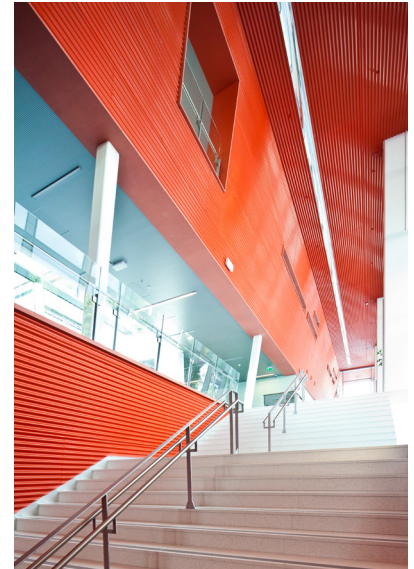
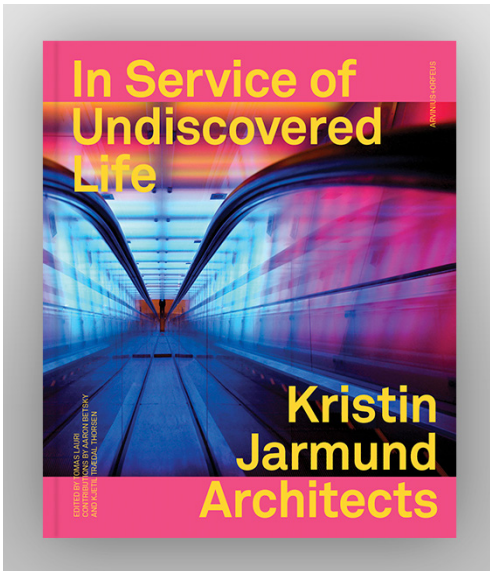


In Service of Undiscovered Life – Kristin Jarmund Architects



Characterized by her aesthetic understanding and admirable detailing, as well as workmanship and expressiveness, the world of Kristin Jarmund Architects relates to functionalism, but with a reinterpretation and refinement of this idiom. Founded by Jarmund in 1985, this leading Norwegian architectural firm strives for solutions with sublime simplicity in form and function with emphasis on the human dimension. With roots in Nordic modernism, the work of the office engages in close dialogue with all who see, experience and use the spaces.

In Service of Undiscovered Life explores the rich history of one of Norway's finest architecture firms, going back to Fyrstikkterrassen – a multipurpose commercial building in Oslo that put Jarmund on the map as a rising star in Norwegian architecture. Since then, Kristin Jarmund Architects have designed a plethora of important and iconic buildings of varying sizes and purposes – including Nydalen Metro Station, the award-winning Råholt School and the Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu.

The book is divided into four chapters in which some of Jarmund's most exemplary projects guide us through her characteristic concepts in architecture. Chapter one, 'Colour is a Material', focuses on how colour in Jarmund's architecture becomes a material that supports the spaces

Facts

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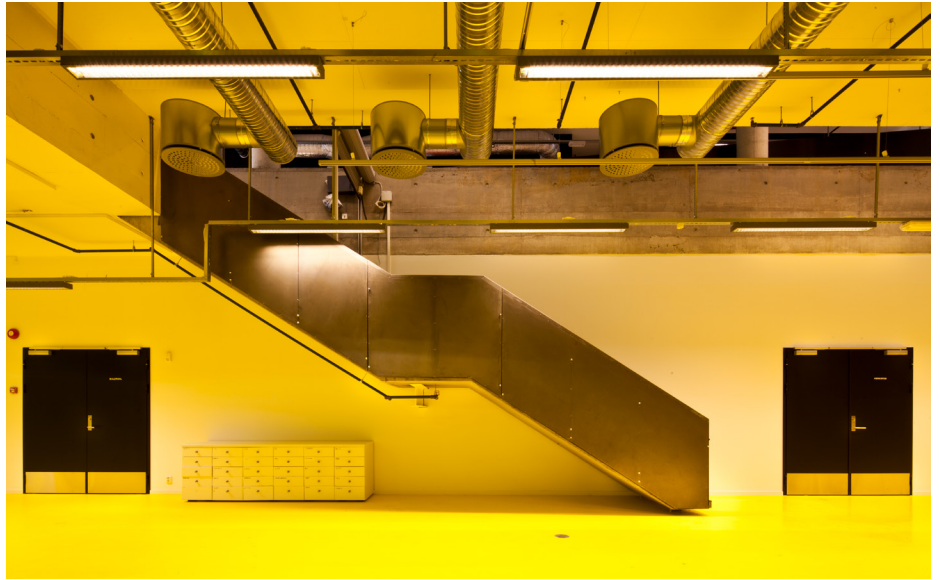
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and pushes beyond their boundaries. In the second chapter, 'The Skin of the City', emphasis is put on facades. Jarmund's facades are often three-dimensional, vary in depth and strike a balance between vertical and horizontal elements. The exteriors are always made to consider the city and its residents. In chapter three, 'The Readable Space', the building as a mechanism that should make people feel slightly more liberated is explored. Jarmund says that a building should care for its visitors and residents, and that a key element is its capacity to encourage and engage us. Environments should be readable. Not only in the sense of being clear, simple and well planned – but also in the sense that they should help us read and decode reality. The final chapter, 'Clear Complexity', is about the concept of form being synonymous with lucidity and clarity. Form is something that ties diversity and variation together, and thus enables and supports the larger whole.

The chapters are accompanied by a foreword by Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, an essay by Aaron Betsky and an extensive interview with Kristin Jarmund by the editor of the book, Tomas Lauri.

Tomas Lauri is an architect and critic. He is co-founder of the architectural office ARKLAB and former editor of *Arkitektur*, The Swedish Review of Architecture. He has written several books on Nordic architecture.

Kjetil Trædal Thorsen is co-founder and partner of the architectural practice Snøhetta since 1989. He is a lecturer on architecture and was professor of architecture at the Institute of Experimental Architecture at the University of Innsbruck 2004-2008.

Aaron Betsky is a critic, curator, writer and lecturer on architecture and design. He is former director of the Cincinnati Art Museum and currently dean of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. He served as director of the 11th Venice International Architecture Biennale.

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