



Architecture and science meet in tribute to daylight

International researchers, architects and business representatives gathered for a unique award ceremony in Copenhagen to celebrate daylight. A world-famous architect and a daylight researcher were each awarded with a with a €100,000 prize in acknowledgement of their work with daylight.

It is fairly common knowledge today that daylight is the primary source of vitamin D for human beings. This means that the relationship between daylight and human health, quality of life and performance has become acknowledged, which in turn has also legitimised scientific research in the field of daylight in terms of how we use daylight, e.g. in architecture and urban development. On 2 November, daylight was celebrated in impressive surroundings - with high heels, white tablecloths and long-stemmed wine glasses galore - at Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, the venue of this year's international Daylight Award ceremony.

On 2 November, daylight was celebrated in impressive surroundings - with high heels, white tablecloths and long-stemmed wine glasses galore - at Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, the venue of this year's international Daylight Award ceremony. This year, the award went to two individuals who have made significant contributions to Daylight in Architecture and Daylight Research. The world-famous American architect Steven Holl, head of the architect firm Steven Holl Architects in New York and Beijing, was one of the award recipients.

The relationships between structure, material and light are at the cornerstone in Holl's approach to architecture. The jury noted that among other things, he is known for his poetic idiom, manipulation of lighting, respect for materials and adapting his buildings to their local surroundings. *"When people ask me what material I enjoy working with the most, I say light! Working with light has always fascinated me. That is why I am deeply honoured to have been selected as the laureate for Daylight in Architecture,"* said Holl.

The second award winner was Swiss Marilyne Andersen, Full Professor of Sustainable Construction Technologies and Dean of the School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering (ENAC) at EPFL in Switzerland. According to the jury, the award went to Andersen because she is an

outstanding scholar and teacher, as well as a diligent researcher who has demonstrated a talent for initiating and directing daylight research that affects research and architecture environments.

“Daylight plays a fundamental role in our places of living. Recognizing the importance of research in this area through the Daylight Award is a very strong sign. Science goes hand in hand with architectural design, and enables a foundation where knowledge and creativity are combined for better understanding, anticipation and application of daylight in architecture and in urban development” said Andersen.

The next Daylight Award ceremony will be held in 2018.

About The Daylight Award

The Daylight Award consists of two separate awards:

The Daylight in Architecture award is given to an individual or group of architects who have distinguished themselves by designing architecture or urban spaces that reflect a unique application of daylight, with a particular focus on architecture that takes into account quality of life and the influence of daylight on human health, well-being and the value of the surrounding environment.

The Daylight Research award is given to an individual or group of researchers who have distinguished themselves by contributing to international daylight research, with a particular focus on multidisciplinary and research into human well-being and ways to turn theory into practice.

Read about [The Daylight Award](#).

Facts about dagsllys

Daylight is very important to us humans, and there is no substitute for it. Daylight affects our health, well-being and ability to perform. When we do not get enough daylight, we can begin to suffer everything from fatigue, impaired vision and headaches to an increased risk of depression. Source: Daylight, Energy and Indoor Climate Basic Book 3/VELUX 2014

Daylight has been linked to a more positive disposition, higher morale, less fatigue and reduced eye strain (Robbins, 1986).

People are better able to learn in environments with natural lighting. Students in classrooms with lots of daylight get 7-18% higher grades in standardised tests than students who take the same tests in classrooms with little daylight (Heschong, 2002).

People with inadequate amounts of natural lighting in their homes are more susceptible to depression. Daylight, Energy and Indoor Climate Basic Book 3/VELUX 2014

Daylight exposure is linked to not only a more positive subjective assessment of patients, but also a lower intake of painkillers after operations (Walch et al., 2005).

Hospital patients who have views over green spaces recover faster from operations and require less pain relief than patients who only get to look at walls (Ulrich 1984).

The Daylight Award focuses on the interplay between architecture and research, with a particular emphasis on the interrelation between theory and practice. The Daylight Award is held and

organised by the non-profit, private charitable foundations, VILLUM FONDEN, VELUX FONDEN and VELUX STIFTUNG, all of which were established by Villum Kann Rasmussen, the man behind the VELUX skylights.

The three foundations have given out The Daylight Award since 1980 to amongst others Jørn Utzon, Henning Larsen, Bob Gysin, Richard Perez, Peter Zumthor, James Carpenter, Lacaton & Vassal, Gigon & Guyer og SANAA – celebrated at national ceremonies in Denmark og Switzerland.

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