. In essence, hygge means creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people.

To begin to understand what Hygge is, visit the official "Visit Denmark" website at:

<https://www.visitdenmark.com/denmark/culture/hygge-danish-art-cosiness>

Or even better, embrace Hygge by sitting by a warm open fire on a cold winter's evening and read "*The little book of Hygge - The Danish way to live well*" written by Meik Wiking of The Happiness Research Institute, Copenhagen.

What with a good work-life balance Hygge and æbleskiver, is there any wonder why Danes are often considered the one of the happiest people in the world!?



Æbleskiver - Traditional Danish spherical pancakes

THE ATCM PROGRAMME AT VIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - AARHUS

VIA provides two courses within its Architectural Technology and Construction Management (ATCM) programme. VIA offers a 2 year AP Degree in Construction Technology and a 3 ½ years Bachelor of Architectural Technology and Construction Management.

During the courses students will get to know a lot of new students and tutors and will find that the teaching principles are probably very different from what they may already be familiar with..

The main learning approach at VIA is Problem Based Learning (PBL) based on specific projects - ranging from simple single-family houses to industrially produced buildings and more complex multi-storey buildings as well as refurbishments. Students complete the last semester with a dissertation and a bachelor project of their own choice, e.g. in cooperation with a specific company or client.

Students learn how to plan and design a building project, i.e. how to plan and draw, and how to describe and manage the production of building projects as it is done in real life by consultants, building component manufacturers and entrepreneurs in the building industry.

During the course of programme students will learn much more about themselves and their preferred learning style, and they will gain new social, technical and theoretical competencies within different working fields in relation to construction.

During the courses, students may find one field particularly interesting and they may want further their qualifications within that specific field. Students are able to achieve this through the elective programme elements on the 4th and the 5th semester where they can specialise. Students may also specialise by choosing an internship, final dissertation and bachelor project within their field of interest.

VIA encourages students to make use of the excellent facilities made available to them in the form of teaching, physical and digital services, and not least, the social opportunities for good teamwork with other students and tutors at the college.

The study environments

The programme is based on three different study environments, ensuring a natural progression in the learning during the course of the programme, see Figure 1:

”Learning to learn”

This environment emphasises the learning of how to be a successful student – it helps students find their own learning style and gaining good study- and work-habits in a PBL (Project Based Learning) environment. It is also an introduction to the professional world of the Bachelor of Architectural Technology and Construction Management, and helps students acquire basic knowledge and skills concerning working methods and tools used within the profession.

”Professionalisation”

This environment increases focus on the professional content of the projects and helps students learn more about advanced methods for carrying out analyses.

”Internship and job preparation”

Through the internship in a company of the student’s own choice, and through the students elective dissertation and bachelor project (defined within delimited areas), the students are required to immerse themselves further and independently into theory and practice.

