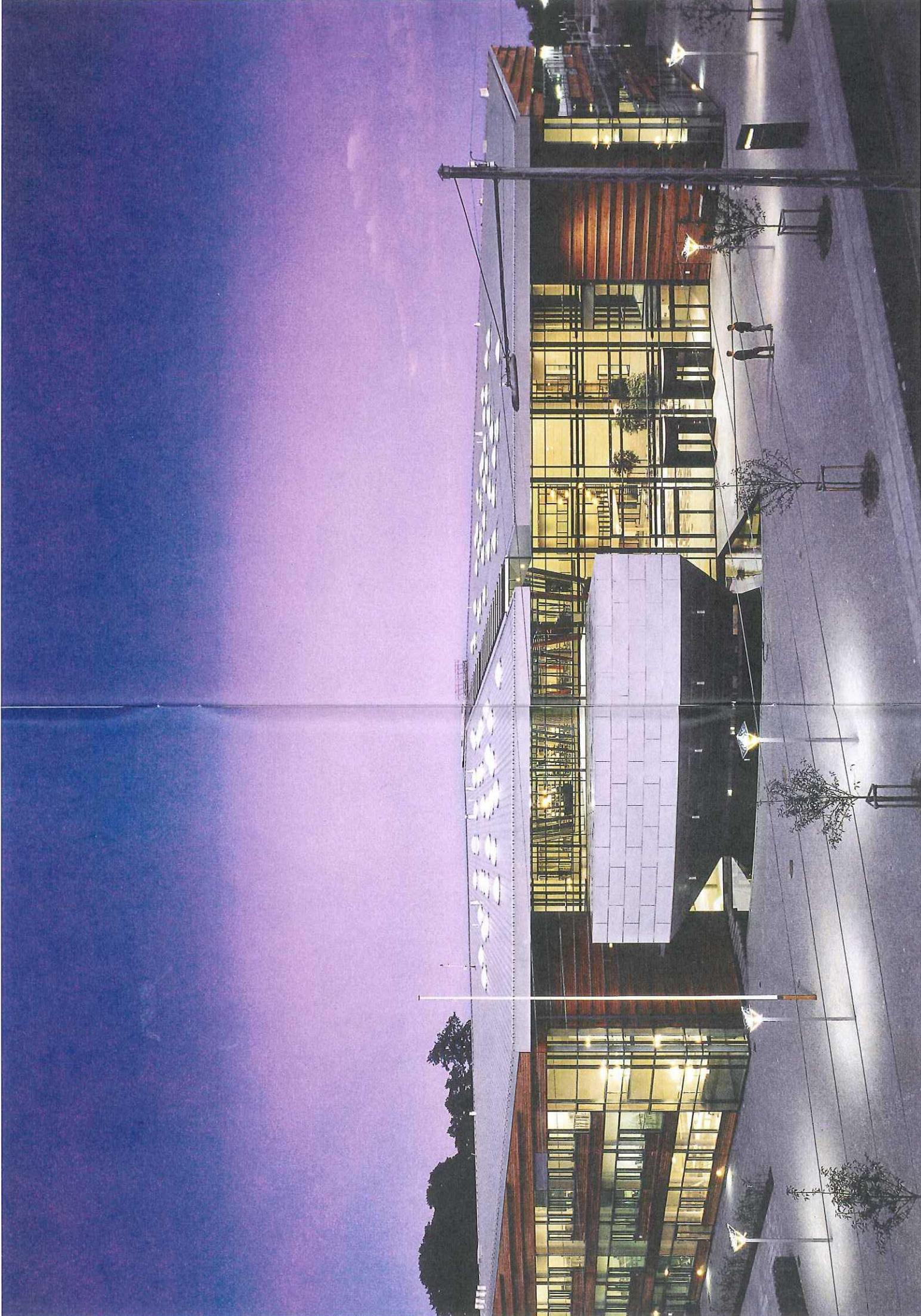




NÆRUM AMTSGYMNASIUM COUNTY ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL IN NÆRUM

Architects: Arkitekter Dall & Lindhardt A/S
Client: Københavns Amt / Copenhagen County





Copenhagen County's new academic high school in Nærum, north of Copenhagen is in many ways an untraditional and innovative school building.

The cultural administration in Copenhagen County has been very conscious of its responsibility of ensuring the future usability of the school, and already in the building programme, formulated a number of relevant questions: What should the academic high school of the future look like and how should it be furnished? How can architecture, design and educational theories be synthesized to produce a unity that can offer a framework around a learning process that is under constant development?

