

arkitektur / design

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ENGLISH
ARTICLES



/ Hjemme hos Åke

/ Visiting Åke

Med omsorg for detaljerne, opstår der en rørende og livslang samhørighed mellem form og funktion

With an eye for detail, Åke creates an inspiring and long-lasting union between form and function





Ake Axelsson.
Photo: Martin Runeborg

I A. Petersen's udstillingssted "Bygning A" på Kløvermarksvej inviteres vi gæstfrit til at være på fornavn med Sveriges design- og møbellegende Åke Axelsson (f. 1932). In A. Petersen's exhibition rooms "Bygning A" on Kløvermarksvej, you are cordially invited to be on first-name terms with the legendary Swedish designer Åke Axelsson (b. 1932).

Review / By Christina Collet Hvolgaard

Her har vi en enestående mulighed for at hylde og betages af en af Sveriges mest betydningsfulde møbel- og indretningsarkitekter. Hans livslange arbejde præsenteres på udstillingen "Velkommen hjem, Åke!". "Bygning A" har genskabt Åke Axelssons unikke hjem og tegnestue, som det ser ud og er indrettet ved Vaxholm i den Stockholmske skærgård. Huset er både hans hjem og hans nuværende arbejdsplads med arkivmateriale, prototyper, møbler i fuld skala 1:1, møbelmodeller, tegninger mm. Et ærligt og inspirerende laboratorium for møbel-design udviklet over et helt liv. Vi er inviteret indenfor.

Ærlig tilgang til design

På udstillingen drages vi især af Åke Axelsson legesyge og særdeles ærlige tilgang til sine designs. Ærlighed overfor materialet og ærlighed overfor funktionen. Intet over-

Here is a singular opportunity to praise and be moved by one of Sweden's most influential furniture- and interior designers. His lifelong work is on display at the exhibition "Welcome home, Åke!". Åke Axelsson's striking home and drawing office has been recreated in "Bygning A", just like they appear and are furnished near Vaxholm in the Stockholm archipelago. The house is both his home and his current workplace, where he works with archival material, prototypes, full-scale furniture, models of furniture, drawings, etc. It is an honest and inspiring laboratory of furniture designs that represent the work of a life-time. And you are invited in.

A straightforward approach to design

At the exhibition, Åke Axelsson's playful and straightforward approach to his designs is particularly alluring. A straightfor-

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Home and studio moved
to Copenhagen.
Photo: Bastian Birk Thuesen

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Åke Axelsson.
Photo: Bastian Birk Thuesen

flødigt. Og vi kan røre, sidde, mærke, føle. Det er tilladt at sanse udstillingen, og måske netop derfor er det umuligt ikke at blive berørt. Lige meget hvilke forudsætninger du har som gæst på udstillingen. Ung eller gammel. Der er bare ikke noget bedre end at finde en rigtig god stol.

Siden 1960'erne har Åke været en af de mest efterspurgte indretningsarkitekter i Sverige. Foruden sin uddannelse som indretningsarkitekt er han uddannet møbelsnedker, og i 60 år har den nu 88-årige Åke Axelsson skabt prisvindende design og formgivet mere end 200 forskellige stole. Og han er stadig aktiv.

Funktionalitet, kvalitet og formgivning

Udstillingen former en rejse gennem Åkes hjem og arbejdsplads i den svenske skærgård. Der er noget helt særligt ved hans tilgang til arbejdet og materialet, der kan formå at være en stadig stor og relevant inspirationskilde. På udstillingen er vi ikke i tvivl om at Åke Axelssons lange karriere og arbejdsliv vidner om fremsynethed, kvalitetstænkning og om at udnytte ressourcer effektivt. Det afspejles i hans design og i fremstillingen af hans fine møbler, der med fokus på funktionalitet, formgivning og håndværksmæssig kvalitet er skabt til at holde i generationer. »

ward approach to the material and to the function. Nothing is superfluous. You can touch, sit, sense. You are allowed to experience the exhibition through your senses, which might be why it is impossible to remain untouched. No matter your background. Young or old. There is simply nothing better than finding a really good chair.

