

Introduction

AHO (Oslo School of Architecture) is one of three schools of architecture in Norway.

AHO is an independent university college that was founded to offer a professional degree in the field of architecture, with focus on conceptually-oriented building design with a strong basis on the arts and crafts. A second professional degree program, the Industrial Design program (incorporated with AHO in 1996) has a strong foundation in the crafts and is highly production-oriented.

AHO is currently undergoing a change process, along the same lines as other Norwegian institutions of higher education. The University reform has generated certain new requirements, and our local need to further developing the level of academic quality entails changes to the curriculum.

The two postgraduate degrees are now Master degrees. The duration of the programs, will be, respectively, ten semesters for Industrial Design and ten semesters for Architecture.

AHO has exchange agreements with about twenty Nordic universities and colleges and twenty five European educational institutions. In addition, the School collaborates with an institution in Australia and one in Singapore. Individual exchange agreements can be made with American institutions of higher education. AHO also has projects with several institutions in eastern and southern Africa, including the universities in Addis Ababa, Cape Town, Dar-es-Salaam, Kampala and Nairobi.

Academic Profile

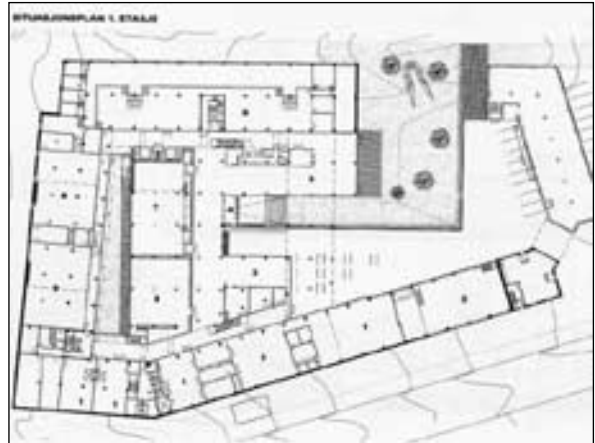
AHO currently offers teaching and research in the fields of industrial design, architecture and urbanism. The field of industrial design has been expanded to include communication design.

As an educational institution, AHO develops students' knowledge in practical, academic and artistic fields, and communicates an international and relevant level of knowledge.

AHO's expertise focuses on design. The teaching will provide a common academic basis for the subjects taught. AHO will combine specialization within the individual subjects with interdisciplinary and hybrid approaches to the teaching, research and external project work.

AHO's teaching model builds on the academy model, with studio teaching and close contact between students and the academic staff. This teaching model combines vocational studies with exploratory, experimental and critical development of professional skills.

AHO continues its commitment to academic updating by maintaining the high level of its ICT-based research and development work, among other measures.

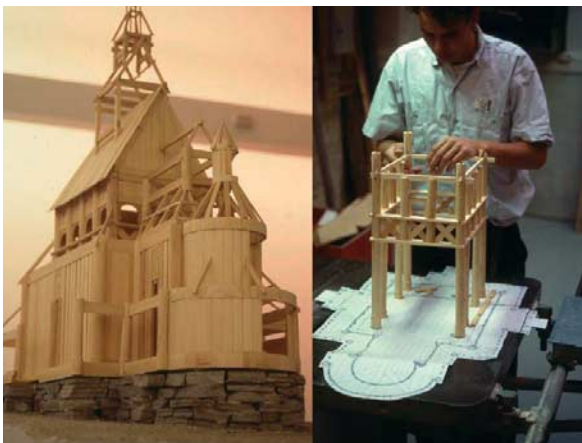


The Oslo School of Architecture

The Oslo School of Architecture has its origin in the Norwegian art and craft tradition. In its new building, a renovated industrial building from the 1930s, the Oslo School of Architecture will put emphasize on an extended use of the 1100 m² excellent workshops in teaching and in the students design processes. In architecture and technology the understanding, knowledge about the materials and the skills using them are basic topics. The use of the workshops in combination with studio work and ICT is our pedagogical challenge for the future.

Model work

Due to the fact that no knowledge in science is required when entering the School, the Institute of building technology use model work as introduction to an understanding of the relation between architectural form, materials and structural principles. Believing motivation to learn is linked to a certain freedom in approaching a topic, the students are free to choose object whether it is architecture, engineering, cultural heritage, art, furniture or an industrial design object.



In 2001 AHO got a new building that will have impact on the development of the academic profile in the future.

The Departments

AHO is divided into four academic departments. Teaching resources from each department will participate in the foundation courses. Each department offers studio courses. The Department of Architectural Design and the Department of Form, Technology and History cover several fields, providing the organizational framework for the teaching. The units have their own teams of teaching staff, whose academic expertise lies in several areas or levels of the subject. Teaching assistants and external lecturers also provide teaching resources. The teaching assistants are listed under each course.

The Institute of Building Technology

The field's primary responsibility is to offer teaching on the technological aspects of architecture and planning. At the heart of this field is the idea that the technological subjects are directly linked to architecture and architecture projects.

In the revised organisation structure and curriculum, the content of the teaching given by the Institute will be almost unchanged.

The staff are two civil engineers and two architects and part time teachers and lecturers.

The Institute of Building Technology runs design courses at the foundation level (two year) and at the Master level, where the emphasis is put on the relation between structure, materials and form. The Institute also runs intensive courses on topics like mathematics, geometry, mechanical engineering, environmental issues and the history of technology.

A special challenge for the teaching of building technology at AHO, is due to the fact that no knowledge in science is required when entering the school.



Design tasks

The Institute of building technology is running a 12 weeks compulsory basic course in technology for the second year students. In addition to lectures in technology and architecture and theoretical and practical exercises, the students are as well asked to do design work with emphasize on technological aspects. The design task, defined by the Institute of building technology, is functionally simple, but has scale that is challenging. The shown example is from the railway line between Oslo and Bergen, where the design task was to design snow screens and tunnels to protect the trains in a very rough climate.

1:1 model work

The Institute of building technology do also run advanced courses where the intention of the design tasks are meant to balance architecture and engineering, design skills and technological knowledge. Most of these courses are starting with small exercises, where the students are asked to do a design of a structure, space frame, a small bridge or similar topics. After evaluation one or two of the design proposals are then chosen to be built in scale 1:1. This give the students experience about the use of materials, site work, processes and design. The examples show concrete structures and a small bridge spanning 5 meters.

