2017-12-21

# PRESS RELEASE

**How can architecture contribute to democracy?**

*Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair, February 6-10, will present the exhibition, PANORAMA – aiming for democratic architecture. The exhibition highlights how architecture can contribute to democracy, and it hopes to initiate a discussion on this topic.*

In Sweden, architects and urban planners are trying to work with how architecture can contribute to democracy in many different ways. Interesting processes arise from our regulations, and this can lead to a joint vision and a final result that benefits everyone involved. There are a lot of parameters to consider when building a neighborhood: children, the environment, infrastructure, etc.

“Our profession is very socially involved,” says Julia Hertzman, who together with Tove Wallsten from Architects Sweden is working with the exhibition. “There is considerable interest in pursuing a dialogue and collaboration with all stakeholders, and in particular the residents or students in the future schools. There is a strong focus on the big picture.”

With the help of architect-artist-designer collective, MYCKET, Architects Sweden has created an exhibition space that tries to illustrate this process using various concepts.

“We have thought about which tools we can use and realized that the Swedish language has various expressions which are typical Swedish and can be a little hard to understand: Gräsrotsrörelse (grassroots movement); Skogräns (shoe border); Regelverk (regulation); Allemansrätt (right of public access); Statsapparat (government apparatus),” says Katarina Bonnevier, who runs MYCKET together with Ullis Ohlgren, Mariana Alves Silva and Thérèse Kristiansson.

These expressions form the common thread running through the exhibition. The stand itself will offer different environments and panoramas. It will be easy to enter - a welcoming place for everyone.

The exhibition is a cooperation between Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair, Architects Sweden and MYCKET. It is based on an assignment from the Swedish Institute. In total, 34 companies and institutions will be contributing to the exhibition – from small architecture firms to Stockholm’s cultural hub, Kulturhus.

“The visitors will be met by moving pictures that illustrate different projects on the theme ‘Aiming for democratic architecture’”, explains Julia Hertzman. “It can be some kind of super-happening. The overall objective is to reach the visitors at the fair who would like to stop, take a break, reflect, discuss and think. We also want to give people food-for-thought.”

The seminar program at the fair, *Stockholm Design & Architecture Talks*, will also feature a panel discussion entitled *Aiming for democratic architecture* with Katarina Bonnevier, architect SAR/MSA, MYCKET; Louise Masreliez, architect SAR/MSA, Marge; Klas Ruin, architect SAR/MSA, Spridd; and
Peter Ullstad, architect SAR/MSA, Codesign. February 8 at 1:00 PM in Victoria Hall.

Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair will be held on February 6-10, 2018, at Stockholmsmässan.

For more information, visit [www.stockholmfurniturefair.com](http://www.stockholmfurniturefair.com/) or contact:

Cecilia Nyberg, Event Manager, +46 8 749 43 86, cecilia.nyberg@stockholmsmassan.se

Lotta Signeul, Press Officer, +46 749 43 36, lotta.signeul@stockholmsmassan.se

Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair is the world’s largest meeting place for Scandinavian furniture and lighting design. Domestic and international visitors will find the most comprehensive selection of Scandinavian furniture, office furnishings, design, textiles, lighting and other interior furnishings for both homes and public spaces. Stockholm Design Week is also running parallel to Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair. www.stockholmdesignweek.com