



The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts
Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation

Applications are invited for one PhD fellowship under the theme of Furniture Design at KADK, the School of Architecture's Institute 4

A PhD fellowship is hereby advertised at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation (KADK), Institute 4, within the subject area of Furniture Design with the project title: **'New materials, manufacturing technologies and sustainability in Danish furniture design'**.

A significant part of future design knowledge and the possibilities of creating innovative designs will revolve around possessing the most recent knowledge about materials and manufacturing possibilities. Furthermore, a considerable part of the competitive and innovative force in future furniture production will depend on the ability to be at the forefront in terms of using the right, new materials. It is therefore essential that new materials be developed, tested and implemented in Danish industry, and we lack an in-depth design-driven study of new materials' possibilities. In a typical Danish furniture enterprise, there is no systematic examination of new materials; unlike other specialised branches of the industry, the furniture industry as a whole is not capable of heading materials development on its own. It is too scattered for this, both in terms of the use of materials and in terms of manufactured quantities. Development in innovative usage of materials will therefore have to take place as technology transfer.

On the other hand, furniture permits the use of a great variety of materials, which is precisely why furniture production is a melting pot for testing of such materials, as can also be seen internationally.

The project may, for instance, focus on two material parameters:

- (1) Sustainability – understood as a reduction of CO₂ emissions, disposal and reutilisation, lifecycle analysis etc.
- (2) Human and constructive factors – understood as improvement of conditions such as permeability (breathability), indoor climate, weight/strength relation, plasticity and the materials' physical effects.

It is suggested that the project be structured and completed in two phases:

The first phase involves investigation, selection, grouping and cataloguing of new materials and manufacturing technologies' possibilities. The second phase consists of a series of tests and/or proposals within selected material groups and application areas.

Ideally, the project will be conducted in collaboration with furniture manufacturers and other knowledge institutions. Material experiments, e.g. using waste from agricultural production, can also be investigated and included.

Thus, the project can also contribute to the exposure of new Danish materials and manufacturing technologies in an international design-related context.

The plan is that the project will be the beginning of the establishment of a field that can become a speciality or a special field within design research; a field that will create a connection that has so far been missing between materials research and its practical usage within the subject area. In order to be able to conduct research in this gap, it is necessary to unite knowledge about materials, design-related expertise and time to experiment.

About PhD studies and the PhD degree at KADK

At KADK, we work with both artistic research and scientific research within design, architecture and conservation in accordance with the 'Ministerial Order on the Act on Higher Artistic Educational Institutions' (of 18 December 2012, Section 2). The PhD degree is awarded – pursuant to the PhD Order (of 14 January 2008, Section 11) – to a person who has written a dissertation that “*documents the writer's ability to apply the profession's scientific methods and to conduct research corresponding to the international standards for PhD degrees within the subject field*”. In other words, the PhD degree programme is to enable the student to demonstrate that he/she “*masters the scientific methods and tools and masters other skills related to research and development tasks within the subject area*” (quote from “The PhD level, the skills dimension, New Danish qualification framework for higher education programmes’ (May 2007)). In connection with the PhD programme, it is possible to conduct research ‘in, through and by design’ and to work with artistic research. However, in relation to the PhD degree, it is an indispensable criterion that the dissertation, which will be at the centre of the assessment – and which motivates, documents and analyses the research – complies with the PhD Order's and the qualification framework's requirements about scholarly character.

Application requirements

No application form is used. Applicants must submit a written application in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish or English.

The application must be forwarded electronically – preferably as one combined PDF file – and must include:

- A project description accounting for the most important problem areas, theoretical orientation, methodology, relation to existing research and choice of materials, and a reflection on the project's perspectives as well as a preliminary study plan (max. five standard pages)
- A CV
- Documentation of educational background, other qualifications and previous work. If the applicant has non-Danish qualifications, these will have to be approved by the Danish Agency for International Education prior to appointment. Practical information is available at: http://fivu.dk/en/education-and-institutions/recognition-and-transparency/recognition-guide?set_language=en&cl=en
- A list of any publications
- A portfolio, if possible

Qualifications

Applicants who have been awarded a Master's degree in architecture or design can be awarded a three-year PhD fellowship. The applicant's education must be academically relevant in relation to the project description. Applicants will preferably have work experience. Applicants must be able to document good dissemination and communication skills.

Applications must be forwarded to Ditte Dahl, ditte.dahl@kadk.dk, Research Administration, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation **by 2 September 2013 at 12:00 noon.**

Terms of employment

Enrolment will take place with a view to acquiring the PhD degree and entails salaried employment for three years in accordance with the agreement made between the Danish Ministry of Finance and The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations, AC, entry on PhD fellowships (Appendix 5). The salary consists of a seniority-based basic salary and a non-pensionable supplement, which currently amounts to DKK 1,257.83 per month.

The PhD degree programme is structured in accordance with the stipulations in Ministerial Order no. 114 of 8 March 2002 from the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation about the PhD programme and the PhD degree. The Order may be found here (in Danish only):

<http://www.karch.dk/dk/Materiale/Forskningsforvaltningen/Pdf/Phd-filer/Phd-bekendtg%C3%B8relsen> or it can be obtained from KADK's Research Administration.

For further information, please contact Ditte Dahl by email at ditte.dahl@kadk.dk or by tel. +45 41 70 15 32.

Anyone who satisfies the requirement about an academic education at Master's level, or who can document similar qualifications, is invited to apply for the fellowship, regardless of their age, gender, race, religion or ethnicity.

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation is an institution of higher education under the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education. It is the school's mission to create the basis for high quality in people's physical surroundings through its educational programmes and research into architecture, design and conservation.