

1001 BUILDINGS

YOU MUST SEE BEFORE YOU DIE



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Arken Museum of Modern Art (1996)

Architect Søren Robert Lund **Location** Ishøj, Denmark **Style** Deconstructivist

Materials Concrete, steel, glass

In 1988, when still an architecture student and only twenty-five years old, Søren Robert Lund won a competition to design a new museum for modern art located by Køge Bay, 12 miles (19 km) south of Copenhagen. He was very conscious that the museum should correspond to its surroundings and that the lines of the landscape blended in with the building. This resulted in an imaginative design that resembles a ship berthed solidly along the coastal line. Today, Arken affords a fantastic view over the sea, taking in as well as imitating the nautical atmosphere.

White concrete walls and floors, sharp outlines of steel beams and doors, right angles, and various ceiling heights dominate the building. A 492-foot-long (150 m) axial corridor cuts through the entire structure. On one side the wall is plane, the other arched. Along the plane edge there are several exhibition areas, with large as well as smaller intimate rooms, while the curved wall borders a foyer and a multifunctional hall. The art axis not only governs the inside, it also encompasses the outdoor, seemingly wiping out any boundaries between the cultural world within and the natural settings outside. This merging with the external is also emphasized by the skylights, bringing light and spaciousness to the weighty concrete interior.

In the main foyer the visitor is greeted by a vast Norwegian granite block, which powerfully marks the entrance. The block, referring to the history of the landscape, is treated in four different ways, with a matte, rugged, smooth, and high-polished finish. **SML**

- ☒ Located on top of the building, simple structures suggest the mast and bridge of a tankerlike ship.
- ☒ Much of the interior space is shiplike, featuring metal gangways and stairs, and exposed ducting

