A new campus

Thomas Dybdahl, "If We Want It, It's Right", Quoting Arne Næss: "How can my, what we call quality of life, be maintained or grow? And quality of life has nothing to do with what you have, but what you feel like you have and how that feels; what is it that makes us happy?"

Illustration of Skærborg: Malene Annikki Lundén
Samsborg

Samsborg will be a unique campus that will host educational processes about sustainable development.

BY MICHAEL LARSEN,
MANAGER, SAMSO ENERGY ACADEMY

Samsoe has a vision to create a unique shared space and meeting place for sustainable transition and community improvement on Samsoe and in the world. The concept of sustainability will be further unfolded and explored in the years to come on Samsoe as we will focus on a great number of initiatives which will further the island’s green transition. The new meeting place will be pivotal both to the Energy Academy and to the comprehensive strategy for Samsoe’s development as a sustainable local community.

The Energy Academy’s strategy for the development of the island is about green education and training, satellite islands and cities, fossil free island and local and international partnerships. We wish to build on the many activities we are already offering all the year round. First and foremost the 5000 yearly visitors from Denmark and abroad who pay a visit to the Energy Academy, some of which are energy tourists, others schoolchildren and students and yet others are our collaborators from educational institutions, organisations and businesses from all over the world.

It takes new thinking to create a unique building, and we have an ambition to move frontiers through world-class architecture and to employ a new energy standard in the construction of the building, what we call ‘2025 passive plus’.

The meeting place “Samsborg” will be placed by the Energy Academy, where the new physical possibilities will strengthen the Academy’s development strategy since new and extended activities will demand new facilities in the shape of overnight accommodation and learning spaces. At the same time, the new meeting place will markedly set itself apart from the existing possibilities on Samsoe and will thus contribute to the general development of the island.

The Energy Academy and the corporation Samsoe Energy Hotel, which consists of a number of local businesses and organisations, have in collaboration with LAG Læsø, Samso and Årø and the Municipality of Samso started the preparation of the concept development and the prospectus material as the foundation for the realisation of “Samsborg”.

Statements from the stakeholders

Below we offer a glimpse into the intentions with the new meeting place as seen from the perspective of the Municipality of Samsoe and the involved firm of contractors NCC.

Mette Løkke, director of business and tourism, Samsoe Municipality, says: “Samsoe is known and loved as a holiday island, as Denmark’s renewable energy island, and as Denmark’s vegetable garden. All important brands for Samsoe. The greater part of the island’s jobs are in tourism and food production. The Municipality of Samsoe wishes to create growth and development through new thinking and innovation as well as to create synergy between the three areas. It is crucial that we build the concept of sustainability into the future business development strategy. The municipality’s intention with ‘Samsborg’ is to create a lighthouse that will make the island’s development possibilities visible. In our work...”
with the development of ‘Samsborg’ we have the ambition that ‘Samsborg’ will come to physically comprise both nature, farming, sustainability and renewable energy.

With ‘Samsborg’ Samsoe Municipality wishes to create a whole new type of sustainable tourism as well as a new form of overnight accommodation and meeting place. Furthermore, it will be a space where the meal, and thus the produce of the island, is in focus. A place that gives you the feeling of home at the same time as you are out experiencing. Physically, ‘Samsborg’ will become a unique building which will express the essence of the special Samsoe spirit with roots deep into the history of Samsoe. Meanwhile, ‘Samsborg’ will display the newest technology and lead the way in the building activities of the future. In a global society we need meaningful involvement and presence. ‘Samsborg’ will become a modern example of how you create the possibilities for meaningful meetings between people in a sustainable context. A completely unique building which will in itself be reason enough to visit Samsoe.”

– Mette Løkke, director of business and tourism, Samsoe Municipality

‘Samsborg’ will become a modern example of how you create the possibilities for meaningful meetings between people in a sustainable context. A completely unique building which will in itself be reason enough to visit Samsoe.”

– Martin Manthorpe, Senior Vice President for strategy and business development, NCC Denmark
Embodied data

Discoveries from a workshop on the second day of the Next Practice symposium led by Art of Hosting facilitator Mary-Alice Arthur on the ideas for the new campus. After a brief presentation from Martin Manthorpe, NCC, participants were asked to do as described to the right, and it created data to further the development process – not only from the mind, but also from the heart/emotions/body.

Discoveries

Halfdan Murrholm and Iida Tetsunari illustrate an opening up of energy and moving together in their gesture (see picture). Below are some of the comments and questions on the new campus idea from the symposium’s participants:

- How can it attract people?
- Design it in a way so you’re part of the eco-system
- Where is the center? You just go around and around ...
- The circle is too closed
- I can’t get inside of it, it doesn’t seem open
- I miss the sound of the wind
- In the center we need a small dome where we can have the fireplace
- Is there a place where you can be alone and not be watched?
- I like Cph. Airport where you can check in and out from the long isles with lots of lights
- The shape/structure is not right

Workshop steps

Be in silence for 2 min.

Round 1:
Images, metaphors, feelings

Round 2:
Gestures from each of you

Round 3:
Your gestures become a sculpture when put together, hold this shape, and when the feeling comes, move into a new sculpture. From this shape tell the group what it felt like to move into the new shape

Discuss:
A round of generative dialogue ...
What did we discover together?

Pictures above are from the present movie about Samsborg. Watch here. Contact Michael Larsen, manager, at mil@energiakademiet.dk for more info.