Since the 1960s, Åke has been one of the most sought-after interior designers in Sweden. In addition to his degree in interior design, he is an educated carpenter, and for 60 years the now 88-year-old Åke Axelsson has created award-winning designs. He has designed more than 200 different chairs. And he is still active.

Functionality, quality, and design

The exhibition represents a journey through Åke's home and workplace on the Swedish archipelago. There is something unique about his approach to his work and the material, which is a major continuous source of inspiration. At the exhibition, Åke Axelsson's long career and working life testify to foresight, quality, and an effective use of resources. You can see it in his designs, and in the display of his beautiful furniture that has functionality, design, and quality craftsmanship as central tenets and thus has been created to last for generations. »





“Wood is the material of the future. Both it and the craft have taken on new importance. Not in the nostalgic sense, but in the efforts to create better, more functional solutions for everybody.”

- Åke Axelsson

» Hans holistiske tilgang til bæredygtighed, hvor både økonomi, funktionalitet og holdbarhed kobles sammen, peger også ind i en fremtid med fokus på både ressourcer og bæredygtighed. Det kommer blandt andet til udtryk i hans brug af træ, som altid har spillet en central rolle i hans håndværk. I udstillingsmaterialet påpeger Åke selv, at ”træ er fremtidens materiale. Sammen med håndværket har det fået en ny og relevant betydning. Ikke i en nostalgisk forstand, men i bestræbelsen på at skabe bedre og mere funktionelle løsninger for alle”.

» His holistic approach to sustainability, where price, functionality, and durability are interconnected, hints at a future where both resources and sustainability are in focus. This manifests itself in his use of wood, a material that always plays a decisive role in his works. In the exhibition material, Åke himself states: “Wood is the material of the future. Both it and the craft have taken on new importance. Not in the nostalgic sense, but in the efforts to create better, more functional solutions for everybody.”

Democratic design

Åke designs furniture for the community. His approach to his work is coloured by the fact that he is both a carpenter and an interior designer. How he furnishes libraries, schools, restaurants, museums, and churches among other things is marked by his understanding of wood and the carpenter’s craft. All of these are spaces that reflect Åke’s sympathetic and democratic approach to his craft. His work with interior design of public spaces and the production of furniture for the public have been major driving forces for him throughout his long career.

All things considered, the ideal of the welfare state about the importance of community along with the democratic approach to design are apparent throughout the entirety of Åke Axelsson’s working life. Åke is not just a carpenter – he is very much also an interior designer, and the real-world context is always present in his furniture designs.

You clearly sense that he is Sweden’s proud mediator of the good and functional designs of his epoch, and this feeling is very much supported by the list of Swedish institutions and buildings he has designed furniture for and the interiors of. Among others:

The Riksdag Library (Stockholm), the library of the Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts (Stockholm), Malmö Konsthall (Malmö), the »

Demokratisk design

Åke designer møbler til fællesskabet. Hans professionelle tilgang er præget af, at han både er indretningsarkitekt og uddannet møbelsnedker. Hans forståelse for træ og håndværk har sat tydeligt præg på hans indretninger af bl.a. biblioteker, skoler, restauranter, museer og kirker. Alle sammen rum som spejler sig godt i Åkes sympatiske og demokratiske tilgang til sit håndværk. Hans arbejde med indretning af offentlige rum og fremstilling af møbler til den brede offentlighed har været en drivkraft gennem hele hans langvarige karriere.

I det hele taget så skinner velfærdstatens idealer om fællesskabets betydning og den demokratiske tilgang til design tydeligt igennem hele Åke Axelssons arbejdsliv. Åke er ikke bare møbelsnedker – han er i høj grad også indretningsarkitekt, og alle møbler er tiltænkt deres konkrete sammenhæng.

