



## CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation  
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

March 2006

### New CIB Members

### Introducing New Full Member

## BYGGERIETS/INNOVATION

BUILDING LAB DK

In January 2006, the Building Lab DK joined CIB as a Full Member.  
Below follows a description of their work and skills

#### **Building Lab DK help others innovate.**

Building Lab DK is an initiative of development, where new ideas for construction projects, materials, and co-operation are gathered, developed, and implemented.

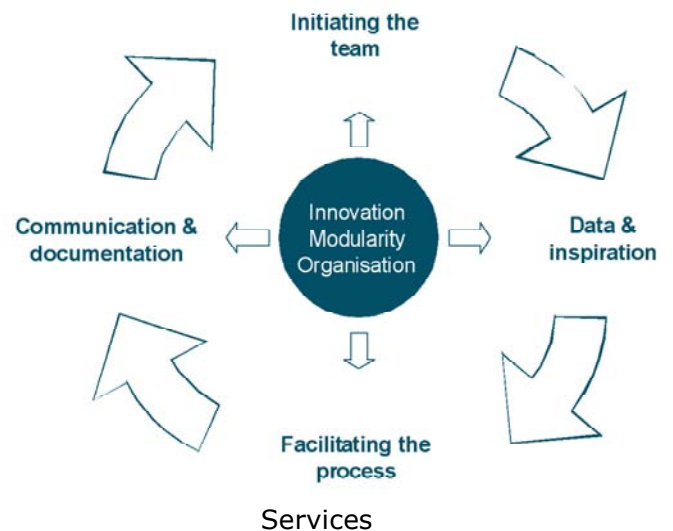
Building Lab helps cutting-edge construction firms innovate by assisting them through firm driven consortiums with both facilitation of the innovation journey and financial support.

Professional support is provided by our five-person innovation unit specialised in facilitating all phases of the journey from initial idea to final commercial solution.

Financial support is based on a fifty-fifty principle; the participating firms will pay a minimum of 50% of the total innovation costs (excluding professional support which is provided by the innovation unit free of charge).

Building Lab DK collaborates with Danish and International firms and knowledge partners that have the capabilities and drive to influence a fundamental reorganisation of the construction trade.

As innovation is needed in many different parts of the value chain in order to be successful, we always work with consortiums that span a range of professions and roles in construction.

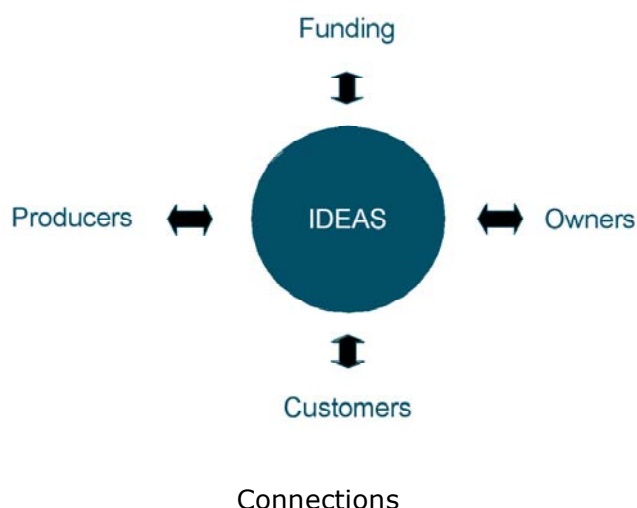


**Building Lab supports, in particular, innovation related to mass-customisation and cross-sectional ways of working. We believe that a profound change is needed in the way the construction trade and its companies are organised**

Building Lab supports projects with the following characteristics:

- Focus on mass-customisation, shifting from the present trade-based organisation structure to larger systems of building design, manufacturing and maintenance by specialised cross-professional firms.
- Willingness to participate in long-term strategic innovation-consortiums that allow coordinated efforts along the value-chain.

- Commercial focus - though projects may be too inventive to expect short-term commercial success, they should be potentially profitable in the long-term. We do not support research or general information / awareness initiatives.
- Openness towards, in collaboration with Building Lab DK, reconsidering the fundamental innovation idea and possible consortium partners to create the optimal platform for the project.



### Selected projects:

#### A) *The user-configured balcony.*

A project making it possible for the customer to select different balcony solutions, which are competitive as to price, quality, function, and design. A key element is the development of an IT-based configuration system where the customer can view and select different alternatives.

The project is expected to be implemented by the middle of 2007.

#### B) *The Integrated Building Envelope*

The scope is to design a novel façade system, utilizing new materials, with marked performance advantages, industrialized manufacturing, facilitation of mass customization and a high degree of integration of standard or bespoke subsystems providing added value.

The system will meet the challenge set by the tightening energy regulations in Denmark and other countries.

The pre-project is expected to be completed by March 2006.

#### C) *Installations*

Installations are an increasing cost in connection with new construction – in modern office buildings they make up nearly half the costs. The concept of the project is to develop a modular installation solution, which makes design, planning and production more

cost-efficient and makes the building more flexible throughout its life.

The pre-project is expected to be completed by April 2006.

#### D) *The stables*

The structural development in agriculture is leading to an increase in the demand for large farms in Denmark and Eastern Europe, and at the same time the construction process needs to be easy to carry through for the farmer. The objective of the project is to develop a modular construction and equipment system for production and installation of stables.

The pre-project is expected to be completed by April 2006.

**Building Lab DK is initiated by a major foundation for the built environment, Realdania, as a part of its strategy for improving "The Future of Construction".**

Building Lab DK was launched in April 2005. The total budget until the end of 2008 is 11 million Euros. 7 million Euros are provided by the Foundation Realdania and 4 million Euros by private companies.

The scope of Building lab DK is to initiate, inspire and facilitate the work of innovation consortiums. Mikkel A. Thomassen, cand. scient. soc., PhD., is the manager of Building Lab DK.

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*From left to right: Mikkel Thomassen, Bjarne Vind, Natalie Mossin, CIB's Designated Contact at Building Lab DK and Kjeld Schrøder*