

Qaammatt

Pavilion - UNESCO World Heritage Aasivissuit – Nipisat
Sarfannguit, Greenland

Konstantin Ikonmidis
Arkitekt Maa

ka
konstantin
arkitekter

Paninnguaq Fleischer-Lyberth
Site manager

Nunarsuarmioqatigiinnut kingornussassanngortitami Aasivissuit
Nipisani suliniummik aqutsisoq
World Heritage Aasivissuit – Nipisat





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Sarfannnguit, Greenland | Photo : Julien Lanoo

Konstantin Ikonmidis

Qaammat

Fjeld pavilion

Sarfannguit, Greenland

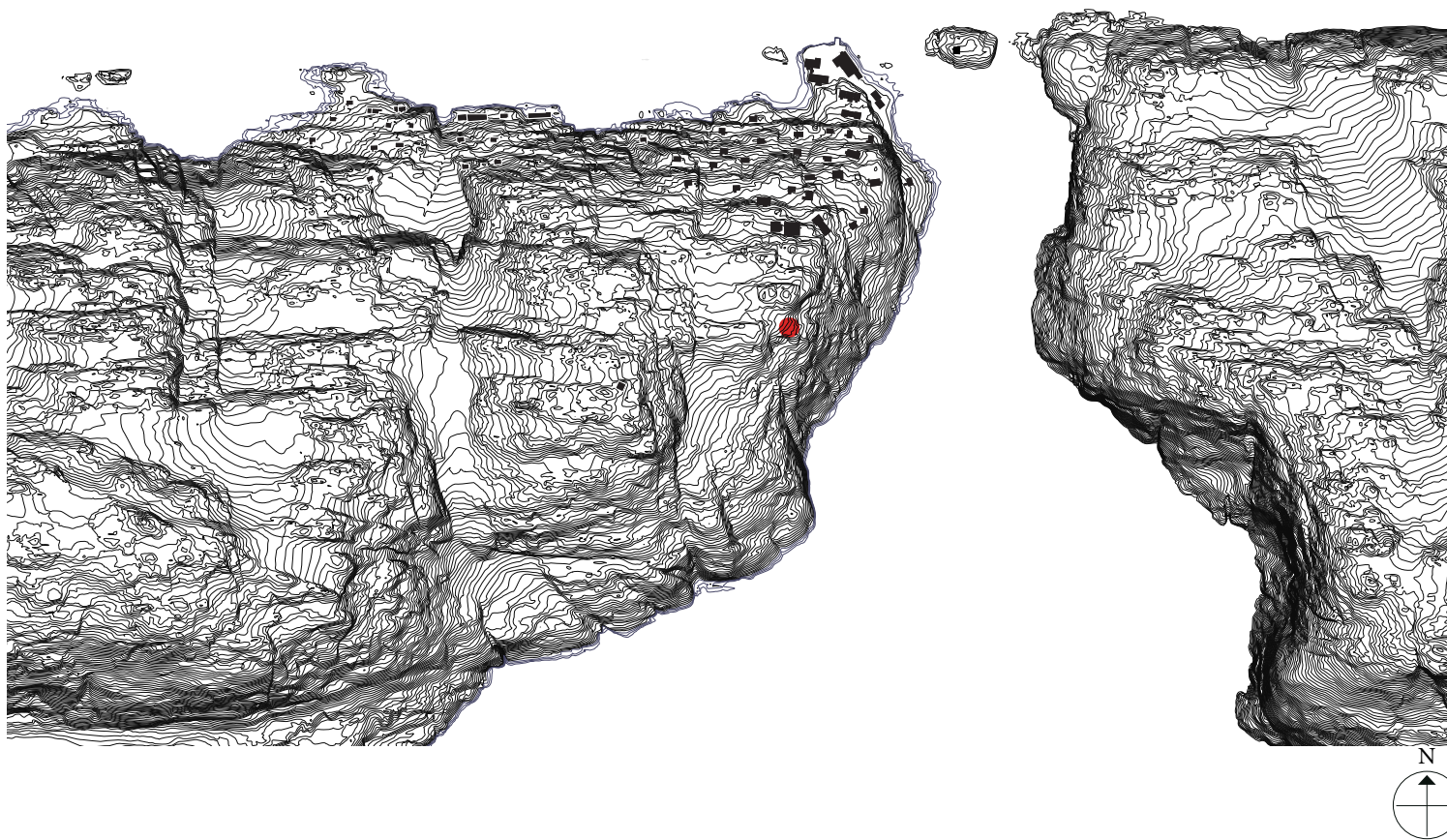
A pavilion designed and built by Architect Konstantin Ikonomidis in cooperation with Qeqqata Kommunia (the Qeqqata Municipality), located on a UNESCO site in Sarfannguit, Greenland.

Located in Sarfannguit, a cultural landscape in West Greenland and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2018, the Fjeld pavilion by Konstantin Ikonomidis is designed to celebrate and promote the Inuit intangible cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the environment. Characterized by the two fjords that meet on Sarfannguit's eastern tip on the hills, the pavilion's location has been carefully chosen by the local community, site manager Paninnguaq Fleischer-Lyberth and architect Konstantin Ikonomidis for its impressive view over the Sarfannguit municipality.