Man fornemmer tydeligt, at han er Sveriges stolte formidler af sin epokes gode og funktionelle design, og den fornemmelse understøttes i høj grad af listen over de svenske institutioner og bygningsværker han har skabt indretninger og møbler til. Der nævnes i flæng:

Riksdagsbiblioteket (Stockholm), Konstakademiens Bibliotek (Stockholm), Malmö Konsthall (Malmö), Marinmuséet (Karlskrona), Värmlands »

Left from the top /
Building A. Exhibition at
A Petersen.
Photo: Bastian Birk Thuesen

Åke Axelsson.
Photo: Bastian Birk Thuesen



Left /
Wood chair designed by Åke Axelsson. Photo: Lennart Durehed

Right /
Sven Harys Konstmuseum, interior design by Åke Axelsson. Photo: Lennart Durehed

» Museum (Karlstad), Sven-Harrys konstmuseum (Stockholm), Livrustkammaren (Stockholm), Carl XVI Gustafs Jubileumsrum – Kungliga Slottet (Stockholm), Vreta kirke (Linköping), Fredrikskyrka.

Mere end 60 år i faget

Åke Axelssons professionelle liv strækker sig over mere end 60 år, fra 1957 til i dag. Som ung uddannede han sig først som møbelsnedker i 1951 og fra 1952-57 blev han uddannet indretningsarkitekt på Konstfack i Stockholm. I 1988 købte Åke Axelsson sin egen fabrik og startede møbelfirmaet Galleri Stolen. I 2003 blev han sammen med datteren Anna Klockby og svigersønnen Dag Klockby medejer af Gärsnäs, en af Sveriges mest respekterede møbelproducenter med egen fabrik i Gärsnäs i Skåne. Åke Axelsson har kontinuerligt designet møbler for Gärsnäs siden 1963, hvor stolen S217 blev sat i produktion.

Udstillingen er et gennemtænkt laboratorium. Den præsenterer en beretning om både designproces og funktion. Åke Axelssons design er stærke produkter med både en lang livstid og tidløse udtryk.

A. Petersens udstillingssted "Bygning A" stiler ambitiøst mod at sætte fokus på kunsthåndværk og design, der appellerer til sanserne og giver ny indsigt. Det må man i den grad sige er opnået med "Velkommen hjem, Åke!". //

Udstillingen vises i "Bygning A" i perioden 4.9.2020 – 28.2.2021

» Naval Museum (Karlskrona), Värmlands Museum (Karlstad), Sven-Harrys konstmuseum (Stockholm), the Royal Armoury (Stockholm), King Carl Gustaf's Jubilee Room – the Royal Palaces (Stockholm), Vreta Abbey Church (Linköping), the Frederik Church (Karlskrona).

