

# New building for the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning

## Company information from Snøhetta AS

### Form of Doing Business & Ownership

Snøhetta is a corporation originating in Norway (Aksjeselskap). There are currently two majority owners, four Partners and a Board of Directors. For overseas projects it is common for Snøhetta to form Joint Venture or Consortium frameworks. Snøhetta AS was founded in 1989 in Norway and is an integrated Landscape, Interior and Architectural practice. Snøhetta

### Services Provided & Percentage of Business By Service

Architecture and Planning:	70%
Landscape Architecture :	15%
Interior Design:	15%

### Office Composition

#### Oslo Office

63 architects  
14 landscape architects  
12 interior designers  
2 consultants  
13 administrative staff  
*103 persons in total*

#### New York Office

17 persons

#### All offices

**120 persons in total**

### Legal Organisation:

Limited corporation owned by shareholders in Norway  
organization nr. : 956169542 MVA  
Address Oslo office:  
Skur 39, Vippetangen  
N-0150  
NORWAY  
www.snohetta.com

### Principal Directors

Craig Dykers, Senior Partner, Architect. MNAL, AiA  
Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, Professor, Senior Partner, Architect. MNAL, AiA

### Partners

Jenny B. Osuldsen, Director, Senior Landscape Architect MNLA  
Ole Gustavsen, Managing Director, Senior Architect MNAL  
Robert Greenwood, Director, Senior Architect MNAL  
Tarald Lundevall, Director Senior Architect, Contract Manager MNAL

### Managing Director

Ole Gustavsen

### Deputy Managing Director

Line Bull

### Client Structures

international organisations  
national and local governments  
public boards and institutions  
commercial groups  
private clients  
Snøhetta works together with the client to tailor make a suitable organisation for each project.



Oslo Operahouse, Norway



Oslo Operahouse, Norway



Alexandrina Library, , Egypt



High Rise in Amsterdam - model photo

## Selected honors, awards, & publications

### Awards : Design

#### First Prize

2008  
King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia  
2007  
Serpentine Gallery Pavillion, London  
2006  
Ras Al-Khaimah Gateway Project, UAE  
2005  
National Academy of the Arts, Bergen  
2004  
WTC Museum; Ground Zero, NYC  
Umea Waterfront Dev; Umea, Sweden  
2002  
Tjuvholmen Development; Oslo  
Sollentuna Mixed Use, Sweden  
2001  
JMW Turner Gallery; Margate, UK  
2000  
Cultural House; Sandvika, Norway  
National Opera; Oslo, Norway  
Knowledge Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
1999  
Brain Research Inst; Marseilles, France  
1997  
Town Hall; Hamar, Norway  
1996  
Private Villa; Ihleholmen, Oslo,  
Norwegian Embassy; Berlin, Germany  
UWC Library; Fjaler, Norway  
Building College; Eidsvoll, Norway  
1995  
Military building; Sessvollmoen, Norway  
Public School; Narvik, Norway  
1992  
Disen Bridge; Hamar, Norway  
1991  
Urban Redevelopment; Asker, Norway  
1990  
Kulltangen Bridge; Porsgrunn, Norway  
Art Museum; Lillehammer, Norway

1989  
Alexandria Library; Alexandria, Egypt  
1987  
City Center; Bergen, Norway

#### Second Prize

2003  
Akershus Stranda; Oslo, Norway  
2001  
Akron Art Museum; Ohio, USA  
1999  
National Library; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
1996  
Kansai-kan Diet Library; Osaka, Japan  
1994  
Tøyen Park; Oslo, Norway  
1988  
Norcem Center; Slemmestad, Norway  
1987  
Aqua Center; Oslo, Norway

### Awards : Quality

#### 1998-2009

2009  
Meis van de Rohe Prize  
Oslo Operahouse

2008  
World Architecture Festival  
Category Winner: Culture  
Oslo Operahouse

State Building Tradition Award  
Oslo Operahouse

Houens Fonds Diploma  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Peer Gynt Award

