



MODERN DESIGN
ARCHITECTURE & ART

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BLOODY ART

JORDAN EAGLES' BLOODWORKS

Chanel & Zaha

ART ON THE MOVE

Ron Arad

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE DESIGNER

DINING IN THE DARK | ERIC OWEN MOSS | PRAISE THE LORD: CHURCH RENOVATIONS | LEXUS IS-F

photos by Nikolaj Muller

ARCHITECTURE

VM House

first class function and fusion

Text: Dave Vickers Architect: JDS / Julien De Smedt Architects

It is undeniable that we feel certain levels of comfort in the synergy of familiar company logos; for instance, there is no accident in the perfect alliance of the V and W on Volkswagens notorious corporate stamp! A quick fly-over inspection of the plot of this prevalent housing project in Denmark would certainly reveal a similar reassurance. The first residential construction in Ørtestaden, the gleaming new residential quarter of Copenhagen, is home to the award winning VM house, a residential project designed with the resident predominantly in mind.

From the ground, the 'V' house could be mistaken for an abandoned three dimensional 'Tetris Puzzle' made up of diverse living spaces. The growing sharks tooth appearance of the rear balconies look poised to pounce in on the adjacent canal ready to devour any offending submerged junk that might risk abusing this tidy neighbourhood.

The synergistic assembly of this construction is of course not just for the air born, the V form eliminating the 'vis a vis' dilemma with fellow neighbours and unlocking extensive views to the vast open fields around. These roomy apartments drink in the spectacular panoramic views to the south and offer double height spaces to the north supplying maximum air and light to the occupant. The Logic of the diagonal slab utilised in the 'V' House is broken down in smaller portions for the aluminium clad 'M' House, reinterpreting and improving the layout of the individual buildings. The resulting short, well lit corridors intelligently link all the apartments and public spaces and give easy access to the expansive roof terrace for sun worshippers, who perhaps need a touch more UV exposure than the south facing balconies afford. As the first residential complex in the area, it was important for the architects to create an inviting environment. The apartment footprints are completely individual, and by not dictating the layout, the architects kindly allow the occupants to put their own design stamp on the living space they themselves have to move around in. This compassion extends to providing occupants with enviable Attic style spaces, the light filled uncluttered ambience perhaps gently steering them on to the correct design path. Small but essential design features round off the individuality of the complex, wood floored open walkways, open island kitchens and helical stairways - even the oversized door numbers point to a well thought out graphical process. Finally a large ground-floor mural of Hephaestus, the developer, is permanently glazed to the lobby entrance wall in a mosaic of bathroom tiles. Perhaps here he keeps watch over the mood of the residents and makes sure all stays just so in this bold, razor-sharp monument to high rise communal living!



photo by Johan Fornell



photo by Nikolaj Muller



photo by Jasper Carlborg



photo by Tobias Tejbyerg