

## **Drawing Inspiration from Nordic Excellence in Sustainable Transformation with Students**

Associate Professor Liutauras Nekrošius, along with seven master's students from VILNIUS TECH Faculty of Architecture, visited Lund University. This semester, the students are working on a studio project focused on adapting architectural heritage and revitalizing urban areas. Nekrošius teaches them a course on preserving immovable cultural heritage. The program during this visit was designed to cover these topics and expand the participants' professional and international academic experience. For Nekrošius, it was an opportunity not only to share knowledge with students but also to gather additional insights for teaching and to strengthen his academic network.

The group participated in the Lund University Architecture Symposium. This year's event focused on how to sustainably repurpose the existing built environment and adapt it to nowadays needs – "Revive and Destroy" (PIC.1). Alongside the symposium, an exhibition of Lund students' work was opened, showcasing renovations of existing buildings. The symposium included presentations by architects from Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sweden. Discussions were moderated by lecturers from the Lund School of Architecture.

In Lund, Nekrošius organized a field trip for students, during which he introduced the Swedish approach to contemporary architecture in an exclusive historic setting – the community forum near the medieval Cathedral (archit. Carmen Izquierdo, 2011; PIC.2). The walk also highlighted modernist landmarks – the extension of the historic city hall (Klas Anshelm, 1968; PIC.2), the Art Museum there (Klas Anshelm, 1957), and the city library (Flemming Lassen, 1970; PIC.4). An important part of the tour was walking into the new building on the historic Lund University campus – the Faculty of Medicine (Henning Larsen, 2023; PIC.5) and experiencing the conceptual landscape of the MAX IV Laboratory (FOJAB Architects & Snohetta, 2016; PIC.6). The study environment at Lund University School of Architecture was showcased by the school's head, Jesper Magnuson (PIC.7).

One day of the voyage was dedicated to exploring the conversion projects in the industrial and port areas of the nearby city of Malmö. The group had the opportunity to observe how the Bo01 quarter, which has become a leader in urban sustainability, is being utilized (urban design Klas Tham; 2001-; PIC.8), and to evaluate the impact of the futuristic and tallest residential building in Sweden, Turning Torso (Santiago Calatrava; 2005), on the surrounding spaces. It was interesting to see how citizens use the quarter's quays, what functions they serve, and how historic and new buildings coexist. It was also fascinating to observe how the infrastructure for sustainable rainwater management was integrated into the built environment. Attention was given to viewing heritage objects from different eras: the oldest pharmacy in Sweden protected for their cultural and historical significance (Lindvall & Boklund; 1897), the modernist city theater (now an opera house, Sigurd Lewerentz; 1944; PIC.9). Additionally, the trip included visits to industrial conversion projects such as the Market Hall built in 1909 (Wingårdh Arkitektkontor AB; 2016), Varvsstadens Park (2025), Neptuni School (Nord Architects; 2022; PIC.10), established on the site of a former shipyard, and others.

In Copenhagen, the group had several goals: to explore the transformation of industrial areas and the architecture of community spaces. However, the most important goal was to visit Dorte Mandrup Studio. VILNIUS TECH alumna Milda Naujalytė (PIC.11), who works there, showcased the company's projects, demonstrated the work environment, discussed internship opportunities in architecture, and highlighted the unique aspects of architectural practice in Denmark. Additionally, the group visited buildings designed by Dorte Mandrup in Copenhagen: a health center (2025; PIC.12), Jemtelandsgade community center (2001), Amager Children's Cultural Center (2013), and a former mineral water factory adapted for multiple uses (2021).

The group also visited the Royal Danish Academy of Architecture in Copenhagen – the student exhibition "Imagining the Future" was exhibited there (PIC.13). They then biked, walked, and used public transportation to explore new urban development areas (PIC.14), and visited the city's most important public buildings and spaces from recent decades (PIC.15).



PIC.1



PIC.2



PIC.3



PIC.4



PIC.5



PIC.6



PIC.7



PIC.8



PIC.9



PIC.10



PIC.11



PIC.12



PIC.13



PIC.14



PIC.15