



## Press release

Essen and Berlin/Germany, 8 November 2016

### **Danish feeling for light: New special exhibition in the Red Dot Design Museum Essen shows lighting design from Denmark on the occasion of the Essener Lichtwochen**

Design lovers and fans of lighting design can look forward to Danish lighting design: The exhibition "DANSK LYS – Lighting and Lamp Design from Denmark" opens at the Red Dot Design Museum Essen in Germany on 15 November 2016. The Royal Danish Embassy in Berlin presents it on occasion of the Essener Lichtwochen, a festival of illumination in the city of Essen.

Like the famous "Miss Smilla" and her feeling for snow in Peter Høeg's novel "Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow", Danish designers have developed a certain feeling for light with its various forms and applications. This feeling is based on the northern location of the country with short days and little daylight in the wintertime but also is a consequence of the country's long history of design.

"Danish Design" is a phenomenon but what about "Danish lighting design"? Both is based on functionalism. Danish lighting design focuses on the interplay between light and man. This counts for the design of lamps as well as lighting for rooms and buildings. In short Danish lighting design takes into account that light plays a huge role in the quality of our lives. Danish lighting design stands for simplicity – true to the motto "Less is more". The design is also characterised by a certain feeling for the colours of light, the use of screens and the moods of light. Modern functions of today are now added: The use of LED, robust materials, energy efficiency and new ways of light control.

"We are proud to be this year's guest country at the Essener Lichtwochen. The special exhibition at the Red Dot Design Museum is an opportunity to show how well sustainability and design can be combined. I personally take pleasure in the unique creations of Danish lighting designers spreading light in our everyday life. I see a great deal of virtuosity in the lighting and lamp design of recent years", says Danish ambassador to Germany Friis Arne Petersen.

The exhibition "DANSK LYS – Lighting and Lamp Design from Denmark" shows iconic lamps by Arne Jacobsen and Verner Panton as well as new and playful



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designs by Cecilie Manz, Nicholai Wiig Hansen and the Designduo Gamfratesi among several others. A key statement is that lighting design is much more than the design of lamps. The exhibition features therefore also prize-winning lighting concepts for indoor and outdoor locations: A theatre, a harbour area and a train station is among the cases on show. Last but not least a couple of cases illustrate how Danish lighting design integrates sustainability and energy efficiency - without compromising on aesthetics.

**Designers:**

Arne Jacobsen, Cecilie Manz, Erik Mortensen, GamFratesi, Jørn Utzon, Mette Bak Andersen, Nicholai Wiig Hansen, Norm.Architects, Poul Henningsen, Space Copenhagen, Verner Panton.

**Manufacturers:**

Anour, BoConcept, Lightyears/Republic of Fritz Hansen, Ettradition, Nordic Tales, VITA Copenhagen.

**Energy-efficient solutions:**

Alfred Priess, Faktor 3, Green Solution House.

**15 November 2016 – 15 January 2017:**

**"DANSK LYS – Lighting and Lamp Design from Denmark"**

The exhibition is produced by the Royal Danish Embassy Berlin in cooperation with the Danish Centre for Lighting Design, State of Green and the Red Dot Design Museum and supported by the Danish Arts Foundation and the Danish Foreign Ministry.

**Red Dot Design Museum Essen**

Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site  
Areal A [Schacht/Shaft XII], Kesselhaus [A7]  
Gelsenkirchener Straße 181  
45309 Essen, Germany

**Opening hours:**

Tuesday – Sunday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (last entrance: 5 p.m.)

Monday: closed (except on public holidays and during school holidays in NRW)

Public holidays: open (except for: 24, 25, 31 December & 1 January)



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**Press contacts:**

**Royal Embassy of Denmark in Berlin**

Birgitte Tovborg Jensen

Cultural Attaché

Jesper Schou Knudsen

Head of Communication

Royal Embassy of Denmark in Berlin

Rauchstrasse 1

10787 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49 30 50 50 22 02/00

E-mail: [bitoje@um.dk](mailto:bitoje@um.dk) / [jescho@um.dk](mailto:jescho@um.dk)

[Tyskland.um.dk](http://Tyskland.um.dk)

**Red Dot Design Museum Essen**

Marie-Christine Sassenberg

Senior Communications Manager

Red Dot Design Museum Essen

Design Zentrum Nordrhein Westfalen

Gelsenkirchener Str. 181

45309 Essen, Germany

Phone: +49 201 30104-43

E-mail: [m.sassenberg@red-dot.de](mailto:m.sassenberg@red-dot.de)

[www.red-dot-design-museum.org](http://www.red-dot-design-museum.org)

**About the Royal Danish Embassy Berlin:**

The Royal Danish Embassy in Berlin is the official representation of Denmark in Germany. Next to the embassy Denmark maintains general consulates in Flensburg, Hamburg and Munich as well as a number of honorary consulates. The embassy represents the interests of Denmark in Germany with departments of economy, politics, defence and communication and through a number of projects and initiatives. Since 2015 the Ambassador is H. E. Friis Arne Petersen. The embassy is situated in the Berlin-Tiergarten area and is part of the unique Nordic embassy complex inaugurated 1999. Especially in the field of culture exists a strong nordic cooperation presenting a vivid cultural programme in the common house "Felleshus" which is open to the public.

**About the Red Dot Design Museum Essen:**

Make good design and the quality of customary items become experientable is the purpose of the Red Dot Design Museum Essen in Germany – in its origins already since 1955. With about 2,000 exhibits from 45 nations, it displays the complete range of current product design in the former boiler house of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein coal mine. On five floors and approximately 4,000 square meters, it presents well-designed objects which were awarded by renowned experts in one of the largest international design competitions, the Red Dot Design Award. Every year, the world's largest exhibition of contemporary design informs around 150,000 visitors about current trends – testing many of the exhibits is explicitly allowed. Special exhibitions on certain topics complete the inspiring insight into the fascinating world of design.