

Press Release

Regarding the Vikingeskibshallen (The Viking Ship Hall), Roskilde, Denmark.

INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE ALERT LAUNCHED BY ISC20C, ICOMOS.

The International scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C) of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has released an International Heritage Alert regarding the threatened demolition of the Viking Ship Hall in Roskilde, Denmark.

Erik Christian Sørensen's Viking Ship Hall, constructed between 1966 and 1969, is a masterwork of modern Danish architecture from a period considered to be the Golden Age of Danish Architectural Tradition. It is a unique structure that creatively integrates museum, setting and archaeology in a way that transcends historic definitions. The Viking Ship Hall was the first late modern building to be listed for protection in Denmark in 1998.

Following dramatic floods in 2013 and a subsequent escalation of structural decay issues, the Viking Ship Hall became the subject of unusual political and public debate in Denmark. It was used to prompt a significant change in the Danish heritage law that weakens the protection of listed modern buildings.

On 30th August 2018, the Danish Minister of Culture, Mette Bock, against the advice of her own experts' and the advice of the department of culture, decided to delist the building.

As a consequence, the Roskilde Viking Ship Museum has declared their intends to demolish the building and build a new one.

ISC20C appeals for the preservation of the Viking Ship Hall, stressing that the structural issues and the climate conditions of the building site are not unique and can be addressed. The investment and the effort to preserve architectural masterpieces in concrete are widely supported and achieved in many places around the world.

ISC20C appeals for immediate action to preserve the Viking Ship Hall as an internationally outstanding architectural ensemble that has significant future large socio-economic potential.



The north facade ca. 1970. Keld Helmer-Petersen ©

<http://kunstbib.dk/samlinger/arkitekturfotografier/arkitekturfotografier/000061896/11 Inv. Nr. K8 1 36>.

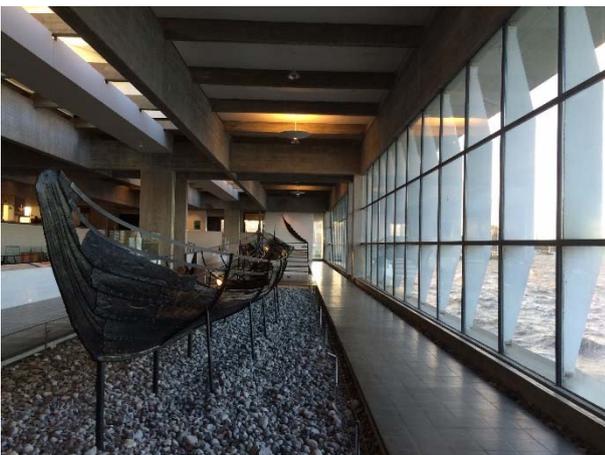


North west corner. Keld Helmer-Petersen ©

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The Viking Ship Hall ca. 1970, before the ships were in place and the hall was still functioning as a workspace as well as an exhibition hall. Keld Helmer-Petersen © <http://kunstbib.dk/samlinger/arkitekturfotografier/arkitekturfotografier/000061896/11>
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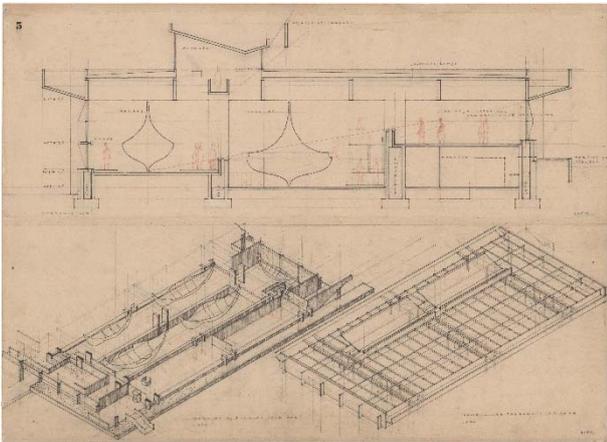
The Viking Ship Museum 2018. Interior. Photo: Elise Stoklund



The Viking Ship Museum 2018. Interior. Photo: Elise Stoklund



The Viking Ship Museum 2018. Photo: Camilla Løntoft Nybye ©



Erik Christian Sørensen. Åben isometri 1200. Isometri af tag 1:200

<http://www.kunstbib.dk/samlinger/arkitekturtegninger/vaerker/000051603/13> Inv. Nr. 53033 a-r

The ISC20C's Heritage Alert is supported by several Danish heritage organizations, including:
Europa Nostra DK, <https://www.europa-nostra.dk/>
DOCOMOMO DK, <https://da-dk.facebook.com/docomomodk/>
Landsforeningen for Bygnings- og Landskabskultur, <https://bygland.dk/>
Foreningen til Gamle Bygningers Bevaring, <http://gbb.dk/>

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Link to ISC20C: <http://www.icomos-isc20c.org/about/>

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