

The integrated kindergarten 'Dragen' sets new standards, as a sustainable and pedagogically thought-through design. All components are 'Nordic Swan' eco-labelled. The construction is a certified passive-house, using a minimum of energy. And the children's needs and well-being has been the main driver in the design.



The fundamental architectural concept is a simple and clear geometric form on two levels, with the children's areas located in the best-lit southern end. The two levels are linked by staircases and ramps which are designed to stimulate and challenge the children's sensory and motor skills.

"There is far more space available than in traditional kindergartens, and there is a pedagogical

idea to the interior design. The entire architecture is supporting the ambitions Odense Municipality has for the children's development - namely that they enjoy attractive and challenging surroundings for learning and growing," says Odense's councilwoman for Children & Young People's Services, Jane Jegind.



As an example, the Children's House Dragen has small niches distributed throughout, where children can play, read or just withdraw. The total area is 414 m² of play space for the 88 children (44 in the kindergarten and 44 in the crèche), which is far more than the minimum standards of 268 m². This will reduce the risk for spreading of illness, and generally make room for more activities.

In addition, there are purpose-built spaces, giving the children special opportunities: There is a small theatre, atelier, motor skills room and pedagogical kitchens indoors and out. Another feature are small 'loopholes' in the walls, allowing kids to play across the room divisions.





Printed on 12/02/2009 00:00 - Last Updated 17/11/2010 16:16
English - 12/02/2009 00:00 - Last Updated 17/11/2010 16:16