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ANNUAL AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2020

# Together for a Sustainable Future

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS  
**Valuable Urban Spaces**

CLIMATE AND CIRCULARITY  
**Towards a Circular,  
Climate-Neutral Future**

INCLUSIVE DESIGN  
**Equal Environments  
for Diverse People**



white





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*Hamntorget Södra Skanstull, Stockholm: The "Long-table" shows that with temporary architecture it is possible to create new social spaces and meeting places. Won Monocle Design Award 2021 – Best Public Furniture.*



## Welcome to White.

White was founded in 1951 in Gothenburg by Sidney White, with the vision of improving society through architecture. Since the very beginning, our company culture has been characterised by social responsibility and a humanistic approach. Our assignments span everything from housing, offices, hospitals, schools, urban planning, landscaping and interior design, to expertise in project management, sustainability and digital design. The company is owned by its employees and our collective consists of around 700 staff in 11 offices in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany and the UK. This makes White one of Scandinavia's largest architecture companies.

*The block Stenen in Örebro consists of space efficient, flexible student apartments with a shared roof terrace.*



The office building Celcius in Uppsala was awarded the World's Best BIM-project 2020 at the Building SMART Virtual Summit.

## A Challenging Year

2020 was marred by the coronavirus pandemic, which has affected many people's lives. White experienced changes in market conditions, an increase in the pace of digital development, and increased pressure on sustainable global change. Although it was a challenging year, it gave us scope for creativity and new opportunities.



Our top priority was to ensure a healthy work environment for our employees, clients, and partners. Consequently, we worked remotely to an unprecedented extent. This was possible thanks to our digital office and, above all, thanks to the positive and solution-oriented attitudes of many of our employees. We continued to operate a functioning business with an emphasis on delivering high-quality projects. These projects create value for our clients and for society at large. I want to say a big thank you to everyone who made this possible.

The pandemic affected demand in certain market segments of the architecture industry. Conditions shifted between different geographic markets. While demand in Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Oslo slowed down, we continued to see strong demand in places like London, which grew markedly in 2020. We also won projects in Germany. To safeguard our operations and deliveries despite restrictions, we hired new employees in Germany.

We presented several completed projects in 2020 and won eleven prestigious awards and two honourable mentions. A number of the winning projects are large complex projects to which many of our employees have contributed. Time and again we are rewarded for our ability to combine design and sustainability. It's also pleasing that we are praised for our digital expertise.

In 2020, we started our journey with a new business plan and a new vision. We are one of the first architectural agencies in the world to announce that, from 2030, all our projects will be climate positive. This is the toughest challenge we've ever taken on, and to succeed we must maintain a sharp

focus on co-operation within the company and beyond. During the year, we drafted our Roadmap for a Climate Positive Future. We also decided on a new Research and Development programme that will support us on our journey towards realising our vision.

As part of our business plan, we are investing in bringing new knowledge to the market through innovation. During the year, we built an innovation system and implemented our first three innovation sprints, one of which has already reached the market and attracted international attention. Our innovation takes place at the intersection between design, engineering, sustainability, and digitalisation.

Despite the continued uncertainty in relation to the pandemic, we are positive about the future. We can see the potential to grow in an international market as a result of the demand for sustainable architecture, design, and social development. We can also see the potential for continued development in the industry supported by new technology. There's a new driving force in the world around us for bringing about sustainable change. We look forward to contributing to this journey in collaboration with our employees, customers, partners, academia, and other societal actors.

We will continue to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact and conduct our work in accordance with them.

Our mission is to enable sustainable life through the art of architecture.

*Alexandra Hagen*

Alexandra Hagen, CEO





*Solar Avenue in the Climate Innovation District in Leeds, consists of 60 town houses with low climate impact, wooden frame, passive house standard and solar cells. Winner of the Housing Design Award 2020.*

*Our Roadmap Climate 2030 states three strategies: to ensure Sustainable Environments, Circular Architecture and Climate Neutral Design.*



## Time for Action

**2020 was a tumultuous year in many ways. People were hit hard by the pandemic, both personally and financially. However, the year also showed that society can adapt when it's really needed. Many people worked from home, enjoyed staycations, and spent time outdoors in ways they never had before. Air travel decreased, consumption fell, and increasing numbers of people moved out of the cities. Parallels can be drawn to what is needed to tackle the acute climate change.**



We're hearing reports that inequalities in the world are growing, ecosystems are out of balance, global warming is on the increase, and the prospects of achieving the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) are slim. It is therefore pleasing that a number of key decisions were made in 2020. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child became law in Sweden. Sweden launched a strategy for a circular economy. The EU voted through the Green Deal, which, by supporting green investment, will make Europe the first continent in the world to be climate neutral by 2050. The EU's New European Bauhaus emphasises the important role architecture has to play in the green transition, as well as the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to achieving success. Furthermore, the EU's new taxonomy puts pressure on the financial sector to contribute to sustainable investment and thus improve the likelihood of achieving the global SDGs.

More than five years have passed since the Paris Agreement. White has the ambitious vision of making all architecture climate positive and robust in terms

of design. To achieve this, during the year we launched our Climate Roadmap 2030. Our strategy for tackling climate challenges is based on a holistic view of the environment, climate, health, and wellbeing, where White can help to create *sustainable living environments, circular architecture, and climate-positive design*. The goal is that by 2030 all project planning assignments will be climate neutral or better, and that the business will have halved its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In order for society to achieve global and national goals, it's vital that we work towards the same objectives and strengthen collaboration both within and between industries and across national borders. This is the spirit of SDG 17, and in this report we want to highlight examples where collaboration, clear objectives, and daring to challenge each other have been crucial in achieving results that help to promote more sustainable development. No one can do this on their own, but together we can make it happen. And we must do it now!

Anna Graaf, Director of Sustainability



# Research and Innovation that Drives Development

White seeks to push boundaries. New knowledge, research, and innovation give us the opportunity to include and influence society. We don't want to be passive users of new technology; rather, we want to participate in and be at the forefront of both its development and its implementation. With informed design, we can contribute to the development of environments that promote good health, as well as well-designed, circular, and climate-positive architecture.

## NETWORKING

The collective knowledge of our employees is our primary asset. White Research Lab (WRL) brings together our practice-based research and development, which ranges from testing ideas in projects to being part of major international research collaborations. At the heart of WRL are our 16 networks, which, through the exchange of knowledge, help us, the industry, and society to evolve.

Despite a year of social distancing, in some respects society actually came closer together. This was noticeable at the webinars organised by White during the year, which attracted hundreds of participants. Of particular interest were the Sports hall of the future and Inclusive skate parks, both of which are based on a norm-critical perspective, as well as the webinar on Transformation and Circularity, which had more than 500 participants. Our Methodology for Ecosystem Services has now been launched by the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. White has also been commissioned by the Government Offices of Sweden to clarify how social development can be affected by the enshrining of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Swedish law.

## RESEARCH

The main topic of White's new research programme for 2020 to 2023 is informed design. This will help to target research and innovation towards issues related to *circular architecture* and *healthy living environments*.

During the year, White joined the recently launched Digital Twin Cities Centre (DTCC) project at Chalmers ACE, supported by Vinova. White will be involved in two research areas – urban design and development, and architectural and structural design – with the

aim of developing the application of digital twin cities.

During the year, 31 WRL projects were launched, as well as eight external R&D projects, of which four are international. Nine projects were completed and reported.

## WHITE INNOVATION LAB

In 2020, our new White Innovation Lab was designed and established, which will enable more of our development projects and ideas to be developed into new commercial offerings. In the White Innovation Lab, teams from throughout the company push their ideas to market together with partners.

Four innovation projects were launched during the year, one of which has already reached the market, namely White ReCapture – a service that combines 3D scanning, sustainability expertise, and automation, which are integrated into the design process to simplify large-scale recycling. The service was highlighted in the NLA Zero Carbon London report as an example of an innovation that can help cities to become climate neutral.

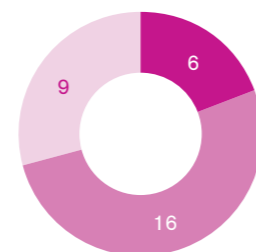
## DIGITAL DESIGN

Digital development means that we can drive the design process in new ways, broaden the role of architects, and develop new services. Digital design tools, together with optimised, efficient design based on a number of sustainability parameters – including materials, daylight, microclimate, energy, and climate impact – contribute to strong design. Our services in the form of digital sustainability analyses and calculations are crucial in supporting and verifying design and design choices.

