



Ministry of Higher Education  
and Science – Denmark

**INDUSTRIENS  
FOND** FREMMER DANSK  
KONKURRENCEEVNE  
The Danish Industry Foundation

**SDC**  
The university partnership  
Denmark – China

## PRESS RELEASE

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# New Opportunities Within Education, Research and Industry in China

When His Royal Highness The Crown Prince inaugurates the House of the Danish Industry Foundation in Beijing, China, on 25 September, it is a house full of new opportunities within Danish education, research and industry that opens up.

The construction of the building is funded by the Danish Industry Foundation, and it will become the focal point of researchers as well as Danish and Chinese students once the Danish-Chinese university partnership, the Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research (SDC), moves in. The house will also house companies and institutions from both countries, just as it will give Danish companies unique access to the large Chinese market.

### Strengthened Knowledge Cooperation

SDC is the largest ever Danish venture within education and research outside national borders, and the House of the Danish Industry Foundation will become a unique framework for strengthening the Danish-Chinese university partnership.

‘China is a strategically important country to Denmark – not least within research, education and innovation. We have now been given an inspiring new framework for Danish and Chinese researchers and students to learn and develop good ideas. It provides both Danish students and companies with new perspectives’, says Minister for Higher Education and Science Søren Pind.

Since SDC launched its first master’s programmes in 2012, 150 students have been accepted into the programmes each year, 50 of them from Danish universities. This gives Danish and Chinese companies access to graduates from both countries with an international perspective, a multi-cultural understanding and high professional competence.

### Important Connection Between China and Denmark

The 11,000 square metres large building enables SDC to compile teaching and research activities under one roof.

‘The House of the Danish Industry Foundation is based on a Danish design approach, and the Danish-Chinese university partnership thus gains an inspiring head office in China, which offers modern everyday facilities, while at the symbolic level demonstrating the important connection between China and Denmark’, says Chairman of the Board of the Danish Industry Foundation Sten Scheibye.

The foundation has donated a total of DKK 99 million for the construction of the building, and the design is based on a project proposal by Danish Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects and COWI.

### A Building for All Danes

Opening the doors of a Danish building in China is a landmark event. The house will be buzzing with activity and thus become an active display window for Danish companies and Danish architecture.

‘Denmark has a unique collaboration with China within education and research, and the new building clearly demonstrates that SDC has now become the institutional focal point of the collaboration. We are proud to

have been able to make SDC one of the Chinese government's preferred models of cooperation within just a few years. The amazing house is Danish, without a doubt, but SDC is neither Danish nor Chinese. It is a partnership, which in the future will give both countries unique opportunities', says the Danish SDC Director Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen.

#### **House of the Danish Industry Foundation**

In addition to auditoriums, classrooms and group rooms, the building houses 20 apartments for researchers and teachers, offices for PhD students and researchers, meeting facilities and administration. The facilities make the house a good place for companies to hold conferences and to meet students and researchers. The Chinese partner university, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, has functioned as the developer, while the Danish Building and Property Agency and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, among others, have supervised and quality-assured the construction work. The art adorning the building is created by the internationally acclaimed artist Astrid Krogh and consists of a large curtain comprising 1,800 square metres of textile. The artwork is called 'China Blue' and is found in the main auditorium. The artwork is donated by the New Carlsberg Foundation.

#### **Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research**

The partnership centres around six fields of research, which frame the seven master's programmes, the PhD research and the individual industry partnerships. All graduates may obtain a double degree from both the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences and one of the Danish partner universities. The partners are the eight Danish universities, the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences. The partnership is equally funded by Denmark and China.

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## Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research

*The Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research (SDC) is the institutionalisation of a long-term university partnership between China and Denmark. The inauguration of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation is also a celebration of the new home of SDC*

The two countries established SDC for the purpose of creating value for both societies through knowledge exchange and in order to create a framework for students and academic staff, allowing them to build long-lasting international networks.

SDC is not Danish and not Chinese, but rather Sino-Danish.

SDC offers seven Master's programmes within natural and social sciences. Graduates obtain a double degree, one from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences and one from the Danish partner universities.

- Innovation Management
- Public Management and Social Development
- Neuroscience and Neuroimaging
- Nanoscience and Technology
- Chemical and Biochemical Engineering
- Water and Environment
- Omics

The university partnership centres around six research areas, providing the framework for the PhD students' research, the collaboration with industry and the seven Master's programmes

- Life Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Water and Environment
- Sustainable Energy
- Nanoscience
- Food and Health

### **The university cooperation in numbers**

**500 researchers:** SDC has increased the mobility of researchers between China and Denmark. Every year, more than 500 Danish and Chinese researchers carry out activities in China within the framework of SDC.

**800 students:** Since the first Master's programmes were launched in 2012, almost 800 Danish, Chinese and international students have been enrolled.

**400 graduates:** More than 400 students have graduated from SDC.

**200 PhD students:** SDC has funded more than 200 Danish and Chinese PhD students. They all enjoy a minimum stay of six months in Denmark or China to conduct research or teach in relation to SDC.

