

PRESS RELEASE 2016-03-10

“A building that evokes feelings” receives major architecture award

The jury for this year’s Plåt Prize has paid attention to a building that is faithful to its material, where craftsmanship as well as respect for its surroundings and function are essential.

On Thursday afternoon, March 10th, Tengbom received the 2016 Plåt Prize for the District Court in Alingsås, a monolithic structure in zinc whose unique character both contrasts with and co-exists with the District Court in brick from 1899. The building, designed by Fritz Olausson and Magnus Almung, is based on a plan by architect Börje Falemo. Tengbom’s proposal for playful roof ridges and curving bay windows appealed to the District Court.

“Zinc is a fine old classic material which was used extensively as roofing during the last century. We simply brought the plating down onto the façade, and it fits beautifully with the granite foundation wall which is a common denominator for both buildings,” say Fritz Olausson and Magnus Almung at Tengbom.

The material has been chosen carefully, not least for its robust and confidence-inspiring aesthetic. A building which both shines and represents respect for the decisions taken in the District Court was a fundamental vision for both architect and client, something which was noticed by the jury:

“The 2016 PLÅT PRIZE is awarded to a building that evokes feelings. With obvious character, like a small-scale mountain range with separate summits, it radiates strength and security as well as liveliness. The monolithic space bears throughout a material with a promise of ageing beautifully and wisely, and despite the stark contrast with the parent building, the execution is based on great respect for the architecture and material of the original space. (...) The inhabitants of Alingsås should track each annual growth ring on this genuine building with confidence.”

“You often stumble at the finish line when it comes to prizes like this one, because the competition is so great. All the nominated projects are worthy winners. It is really an honour and very nice to be awarded the Plåt Prize. A good client is the basis for all successful results,” say Fritz Olausson and Magnus Almung at Tengbom.

The building is a piece of craftsmanship straight through and all plates have been mounted with great care and precision. The cladding consists of zinc plates in various widths, placed in a distinctly 'random pattern' from foundation to roof ridge. By working with four different widths, there is never a need to trim the plate. The doors are also clad in zinc and fit into the pattern. The form is subdued and the spaces are placed where the courtrooms are, with openings for light from above. Tengbom has also created the interior, among other things with specially-designed desks for the court, the parties and witnesses, as well as furnishings.

The building was partially put to use in November of last year and will be officially opened in September 2016. At the moment, renovation of the older parts is going on as well as a minor addition in zinc directly connected to the older building's large courtroom.

Facts about the District Court in Alingsås:

Architects: Tengbom – Fritz Olausson and Magnus Almung

Programme architect: Börje Falemo

Tenant: The District Court in Alingsås

Contractor: Serneke

Property owner: Hemfosa

Roof: Standing seam zinc plate from Rheinzink

Façade: Panel cladding with zinc plate from Rheinzink

Plate manufacturer and mounting works: Hisingstads Bleck and Plåtslageri AB

About the PLÅT Award:

The Plåt Award is an honorary award given by the PLÅT Seminar for the purpose of encouraging and honouring innovation and sustainable construction in which a metal's properties and expression are taken advantage of in a successful architectural performance. The accolade is handed out once a year in connection with the PLÅT Seminar.

More information:

More pictures will be available when the entire building is finished.

Contact Emelie Mannheimer for more information, as well as any publicity in connection with the dedication in September.

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