



Breivikveien 41 consists of three semi-detached houses, built after tearing down an existing warehouse in a residential area.

## Architecture focusing on the human dimension

Through its meticulous work outlining the different stages of family life – from having young children, to teenagers and adults who move out and perhaps years later come back to take over the house – architecture firm Boxs focuses on the human aspect of architecture through a lifetime.

By Line Elise Svanevik | Photos: Boxs

The Asker-based company feels passionate about the needs of the people they design houses for – and not just the needs they have today or in ten years. Their diligent research and thought process spans a whole generation, which is how they create exceptionally well-tailored solutions for their clients.

“We often start with families who build houses when the kids are young,” explains Pieter Paul Furnée, CEO of Nor-

wegian architecture firm Boxs. “What do these people need? Well, they might need all the bedrooms close together – and they might not need too much space, so it’s ideal to have a part of the house to rent out if you’re going through a phase where the finances aren’t properly established yet. From then, they can grow within the house – the kids will grow up and eventually the flat downstairs can be used as a separate living room, or as a bedsit for a teenager who wants to be

more independent. Eventually, when they get older, they can live in the flat while the kids take over the main house – as a sort of generational home.”

### A chain of houses

Examples of their residential properties include Project Breivikveien 31, which consists of three semi-detached houses in a villa-style terrace. “It was an impossible plot of land to work with: there was a warehouse on the flat part of the plot, and the owner wanted us to see what we could build instead of that, as it was right in the middle of a residential area,” explains Furnée.

Tearing down the warehouse, the architects decided not to build on the flat

space as it would make a better garden area; so they focused their attention on the hillside. “It was somewhere we could find a new solution that others couldn’t see – so we focused on the surrounding nature and views to create functional solutions for how to get out in the nature through roof terraces and direct access to the garden on different levels,” he adds.

### Efficient planning solutions

On another long plot of land is Project Velselia 13, built in Kunstnerdalen in Asker and finished in 2012, which required careful consideration due to the area’s cultural history and need for preservation. “We built a long house with a secondary building attached to it, meaning that the house is divided into

different volumes,” says Furnée. “It’s a clever and efficient layout, because it appears as a complete house and not separate entities – and that’s what we’re very focused on achieving.”

### Preserving family history

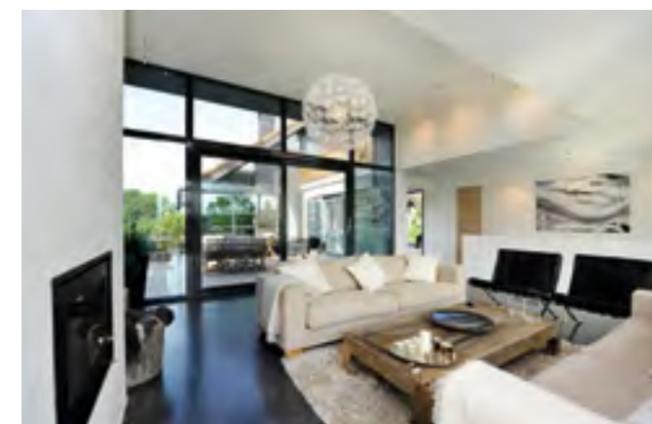
At the other end of the scale was Project Vollenveien 36, which required creative thinking due to the existing house, originally drawn by the current owner’s father. “He didn’t want to touch the house that his dad had drawn as an architect, so we decided to make a separate building over two floors, which was very successful,” Furnée adds. “We built the secondary building at a considerable distance from the original house, leaving them with an inner courtyard that provided a nice interaction between the old and the new. It also

created lovely outside spaces, both on the ground level and for the roof terrace.”

Furnée continues to add that the materials used for Vollenveien 36 create a warm atmosphere within the house. At the same time, the natural light and views reflect all the projects that Boxs specialises in.

Despite being a modern architecture firm, Boxs is keen on adjusting to the needs of the customer. “We don’t get approached by customers who want an old-fashioned crow’s castle – we mostly do modern buildings with tight details, efficient layouts and good adjustments to the terrain they’re built in, so you have a good connection between the interior and exterior. Roof terraces are often used in our projects. By using the roof as an outdoor space, we bring an additional quality to the house, such as good sun and light conditions with easy access from the indoors, and it also provides great views of the surroundings and the landscape,” says Furnée.

Web: [www.boxs.no](http://www.boxs.no)



Top left: A glass corridor connects the old house with the new attachment, and also gives access to the outdoor spaces in between. Top right: The starting point of Vollenveien 36 was to preserve the existing house, while at the same time creating a new building to go with it. Bottom left: Interior with a great glass wall giving good light, openness and view to the existing house. Bottom right: Designed with a secondary building attached to it, Velselia 13’s layout is both clever and efficient.