Foto: Helena Sandman

"My focus is on empathic engagement in architectural design in the early phases of the design process.

I want to be involved in the postgraduate degree | BASEhabitat, because I think this is THE WAY to practice as an architect: Produce locally attached, sustainable architecture with an impact."

Helena Sandman

Having started her practice over twenty years ago, Helena's motivation has been to create spaces that serve its users, are harmonious and support sustainable development.
She believes that architecture can strengthen cultural identity, improve living conditions and emanate calmness and relaxation, regardless the scale of the project.

Helena works in different scales, including urban planning, building-, interior-, service-, exhibition- and graphic design. In her work she pursues a human-centered approach, seeing empathy as a crucial skill of the architect in the design process. She has experience in working in different cultural environments and multi-disciplinary teams.

Helena studied architecture at the University of Technology in Helsinki and the Ecole d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville, France. From 2007 she has been working together with Saija Hollmén und Jenni Reuter, first in the NGO ukumbi and since 2012 in a common architecture office.

Helena has been working on various social projects like a women's centre in Senegal, a community development plan in Malawi, an orphanage project and a shelter house in Tanzania, and the redesign of a maternity clinic in India. Aside from working in a very international context, she also realizes projects in Finnland.

Her work has been widely published in books and internationally renowned magazines like Architectural Review or World Architecture. Helena has also received numerous awards, for instance the Bauwelt Prize (Women's Centre in Senegal). Helena is currently working on her PhD at the Aalto University in the New Global inter-disciplinary research group (newglobal.aalto.fi).

http://www.hollmenreutersandman.com
http://ukumbi.org

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