**700 articles:** More than 700 academic articles have been published since 2012.

# Danish Partners

**Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science**

## **Danish Universities**

Chinese education and research institutions collaborate with similar institutions in a number of countries. Compared to similar university partnerships, the SDC is unique because it is a national partnership with the participation of all the universities of one of the partners. All eight Danish universities are involved. These are: University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University, University of Southern Denmark, Roskilde University, Aalborg University, Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen Business School and IT University of Copenhagen.

# Chinese Partners

## **Chinese Academy of Sciences**

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is the largest research institution in China within science, technology and high-tech innovation. CAS has more than 100 institutes throughout China and a staff of more than 70,000, and the academy has played a main role in China's scientific development. Today the academy advises the Chinese government on matters relating to science, technology and high-tech innovation.

## **University of Chinese Academy of Sciences**

The University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) falls under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The university has four campuses in Beijing, including the Yanqihu Campus, which is the location of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation. Up until 2012 UCAS focussed on master's and PhD programmes exclusively, and it is the largest university in China within this area. In 2012 UCAS also began to offer bachelor programmes.



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## The House of the Danish Industry Foundation

The house which has a view of the Great Wall has been designed and built to ensure optimal facilities for knowledge exchange across professional disciplines and provide inspiring physical frames for students as well as teachers from the two nations. It is the vision to create a vibrant house which many parties – including private companies – may frequent on a regular basis, taking advantage of the airy and pleasant facilities for conference activities and similar events.

### **Danish Values and Chinese Environment**

The first pen strokes in the creation of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation were drawn in 2010 when Denmark hosted an architectural competition by invitation. It was a condition that the proposed building should be in accordance with Danish values and standards and show respect for the inspiring Chinese environment, the local climate and the overall plan which is the foundation for the Campus in the northern part of Beijing.

The competition was won by Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects in cooperation with COWI. The main idea behind the winning proposal is a tight and compact outer building shell that easily merges with the existing university campus. The open facades ensure contact and cohesion between the building and the environment and allow varied, generous daylight to enter the house. An open atrium runs through all floors, softens the tight foundation and draws daylight deep into the core of the building. The atrium is the spatial focus of the building, providing overview and easy orientation, and it will be the natural meeting place for informal contacts and meetings among students, teachers and researchers.

The developer is the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), and their design and architectural office has been in charge of the detailed design, the agreements with local contractors and the ongoing supervision at the construction site.

### **Facts about the Building**

The building is a complete five-storey building of 10,896 m<sup>2</sup>. On a daily basis, 200 Master's students, PhD students, teachers and researchers, guests and staff will frequent the building facilities which include:

- 20 apartments for teachers and researchers
- Lecture hall
- Lecture room
- 10 classrooms
- 8 group rooms
- 10 research offices
- 8 PhD offices
- 6 thesis offices
- 4 meeting rooms
- Lounges for students and teachers
- Common areas with study stations

- 4 administration offices
- Gym
- Canteen

**For information about the House of the Danish Industry Foundation, please contact:**

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## Danish Design on All Floors

*Just like the building itself reflects Danish architecture, the furniture also had to display Danish design. Therefore, seven containers filled with furniture have made the long trip from Ringkøbing to Beijing*

The interior building design is by the Danish designer Henrik Tengler, with furnishing by the company Onecollection in close cooperation with SDC.

“For Onecollection, this has been a very special task as – in relation to the furniture – we had to cover all the functions encompassed by this type of house. We have to a great extent tried to empathise with the nature and structure of the building and have harmonised design and materials with the building architecture. At the same time, it has been of crucial importance that the building in its entirety reflects and represents Danish design and Danish values”, says Henrik Sørensen, Managing Director.

### The Colours of the Corners of the World

Onecollection has the exclusive rights to produce the furniture by the Danish architect Finn Juhl, and his furniture is found in meeting rooms, lounges, apartments and not least in the open areas where Pelican chairs are arranged in small clusters. The apartments on the upper floor of the building are available to teachers and researchers, and here you will find the well-known Poet sofa, designed by Finn Juhl in 1941. Originally, he designed the sofa for his own house.

It has been paramount that the lightness of the furniture at all times complements the openness and transparency of the building. At the same time, the use of natural materials and colours adds warmth and “cosiness” to the building. Together with the ceilings of wooden rings, it accentuates the large quantities of stone and glass.

The apartments on the upper floor of the house differ from one another. The colours of textiles and leather and the wood varieties have been carefully selected in cooperation with Tina Switzer, interior designer and colour consultant. The wool textiles from Kvadrat feature multi-coloured yarns and tone-on-tone combinations with leather elements.

“The apartments are facing three corners of the world and feature different colour schemes: toward the south, greenish shades have been applied; toward the west which gets the low warm daylight, cool, blue shades have been applied; and toward the cool light from the north the colours of the textiles are burnt, toward reddish and brownish shades. The wood species vary between dark walnut and light oak”, says Henrik Sørensen.

