'AWARENESS' IS ESSENTIAL IF ACCESSIBILITY IN EXISTING BUILDINGS

Sidse Grangaard, PhD., architect maa, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University
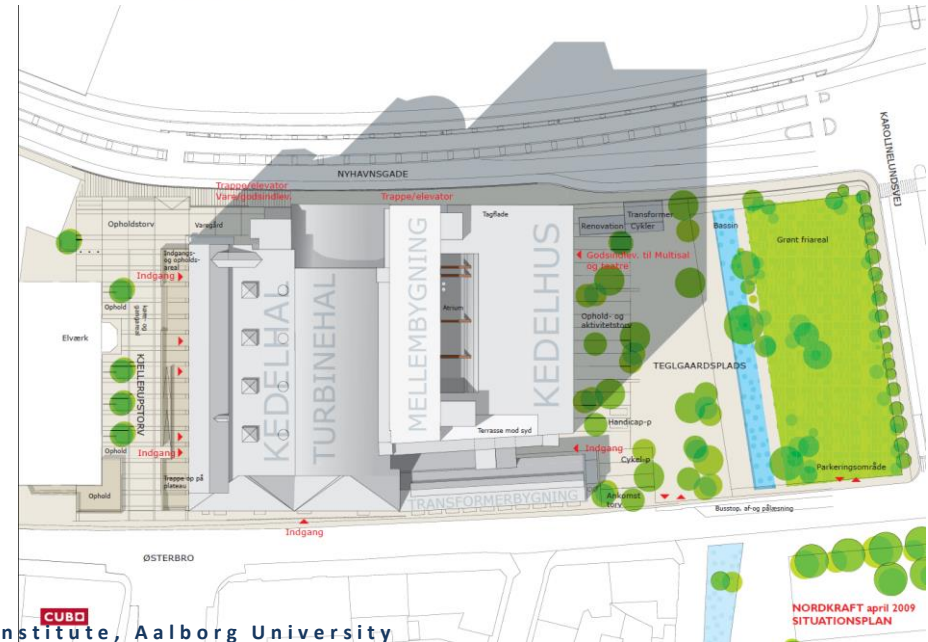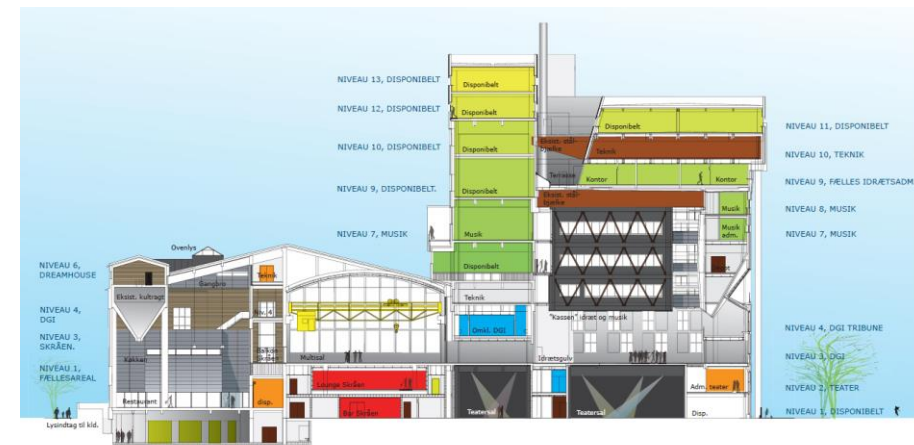
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Study of Nordkraft_2013

A former power station

Before 2006: complex building:

- different levels

- made for machines

- inaccessible

Transformed 2006-2011: centre for culture and leisure

Exploratory study of the factors that had determine the accessibility solutions at Nordkraft

Sidse Grangaard, PhD., architect maa, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University
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Photo: Lars S. Pedersen, architect maa, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University

Method

Evaluation of 14 solutions

- mapping of the process

empirical data:

