

Lisbon, 9th November 2018

Kulturministeriet/ Minister of Culture
Madame Mette Bock
Nybrogade 2, 1203 København,
Danmark

**Subject: Heritage in Danger – Support Request
The Viking Ship Hall (by Erik Christian Sørensen, Roskilde Fjord, Denmark, 1969)**

Your Excellency Madame Mette Bock
Minister of Culture of Denmark

Docomomo International – the International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement – wishes to draw your attention to the alarming future of the Viking Ships Hall in Roskilde (Vikingskibshallen).

It was with great concern that Docomomo International learnt of your decision to cancel the protected status of the Viking Ship Hall, 29th August, 2018.

The mission of Docomomo International is to act as a watchdog when important Modern Movement buildings anywhere are under threat. Often the biggest threat is that the buildings are not considered elements of heritage. Therefore, it is of even greater concern to Docomomo that a modernist building, which was acknowledged for its architectural value and put under protection as heritage, can be so easily abandoned.

Denmark is known internationally for its modern architecture of high quality, with a special humanity and a unique understanding of the setting and the *genius loci*. The Viking Ships Hall by Erik Christian Sørensen is one of the best examples of such approach – it was acknowledged when the building was listed in 1997, as one of the few from the last five decades. The listing was based on its architectural values, incorporating inspiration from Japanese architecture, and on its outstanding setting.

Docomomo International finds the decision to delist the Viking Ship Hall alarming. On one hand, because the decision was taken against the advice of expert advisors, and on the other hand, because the delisting gives the owner the possibility of demolishing the building and thereby erasing an important part of the Danish contribution to the history of international modernist architecture.

Docomomo International strongly urges you to treat this is issue seriously and halt any irreversible works done to the building.

In the hope that you will give this case your best attention.

Respectfully,



Ana Tostões
Chair of Docomomo International

Lisbon, 9th November 2018

Tinna Damgaard-Sørensen director the of Vikingeskibsmuseet
Mayor Joy Mogensen, President of the museum board
Vikingeskibsmuseet, Vindeboder 12 4000 Roskilde, Danmark
Att. Vikingeskibsmuseets bestyrelse

Subject: Heritage in Danger – Support Request
The Viking Ship Hall (by Erik Christian Sørensen, Roskilde Fjord, Denmark, 1969)

Dear Tinna Damgaard-Sørensen,
Vikingeskibsmuseet Director,

Mayor Joy Mogensen,
President of the museum board Vikingeskibsmuseet

Docomomo International – the International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement, wishes to draw your attention to the alarming future of the Viking Ships Hall in Roskilde (Vikingeskibshallen). The mission of Docomomo International is to act as a watchdog when important Modern Movement buildings anywhere are under threat, working together with local Docomomo chapters.

It was with great concern that Docomomo learnt of the Danish Ministry of Culture's decision, on the 29th August 2018, to cancel the protected status of the Viking Ship Hall. However, even greater was our concern when we were informed by Docomomo Denmark that the Museum is now, according to a letter dated 13th September 2018 to the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament, planning to demolish the building.

Denmark is known internationally for its modern architecture of high quality, with a special humanity and unique understanding of the setting and the *genius loci*. The Viking Ship Hall by Erik Christian Sørensen is one of the best examples of this.

Docomomo International recognizes that modernist buildings often pose special challenges when it comes to meeting contemporary technical requirements. None of these should be unsolvable, however. Likewise contemporary exhibition practice leads to other challenges which make it hard to fit into the framework of the modernist building. But that is a basic condition for all architecture. No matter which building is concerned, there will always be a constant need to adjust and change the building to fit the changing demands.

The Viking Ship Hall has given the outstanding Viking ships a framework and a setting that support the understanding of history and underline the importance of location in a way, which is both modern and timeless.

Therefore, Docomomo International encourages the director and the board of the Vikingeskibsmuseet to reconsider the future of the Viking Ship Hall. Additionally it is encouraged to involve skilled architects and engineers to try to find a solution, which can solve the needs of the museum, preserve the ships and make sure that future generations will also have the possibility of enjoying this outstanding architecture.

Docomomo International strongly urges you to treat this is issue seriously and halt any irreversible works done to the building.

In the hope that you will give this case your best attention.

Yours sincerely,



Ana Tostões
Chair of Docomomo International