Through our own development in the digital field, our aim is to create strategic partnerships with external parties, be involved in the research frontline, and initiate our own development projects. ■

*White Re-Capture is a tool for 3D scanning buildings. It is an efficient way to document and determine what and how much materials that can be reused in a project.*

## THEMES FOR WRL-PROJECTS 2020



- Circular Architecture
- Healthy Living Environments
- Informed Design





42% of the projects have climate targets (for materials and/ or energy)

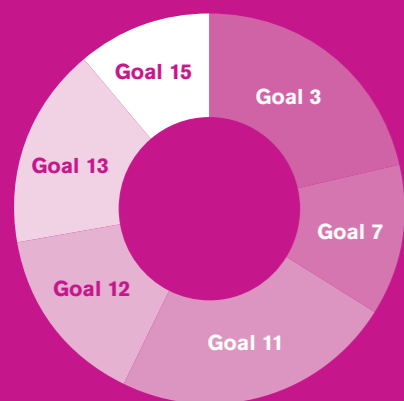
21% of the buildings have timber structure (19% in 2019)

53% of the projects perform according to environmental certification systems (47% in 2019)

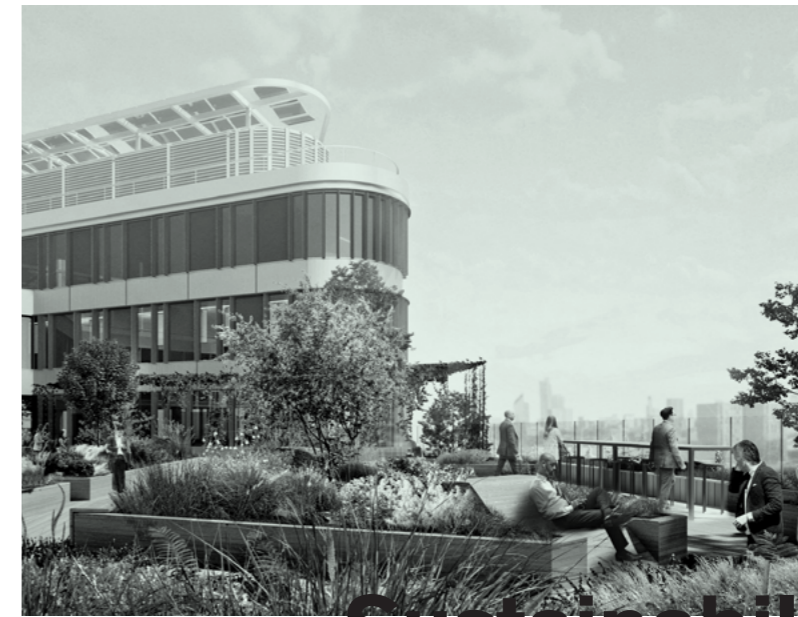
47% of the projects have better energy performance than the Swedish building regulation.

22 projects aim for carbon neutrality or better. (Equals 11 % of 198 relevant projects in survey. Goal to 2023 is 30%.)

Global Goals in our projects:



- **Goal 3: Health and Wellbeing**  
Daylight, Stimulate physical activities, Indoor environment, Damp proof
- **Goal 7: Sustainable Energy**  
Energy efficient buildings, Renewable energy (i.e solar panels)
- **Goal 11: Sustainable and Equitable Societies**  
Safe and secure environments, Equitable and accessible places, Participatory design, Sustainable mobility, Protect cultural values, Economical values
- **Goal 12: Sustainable Communities**  
Materials, Health and wellbeing, Reuse and recycling, Sustainable lifestyles, Timber construction
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**  
Low climate impact of materials and construction, Climate change adaptation
- **Goal 15: Ecological Diversity**  
Implement ecosystem services, Protect the ecological values



*In London's expanding Knowledge Quarter, on the site of the former St Pancras Hospital, the Oriel project is taking shape. The new urban hospital will bring together eye care, research and education in one integrated, flexible and sustainable facility.*

## Sustainability as a Driving Force

White has a strong desire to drive the development of society in a more sustainable direction. This applies to everything from our values, community involvement, travel policies and purchases to having the leading specialists and tools for creating sustainable projects. By taking responsibility and acting as a role model, we can also inspire the world around us. With sustainability as a driving force, we create long-term value for our clients, for ourselves, for society, and for the planet.

### SUSTAINABILITY FOR US

In our context, sustainability means creating buildings and communities with a focus on people's health and social wellbeing. The fundamental prerequisite is that development must be within the planetary boundaries, and not at the expense of the Earth's resources, the ecosystem or the climate. The economy is the facilitator. In order to create attractive environments, and preserve the Earth's resources, we all need to make conscious choices and the right investment decisions. In this way society can achieve true sustainable development. The UN's climate goals, Agenda 2030, and our commitment in accordance with the Global Compact serve as the basis for our business objectives, strategic investments, and priority sustainability issues.

within sustainability. Our strength is having a holistic view of the entire planning and construction process, and, regardless of whether we're dealing with the environment, climate, social considerations, or economic values, we can pursue sustainability from the vision, planning, programme, and project design stages all the way to the construction and in-use phases. By working in interdisciplinary teams, we can ensure a holistic approach to sustainability.

### GLOBAL GOALS

The breadth and variety of our projects give us excellent opportunities to drive change on different scales: from planning towns and cities through to designing buildings and interiors and creating the conditions for a sustainable lifestyle. Most of the global goals are relevant to us to a greater or lesser extent, whether directly or indirectly. However, we have chosen to focus on seven of the goals in particular, as it is these that we have the opportunity to pursue in our assignments on a day-to-day basis.

### OUR SPECIALIST EXPERTISE

In order to be able to handle all the various sustainability challenges, over the course of more than 20 years we've built up our organisation to include several different specialisms and offer a wide range of services

### OUR SERVICES

- Sustainability Management and Certifications
- Circular Architecture
- Climate Neutrality and Energy
- Digital Sustainability: daylight, energy and climate adaptation
- Ecosystem services
- Social Sustainability
- Dialogue processes and co-design
- Economic Sustainability



# ”By 2030 all projects will be carbon neutral or better and the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions from our business have been halved.”



Smörslottsgatan, Gothenburg, has a courtyard that inspires to play and activities for all.

## SUSTAINABILITY IN PROJECTS

No two assignments are the same, which is why we conduct a sustainability analysis at an early stage together with the client and other stakeholders. In this way, we can identify priority issues and risks in order to produce a common set of objectives and a strategy for the project. Our model for sustainability analysis is based on the global goals and also contains other, more specific, sustainability aspects of buildings and planning.

White makes its biggest environmental impact as a result of its assignments. Each year, we follow up on the development of our assignments, including energy targets, certifications and the extent to which we've addressed the global goals (see figure page 12). The trend of increased timber construction continued in 2020. 22 pro-

jects aim for being carbon neutral or better (equals 11% of positive answers in survey). It is positive that a total of 42 percent of our projects have climate targets for operations, materials, or the building as a whole.

## CLIMATE ACCOUNTS

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic resulted in the business switching to home working for much of the year, meaning that the company's climate footprint was substantially lower than in the previous year. Usually our travel accounts for the greatest climate impact, but since business trips have been few since mid-March and our study trips have been cancelled, this has had a huge impact on our climate accounts. In addition, the number of employees decreased during the year, which is noticeable in things such as purchases.

## The Global Goals for White:

### GOALS

### OUR EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS



#### GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Ensure that buildings and environments are good for people's health and wellbeing. *Target 3.9 and the following indicators: daylight, air quality, thermal climate, noise, damp and stimulating movement or rest.*

We design environments that stimulate health and wellbeing, and have cutting-edge experience in healthcare architecture and research in healthy living environments. We have specialists in simulations for daylight, microclimate and wind and offer indoor environment simulations. *Read more on pages 18–23, 26, 32, 36–41.*



#### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Reduce energy demand, create buildings that are energy-efficient and increase the use of renewable energy. *Targets 7.2 and 7.3*

We have expertise in energy and climate calculations. We create energy-efficient buildings with low carbon footprint and support solutions for renewable energy, such as solar cells. *Read more on page 26, 32–35.*



#### SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Create inclusive and equitable communities, with safe environments, housing for all and safe and sustainable means of transportation. Create access to green areas and public spaces, especially for women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Promote social and environmental connections between urban districts and rural areas. Promote participation-based planning. *Targets 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.6 and 11.7*

We base our work on the needs of people. We continually develop new ways for inclusive design processes and promote norm-creative and equitable planning. We take a holistic approach to social wellbeing and perform impact assessments in strategic development plans. We challenge with new types of housing and work in a structured way with ecosystem services in urban planning. *Read more on pages 18–23, 26, 32, 36–41.*



#### SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Contribute to efficient use of natural resources, and reduce emissions of hazardous substances and waste. *Targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.8 and 11.6*

Our goal is that circular architecture will be the starting point for our design. We are investing in developing new services and digital tools to take a holistic approach to circularity. *Read more on pages 24, 28–31.*



#### CLIMATE ACTION

Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy, using materials with low climate impacts and promoting sustainable mobility. Implement climate action and climate change adaptation in the planning process, and increase the capacity for restorative regeneration. *Targets 13.1 and 13.2*

2020 we launched a Roadmap for Climate 2030 which is our strategy to reach the climate targets. By 2023, 30% of our projects will be carbon-neutral (100% by 2030). *Read more on page 9.* We perform energy and climate calculations, and offer services for climate change adaptation and ecosystem services. *Read more on page 18–35.* By 2023, the carbon emissions from our business will be reduced by 30% compared to 2018 levels. *Read more on pages 16–17.*



#### ECOSYSTEMS AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Strengthen the values of ecosystems and biological diversity in the planning process. *Targets 15.1 and 15.9*

Enhance and implement ecosystem services, based on health, climate, environment, social and cultural aspects. *Read more on page 18–23, 26, 32, 38.*



#### PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Create partnerships that exchange knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources – in order to contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries.

The greatest opportunity to drive development take place in our projects in collaboration with customers and stakeholders. White Research Lab runs research and innovation, in collaboration with academia and industry. In international engagements and projects, we share and gain expertise and experience. *Read more on pages 10, 18–41.*



In 2020, White's total emissions amounted to 364 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, which is equivalent to 0.73 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per full time employee. This is a decrease of 60 percent compared with the previous year and 74 percent compared with 2018.