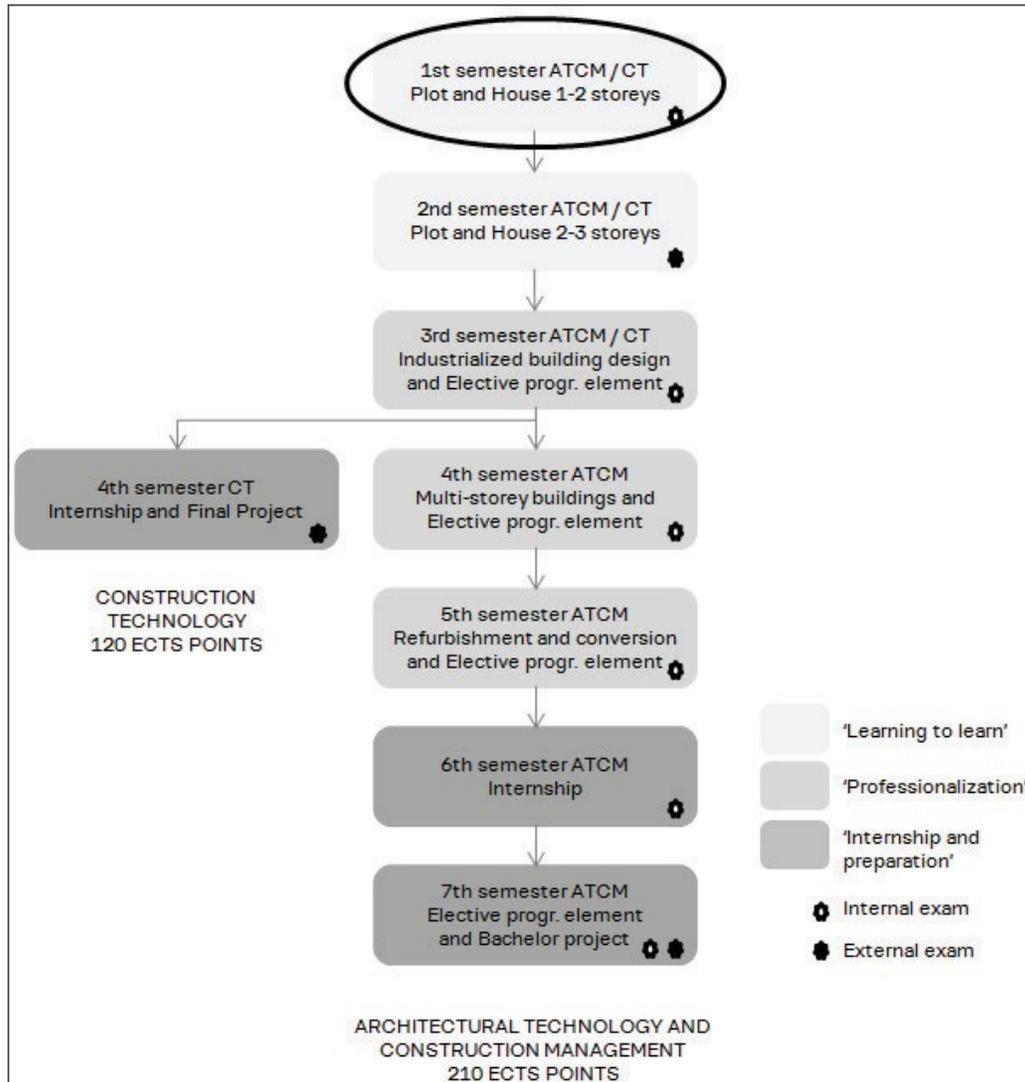
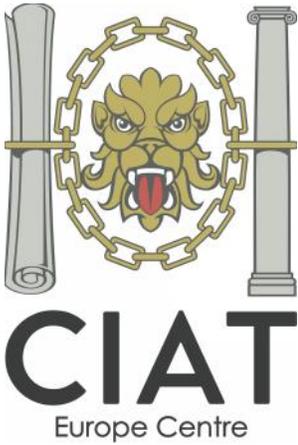


Figure 1 - ATCM Programme structure with three study environments.

Content taken from the article titled "Welcome to the Architectural Technology and Construction Management programme at VIA!" written by:

Søren Hansen

Student, Architectural Technology & Construction Management and former key aspirATion group member.
VIA University College.



WILL WE SEE YOU AT THE AGM 2018?

The purpose of this edition of the spotlight, was to provide those of you who have never been to Denmark, some background information about Aarhus, VIA University College and its ATCM programme ahead of the forthcoming AGM.

We hope that it has been an interesting and informative read and, whether you can make it to the AGM or not, we hope it has tempted you to visit in the not too distant future.

Denmark is well worth a visit!

We are all really looking forward to meeting you at the AGM!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee would like to thank both **Søren Hansen** and **Tom Houlton** at VIA University Aarhus C for taking the time to write content for this “Spotlight” feature to share with Members of the Europe Centre.

We hope you have found their content both very interesting and informative and should you wish to contact Søren or Tom about anything you have read in their articles please do so at:

Tom Houlton

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THE NEXT “SPOTLIGHT”

Why not write the next “Spotlight” feature to share with Members?

If you would like to write a “spotlight” feature to be included in future editions of the Centre Newsletter then please contact anyone on the Committee.

CREDIT FOR IMAGES

Image of the Danish flag (page 1)-

Official website of Denmark: <http://denmark.dk/en>

Denmark Political Map (page 1): www.Mapsofopen.com

Images of Aarhus (page 2): official press images available from:

Official Visit Aarhus website: <https://www.visitaarhus.com>

Images: <http://visitaarhus.digizuite.dk/>

Official website of Denmark: <http://denmark.dk/en>

Images: <http://visitdenmark.digizuite.dk/>

Images of VIA University Aarhus Campus C (page 3):

Official VIA University College website:

<https://en.via.dk/programmes/student-life/campus-aarhus-c>

Æbleskiver image (page 5):

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%86bleskiver>

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