2005  
Norsk Form  
Price of Honor for Architectural Work

2004  
Aga Khan Award for Architecture  
Alexandria Library

Meis van de Rohe Prize  
Sandvika Culture House  
Nominated

2003  
Outstanding Structures Award  
Int. Ass. for Bridge & Strc. Engineers  
Alexandria Library

2002  
World Architecture  
Best Building Africa/Middle East  
Alexandria Library

Scandinavian Airlines  
Designer of the Year Award  
Projects to date

American Society of Civil Engineers  
Outstanding Engineering Achievement  
Alexandria Library

IMM Carrara Stone  
International Stone Prize  
Alexandria Library

Norwegian State Road Authority  
Beautiful Roadways Prize  
Drøbak town center

2001  
NorskForm  
Design Prize  
furnishings for Alexandria Library  
Quality in Construction  
International Performance of the Year  
Alexandria Library

### Publications

#### 1989-20089

Summary  
Over the past decade Snøhetta has been regularly published in news media throughout the world. Television presentations have included: CNN, Euronews, NBC, PBS, Arte, Discovery Channel, RTL, Tele5, and NRK (Norway).

News Journals have included: New York Times, Time, Newsweek, CN Traveller, The New Yorker, and national and international newspapers.

Professional journals have included: Blueprint, Architecture, Area, Domus, Topos, Architectural Review, Techniques & Architecture, JA, Details, L'Arca, World Architecture and over 40 national architectural journals throughout the world. Many of these publications have included covers.

In 1999 Condé Nast Traveller Magazine voted the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt as one of the Seven Contemporary Wonders of the World. In 2006 it was listed as nr 3 buildings of the world worth visiting by Lonely Planet.

In 1998 Snøhetta was chosen by the International Union of Architects (UIA) as one of 10 architects to represent the organization at its 50th Anniversary in Lausanne, Switzerland. Snøhetta has been represented twice at the Venice Biennale, among others.





## Alexandria Library

**Project:** Alexandria Library  
**Location:** Alexandria Egypt  
**Typology:** New National Library  
**Scope:** Full Contract  
**Size:** 80,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Client:** Ministry of Education Egypt  
**Schedule:** 1st prize int. comp.  
**Year of completion:** 2001



In 2002 the new library of Alexandria in Egypt reopened its doors for the first time in nearly 2000 years. The culmination of an international effort lasting over 12 years, the library is one of the most contemporary in the world. In its over 80,000 square meters a range of museums and public assembly areas can also be found. Despite its large size, the building often feels humane and intimate in scale, while also having an atmosphere of dignity and calm repose.

Outside of the library a large reflecting pool and public plaza link the building to the nearby Mediterranean and the city of Alexandria. The pools help to cool the area around the building and naturally collect dust to clean the air near the building. The building's unusual tilting form links the architecture directly with the landscape creating a unifying atmosphere that extends into the interior of the building. The building and grounds change atmosphere throughout the day and seasons. The water, vegetation and shape of the building help allay the sound of the nearby busy streets, creating a calm and comfortable, yet public and open space for those visiting the building and those simply passing by.