By category, the fall in emissions as compared with 2019 is as follows: Business trips (incl. hotels), 81%; purchases (incl. food, IT and electronics, cloud services, and office supplies), 43%; energy (heating, cooling, electricity), 24%; and waste, 15%. The number of journeys made by plane or train reduced by 76%. 93% of our trips within Sweden were made by train. Attendance at our offices was around 20% per week, which had an impact on the business's energy consumption, purchase of food and office supplies, and waste.

**CLIMATE-NEUTRAL COMPANY**

White offsets all its emissions, which means that we meet the criteria for a climate-neutral company. By way of our climate offsetting, we contribute to two projects in Kenya: Kariba Forest Foundation in Kenya and Paradigm Energy Efficient Cookstoves. The climate calculations have been made by South Pole Group in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG protocol).

**CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGE**

We have procedures and guidelines in place to ensure that our operations have as low environmental and climate impact as possible. Just as important is finding creative ways to contribute to change.

**Energy:** All electricity at our offices are from renewable sources and we set requirements in respect of energy-efficient equipment and lighting. An energy survey was carried out in 2020 to identify potential savings in relation to lighting, standby, and electronic equipment.

**Travel:** We always prioritise travel by train, if possible, both within Sweden and to other countries. We promote study trips by train and limit the ones made by air travel. Rental cars and taxis should primarily be electric or green vehicles, and we're making a number of efforts to encourage cycling (see below). Hotels must have a clear focus on sustainability.

**Food:** We serve only vegetarian or vegan food at lunches, parties, and other events.

All food and fruit must be organic and we endeavour to avoid palm oil.

**IT, telephony, and electronics:** Purchasing criteria include requirements in respect of energy efficiency, materials, health, and ergonomics, as well as social requirements for production.

**Office supplies:** Office supplies must feature an eco-label wherever possible and ideally have a refill option (such as for printer cartridges/toner).

**Waste:** Our first priority is to prevent waste from even arising. For example, we have no single-use items and order food on platters instead of as single portions. Lunch boxes are available to borrow for takeaways. We donate or allow employees to purchase old computers and furniture. IT equipment is disassembled and recycled responsibly.

**INSPIRING EACH OTHER**

In our offices, we've embarked on a variety of initiatives to encourage more sustainable lifestyles. At several of our offices we've organised a bike workshop, and bikes are available to borrow. We offer contributions for training and gym and offer running training, opportunities to participate in competitions, and cycling challenges. Several offices also offer massages, yoga, and talks on everything from stress management to healthy food. By inspiring each other to pursue more sustainable lifestyles, we can also inspire the world around us.

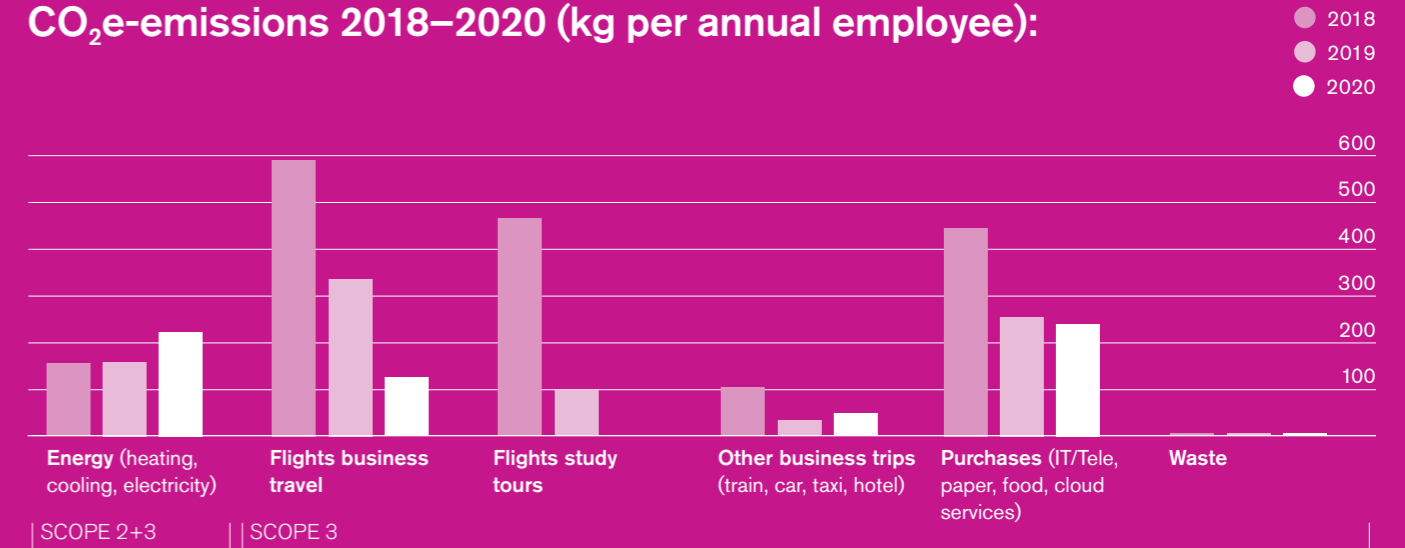
**COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY**

We are involved in the Swedish Government's initiative Fossil-Free Sweden and support the Roadmap for a climate-neutral building and construction sector 2045. We're also involved in Malmö's local roadmap, LFM30, and have signed the Architects Declare initiative in Sweden, Norway, and the UK.

We're members of several networks that have a focus on sustainability, including Circular Sweden, Global Utmaning, Innovation Pioneers, the Green Building Councils in Sweden, Norway and Canada, the Swedish Association for Sustainable Business (NMC) among others.

Some of the organisations we support financially include Médecins sans Frontières, Children's Rights in Society (BRIS), Cancer Rehab Foundation, Giving People among others. ■

**CO<sub>2</sub>e-emissions 2018–2020 (kg per annual employee):**



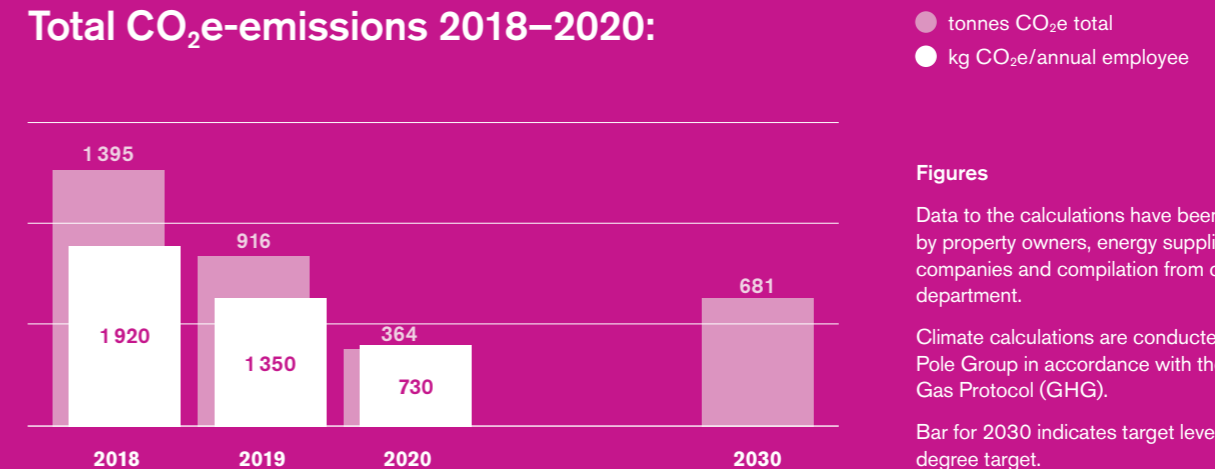
**364**  
tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e-emissions  
(916 tonnes in 2019)

**0,73**  
tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e-emissions/annual employee  
(1,34 tonnes/annual employee in 2019)

**93%** of business travel in Sweden are performed by train (Goal: 90%)

**74%** lower CO<sub>2</sub>e-emissions than 2018. (Goal 2023: 30%)

**Total CO<sub>2</sub>e-emissions 2018–2020:**



**Figures**

Data to the calculations have been provided by property owners, energy suppliers, travel companies and compilation from our finance department.

Climate calculations are conducted by the South Pole Group in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG).

Bar for 2030 indicates target level to reach 1.5 degree target.



*Clemenstorget, Lund. With a new tram stop the square has become one of the city's most important hubs. Lush trees, playful art and colorful pavilions create an urban lounge for both inhabitants and visitors.*

## Valuable Urban Spaces

**Cities should strive for being equal, safe, and inclusive. Their design is crucial for human health and quality of life. Meanwhile, the pressure on ecosystems is strained and the impact of climate change is already evident in many places. Consequently, the design of urban public environments is of crucial importance for how sustainable a city can actually be, environmentally, socially, and economically.**

Urban land is valuable. There needs to be space for buildings, infrastructure, energy production, vital natural values, and maybe even farming. And, not least, there needs to be room for people to meet, move and live. Public environments can be the link that brings people together across any and every border and on equal terms.

That said, 20 to 30 percent of urban areas currently consists of streets. Despite the fact that air pollution has major negative effects on health and the climate, countless cities still have heavily congested roads, right in the middle of the city. In the pilot project "Future Streets of Stockholm" we have explored what cities would look like if we converted more streets into public urban spaces.

It takes a long time for a city to gain its identity and soul. Therefore, the values of preserving existing buildings should always

be valued when transforming environments. The social, cultural and economic values can be significant. Preserving and reusing is also one of the most effective ways of saving natural resources and reducing climate impact.

