

HALLDOR GISLASON
THOUGHTS / ARCHITECTURE AND MORE



DORI RECOMMENDS
02.03.2008 - WRITER
SEAN MCMANUS
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PREVIOUS NEXT ★★★★★

TODAY IN A BOX

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One more time we had the startup day in our school. This time the event included the act of laying the cornerstone of the new building that [KHiO](#) is probably going to live in for the next one hundred years. At least the building I work in at the moment has been in use since 1903 and the school will become 200 years old in 2018. The cornerstone is really a metal box containing contemporary memorabilia like our last catalogues and the current website. But the most interesting item in the box is the door handle of our present building which I guess every Norwegian artist in the last 80-100 years has touched. That is a nice object impregnated with history. The Norwegian minister of Education Thora Aasland came for the event and formally implanted the box after we the deans lifted it into place. Thora gave a speech and did use the term DESIGN eight times and the term ART (kunst) 42 times. Some of the colleagues in my faculty were irritated of the strong focus on art and design not being given the same status. I myself am not so worried about that for two reasons: One: design is art and part of the creative enterprise, so I do consider myself an artist as well as someone able to collaborate with others for problem solutions.

Two: even though most of the media attention about our school has been within the premises of art it is mostly because of the people in that realm not being able to work together or understand the incredible opportunity that a conglomeration of all the artistic fields can create. In [The Iceland Academy of the Arts](#), where I had my last position music and architecture are also part of the school and some very interesting projects have come out of that. I think that the [School of Architecture in Oslo](#), which is unfortunately behaving like a politechnic and the [Norwegian Film School in Lillehammer](#) should be included in a much larger University of the Creative Arts. Fortunately for me and for them it is none of my business since I am not a Norwegian.

My opinion is that the Norwegian art/design field is behaving like a spoiled child, not realizing how good they have it. Of course there are hiccups, but most of them are not based on incompetence of the creative people but because of administrative incapacibilities and too much attention to governance structures. An institution will always put most of its energy in maintaining a status quo rather than opening up to new opportunities (Badiou et al). I recommend this presentation from [Clay Shirky](#) about organizations and institutions. I have very simple philosophy for being a faculty leader: Try to create a pleasant atmosphere, keep simple infrastructure and work to common goals and then people work hard and enjoy themselves. We should all be left to what we are doing, we are to be trusted and not put into boxes and hard governal structures. Such behaviour just destroys itself and dies. Unfortunately not until it has done some damage but in the end it will die. So I hope our school has a different future than that.

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 SHOPPING TERROR
 DESIGN IN NORWAY
 Service Design Research Project
 ecal in Lausanne
 A Carpet out of rope
 Stockholm Furniture Stand
 Fashion Photography
 CIRRUS CONFERENCE 2008
 Stockholm Preparation 2008
 Design Business
 Business and Design
 Stockholm Preparation
 END OF YEAR
 PONDERINGS
 Christmas Market in Design Centre
 Myalgic Encephalopathy