The building programme continues with this description of the scenario: In recent years there has been an intensive pedagogical development primarily due to the advancements in information technology, which have become a natural part of all students' everyday lives and must be included in all study subjects. The number of choices available to the student today has increased dramatically and subjects can be studied on different levels. The physical framework for the new school should reflect this development and pro-

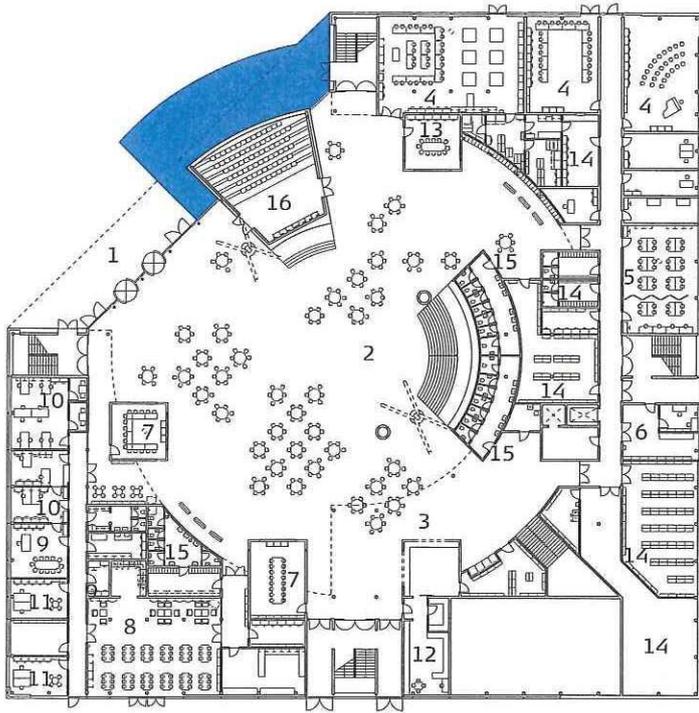
vide space and flexible possibilities for further development.

And the conclusion is: A new academic high school, which is to allow for a future that no one can describe, must be based on the range between contemporary practice and experience - and developmental ideas, intentions and visions for the future.

The design of the building should reflect a close relationship between the outer and the inner environments. The framework of educational theory is not rectangular. It is created, formed and broken, dependent on impulses, currents, knowledge, curiosity and development. It should allow that which deviates from traditional forms and thus give rise to an inspiring physical and spiritual elasticity. Space and atmosphere should create a unity that encourages concentration and offers room for both introspection and activity. It should also be a building that invites, challenges and promises, with a choice of materials characterized by warmth, and colours that encourage and make allowance for well-being.

So it is obvious that the building programme created by the technical administration, has provided an inspiring and far-sighted basis for the architects' project work.



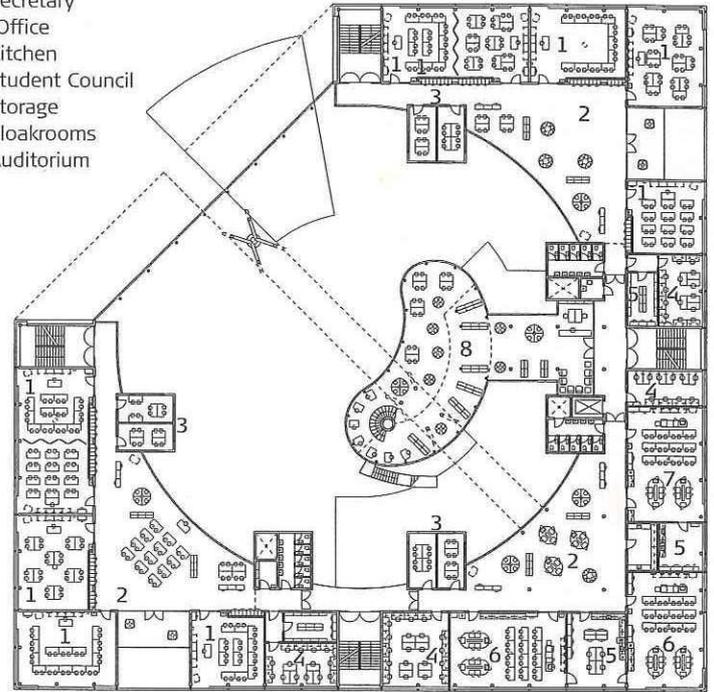


Ground floor

- < The large square, the "Agora", is the school's functional and visual centre. The artistic decorations on the floor and the stair landings are by Henning Damgård Sørensen. The glass-enclosed, amoeba shaped library stands on blue columns.
- > The main entrance.