- Interviews; the architect, the public assessibility advisor
- Emails with questions; the owner, local building authority
- Visit
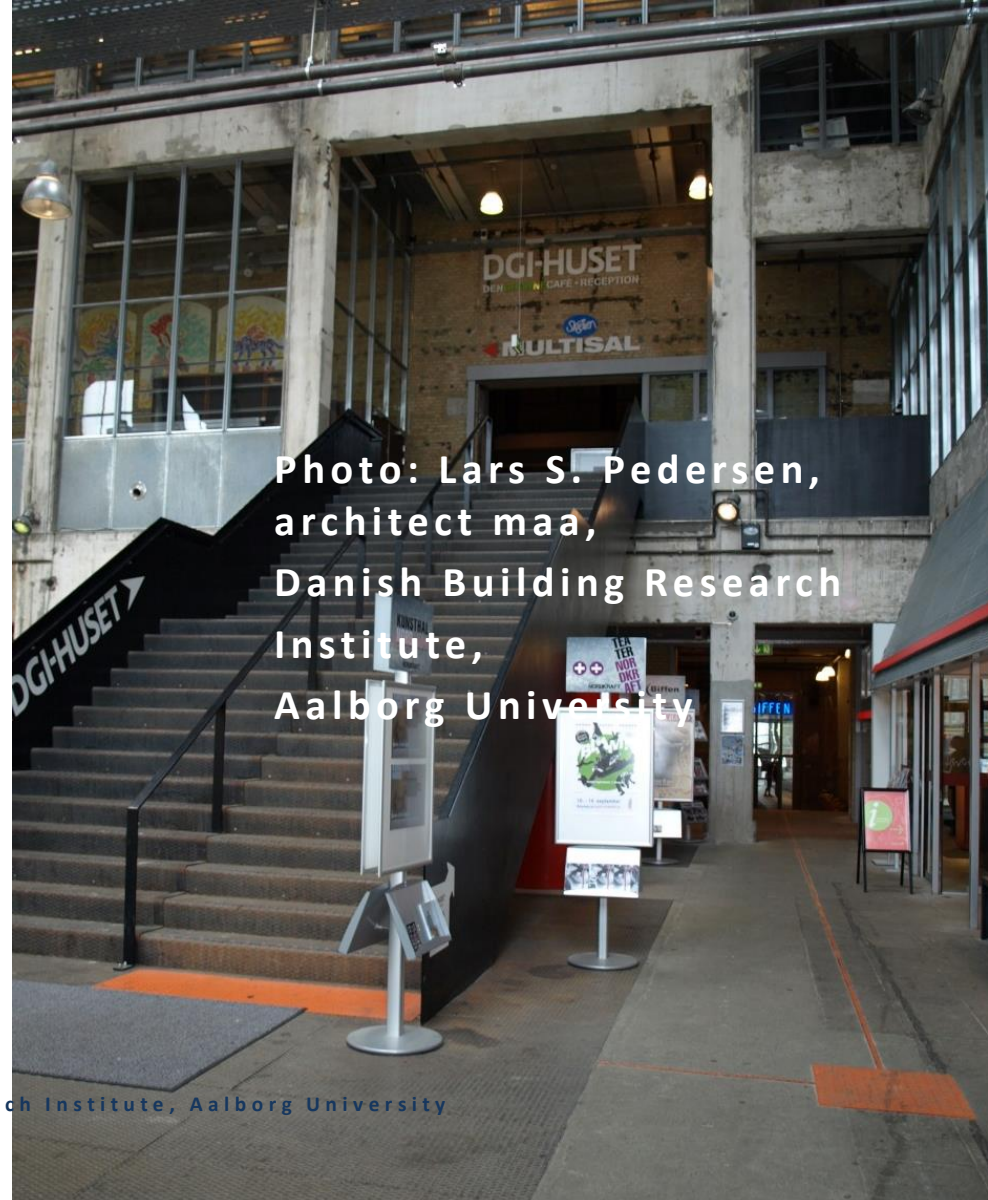- Source material; architectural drawings, minutes, emails

Our expectation

Hypothesis:

the different solutions of accessibility would be depending on factors as:

- construction of the building
- cultural heritage/architecture
- economy

Photo: Lars S. Pedersen, architect maa, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University

'Awareness'

The conclusion of the study:

Another factor played a major role

The factor:

