



Bottom left: Bispevika. Top left and bottom middle: Visualisations of Nycoveien 2. Right and bottom right: The innovative Stenbråtlia neighbourhood, Mortensrud, eastern Oslo. Photos: Morten Spaberg.

## Grounded in excellence

**Down-to-earth, thorough, collaborative and enthusiastic. These are fundamental attributes that form the basis of Spor Arkitekter's mission. Citing architecture pioneer Mies van der Rohe, Spor's general manager Aashild Mariussen explains: "We don't want to be interesting – we want to be good," earnestly showing that, more often than not, the firm's projects achieve both excellence and enthrallment.**

By Julie Lindén | Photos: Spor Arkitekter

Specialised in residential design and urban planning since 1985, and with a staff of 18, the firm boasts extensive experience of forming and executing architectural concepts. It is not without reason that Spor has earned an established reputation of being trustworthy, makers of good client relationships and, above all, grounded. "We believe that residential architecture is about meeting the demands of the specific client," says Mariussen, "not flaunting our skills by designing something the contracting party never wanted."

The firm's earnest, pragmatic approach can be discerned from its long list of practical and affordable housing projects. In addition, the firm has been a pioneer in developing energy efficient homes in Nor-

way, such as the innovative Stenbråtlia neighbourhood, Mortensrud, in eastern Oslo. Here individual air/water heat pumps and roof-mounted thermal solar collectors serve the energy requirements of each so-called passive house.

Mariussen is proud that the project has helped define the firm's eco-friendly profile, explaining that it has led to 'green projects' of a different sort. "As one of only two architecture firms in Norway, we're currently part of a pilot project developing the Eco-Lighthouse® environmental certification for design firms in the architecture and engineering industry."

Nycoveien 2, which was won through a competition, is another one of Spor's



defining projects. This development, currently in the design phase, shows the importance of combining great design layouts and attractive outdoor spaces, helping the location – Storo – define its urban identity. "This is a transformational area surrounded by several public zones. The challenge was to make use of the already present, known structures and add new structures that would make the area interesting," says Mariussen.

The general manager explains that another first prize competition entry is to be realised in central Oslo's Bispevika. This project will consist of both residential constructions and urban planning of the waterfront walkway, allowing for exciting edifice designs to be seamlessly integrated with green areas. "It's a multifaceted project we're very proud to be taking on," Mariussen says, smiling. "We're experiencing a very positive assignment situation, which is also looking great for the times ahead. Many of these are long-term assignments that offer security and time to create a professional, exciting outcome."

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