- 1 Main entrance
- 2 Main square, "Agora"
- 3 Canteen
- 4 Classroom
- 5 Multimedia room
- 6 Caretaker
- 7 Conference room
- 8 Teachers' room
- 9 Principal
- 10 Secretary
- 11 Office
- 12 Kitchen
- 13 Student Council
- 14 Storage
- 15 Cloakrooms
- 16 Auditorium

- 1 Class room
- 2 Study centre
- 3 Group study
- 4 Teachers' study
- 5 Storage
- 6 Physics
- 7 Laboratory
- 8 Library



Second floor

Photo: Per Nagel

It was the project made by architects Dall & Lindhardt A/S that was chosen on the basis of a closed design competition. The architects' new concept for the scheme was based on a very concentrated and compact solution, which was motivated in part by the functional advantages: short connecting paths, a large degree of transparency and integration, and partly by the wishes for large recreational spaces and economical advantages in operation and maintenance.

The slope of the site was exploited so that the building rises no more than three stories above grade and the roof pitch follows the natural slope of the site. The building's square, basic form is roofed diagonally by the large shed roof, which with its cutoff, column-supported corner marks the school's main entrance.

The school is a compact building organized around a large square – inspired by the ancient Greek "Agora" which was the main square of the town. The common facilities of the school, such as the canteen, library and auditorium are all



oriented towards this main square which is well suited as a meeting and gathering place where the school's social life can take place under the large roof, perforated by skylights. The library is placed in an amoeba-shaped glass room that floats over the main square and is visually connected with it while also being acoustically separated from it. The "Agora", the main square, also serves as the school's lobby, canteen and assembly hall and can be used by the students for their after-school and evening activities and the neighbourhood can benefit from it for different kinds of arrangements.

The main square is surrounded on three sides by three-story, L-shaped buildings with classrooms and group rooms, divided in five clusters of classrooms and two clusters with rooms for special studies. The fourth side opens toward the surroundings and it is here the main entrance is located. Next to this, a corner of the auditorium penetrates the entrance facade, and with its panel-covered inverted amphitheatre form provides an interesting sculptural shape that is reflected in a ▶



• The headmaster's office reflects the awareness of the importance of art and design in the school's furnishing. The "Rex" chair in the foreground was designed by Christina Strand and is produced by FREDERICIA FURNITURE.

✓ The powerful blue columns and the thinner red ones are part of the steel structure that supports the roof and allows the large open spaces in the school. The civil engineers and contractors, KAI ANDERSEN A/S were responsible for the steel structure as well as the glass roof in the biology garden, the distinctive diagonal skylights, all the windows and facade doors including the large revolving doors at the main entrance and the panel siding on the auditorium.



pool. On the balconies, in the corners between the three classroom wings and the large main square, are study centres where the pupils can work individually or in groups, independent of classroom teaching. The sports hall is a separate building that protrudes into the slope of the site.

The plan concept has a natural, functional division in zones ranging in activity and noise intensity from the centre toward the periphery and in addition, the concentrated plan provides short connecting routes and provides ease in orientation.

The client, Copenhagen County, stated from the beginning the following wishes for the building:

We would like a building that is magnificent, dramatic and impressive. Less might suffice, but we still wish an exceptional and innovative school scheme, which due to its placement and character, expresses its time and in its bearing reflects and clearly radiates a classic knowledge centre combined with the technological development of today and tomorrow. In short: we want to make the impossible possible!

The new school lives beautifully up to these wishes and it seems that the impossible has found its form and has been made possible. ■