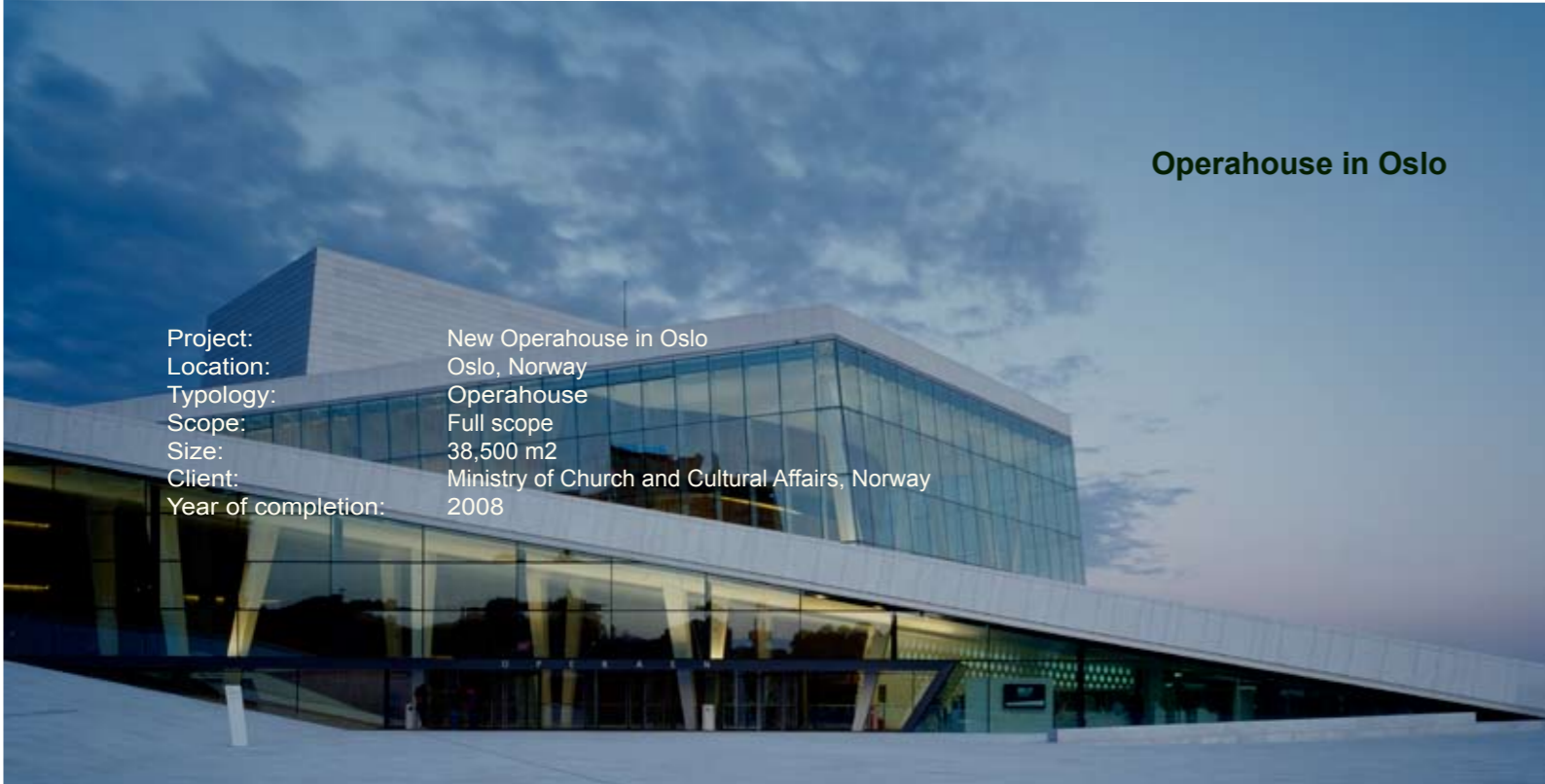
The Library is linked to the University of Alexandria with a bridge.





## Operahouse in Oslo

Project: New Operahouse in Oslo  
Location: Oslo, Norway  
Typology: Operahouse  
Scope: Full scope  
Size: 38,500 m<sup>2</sup>  
Client: Ministry of Church and Cultural Affairs, Norway  
Year of completion: 2008



## Operahouse in Oslo



### "The wave wall"

Opera and ballet are young artforms in Norway. These artforms evolve in an international setting. The Bjørvika peninsula is part of a harbour city, which is historically the meeting point with the rest of the world. The dividing line between the ground 'here' and the water 'there' is both a real and a symbolic threshold. This threshold is realised as a large wall on the line of the meeting between land and sea, Norway and the world, art and everyday life. This is the threshold where the public meet the art.

A detailed brief was developed as a basis for the competition. Snøhetta proposed that the production facilities of the operahouse should be realised as a self contained, rationally planned 'factory'. This factory should be both functional and flexible during the planning phase as well as in later use. This flexibility has proved to be very important during the planning phase: a number of rooms and room groups have been adjusted in collaboration with the users. These changes have improved the buildings functionality without affecting the architecture.

The competition brief stated that the operahouse should be of high architectural quality and should be monumental in its expression. One idea stood out as a legitimisation of this monumentality: The concept of togetherness, joint ownership, easy and open access for all. To achieve a monumentality based on these notions we wished to make the opera accessible in the widest possible sense, by laying out a 'carpet' of horizontal and sloping surfaces on top of the building. This carpet has been given an articulated form, related to the cityscape. Monumentality is achieved through horizontal extension and not verticality.