Furthermore, we know that greenery in cities supports many vital functions such as biodiversity, air purification, and increased wellbeing. Green spaces can help to mitigate the impact of climate change in a natural way. Elevated water levels, heavier rainfall, and warmer climates now pose a huge risk to the functions, buildings, and inhabitants of urban areas.

We believe that cities need to be developed from a broader, holistic value perspective so that challenges are turned into opportunities and become a driving force for creating cities that are attractive and sustainable for both people and the environment over the long term. ■





# New Neighbourhood with Historical Roots

The textile factory Heinzelmann, in Reutlingen, Germany, has since the late 1800's been a key employer and a cultural reference in the collective identity of the city. White Arkitekter's winning proposal for transforming the area focuses on restoring the area's prominence by designing a vibrant and attractive neighborhood. It both repurposes existing buildings with minimal alteration and adds two timber buildings, keeping history alive and restoring urban fabric.

– We focus on giving the site its heart and soul back, honoring the past and translating it into a contemporary feel and a future, sustainable use, says Max Zinnecker, Lead Architect from White.

A thorough consultation of stakeholders in Reutlingen has revealed great interest by small businesses and organisations, many of which are active in the creative industries' sector. The new development will include spaces for ateliers, co-working spaces and offices, besides restaurants and grocery stores.

The new neighborhood will have 87 new apartments of different sizes, price ranges and for all phases of life. The street-level amenities will breathe

life into the public areas, both during the day and in the evenings. A new public square with a café will be the center piece of the new neighborhood.

– The two new buildings will be built in wood, setting the agenda for a carbon neutral development. By preserving and reusing both existing buildings and materials, we not only save natural resources, but also preserve important social and cultural values, says Max Zinnecker.

The roofs of the two residential buildings will be equipped with solar cells as well as a public urban garden that will enable cultivation and foster biodiversity. The garden will be able to provide the restaurants with fresh vegetables. The area will promote sustainable mobility with a new bicycle garage that will accommodate 150 bicycles (i.e. two per household). The garage will be reserved for electrical vehicles and a car-pool and the former outdoor car park will instead be transformed into a welcoming 'Biergarten'.

The total floor area is 16.000 sqm, of which 4.000 sqm will be new buildings. The development consists of 2/3 housing and 1/3 commercial, mixed use.

**Vad:** Heinzelmann Areal, Reutlingen, Germany.

**Client:** GIEAG Immobilien AG.

**When:** 2020–2024

**Sustainability:** Transformation, Cultural heritage, Re-use, Timber construction, Low carbon footprint, Biodiversity

*At the old textile factory in Reutlingen, Germany, a new, attractive area will be created. By preserving the buildings, the historic soul of the area can be kept, and by adding wooden homes and mixed-use development, a modern atmosphere with a high sustainability profile is created.*





# Life in the Water – Life by the Water

**What:** Winning proposal True Blue, Lungegårds park, Bergen, Norway

**Who:** City of Bergen

**When:** Completed 2023

**Team:** White in collaboration with Fredrik Pettersson Arkitekt AS, Dipl. Ing Florian Koshe AS and AFRY.

**Sustainability:** Places for all, Biological Diversity, Clean Water, Ecosystem Services, Climate Adaptation

True Blue is White's winning proposal for the design of the new park and bathing facility in Bergen, Norway. The city's vision is an urban space with a strong identity that will be a hallmark of Bergen for at least the next century. It will offer a wide range of activities and recreational areas, as well as strengthen biodiversity, improve water quality, and be able to mitigate the impact of climate change.

– The aim is to create an attractive and inclusive urban space. Residents should be able to enjoy the water at any time of year, and we want to promote the understanding that water is crucial for our survival, says Niels de Bruin, lead landscape architect.

The beach park extends for more than a kilometre, so it has been divided into three zones. The first will be the largest meeting place, starting in the city centre with a city beach, a floating bathing facility, and space for sports and events. The emphasis of the park then shifts towards nature and recreation before shifting again to life in and on the water. Islands, bridges, and bathing jetties make it possible to go out on and in the water.

– To create an area with a strong identity, in the competition we've

already involved local stakeholders such as an art association, an upper secondary school, the Bergen aquarium, and an environmental organisation. Their contributions have been important to the design of the park, says Niels de Bruin.

The area and the materials must be able to withstand weather, wind, and water over a long period of time. In order to improve water quality, a natural treatment system has been created and measures have been put in place to increase biodiversity in the underwater environment.

– Without life in the water, there's no life by the water. Water quality is decisive for the success of the project and will have both ecologically and socially sustainable values over the long term, says architect Jenny Mäki.

– We've long had a keen focus on water and architecture. In our work on the book *Out of the Blue*, we brought together architects, landscape architects, and designers from across the world to share their experiences of sustainability and water in combination with urbanism and urban life. We now have the opportunity to use this knowledge in practice, says Jenny Mäki.

*In the expanded Lungegårds park in Bergen, Norway, caring for the aquatic environment is absolutely crucial to becoming a successful project with both ecological and socially sustainable values over a long period of time.*



## Towards a Circular, Climate-Neutral Future

**The effects of climate change are already evident, and global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced rapidly to ensure a living planet and a sustainable life for future generations. Meanwhile, biodiversity is under threat and the exploitation of the planet's resources is far beyond what it can sustain. Achieving the goals and overcoming the challenges requires a radical transition and it must happen now!**

In Sweden, the construction sector currently accounts for around 20 percent of domestic greenhouse gas emissions. The amount of emissions almost doubles if you also count emissions from building materials produced in other countries.

Furthermore, the industry uses huge amounts of raw materials while also throwing away large quantities that could have been recycled. Reusing and recycling instead of producing new materials are among the most effective ways of reducing climate impact. The design of urban areas and communities also affects their inhabitants' ability to live sustainably and have a low climate impact.

White has a vision of climate-positive architecture. In our new climate roadmap for 2030, we've formulated strategies for how we can drive change in our assignments and what investments that are needed.

Through circular architecture we can drive the transition from a linear to a circular economy. The starting point is making use of what

already exists – be it neighbourhoods, buildings, or materials – to create new designs and attractive environments. It is also about creating timeless architecture that not only evolves over time but uses spaces efficiently and uses recyclable materials.

We can also encourage to create climate-neutral or climate-positive buildings. This means that emissions from materials, operations, and production are balanced with renewable energy and carbon storage. The basis for success is established when areas are planned. There must be an opportunity for renewable energy and the shared use of resources.

Digital design tools create opportunities to optimise the energy use of buildings and create material-efficient, function-adapted design without unnecessary waste, or tailor-made prefab constructions of high architectural quality.

But for theory to be turned into practice, it's essential to have strong leadership, clear goals, and a shared desire to drive change throughout the project team. ■



*The 200 Year Pavilion has been designed from recycled timber from an old sawmill in Hälsingland. The pavilion can be dismantled and in 2020 it has contributed to a tranquil meeting place in both Stockholm and Uppsala.*



# Together for Climate Neutrality

The climate-driven transformation of the construction and real estate sector is now being pursued in many ways, but one of the most pro-active initiatives is the LFM30 in Malmö. More than 150 stakeholders have joined the initiative, which is a local roadmap for a climate-neutral building and construction sector in Malmö by the year 2030. Some 30 carbon-neutral projects are expected to start within the next five years.

White has been involved since the outset in 2019, and together with the other stakeholders, we have developed tools for climate calculations and energy requirements as well as procurement requirements and business models.

– The fact that there are so many stakeholders involved in LFM30 is a huge strength. By building knowledge together, we will be able to achieve the climate goals faster, says Andreas Eggertsen Teder, architect and sustainability specialist at White, who is also responsible for the design, process, and climate working group in LFM30.

In order to have a common conception of what climate-neutral construction means, it has been important to establish a threshold for CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions per square metre. White's Priorn project was chosen as a test pilot.

Priorn is a 16,000-square-metre office building across two concrete-frame units – one four storeys and the other eight storeys. The façade consists of light materials such as brick, wood, and natural stone.

– More than 30 different types of glass have been used to maximise daylight from different directions without the buildings getting too hot, explains Martin Sundberg, lead architect at White.

The building's carbon footprint was calculated at 318 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup> compared with the target threshold of 270 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>. Although this is somewhat higher than the LFM30 target threshold, it's a very good result as there weren't any specific climate targets for the building when the project was started. This will bring valuable knowledge to projects to come.

The building is certified in accordance with LEED Platinum. Geo-energy, solar panels, and presence-controlled lighting and ventilation support low energy needs. Surface water is managed locally, and in the basement there are charging stations for electric cars, bike parking, and changing rooms.

Unique to the building is the therapy garden on the roof, which has been designed for the tenant, the Region Skåne clinic, for the purpose of memory research and dementia care.

– There's a walking trail, a conservatory for winter use, and space for physical activities and urban gardening. There is a variety of trees and plants that create separate spaces and rooms. Users should be able to experience the same qualities as they would in a ground-level garden, says Markus Magnusson, lead landscape architect.

**What:** Priorn, Malmö

**Who:** Vasakronan

**When:** Completed 2020

**Sustainability:** LEED Platinum, Low Climate Impact, Energy efficiency, Solar energy, Ecosystem services, Daylight, Health and Wellbeing. CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions: 318 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>

*With the highest environmental performance, low climate impact and a verdant roof garden, Priorn challenges the notion of how an office building should be designed and what role it has in an urban context..*





## Profitable Large-Scale Recycling

Uppsala's Hugin neighbourhood had long been seen as a barrier in the city, and the plan was to demolish the buildings and construct new ones. But a few years ago a new approach was launched and White started to explore the opportunities for saving and reusing as much as possible.