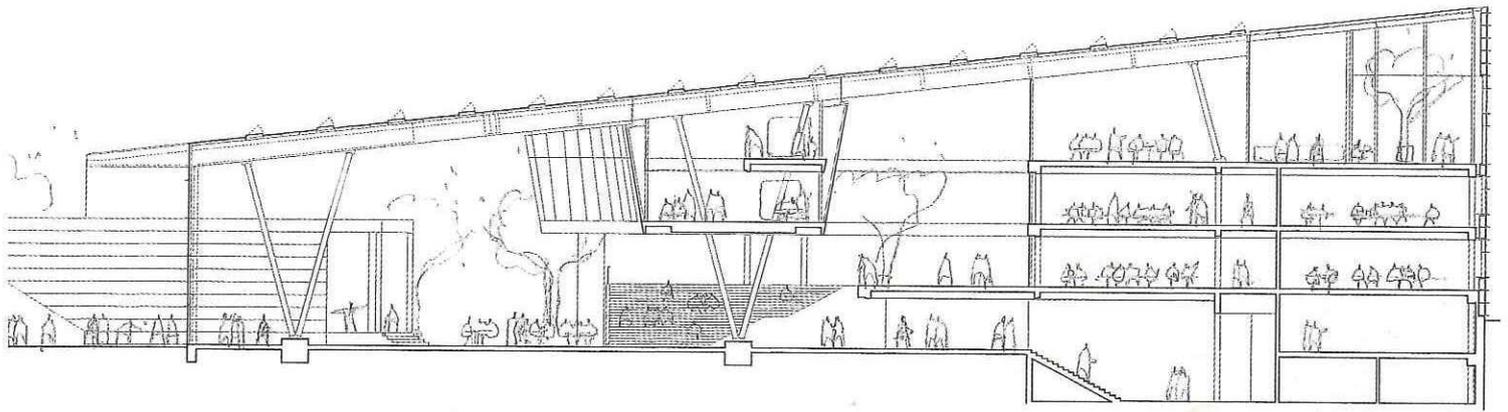


< The school's facades are very distinctive and extremely well proportioned. They consist of window modules and insulated panels sided with Finnforest Thermowood from MOELVEN DANMARK A/S. The pine boards are heat-treated at more than 215 degrees Celsius, which increases their resistance to mould and insect attack, while also increasing their form stability to avoid splitting and deformation as well as providing a beautiful brownish tone. No gases or chemicals are used during this treatment, which consists only of heating with steam. This is an environmentally friendly and low-maintenance preservation method that was practised during the time of the Vikings, but only recently rediscovered.

Distinctive aluminium drip edges separate the elements and increase the structural character of the facade.

v The physics class is one of the school's many inviting and well equipped special-studies rooms. The "Ice" chairs were designed by Kasper Salto and produced by FRITZ HANSEN. The seats and back of the light stacking chairs are made of a strong, comfortable plastic and the frame is of mat aluminium.





The teachers' room is a bright space, which is enhanced by the table tops and chair backs of pale birch. The chairs are produced by PAUSTIAN A/S and designed by Foersom & Hiort Lorenzen. They have steel frames and leather upholstered seats.

- Despite the large glass areas on the facade, the brown pine siding of Finnforest Thermowood imbues the building with a warm and "soft" character.