## Specially Designed Furniture for the House

In addition to Finn Juhl, the house features furniture design by a number of other Danish designers such as Kasper Salto and Thomas Sigsgaard, Henrik Tengler, Søren Ulrik Petersen, Nanna Ditzel, Søren Holst, Lars Frank Nielsen and Erla Óskarsdóttir.

Henrik Sørensen particularly emphasises the “Council Chair” which is used in several meeting rooms. The chair was designed by Kasper Salto and Thomas Sigsgaard as part of the winning proposal for the renovation of the Finn Juhl Hall at the UN Headquarters in New York.

A single piece of furniture has been specially designed for the house. For the organic study desks in the open spaces on the first and second floors, Henrik Tengler has designed the TIME stool, a height adjustable stool on wheels with reddish-orange seats. It is the intention that these stools will be casually scattered on the floors as festive dots. They are easy to move and may be used wherever there is space at the desks.

**Onecollection:** *In 1990, Ivan Hansen and Hans Henrik Sørensen established the furniture company Hansen & Sørensen. In 2000, the rights to produce the world famous architect Finn Juhl's furniture were gathered in the company, and the international relaunch of Finn Juhl's furniture was initiated. In 2007, the company changed its name to Onecollection, with own factory and headquarters in Ringkøbing.*

*Today, Onecollection produces and markets 40 relaunched Finn Juhl models under the brand name House of Finn Juhl.*

*Onecollection has previously furnished a council hall at the UN headquarters in New York, the representative areas and VIP offices of the Blavatnik School of Government under the University of Oxford and the Vigdis Institute in Reykjavik which serves as a language and culture institution. It is also Onecollection which - in cooperation with the designers Kasper Salto and Thomas Sigsgaard - have refurbished the old brewery at Bro-læggerstræde in Copenhagen where the New Carlsberg Foundation is housed.*

*The company is still owned by Ivan Hansen and Hans Henrik Sørensen and supplies furniture to distributors in 30 countries. In addition to the Finn Juhl classics, Onecollection produces the works of some younger designers and often cooperates with architects and drawing offices about interior design projects.*

## Furniture in the House of the Danish Industry Foundation:

Dennie chair, design Nanna Ditzel

Train table, design Henrik Tengler

Chairman chair, design Henrik Tengler

Council easy chair, design Salto & Sigsgaard

Council chair, design Salto & Sigsgaard

Facon table, design Henrik Tengler

Bessi chair, design Erla Óskarsdóttir

Cup15 table, design Henrik Tengler

TIME chair, design Henrik Tengler

TIME stool, design Henrik Tengler

NN System, design Lars Frank Nielsen

88 sofa, design Søren Holst

109 chair, design Finn Juhl

Bench, design Finn Juhl

Pelican chair, design Finn Juhl

Pelican table, design Finn Juhl

Karm chair, design Finn Juhl

Nyhavn table, design Finn Juhl

108 chair, design Finn Juhl

Japan sofa, design Finn Juhl  
France chair, design Finn Juhl  
Eye table, design Finn Juhl  
Poet sofa, design Finn Juhl

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## The Artwork China Blue

*One of the most eye-catching works of art in the House of the Danish Industry Foundation is a large curtain encircling the main auditorium. The work is donated by the New Carlsberg Foundation.*

China Blue, which is the title of the artwork, is designed by the Danish textile designer and internationally acclaimed artist Astrid Krogh, who has previously produced integrated art for companies and institutions in Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands, among others.

### Visual and Acoustic Functions

At first sight the artwork looks like a gigantic white and blue watercolour painting. It represents the Danish and Chinese skies fusing. The work also has a practical function and therefore consists of two layers of textile. Where the transparent layer makes it possible to screen the auditorium from sunlight, while at the same time maintaining the view, the heavier velour layer has an acoustic function. A total of 1,800 square metres of textile went into making the curtain.

The artwork is named after the cobalt blue china painting technique 'China Blue'. It is a Chinese technique from which Danish Royal Copenhagen's well-known blue-fluted porcelain series has drawn inspiration.

Member of the Board of the New Carlsberg Foundation Stine Høholt says about the artwork: 'Astrid Krogh's artistic expression is poetic and demonstrates her acute focus on materials. At the same time, the large piece stresses her ability to integrate the architecture, the specific purpose and, in this case, the given cultural context'.

**Astrid Krogh** (born 1968) graduated from the Danish Design School's faculty of textiles in 1997 to establish her own studio the following year. Since then she has worked collaboratively with architects and industrial designers and created commercial works of art for retailers such as Longchamp and Printemps in Paris. She has received government commissions for public works, and landmark projects include an exhibition at the Central Bank of Denmark (2015) and commissions for Nya Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm (2016), for which she was recently awarded the international CODA Prize. Astrid Krogh's clients include Maersk, Velux and Coloplast, among others, and she has created site-specific art installations for the Danish Parliament, the Royal Danish Library, the Danish State Railways, the Netherlands' National Healthy Authority and governmental organisations in Norway. She was awarded the Finn Juhl Architecture Prize in 2016 and is currently president of the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Crafts and Design Project Funding (2014-2017).