

Swedish Broadening Architecture Firm of the Year 2018

Asante Architecture & Design is an architecture office working in a wide range of projects in types and scales, such as apartment buildings, schools, private housings, refurbishments and design objects. As part of our overview of a selection of Real Estate & Property Awards we interview Co-Founder Frida Öster to learn more about the firm and the projects it undertakes.

Based in Stockholm, Sweden, but with an international approach, Asante draws on the expertise of its team to create unique structures. Frida begins by exploring the firm's recent successes and how these have helped shape its approach.

“Here at Asante, we have an international perspective and find inspiration from the whole world but work very local and close to each unique project. Our focus is in the local and the combination of the people and the environment around a particular site. By understanding the situation together with the client's and the user's needs and the natural and cultural impact on the specific place we want to create a sustainable project. This approach is manifested in Hadars Hus by the coast in Norway and in the Econef Children Center in Tanzania. They are in different sizes and scales, but both let in the material, landscape, building typology, the users and cultural context around which is perceptible in the final result.

“This is just one of our many successful international projects, and to complete these we are privileged to have an international team and work with projects all over the world. At the moment we are working on or have recently completed architecture projects in Sweden, Norway, Tanzania, Kenya and India. Our clients are private and civic property companies, private clients and schools and farm foundations. We are also cooperating with help organisations and Architects Without Borders.”

Supporting clients around the world, for Asante customer service and communication is vital to ensuring that they receive the outcome they desire. As such, Frida explains her firm's approach to client service and how her team works alongside customers every step of the way to ensure a completed project they can all be proud of.

“By caring for the people we are building for, we create great design and a confiding process for the client. With small gestures we want to create great things. Our clients shall feel pride and comfort of their home, school building or work space. When our work is done, they are able to see the material found in the area, the nature around and the culture in a clearer light through the addition made. What we add are already potentially there, in nature or in our client's dreams, but refined or interpreted by us. We are always working in tight relation to our clients and visiting the site to be able to do this.”

This supportive, people focused approach extends beyond clients and is also central to the practice's internal culture, as Frida highlights.

“From the beginning Asante has aimed for an open flat culture where all employees should be able to grow and take responsibility over their own work from their qualification, skill and experience. To implement this in our structure we have had recurring workshops in Agile

Leadership and self-management. This ensures that everyone feels supported but is also able to use their skills and expertise to their full advantage.”

With the future stretched in front of it Asante and its team have many invigorating projects on the horizon which will help further enhance its success, as Frida proudly concludes.

“Looking ahead, one of our interesting upcoming projects is a group of cabins in a rural hilly landscape in southern India. We are designing a group of small houses for a family company owning plantations and a hotel in Kodaikanal, Madurai. The cabins will be a part of the hotels new concept of rural tourism close to Indian nature. The construction was at first meant to be in massive wood as a modern version of a log house. During process it adjusted to instead use local available materials. Me and another architect from Asante is going to India this week to study the context and sketch on site, thus the final result will be sprung from it. This project and many others will allow Asante to build upon its current success and grow even further over the years to come.”

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