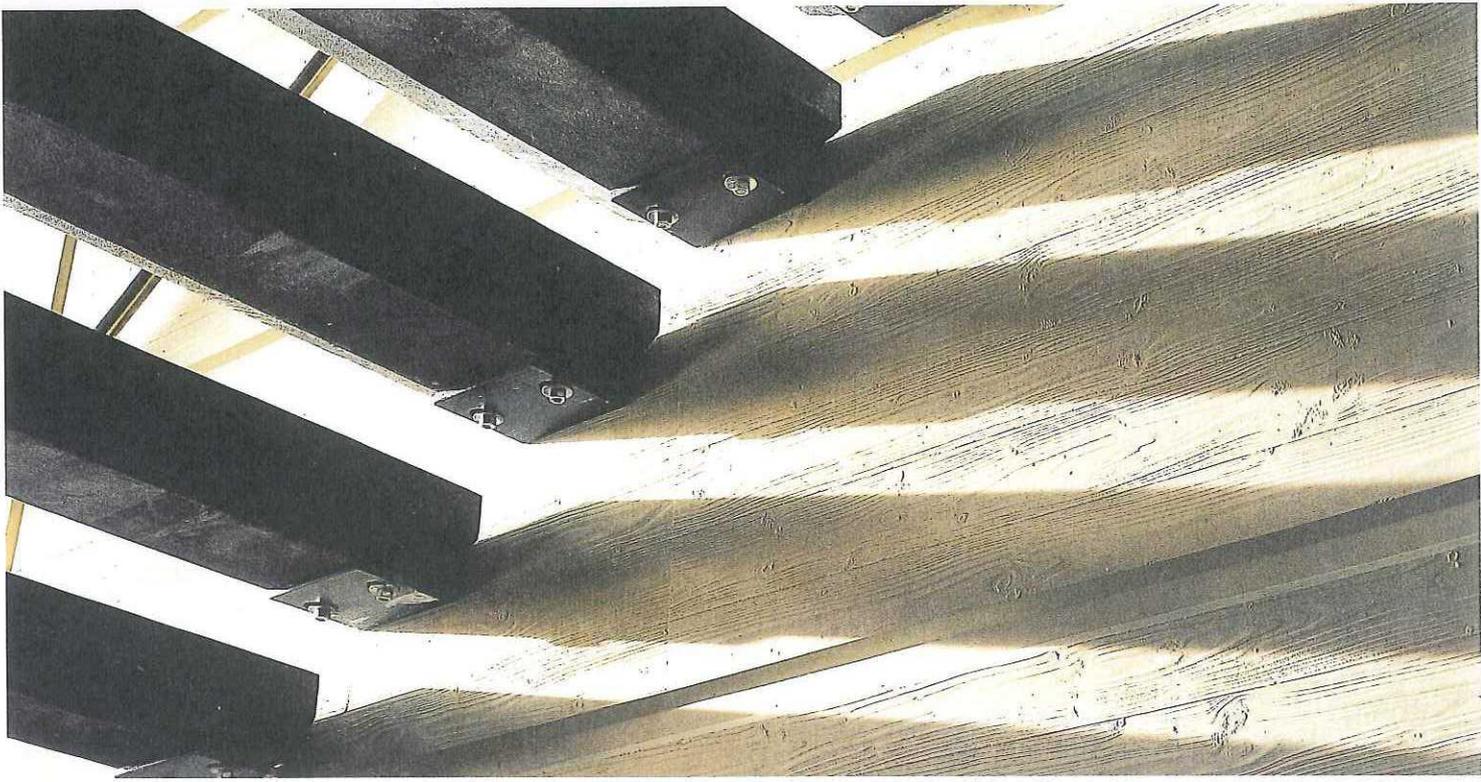
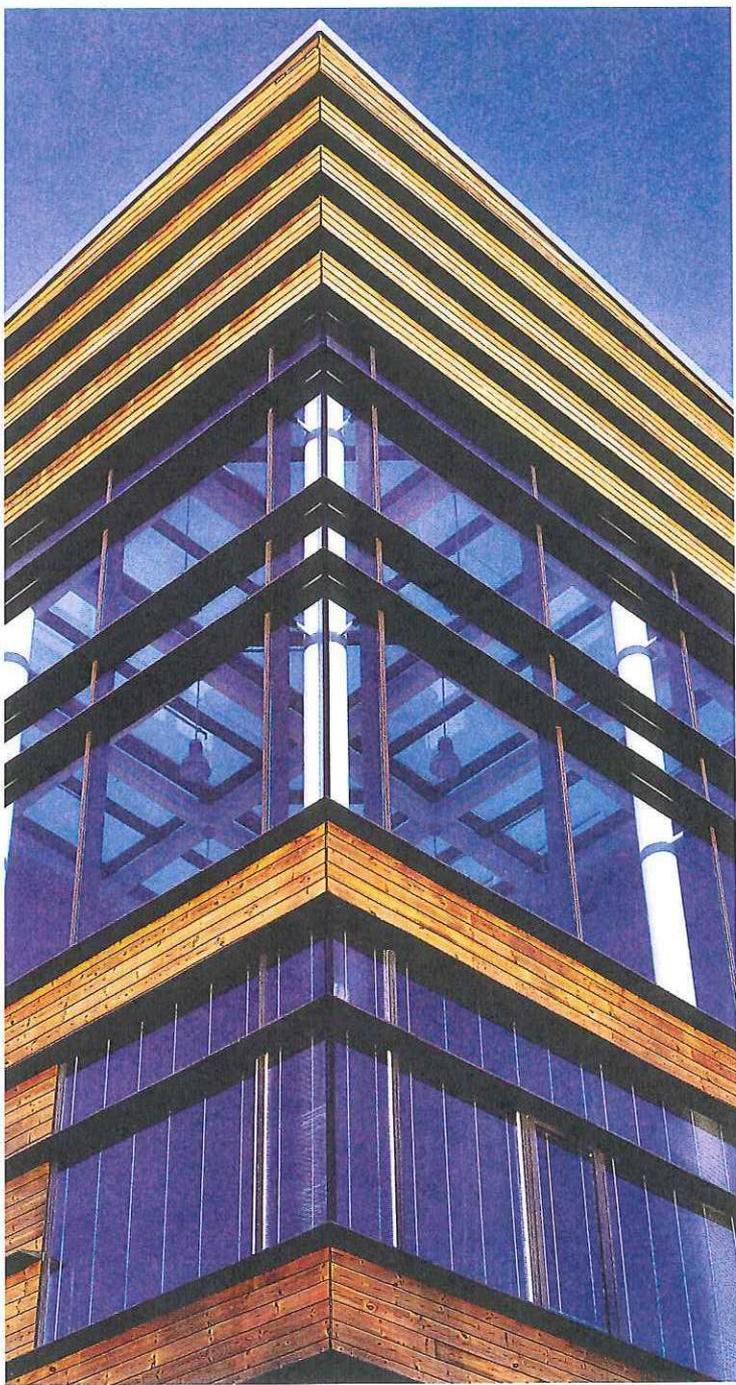
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The library, or "knowledge centre," offers the opportunity for calm concentration or individual study.

- The study centres are situated in the transitional zones between the classroom wings and the main square, from where they receive daylight. The curved tables are "Portable®" from STOLEHUSET A/S.