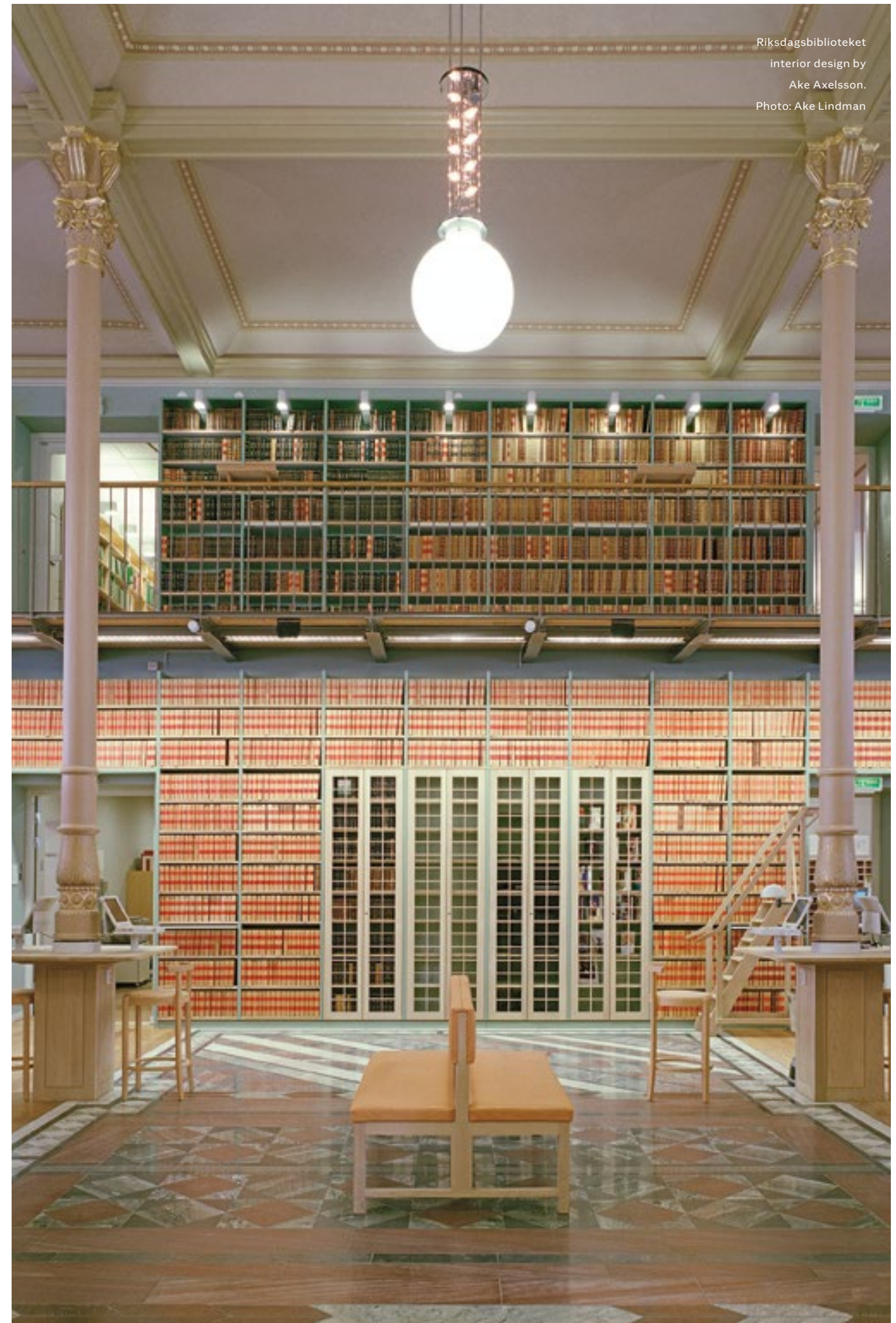
More than 60 years on the job

Åke Axelsson has more than 60 years on the job, from 1957 to the present day. In 1951, when he was a young man, he took a carpenter education, and from 1952-57 he took a degree in interior design at Konstfack in Stockholm. In 1988 Åke Axelsson purchased a factory and started the company Galleri Stolen (the Gallery Chair), which manufactures furniture. In 2003 he, along with his daughter Anna Klockby and his son-in-law Dag Klockby, became co-owner of Gärsnäs, one of Sweden's most respected manufacturers of furniture, and its factory in Gärsnäs, Scania. Åke Axelsson has continuously designed furniture for Gärsnäs since the chair S217 was put into production in 1963.

The exhibition is a carefully prepared laboratory. It tells a story of the design process and of functionality. Åke Axelsson's strong designs are long-lasting and timeless.

The exhibition in A. Petersen's "Bygning A" represents an ambitious attempt to bring into focus arts and crafts and designs that appeal to the senses and embody a new point of view. In this regard, "Welcome home, Åke!" absolutely succeeds. //

"Welcome home, Åke!" is on display in "Bygning A" 4 September 2020 – 28 February 2021



Riksdagsbiblioteket
interior design by
Åke Axelsson.
Photo: Åke Lindman