

Press release
November 2017

Spectacular light installation links two architectural masterpieces in London and Denmark to celebrate European Capital of Culture 2017

A major light installation by one of Denmark's leading female artists, Tine Bech, now connects two iconic Arne Jacobsen buildings, The Embassy of Denmark in London and Aarhus City Hall Tower in Denmark. The work can be experienced **to 19 November 2017, 5pm–11pm daily**, to celebrate this year's European Capital of Culture celebrations.

The interactive artwork, *We Believe*, perfectly encapsulates the spirit of European collaboration and cultural exchange. From a control room on a rooftop in Aarhus, members of the public activate the controls which illuminate the architecture of the two buildings. They control individual light sections using a series of interactive devices. The work explores how culture, architecture, technology and play intersect to shape the future of our cities. Both buildings are power structures and the aesthetics of the control room, as well as access to it, are essential to the project.

Tine Bech is a multidisciplinary artist who creates innovative interactive works that invite participation and play. Her work has been exhibited in public spaces, galleries and at major festivals, transforming urban landmarks in cities around the world.

Rebecca Matthews, CEO of the European Capital of Culture, Aarhus 2017, said:

"I look forward to an amazing visual experience when artist Tine Bech in collaboration with the Association Hidden Places, light up two beautiful and iconic Arne Jacobsen buildings in Aarhus and London. One of the most important aspects of our Capital of Culture year is collaborating across European borders, and We Believe becomes a beautiful symbol of these collaborations."

The work is presented with the Association Hidden Places.

More information and images available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1azncmp06l51iww/AABhi-EM6ouYQqHiXmjPtog1a?dl=0>

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Notes to Editors

Tine Bech

Dr Tine Bech is a multidisciplinary artist who creates innovative interactive art that encourages participation and play. Some of Tine Bech's previous work include interactive artworks at London Bridge, The Whitworth, London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, Denmark's On the Edge Digital Art Festival, Israel Museum, Los Angeles' SIGGRAPH Art Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum Digital Festival, and Brazil. In 2014, Tine Bech completed a PhD titled *Playful interactions: A Critical Inquiry into Interactive Art and Play* at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

Tine Bech Studio merges art and design with the digital language of technology to create stunning visual projects. Working with programmers, electronic engineers, fabricators and architects in the creative process,

Tine Bech Studio creates projects that place the human experience at the centre of our interactions with space, place and technology. Tine Bech is originally from Aarhus, and now lives and works in London.

www.tinebech.com

Initiated in 1985, the **European Capital of Culture** is an international cultural project that ranks among Europe's most ambitious. It embodies the richness and diversity of European culture and contributes to greater mutual understanding between the citizens of Europe.

Cities are selected for the title on the basis of a cultural programme that has a strong European dimension, fosters the involvement of the city's inhabitants and contributes to the long-term development of the area.

The rules and conditions for hosting the title are set out in a [decision](#) of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. The Danish city of Aarhus shares the 2017 title with Pafos in Cyprus.

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark is Royal Patron of European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017.

Website and online programme: <http://www.aarhus2017.dk/de/>

Pictures: Pictures free of copyright are available for use by media [here](#), but please credit the photographer, where stated, in caption.

Aarhus City Hall

In 1937 the City of Aarhus declared a proposal by architects Arne Jacobsen and Erik Møller the winner of a competition to design its new city hall. Compromising three blocks and a clock tower, the structure is an exquisite example of regional modernism. The original plans, with an intentionally unmonumental design, did not include a clock tower. However, the local citizens requested an addition of a kind that would make the building a more visible beacon of the city signifying the importance of the local government. During World War II Denmark was occupied by Germany from 1940, but the construction of the city hall continued and was inaugurated in 1941.

The Embassy of Denmark, London

A purpose-built embassy in a modernist design by architect Arne Jacobsen. In 1969 architect Arne Jacobsen was commissioned by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to design a new embassy in London, and features both a chancellery and the ambassador's residence. Arne Jacobsen died prior to completion in 1971, and the detailed design was continued by his successors Dissing + Weitling. Arup worked on the structural engineering. The building was completed in 1977.

Bookings for access to control room only in Aarhus: <https://skjultesteder.nemtilmeld.dk/19/>

Curated and arranged by the European Cultural Aarhus 2017's project stakeholder Association Hidden Places

Light manufacture SGM Lights A/S

Light supplier: Vigsø A/S

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