– In the current proposal, although a few buildings will be demolished and others will be added, much of the complex will be retained, renovated, and extended. The target is 100 percent recycling – everything that can be recycled will be recycled, says Anders Tväråna, lead architect at White.

Calculations showed this to be profitable in several ways. This proposal can be ready two years earlier, save SEK 180 million, and reduce CO2 emissions by 3,800 tonnes as compared with a new concrete building. Tenants will also be able to move in earlier, which means that income will return more quickly.

However, for large-scale recycling to be a success, a completely different process is required than with a new building. First, each element

of the building must be inventoried in order to map what can be reused in the project, what can be used in another project, and what can be sold. Each component then needs to be dismantled and either stored for subsequent rebuilding or transported away. Craftspeople are then needed to repair or freshen up those components. If a project like this is to be a success, the involvement of the client is crucial.

– To recycle as much as possible is an important step in achieving our climate goals, says Anders Boström, Project Manager Vasakronan. You have to dare to succeed.

A total of more than 20,000 square metres of modern and attractive premises will be created at a significantly lower cost and with significantly less environmental impact than would be the case for a new building.

– The project shows that it pays to act in new ways and that it is important to dare to take the first step. Now we know how to simplify the process next time, says Anders Tväråna.

**What:** Hugin, Uppsala

**Who:** Vasakronan

**When:** Ongoing

**Sustainability:** Re-use, low climate impact, circularity.

*The Hugin block in Uppsala shows that it is profitable, both economically and environmentally, to create innovative architecture based on re-use and re-design.*







## Wood Waste Turns into New Material

**What:** Innovation project Would Wood

**Who:** Consortium with White, RISE, Chalmers, KTH, Stora Enso, Veidekke, Ragn-Sells, Scania, Neste, Nouryon, Swedish Wood and Phenotype Studio. Funded by Vinnova.

**When:** Finished 2020.

**Sustainability:** Circularity, Climate, Innovation

One of society's biggest challenges, but also its biggest opportunity, is the transition to a circular economy. Reducing the exploitation of finite resources, saving biodiversity, and halting climate change all depend on the circular economy. Success hinges on a change of mindset in respect of consumption and collaboration between different industries and stakeholders. This in turn will drive new innovations, goods, and services. It's an exciting creative challenge!

The Would Wood innovation project is a shining example of this. The timber and agricultural industries generate huge amounts of waste that are currently used for biofuels but which could instead become raw material for new products. Would Wood has developed technology to reuse wood waste to 3D print new building materials. The ability to create exact shapes using the additive method minimises waste and thus streamlines the manufacturing process and reduces the climate impact. The printed wood

material consists of a composition of biopolymers and wood fibres that can be melted and 3D printed up to seven times while retaining the same strength and durability.

– With Would Wood, we've managed to combine material development with innovation in design and digitalisation. This paves the way for completely new opportunities in the shapes and structures we can build and can support the transition to more circular material flows, says Jonas Runberger, architect and partner at White and artistic professor at Chalmers University of Technology.

– Collaboration within the project between different specialisms, companies, and industries has been both inspiring and crucial. Architects and engineers have worked together with material and mechanical engineering researchers, Jonas Runberger says.

The technology is now being tested in a number of demonstration projects in the hope of being able to scale up production for commercial manufacture.

*The project Would Wood shows how new technology can create completely new opportunities for design and product development while contributing to the transition towards a circular economy.*





## An Energy-Smart City

Tamarinden in Örebro is aiming to become one of Sweden's most energy-smart neighbourhoods. The Municipality of Örebro has created the conditions for Tamarinden to reduce, produce, store, and share energy in ways that have never been done before.

Alongside Örebrobostäder and Tornet Bostadsproduktion AB, White is developing five plots in the neighbourhood.

– Here, we're creating energy-efficient wooden architecture while using locally produced energy, such as by way of solar panels, to make the neighbourhood almost self-sufficient, explains Elin Sandström, project director and sustainability specialist at White.

The outdoor environments manage surface water and the water can be reused for growing plants and vegetables. The environments will encourage people to socialise and will connect the area with its surroundings.

But what makes Tamarinden unique is that this is the first neighbourhood in Sweden to store energy in batteries

enabling energy to be shared between properties. This makes it possible to avoid power peaks and unnecessary consumption, which are both expensive and negative for the environment. In Tamarinden, we're challenging norms and legislation. This means that the neighbourhood can become a role model for innovative energy solutions and future urban development both in Sweden and abroad.

– Success in creating future, smart cities hinges on new forms of close collaboration between different stakeholders. By sharing data and utilising one another's expertise to demonstrate how sustainable urban development can be pursued in practice, we hope to inspire others, says Marcus Lindberg, lead architect for White's proposal together with Tornet.

– Tamarinden is a fantastic example of how we can better manage resources and create a symbiosis within and between different neighbourhoods, says Gry Andersson, landscape architect for White's assignment for Örebrobostäder.

**What:** Tamarinden, Örebro

**Who:** Örebro Municipality, Örebrobostäder, Tornet

**When:** 2020–2022

**Sustainability:** Energy efficiency, Renewable Energy, Wood, Stormwater Management, Urban greenery and Meeting places.

*Tamarinden, Örebro, challenges with innovative energy solutions to become one of Sweden's foremost role models for energy efficient and sustainable urban development.*



# Zero Energy is the Future of Construction

When White was signed for creating a building for the future for Fabege and Nordic Choice Hotels, a clear vision was formulated at an early stage: This is going to be the first zero-energy hotel in Scandinavia.

The 11-storey building in Arenastaden consists of 22,000 square metres across three units: a 336-room hotel, offices for Nordic Choice Hotels' Swedish head office, and 88 long-stay apartments. The hotel also boasts a restaurant and conference centre, as well as a lobby.

To achieve the zero-energy goal, the starting point was to invest in solar panels, passiv house technology, and geo-energy.

– To reduce heat loss, the building has a compact building volume with a well-insulated and tight structure. The south-facing façade and roof are clad with 2,500 square metres of solar panels with an output of 400 kW, explains Rickard Nygren, sustainability specialist at White.

Together with geo-energy from 24 boreholes, the energy produced covers the property's annual requirements and the zero-energy target is achieved.

– The solar panels add to the shape of the roof, while on the façade the panels are built into glass panels of different colours and shapes. The façade changes depending on light conditions and reflections, says Petter Wesslander, project architect at White. We've also worked with well-balanced window sizes to maximise light but also avoiding overheating, in order to reduce the need for cooling.

In order to further reduce the environmental and climate impact, there has also been a goal of reducing the use of materials and building as efficiently as possible in terms of surface area. The premises can also be shared between offices and hotel at all times, with the foyer serving as a social hub open to local residents.

– The success factor has been having the courage to choose the direction and set priorities accordingly. The consultants and the property owner have worked together towards this shared explicit goal, and it feels great to have succeeded, says Raimo Joss, lead architect at White.

**What:** House of Choice, Solna. 22 000 m<sup>2</sup> hotell och kontor.

**Who:** Fabege/Nordic Choice Hotels

**When:** Finished 2021

**Sustainability:** Breeam Excellent, Feby Gold Plus-energy house, Energy efficiency, Solar energy, Geothermal energy, Material- and space efficient, Daylight.

**Other:** The building is nominated "The Swedish Building of the Year" 2021.





Workshop for development of the neighbourhood around the Kronogård Square in Trollhättan.

## Equal Environments for Diverse People

**An equal society is based on the principle of equal rights and opportunities for everyone, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, or age. Cities and buildings are for everyone, so they need to be designed to cater for many different needs. This is a democratic right.**

By involving people with different needs at the planning stage, we create better conditions for creating environments where people feel at home and in which they get involved. Equality in urban planning is about more than just feeling welcome. It's a matter of health, wellbeing, security, and having access to activities and recreation. Both physical and mental illness are on the rise in society, so it's important to improve people's sense of belonging and to stimulate more activity..

Having somewhere to live is also a human right. Different homes are needed for many different needs. Particularly sought after are good quality homes at reasonable prices. New types of housing need to be developed that can be built quickly,

that use the surface area efficiently, and that can be used by different target groups. The design of a home and its surroundings can have a huge impact on quality of life.

In 2020, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child became law in Sweden. This means that all public activities must be permeated by a children's rights perspective. This includes urban planning and construction. For many years, White has pushed the issue of norm-creative design and not least how to design environments for children and young adults. Structured and goal-oriented efforts are required to include residents in design processes, as is creativity in order to engage people in a stimulating way, depending on who is the target group. ■



## Housing with Children in Focus

Having somewhere to live is a human right, and SDG 11 states that there should be housing for all at a reasonable cost. Involuntary overcrowding and its negative consequences have become even more apparent in a year when many people have been forced to spend much more time at home. Children and young people are the hardest hit in socially and economically vulnerable areas.

Together with Sveafastigheter, White has developed the Barnbo concept, which uses children's needs as its starting point. The plan is to develop the project in the Stockholm suburb of Rågsved in close collaboration with the city, the district administration, residents in the area, and the school's children and staff.

Bambo offers 40 affordable homes with small but plentiful rooms, with priority given to single parents with children. The neighbourhood has space for socialising and doing homework, which helps to improve social security for the adults and children living in the building. Bambo will become the heart of the children's living environment, close to school, green areas, and activities. The routes connect the children's focal points and also give them considerable freedom of movement.