'Awareness' – about accessibility

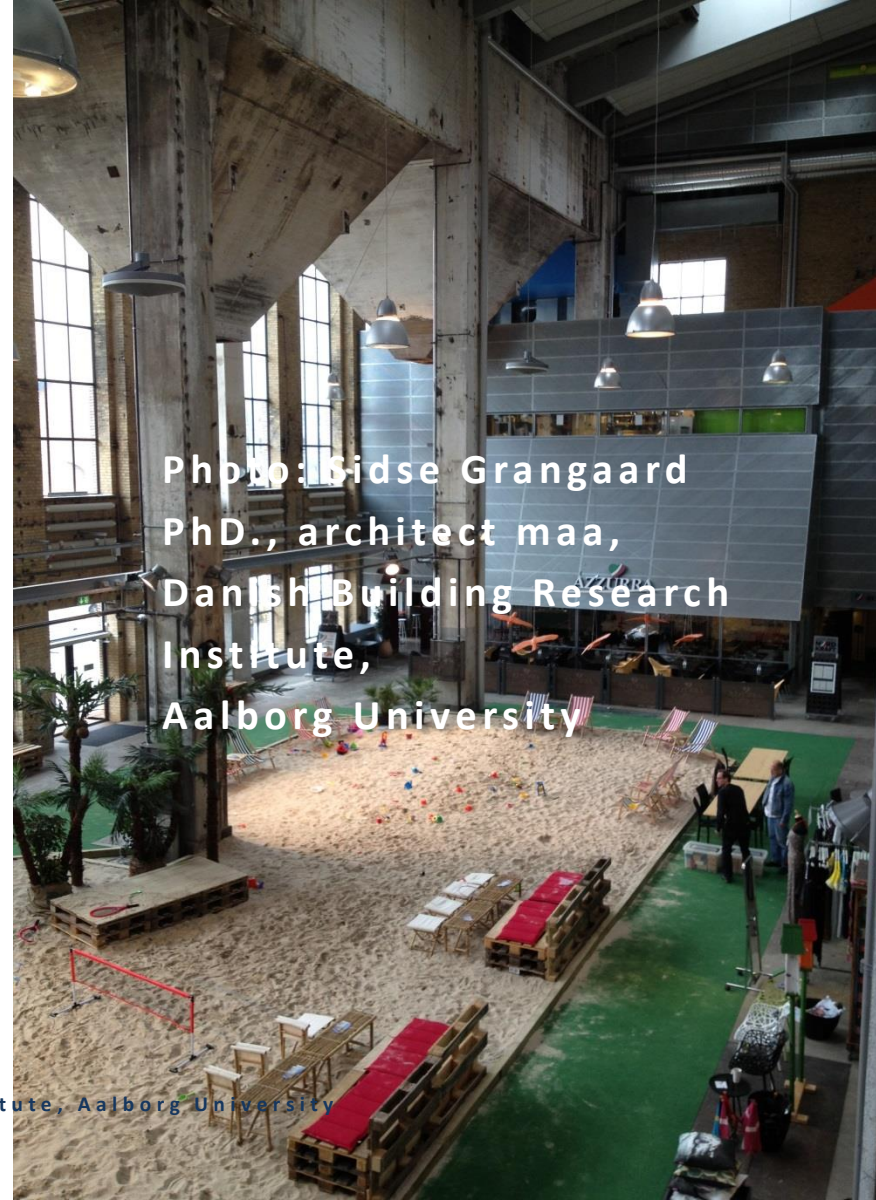What is 'awareness' about accessibility/universal design?

Photo: Sidse Grangaard
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No focus in the programme of the architecture competition

Shift in focus; 2006 - 2011

The owner = the municipality: A new disability policy 2008 + accessibility adviser

The architect, 2008, a note:

 "…solutions seeking to be as usable for as many users as possible and concurrently bringing quality and value to the project"

Ambitions about: accessibility / equality / universal design

Photo: Lars S. Pedersen, architect maa, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University

Knowledge – attention to the Building Regulation

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Knowlegde about provisions and needs

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- understanding of the users' needs