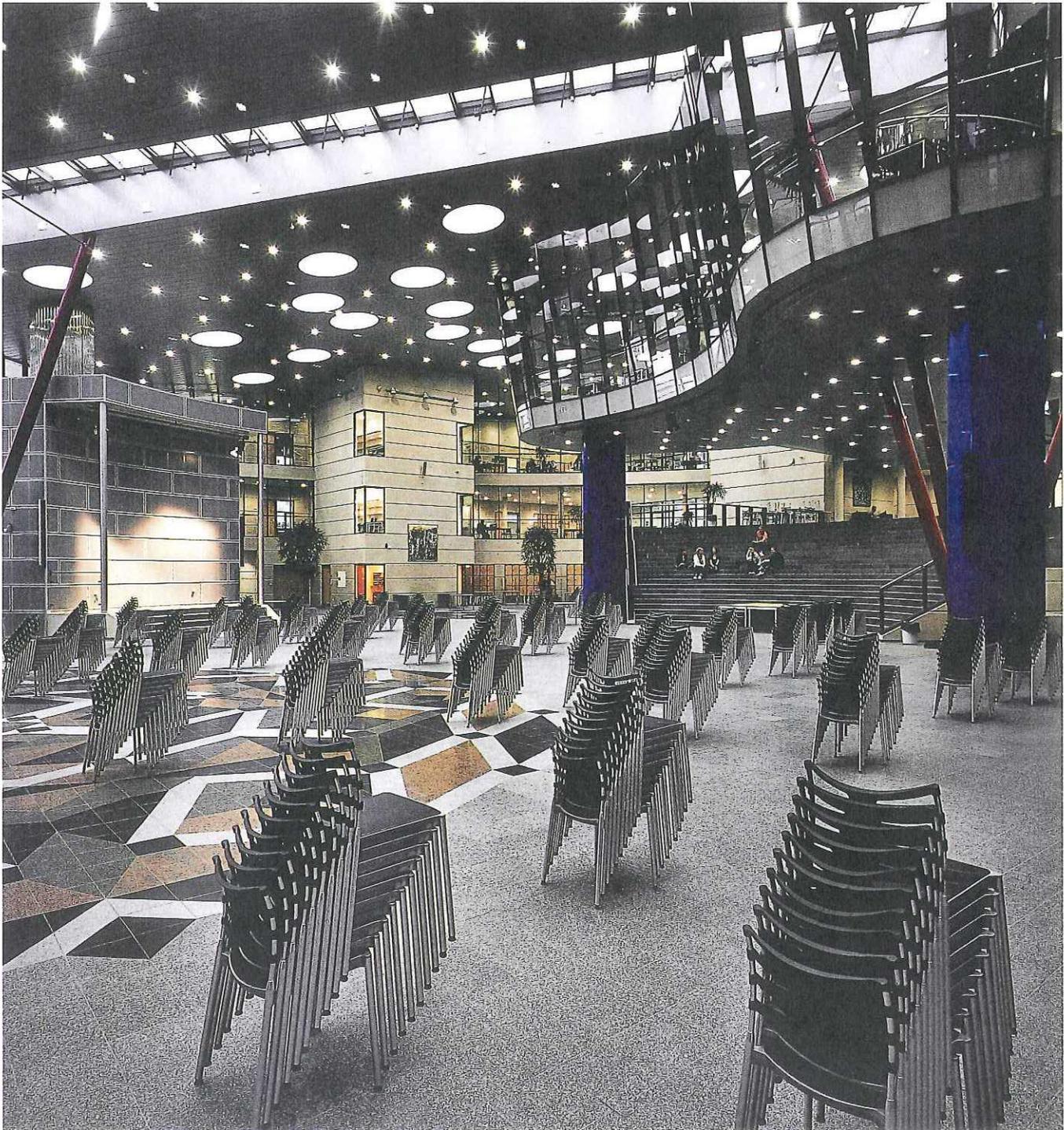


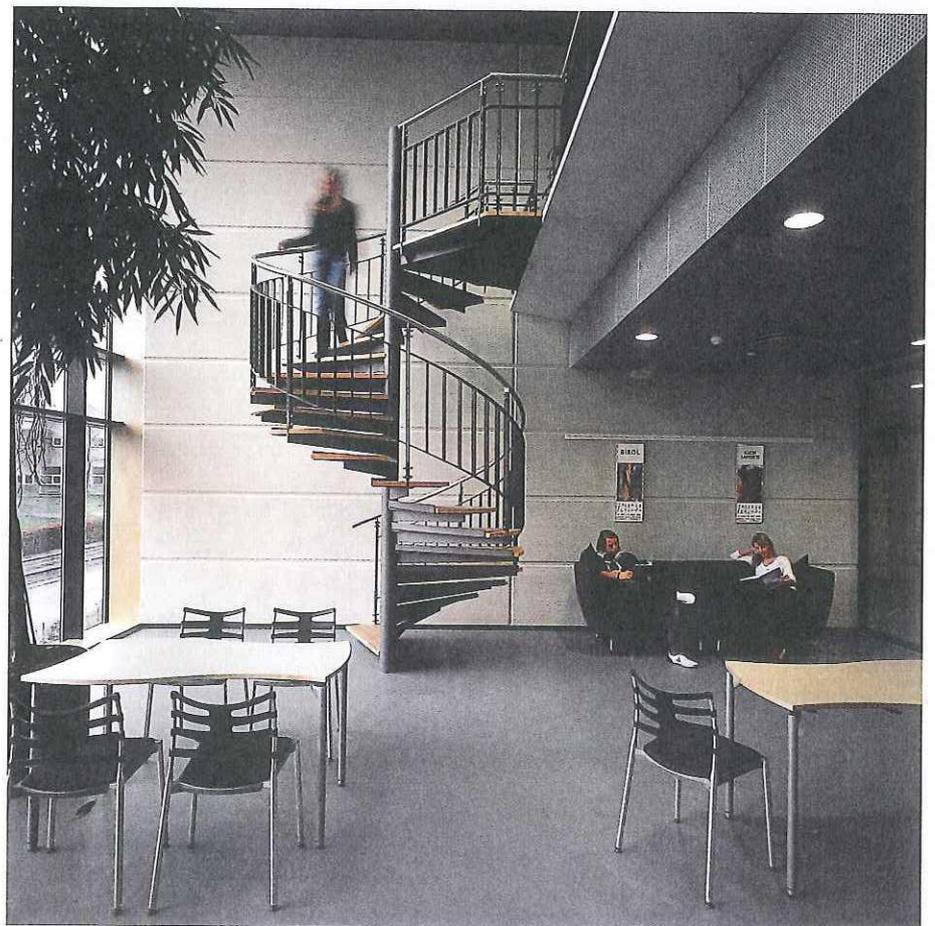
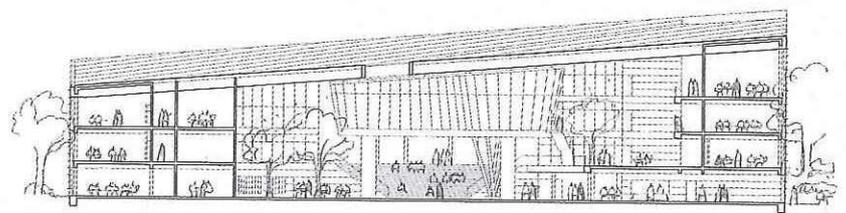
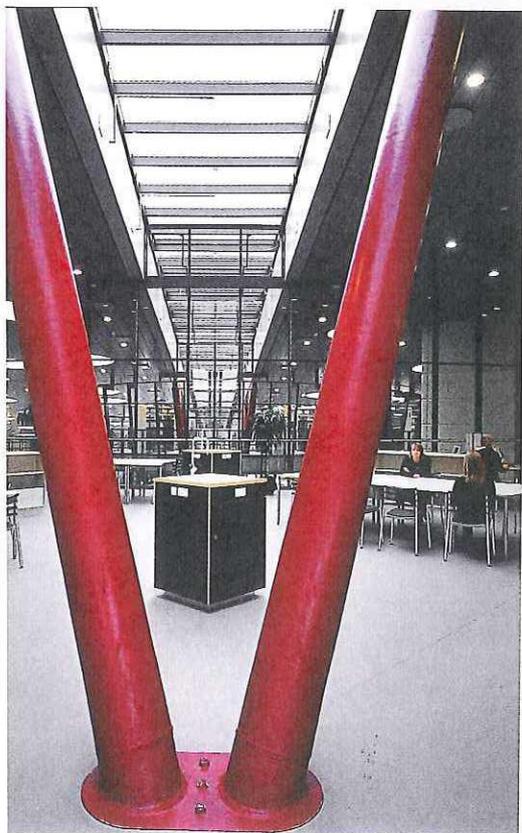
- > Architects Dall & Linhardtson mastered the building's many details with great talent. The interior walls are of a delicate, tinted concrete with horizontal grooves and a fine surface texture from the timber shuttering.
- < The design of the outdoor lighting fixtures reflects the building's plan, with the clipped corners and skylight openings.

Opposite page, middle:

The rest rooms also offer a fine design experience, with their beautiful Arne Jacobsen VOLA fixtures and the round wash basins recessed in the circular stone counter.

- v The main square with the large amphitheatre stairway is prepared for a large event with Kasper Salto's "Ice" chairs from FRITZ HANSEN stacked as sculptural elements.





\ The powerful red and blue columns have a sculptural effect and the exciting steel structure contributes to making the school an unusually interesting building and both this, and the large diagonal skylight were calculated, produced and mounted by KAI ANDERSEN A/S.