– Social value creation will be key to successful real estate development going forwards, says Harry McNeil of Sveafastigheter. Bambo is a clear example that we hope will inspire more people so that the concept can be applied in more places around the country.

The architecture is based on the child's experience, with tactile materials and inspiring details at eye level. The courtyard is designed for children, with nature providing natural playgrounds.

– What's innovative about Bambo is that we've dared to set priorities and do things differently. Only then can we create the shifts that are needed for more equal living environments, says Rebecca Rubin, lead architect at White.

**What:** BARNBO-Affordable housing, Stockholm

**Who:** Sveafastigheter

**When:** 2020. Detailed planning started 2021.

**Sustainability:** Sustainable cities, Affordable housing, Children's rights, Social sustainability



# Healthcare for Children – by Children

Caring has been the guiding principle for the renovation and expansion of the Queen Silvia's Children's Hospital in Gothenburg. From the outset, it was important that children and young people at the hospital and their relatives were involved in the design process in a variety of ways. Through things like playshops – workshops using play as a tool – the children got to draw and express what they wanted to see in the hospital.

– Their ideas were invaluable as a basis for the design and have been hugely important for everything from the colour scheme and furniture to the design of play therapy facilities and the library, explains Susanna von Eyben, lead interior designer at White. Playfulness is an important element of the design.

The most important thing for the children was to have a feeling of being at home and feeling normal. Relatives can spend the night in the patient rooms and there's access to a kitchen in order to prepare food like at home. Many stay here for several months; and it can be important to be able to leave the ward at times. The lush courtyard features artwork in the form of a marble run six storeys high, which arouses curiosity and makes the environment more inviting. The art is integrated into the architecture and is important to the project.

– The hospital will support recovery through play and positive distraction, indoors and out. There will also be space for peace and cosiness, says

lead architect Cristiana Caira. Striking the right balance has been crucial during the design process.

– The project is fantastic. This is a unique environment compared with other examples in Europe. A particular success has been the co-operation within the project group, as well as the vision document developed early on in the process with the help of the children and staff at the hospital, says Monica Johansson, quality co-ordinator at Child and women's health care, Sahlgrenska University Hospital and process manager for the project.

– The building is certified in accordance with Miljöbyggnad Guld, which means that we've placed emphasis on choosing healthy materials, creating good indoor environments, and ensuring low energy consumption, explains Ulrika Nilsson, sustainability specialist at White. The atrium has been carefully simulated to maximise daylight without it getting overheated.

– The building will stand for a long time, but thanks to its general floorplan and flexibility, it can be reorganised in the future without too much work. This is a building that will provide first-class health care, which has been designed from a children's perspective, and which will be sustainable in the long term, says lead architect Krister Nilsson.

– The environment radiates playfulness and professionalism, and in this regard we've had a holistic approach, says Monica Johansson.

**What:** Queen Silvia's Children's Hospital, Gothenburg.

**Who:** Västfastigheter, Region Västra Götaland

**When:** 2010–2021

**Sustainability:** Environmental Building Silver, Energy efficiency, Healthy materials, Daylight, Inclusive process, Children's perspective



*Queen Silvia's Children's Hospital in Gothenburg has been designed from the children's perspective and has become an environment that exudes both playfulness and first-class healthcare.*





Student House Valla, Linköping

**PRIZES IN SELECTION**

- Building of the Year:** Student House Valla, Linköping
- Solar energy prize:** Student House Valla, Linköping
- Steel Prize 2020:** Danderyd's hospital
- Glass Prize:** Regional Municipality Building, Gothenburg
- "Gold house" 2020, management:** Lisa Wistrand
- Red Dot Design Award:** interior SJ-X2000 train
- Ängelholm's architectural prize:** Hälsostaden Hospital
- Nomination SBIB International Design Awards:** Selma Lagerlöf Center interior, Gothenburg
- Gröna Lansen Malmö:** Origo
- European Healthcare Design Award:** Värnamo Hospital
- Building Smart Award (BIM-proj):** Celcius, Uppsala
- DesignS:** Selma Lagerlöf Center interior, Gothenburg
- Honorary Prize Norway Wetlands:** Driv
- Architecture Masterprize:** Akademiska Hospital, entré 100, Uppsala
- Sweden Green Building Award:** Masthuggskajen, Gothenburg and New Underground, Barkarby
- Housing Design Award:** Climate Innovation District, Leeds

Celcius, Uppsala



Selma Lagerlöf Center, Gothenburg.

## Awards and Prizes

**COMMENDED PROJECTS**

Many of our projects received awards in 2020, both nationally and internationally. Of our healthcare projects, Värnamo hospital was highly commended at the prestigious European Healthcare Design Awards 2020. Uppsala University Hospital was one of nine healthcare projects commended in the international Architecture MasterPrize, receiving an honourable mention. Hälsostaden in Ängelholm was awarded the Ängelholm Architecture Prize, while Danderyd hospital won the Plåtpriset Prize.

Among our office buildings, Celcius in Uppsala was named the top BIM project in the world at the buildingSMART International Virtual Summit. Origo in Malmö won the City of Malmö's Gröna lansen Environment Prize, while Regionens Hus in Gothenburg was awarded the Glaspriset Prize.

In this year's Sweden Green Building Awards, Masthuggskajen in Gothenburg (where White is involved among others) was named Citylab project of the year, while the extension of the Stockholm metro blue line to Barkarby was awarded the prize for Sustainable Infrastructure of the year. The Climate Innovation District residential development in Leeds in the UK was named the winner of the Housing Design Awards. At the end of the year, the acclaimed interior of the Selma Lagerlöf Center in Gothenburg, which uses 92% recycled materials, won the Design S Prize at the Swedish Design Awards in the interior design category.

**COMPETITIONS**

We completed several successful competitions in 2020, both in Sweden and

abroad. In Sweden we won Uppsala's bathing facility Fyrishov, the Galeasen residential area in Vänersborg, the Åsen residential area in Jönköping, the Tamarin-den neighbourhood in Örebro, Islaggen in Helsingborg, and Bambo in Stockholm, among others.

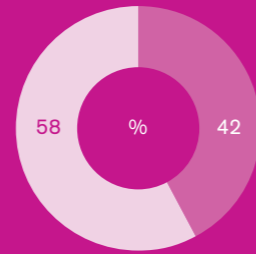
In Norway we had success with Bergen's new city baths and park at Store Lungegårdsvann, a new elementary school in Ørsta, and Bodø Kulturhavn.

In Germany we won two competitions. The first is the transformation of the old factory district of Heinzelmänn Areal, which will become home to restaurants, studios, offices and co-working spaces, and homes. The second is the prestigious architectural competition to design a new home for the elderly in Liederbach, Frankfurt. ■

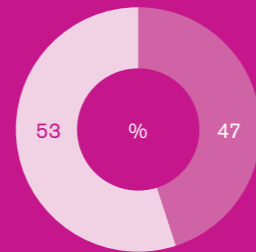




mSEK to research and development and academic services



Ratio of women and men – board



Ratio of women and men – total



We have worked in different countries in 2020

Denmark (Greenland), DR Congo, Finland, Canada, Kenya, Latvia, Norway, Rwanda, Great Britain, Sweden, Germany and USA.

12

Share of competitions won:

30 %

746 mSEK turnover

31 new WRL and R&D-projects

Number of employees

700

**”White has strong values: we will be exploratory, responsible and act with participation and respect.”** FROM WHITE’S OWNER DIRECTIVE

## Responsible Business Development

A strong commitment to society and an ethical, democratic fundamental view are the cornerstones of White’s corporate culture. Today, it is associated with major risks in not taking responsibility for how the business affects people or the environment. In addition, the pandemic has shown that there are unexpected threats that can have a huge impact on both the company and society at large. The aim for our business is to develop sustainable architecture and values for our stakeholders and our strategic plan sets a clear and challenging direction. Our mission is to enable sustainable life through the art of architecture.

### STRATEGIC PLAN 2020–2023

2020 was the first year of our new business plan that extends to 2023. The overall vision is that by 2030, all our architecture is climate neutral through design excellence. We have three main strategies, all of which will contribute to the development of the company in different ways:

#### Combining excellence:

By combining sustainability, design and building technology, we enable innovative and creative sustainable solutions. Our culture is characterized by collaboration, curiosity and to challenge with new ways of working.

#### Pushing boundaries:

Our R&D efforts are at the intersection of sustainability, design, building technology and digitalisation, and through the innovation process we create viable ideas that generate new revenues. Our international business will grow to strengthen our competitiveness.

#### True partner:

We unite sustainability and architecture with strong visions while taking responsibility for feasibility and having control over process and economy. We are the main advisors at a time of rapid technological development.

#### WHITE WORK

To support us in managing our activities and our assignments we have our business system *WhiteWork*, which is certified in accordance with ISO 9001 Quality Management and ISO 14001 Environmental Management. We have an internal organisation (Kvalitetsbygget) for maintaining and developing *WhiteWork*, and we have a comprehensive level of staff involvement, with quality managers in every office, who assist with continual training and education, and internal audits that are performed twice a year. We measure quality and environmental performance,

for both operations and assignments, and follow up annually towards goals at Management Review meeting.

#### STAKEHOLDERS

In order to develop as a company, prioritise and take responsibility within our sphere of influence, we need to always stay up to date regarding developments in the world around us. As we work in so many different areas, we have many different stakeholders: users, property owners, consultants, contractors, municipalities, organisations, academia, media and our employees (who are also our owners). We capture opinions and improvement potential through, for example, follow-up of assignments, customer surveys, market surveys, performance appraisals, employee surveys and seminars or dialogue processes.

