

SUMMARY

DENMARK'S NEW MARITIME MUSEUM

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The paper provides a status report on the exhibition work in connection with the construction of a new museum to replace the old exhibitions at the historic Kronborg Castle, north of Copenhagen. The museum is in the middle of a process, and in the coming years, up until the expected opening in 2012, the project and the various ideas will be worked on and developed in cooperation with the many interested parties.

The museum has been designed by one of Denmark's most internationally renowned firm of architects, BIG Bjarke Ingels Group. They will place the 7,600m² building underground encircling the old dry dock from Elsinore Shipyard, which lies as a neighbour to Kronborg Castle. The Dutch exhibition designers Kossmann.dejong are responsible for the design of the new exhibitions. In recent years Kossmann.dejong have drawn attention to themselves with exhibitions that, by means of the rich use of pictures and an exciting scenography, reach out to a new kind of public who are not used to museums. The museum will be inclusive and not exclude any group of users. That is not an easy goal to achieve, and in order to do so the exhibitions will have several layers of experiences.

Thus in planning the exhibitions we are working on a means of touching people's emotions with a full measure of pictures, film, scenography, light, sound and smell. Together with the original museum exhibits and without words all of these things will be able to tell visitors from the whole world

and of all ages that Danish shipping now, throughout the world and at all times has been of decisive importance for everybody in our society.

The visitor's curiosity will be aroused by a number of interactive installations, which invite him to do it himself, to try for himself, to wonder, and to succeed in pitting himself against nature, navigation, ship construction, cargo and logistics.

The desire to learn more comes from the meeting with the history, past and present, of the great maritime world, told by means of the little story: The close personal account retold by living people or via finds in the archives and conveyed with the original objects, pictures, letters, film and sound recordings in exhibitions and in the personal digital information system which comes with the entrance ticket.

Emotions, curiosity, the desire for knowledge and further commitment can be satisfied to the full in the web-based part of the exhibition on the museum's homepage, where more stories, pictures and collected accounts, together with links to the entire maritime world comprise an almost inexhaustible treasure chest.

In the museum's information centre containing archives and a library the staff will be ready to assist with further help and guidance. There will also be the possibility of ordering teaching sessions, guided tours and private functions.

The subsidiary themes of the main exhibition each have their starting point in the present time and move outward globally and across all time periods.

They bear in on fundamental issues for shipping and the shipping industries: Why do we sail? (goods and passenger transport) How do we find our way? (navigation) How do we build ships? How is life at sea and what pleasures and dangers does it offer? What does shipping mean for the country's economy and for our daily lives?

The main exhibition comprises altogether approximately 2,500 m², divided up into about 300 running metres around the dock. The walk round offers great variation thanks to the architecture, but the experience is further enhanced and made more dramatic by the fact that each exhibition theme has its own expression, aesthetics and communication techniques, which will constantly stimulate the senses of the public.