The conceptual basis of the competition, and the final building, is a combination of these three elements – The wave wall, the factory and the carpet.

The operahouse is the first element in the planned transformation of this area of the city. In 2010 the heavy traffic beside the building will be moved into a tunnel under the fjord. Due to its size and aesthetic expression, the operahouse will stand apart from other buildings in the area. The marble clad roofscape forms a large public space in the landscape of the city and the fjord.

The public face of the operahouse faces west and north – while at the same time, the building's profile is clear from a great distance from the fjord to the south. Viewed from the Akershus castle and from the grid city the building creates a relationship between the fjord and the Ekerberg hill to the east.

The building connects city and fjord, urbanity and landscape.





# King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture

Project: King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture  
Location: Dhahran, Saudi Arabia  
Typology: Cultural Center  
Scope: Full scope  
Size: 70,000 m2  
Client: Saudi Aramco  
Schedule: Completion 2012



The King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture is a bold new initiative on the part of the Saudi Aramco Oil Company to promote cultural development within the Kingdom. Following an invited architectural design competition in 2007 Snøhetta has been selected to design this prestigious cultural facility. Located in Dhahran in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, the Cultural Center will provide for a wide range of activities serving the local population and becoming a cultural landmark on both a regional, national and global horizon. When completed, the project will contain some 70 000m2 of diverse cultural facilities, including an auditorium, cinema, library, exhibition hall, museum and archive.

The auditorium will seat 1000 visitors and will provide for a wide range of events ranging from opera, symphony concerts, musicals and speeches etc. Together with the smaller cinema, this will be an unrivalled venue for the performing arts in the Kingdom. The library will become a center of learning containing some 300 000 books on open access and catering for all ages and categories of users. The great exhibition hall will accommodate large scale travelling exhibitions, as well as providing the setting for social events, banquets and conferences. The museum and archive facilities connect the vibrant cultural life of the center to the past and to the very roots of the society from which this center is conceived. The center is surrounded by a large new park divided in a lush garden and a desert landscape that will be part of the learning program.

On May 20th 2008 The foundation stone was laid by King Abdullah, the Cultural Center will be completed in 2012.







Project: Lillehammer Art Museum  
 Location: Lillehammer, Norway  
 Typology: Art Museum  
 Scope: Full scope  
 Size: 2,700 m2  
 Client: Lillehammer Art Museum  
 Schedule: Completion 1998



Project: Petter Dass Museum  
 Location: Alstahaug, Norway  
 Typology: Cultural Center and Museum  
 Scope: Full scope  
 Size: 1,350 m2  
 Client: KF Petter Dass Eiendom  
 Schedule: Completion 2007



Project: Bærum Cultural Center  
 Location: Sandvika, Norway  
 Typology: Cultural Center  
 Scope: Full scope  
 Size: 4,500 m2  
 Client: Bærum County  
 Schedule: Completion 2003



Project: Karmøy Fishing Museum  
 Location: Karmøy, Norway  
 Typology: Museum  
 Scope: Full scope  
 Size: 500 m2  
 Client: Karmøy Fishing Museum  
 Schedule: Completion 1998