Social media is today the main communication channel, where we also receive quick feedback on what we do.



The ten principles of the UN Global Compact:

HUMAN RIGHTS	LABOUR	ENVIRONMENT	ANTI-CORRUPTION
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 1</b> Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLE 2</b> make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.</p>	<p><b>PRINCIPLE 3</b> Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLE 4</b> the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLE 5</b> the effective abolition of childlabour; and</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLE 6</b> the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.</p>	<p><b>PRINCIPLE 7</b> Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLE 8</b> undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLE 9</b> encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.</p>	<p><b>PRINCIPLE 10</b> Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.</p>

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICAL RULES**

Our Code of Conduct for Corporate Sustainability states how we as employees and as a company take responsibility and what we expect of our partners. Our commitment to adhere to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact on human rights, working conditions, the environment, and anti-corruption serves as the basis for this code.

Our employees must also adhere to the ethical rules of both Samhällsbyggnadssektorn and Architects Sweden. These rules mean that we oppose all forms of corruption, strive for competition on equal terms, and promote social responsibility in the value chain.

We have a whistleblower function that can be used by both external stakeholders and our own employees via a link on our website. In the past year, there have been no reports of deviations or involvement in any form of corruption.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

The company's overall risk analysis is reviewed annually and followed up by the board. In 2020, this analysis was supplemented with the risks and impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The most important risk factors are associated with our employees, the economy, financial development, and the execution of assignments. We regularly follow up on areas such as our employees' work situation, market development, various key performance indicators, and assignment results.

We believe that there is a low risk that our operations will have a direct negative impact from a sustainability perspective. The greatest opportunity for preventing sustainability risks lies in our assignments, which is why a sustainability analysis must always be carried out. See the model on page 14.

**RISKS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN**

We also have a Code of Conduct for Clients and Suppliers, which is based on the Code of Conduct for Corporate Sus-

tainability. When signing an agreement, the operator must confirm that they have understood the content of and undertake to comply with the code of conduct. An initial evaluation takes place by way of the project qualification analysis, project risk analysis, procurement criteria, or sub-consultant assessment. Follow-ups take place by way of interviews with our major suppliers or spot checks for sub-consultants.

**ASSIGNMENT ANALYSIS**

Assignment risk analyses are carried out in connection with tenders and contracts. Assessments are made based on our business goals, code of conduct for corporate sustainability, sustainability targets, and financial conditions. Country risk assessments are always carried out for assignments outside Sweden, Norway, and Denmark and are based on democracy, human rights, corruption, and business risks. The analyses are based on evaluations by Freedom House, the Swedish Export Credit Agency, and Transparency International. ■

# ”All employees are responsible for ensuring that the company is not exposed to unnecessary risk.”

FROM WHITE'S RISK POLICY

**Risk analyses:**

RISK ASPECT	CONSEQUENCE	RISK MANAGEMENT
<p><b>CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b> We work actively to prevent negative environmental impact, both in our business activities and in our assignments.</p>	<p>In our assessment, the risk of our company contributing to directly negative environmental impact is low. Our strength within sustainability contributes to a high level of confidence in us and our brand. Major opportunities to exert influence exist in our assignments.</p>	<p>Requirements regarding travel, purchasing, suppliers and sub-consultants; Sustainability analysis shall be performed in assignments; Competence development via White Academy and White Research Lab; Specialists within climate and environment.</p>
<p><b>SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY</b> Our business activities shall not cause, contribute to or be associated with violations of human rights or corruption.</p>	<p>This risk is assessed to be low, although the consequences could be serious for the company, e.g. damaged reputation/brand, as well as economically/legally..</p>	<p>Code of Conduct and ethical rules for employees; Code of Conduct for customers and suppliers; Country risk analysis for assignments outside of our home market.</p>
<p><b>BUSINESS PARTNERS</b> In their tiers of the supply chain, our suppliers and business partners shall not cause or contribute to violations of human rights, corruption or negative environmental impact.</p>	<p>The consequences could be serious, not only for White, but also for the other parties or the context affected.</p>	<p>Procedures for tender evaluation and project and sustainability analysis; Code of Conduct for customers and suppliers, purchasing procedures and supplier assessment; Sub-consultant assessment.</p>
<p><b>EQUAL TREATMENT</b> All employees shall be treated equally and with respect. This also applies to our business partners and assignments.</p>	<p>The consequences could be serious, not only for those affected, but also for the company's attractiveness and brand.</p>	<p>Code of Conduct for employees; Code of Conduct for customers and suppliers; Employee Policy; Plan for equal rights and opportunities, with continuous follow-up.</p>
<p><b>SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE</b> Having the best employees, and providing them with conditions for constant development, is crucial to the success of our company and the quality of our assignments.</p>	<p>Good opportunities for development make the company attractive. Shortcomings in assignments and damages could lead to losses and a lower level of confidence and trust.</p>	<p>White Research Lab; White Academy and mentoring programme; Performance appraisals and employee surveys.</p>
<p><b>WORK ENVIRONMENT</b> Our workplace shall be sustainable from a work environment and health perspective. Our employees shall experience a good balance between work and leisure time.</p>	<p>A good work environment, pleasant working conditions and strong leadership are factors that are crucial for the company's attractiveness. The consequences of a poor work environment or lack of balance could be serious, not only for the individual employee, but also for the company as a whole.</p>	<p>We offer an occupational health service and health and wellbeing initiatives; Leadership courses; Performance appraisals for all employees, and employee surveys.</p>
<p><b>PANDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES</b> Infectious disease is spread throughout the world or locally.</p>	<p>The consequences are extensive for the health of both employees and the company's finances. Major risks associated with absences, assignment losses and revenues.</p>	<p>Enable remote work and have good infrastructure for digital tools. Ensure good communication, leadership and various support to employees if necessary. Have a broad variety of commissions and customers to spread risks.</p>



# About White

**White's strength is its employees. Our knowledge, creativity, and commitment are at the heart of the business. As our employees develop, so does the company. We own the company together, so we have the opportunity to invest in what we believe in, both now and over the longer term. With our many different skills, we can tackle the challenges we encounter and create sustainable architecture that will stand the test of time.**

## A NEW EVERYDAY

2020 was severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We quickly switched to working from home. We were well prepared for this with well-developed digital tools. Although our employees showed an outstanding ability to work in new ways, we have regularly followed up on how our staff are doing and how they're dealing with the situation. We've offered support in the transition to a new everyday, as well as various measures to promote good health.

## A STRONG CULTURE

White is 100% owned by its employees. Around 77% of the employees are co-owners, of whom 127 are partners who together are the majority owners. We're convinced that joint ownership creates a strong sense of commitment that contributes to the company's success and to achieving our goals.

Our values are based on being explorative and responsible, and acting with respect and participation. White has a strong culture that has developed over a long period of time. In 2020, we embarked on our Cultural Journey to maintain and develop our culture so that we remain strong going forwards.

We're convinced that our success hinges on our diversity, which is why we build teams of employees with different skills and experiences, such as architects, engineers, urban planners, behavioural scientists, environmental experts, and digital specialists.

White must be a workplace that is free from discrimination and characterised by equality. We consistently maintain an even gender balance, which extends to senior positions and the board. To further ensure inclusion, in 2020 we decided that all internal company information should be communicated in English. A quarter of our employees come from countries outside Sweden.

## A DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENT

Every employee must be given the conditions to develop at White. We want to attract people who are driven by curiosity and creativity. Through our induction days for new employees and our annual White Day when all our employees come together, we're building our corporate culture and strengthening internal co-operation.

White Academy offers a wide range of internal training courses, such as the sustainability school, and also offers a mentorship programme. As a result of the pandemic and a strained economy, we offered fewer training days in 2020 than in the year before. Most of the training was provided digitally.

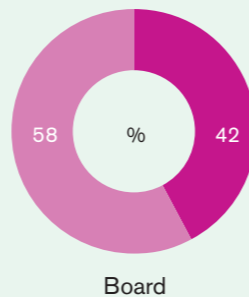
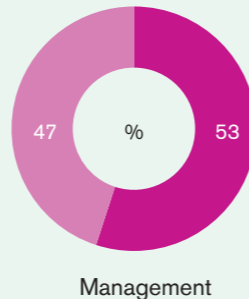
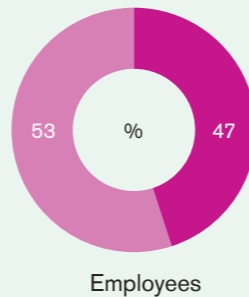
In order to inspire and get to know people from different offices, all employees are offered study trips. Unfortunately these could not be offered in 2020.