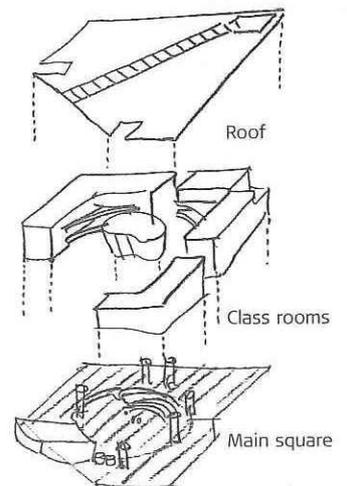


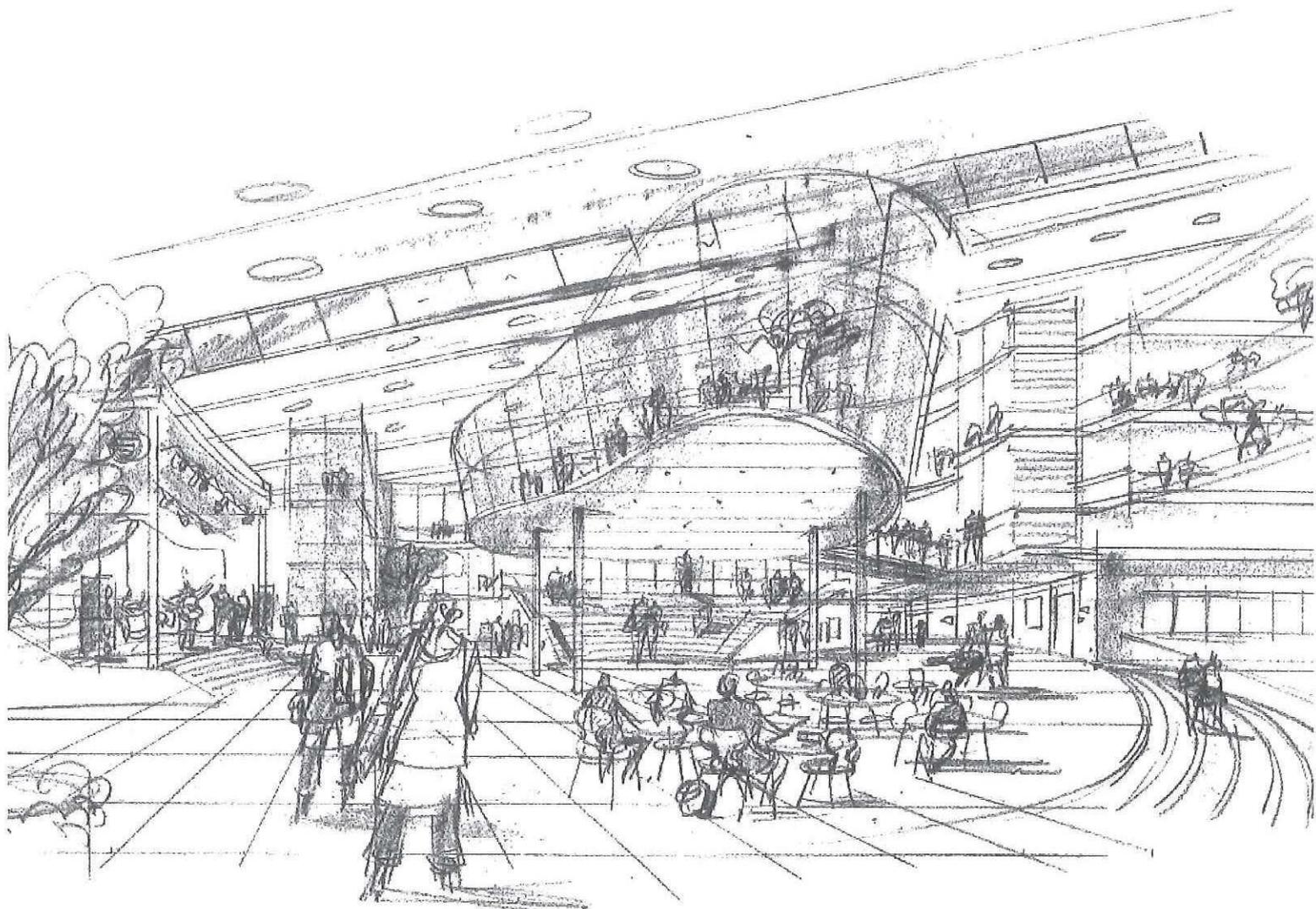
Tables in the classrooms offer a flexible organization that can be readily changed, and their curved form allows them to be fitted together without hardware. They were specially developed as school furniture and have many qualities such as concealed wheels and chair hangers, and the ability to be used from all sides. The "Portable®" table has a strong aluminium frame and table tops are of birch laminate. They were designed by Jørgensen & Wiberg and are produced by STOLEHUSET A/S.



▲ In the corridors outside the classrooms there are lockers for each student.

◀ The main square serves as the student canteen and they use the large stairway for seating and gatherings during their study breaks.





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