**Cultural projects**



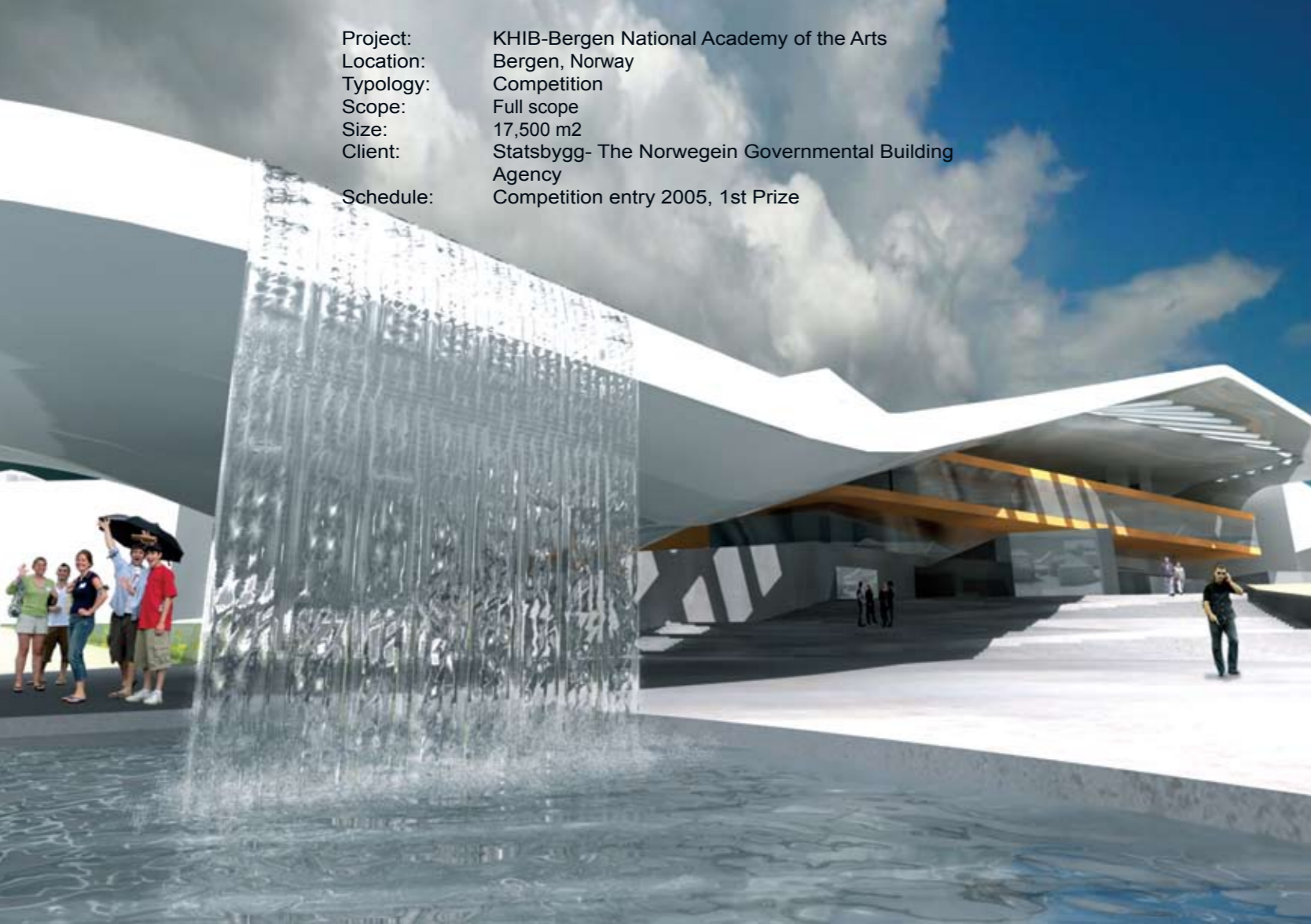
Project: University campus master plan  
Location: Faraba Banta, The Gambia  
Typology: Master plan  
Scope: Master plan  
Size: 220,000 m2  
Client: Dept. of State for Higher Education, TResearch, Science, and Technology, The Gambia  
Schedule: 2008



Project: KHIO-Oslo National Academy of the Arts  
Location: Oslo, Norway  
Typology: Interior  
Scope: Full scope  
Size: 16,000 m2  
Client: KHIO-Oslo National Academy of the Arts  
Schedule: Completion 2003



Project: KHIB-Bergen National Academy of the Arts  
Location: Bergen, Norway  
Typology: Competition  
Scope: Full scope  
Size: 17,500 m2  
Client: Statsbygg- The Norwegian Governmental Building Agency  
Schedule: Competition entry 2005, 1st Prize



Project: University campus master plan  
Location: Dublin, Ireland  
Typology: Master plan  
Scope: Competition  
Size: 60,000 m2  
Client: UCD  
Schedule: 2007 competition entry