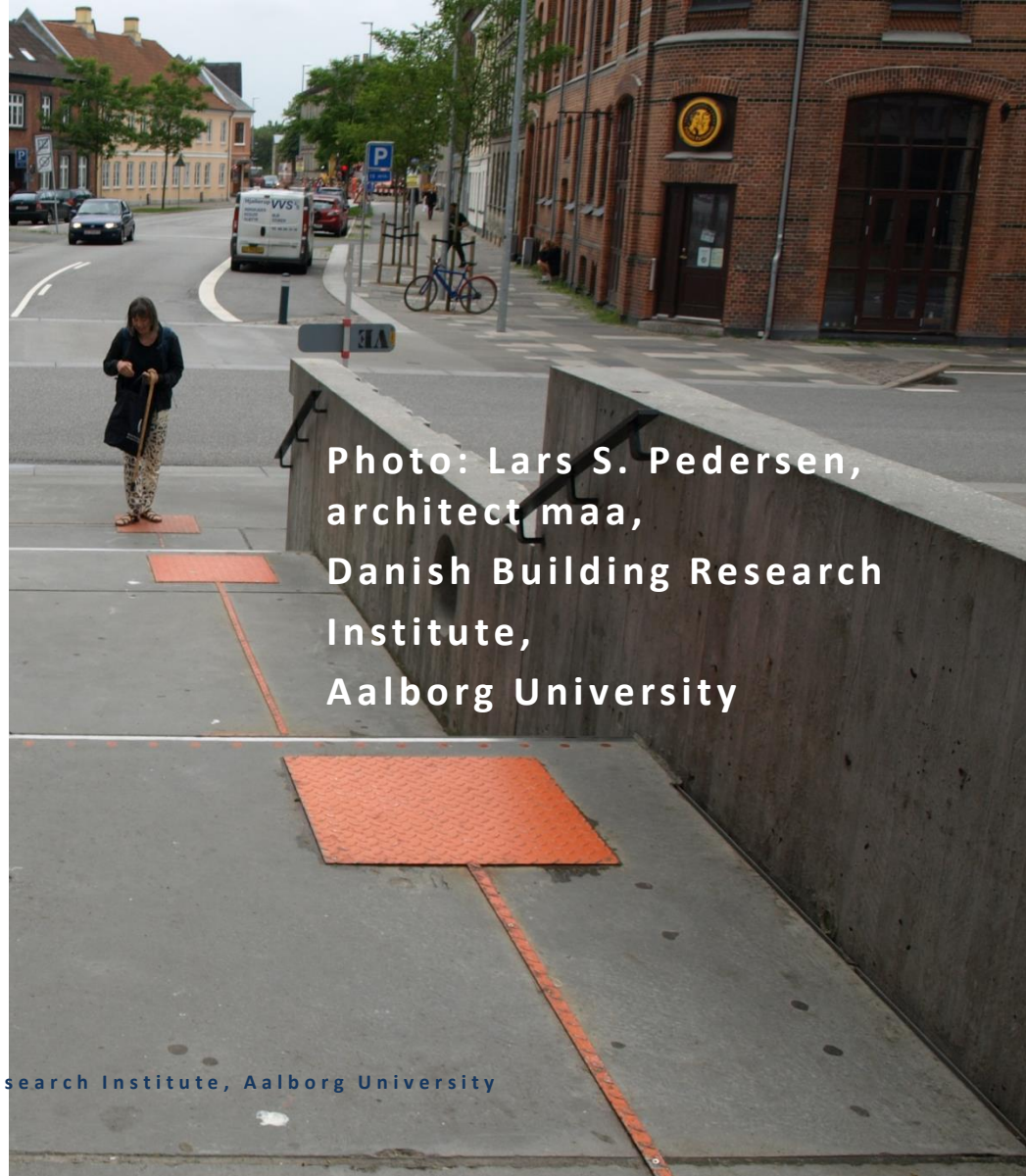Photo: Lars S. Pedersen, architect maa, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University

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Dialogue:

- level of accessibility

- solutions

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Continually follow-up during the process

Photo: Lars S. Pedersen, architect maa, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University

'Awareness' as an approach:

- **Ambitions**
- **Dialogue**
- **Knowledge – the legal requirements**
- **Knowledge about the users/needs**
- **Continually follow-up during the process**

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