## AN ATTRACTIVE WORKPLACE

We strive to provide our employees with safe and secure employment with good benefits and influence by:

- having a personnel policy and work environment policy;
- following the industry's collective agreements (Almega, Architects Sweden, the Swedish Association of Graduate Engineers, and Unionen) and having union representatives at all our offices;
- having a plan for equal rights and opportunities that will contribute to an equal workplace free from discrimination;
- pursuing systematic work environment management, with regular follow-ups of central and local work environment plans. There are safety representatives at all offices;
- having guidelines on alcohol and drugs, accessibility at work, rehabilitation, and the work environment outside White's premises;
- holding performance appraisals with all employees at least once a year, where personal goals for training and development are set;
- conducting an employee survey every other year that results in action plans with a focus on equality, the work environment, development opportunities, leadership, and corporate culture. These are followed up by the company management and board;
- offering employees occupational healthcare; and
- having a personnel foundation for grants for training and other personal development. Wellness activities are also arranged at our offices, such as running training, yoga, and massage. ■

### SHARE WOMEN & MEN



● women ● men







*Low climate impact, ambitious environmental targets and architecture that challenges the traditional image of an office building. The Origo office building in Malmö is a modern workplace that promotes a healthy everyday life and a climate-smart lifestyle. In 2020, the building was awarded the City of Malmö "Green Lance" award (Gröna Lansen).*

## Positive Outcome in an Uncertain Year

**From March 2020 the coronavirus spread across the globe, resulting in countries shutting down on a scale never seen before in modern history. The international markets that White operates in – Norway, the UK, Germany, Canada, and East Africa – were badly affected by the pandemic for much of the year. Despite 2020 being a year of great uncertainty, concern, challenges, and the need for quick thinking, White performed positively and in line with its budget.**

In Sweden, as in much of the world, GDP fell while unemployment rose. Norway's economy was hit hard by the combination of a weak currency and falling oil prices. In the UK, the construction sector ground to a halt for a time due to lockdowns and disruption to supply chains. The construction sector fared relatively well in Germany.

Despite a shaky first half of the year, the real estate industry was not affected to any significant extent when viewed across the year as a whole. For the architectural industry as a whole, 2020 was a tough year and, although still very low, unemployment among architects was at its highest in 15 years.

White suffered in the spring as projects ground to a halt or were postponed, resulting in layoffs, downsizing, and hard savings. Things picked up again after the summer. Over the year, the situation varied quite a lot between the different offices. Hardest hit were our offices in Stockholm and Gothenburg, while Malmö, Uppsala, Linköping, and Örebro returned some very good results.

In spite of the pandemic, White's international operations continued to develop positively. Our studio in London, which has

welcomed new employees, fared especially well, while our profits in Germany have resulted in us recruiting new staff locally in Stuttgart. Internationally, our focus has been on developing projects within healthcare, green just cities, and carbon-neutral and circular architecture.

A combination of the continued economic slowdown and the impact of the pandemic, resulted in a fall in the debiting rate. However, profits were higher than in 2019 and were only slightly below budget. Despite lower income, we maintained a high level of internal investment, especially in digitalisation, research, development, and competitions.

Sales amounted to SEK 746 million. The group's operating profit before and after foundation provisions amounted to SEK 39.1 million and SEK 29.1 million respectively. This corresponds to an operating margin of 4% and 5% respectively. The group's equity-to-assets ratio was 44% and liquidity was good, with cash liquidity of 221%. The largest market areas as a share of order intake were healthcare, homes, and commercial premises. ■



## Financial statements for White Intressenter AB:

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>FROM THE INCOME STATEMENT*</b>					
Operating revenues	746 452	812 779	870 675	964 010	892 156
Operating profit	29 140	8 435	27 868	38 909	60 280
Profit after financial items	26 111	8 837	27 641	40 003	60 3070
Tax on profit for the year	-14 153	-3 992	-15 176	-8 075	-13 583
Profit for the year	11 958	4 845	12 465	31 928	46 724
Minority share of profit for the year	0	0	1	8	-272
Profit for the year	11 958	4 845	12 466	31 936	46 452
<b>FROM THE BALANCE SHEET*</b>					
Intangible fixed assets	0	0	0	29	141
Tangible fixed assets	1 334	2 382	3 881	5 473	9 558
Financial fixed assets	457	484	161	728	985
Current receivables	248 612	291 574	284 204	402 295	303 560
Cash and bank balances	65 151	38 059	49 915	36 586	57 076
Total assets	315 554	332 499	338 161	445 111	371 320
<b>SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>					
Minority share of equity	1 771	6 771	6 978	6 979	6 987
Provisions	31 631	29 734	25 941	25 154	23 957
Long-term liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Current liabilities	141 694	169 271	172 369	261 968	181 597
Total sum of shareholders' equity and liability	315 554	332 499	338 161	445 111	371 320
<b>KEY FIGURES</b>					
Return on shareholders' equity (%)	8,9	3,7	8,8	20,6	31,0
Profit margin (%)	3,5	1,1	3,2	4,1	6,8
Revenue per employee (KSEK)	1 355	1 303	1 294	1 322	1 308
Equity/assets ratio (%)	44,5	38,1	39,3	33,9	42,8
Average number of employees	551	624	673	729	682

\* KSEK

### Definitions

Return on shareholders' equity (%):	Profit for the year after minority share as a percentage of benchmark equity excluding minority share.
Profit margin (%):	Profit after financial items as a percentage of operating revenues.
The equity/assets ratio (%):	Shareholders' equity excluding minority share as a percentage of total assets.

### WHITE INTRESSETER AB

Organisation number 556598-8499

## Kind Regards

Tarek Adhami, Ivan Agoes, Jimmie Ahlgren, Hanna Ahlström Isacson, Malin Alenius, Joakim Allerth, Mahmoud al-Shihabi, Aksel Alvarez Jurgueson, Hans Alving, Ioannis Anagnostopoulos, Frans Andersen, Jonathan Anderson, Marcus Anderson, Marcus Anderson, Alex Andersson, Annika Andersson, Jens Rasmus Andersson, Niclas Andersson, Per-Anders Andersson, Nadja Andilér, Pär Andréasson, Rodrigo Angeles, Stephanie Angeraini, Fredrik Angner, Pål Annerström, Ulla Antonsson, Fredrik Arbell, Anders Arfvidsson, Anna Arias, Gry Arvidsson, Joyce Asante-Crompton, Åsa Askergren, Daniel Asp, Edvin Asteberg, Johanna Augustsson, Jens Axelsson, Hanna Backmann, Pontus Bahrtine, Nicholas Baker, Kristjan Baldvinsson, Angeliki Baltoyianni, Gabriela Banic Hjörvar, Helda Bara, Saina Barazande, Luis Barri, Sara Barton, Gina Bast Mossige, Sara Bauer, la Belfrage, Malin Belfrage, Michelle Bengtsson, Sofie Bentzen, Jerome Beresford, Ulrika Bergbrant, Adam Bergendal, Vera Berggren, Marlene Bergqvist, Anna Bernmark, 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Olof Jönsson, Rasmus Jørgensen, Elena Kanevsky, Fotis Kapaniris, Eva Karbing, Johan Karlefeldt, Filippa Karlsson, Pontus Karlsson, Saga Karlsson, Maud Karlström, Jessica Kaspersen, Fatima Khavari, Fredric Kihlberg, Erik Kiltorp, Young Ill Kim, Gunnar Kjellerstedt, Catrin Kjäll, Anna-Johanna Klasander, Susanne Klämfeldt, Magdalena Koistinen, Carin Kollberg, Taiga Koponen, Jessica Kos, Martina Kozlovic Sjöland, Victor Krafft, Jozefin Kraft, Lena Kristiansson, Anna Krook, Nils Krus, Jessica Kusnadi, Jonas Kvant, Jesper Källgren, Fredrik Källström, Maria Laakso, Claudia Laarmann, Jennie Lack, Thomas Landenberg, Karl Landin, Ylva Langeby, Naomi Langford, Karin Lantz, Lise-Lott Larsson Kolessar, Dan Larsson,



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*Södra Älvsborg  
Hospital (SÅS)  
Psychiatric Clinic is a  
healing environment  
that protects patient  
integrity and a calming  
workplace for staff.*

The Sustainability Report consists of the White Group and its subsidiaries, except subsidiaries Koggensgrand AB, White Tengbom Team (50 percent ownership) or dormant companies. If indicators, metrics or routines do not match this demarcation, it has been noted. The report is based on the requirements of the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, which means that it contains information on sustainability needed for understanding the company's development, position, results, and consequences of the operations. The report includes information on the environment, social conditions, labour, respect for human rights, and anti-corruption. The report relates to the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31, 2020.

The report refers to our commitment under the UN Global Compact and its ten principles. It also constitutes our annual report on Communication on Progress and will be published on the UN Global Compact website, [www.unglobalcompact.com](http://www.unglobalcompact.com). The report is also published on the White website, [www.whitearkitekter.com](http://www.whitearkitekter.com).

**Images:** Andreas Nilsson, Jann Lipka, Angelica Liljenroth, James Silverman, Johan Bävman, Jesper Westblom, Åke E:son Lindman, Anders Bobert, Charlie Olsson, Christer Andersson, Anders Fredriksén, Angelica Liljenroth, Citu, Stefan Svédberg, Chalmers ACE, Annie Stockeld, 3dcoqs, Aesthatica Studio, White View and White Arkitekter.

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This is our **Communication on Progress** in implementing the principles of the **United Nations Global Compact** and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.



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**White Arkitekter is one of Scandinavia's leading architectural practices. We work with sustainable architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and interior design for current and future generations. Our mission is to enable sustainable life through the art of architecture. Our vision is for 2030 is that all our architecture will be carbon neutral. We are an employee-owned architecture collective of about 700 employees, with presence in Sweden, Norway, UK, Germany, Canada and East Africa.**

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**TALK TO US!**

[whitearkitekter.com](http://whitearkitekter.com)  
[@whitearkitekter](https://www.instagram.com/whitearkitekter)

*Umeå's science center Curiosum is a 110-year-old industrial building transformed into a magical world for digital science, technology and exploration for the whole family. The museum has also received a high-tech cathedral theater as an extension, which was nominated in two categories for Design S 2020.*