Set on the planned trail between Sarfannguit and Nipisat, this site-specific installation will serve as a landmark and a gathering point and dissemination site in Sarfannguit, where the World Heritage site's beautiful surroundings can be experienced by locals and visitors to the village. The Fjeld pavilion is designed as a poetic and aesthetic object, but most importantly as a symbolic gesture acknowledging the natural site and rich history, the distinctiveness of the Greenlandic culture, and the spiritual sensibilities rooted in Sarfannguit.

The opening ceremony for the Qaammat pavilion took place on 3 October 2021.

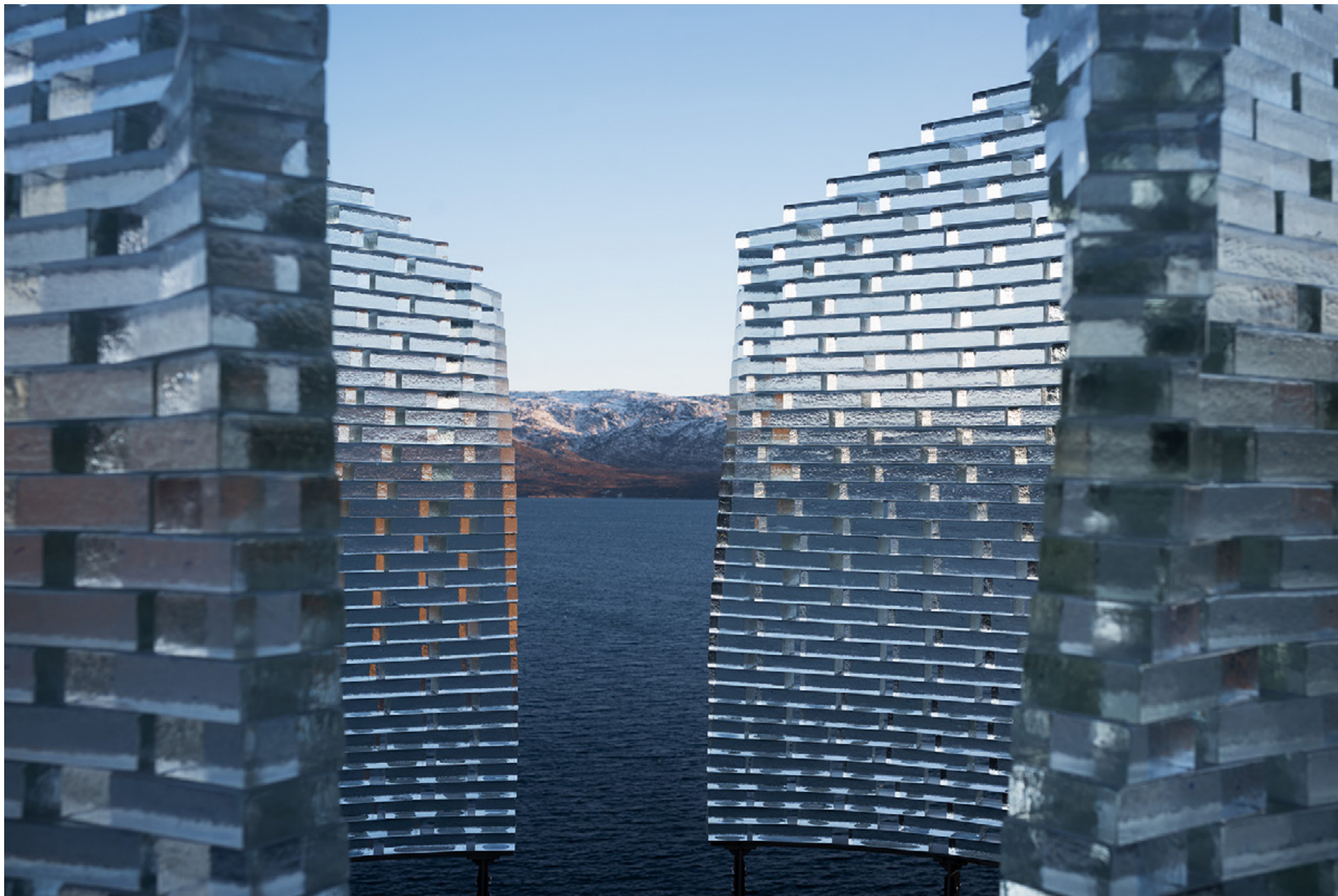






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Sarfannnguit, Greenland | Photo : Julien Lanoo

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Respecting the site.

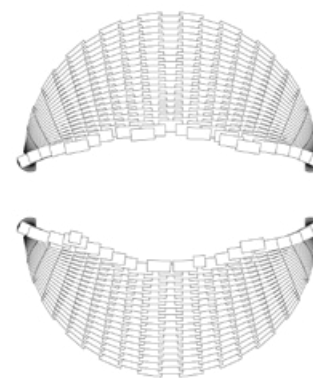
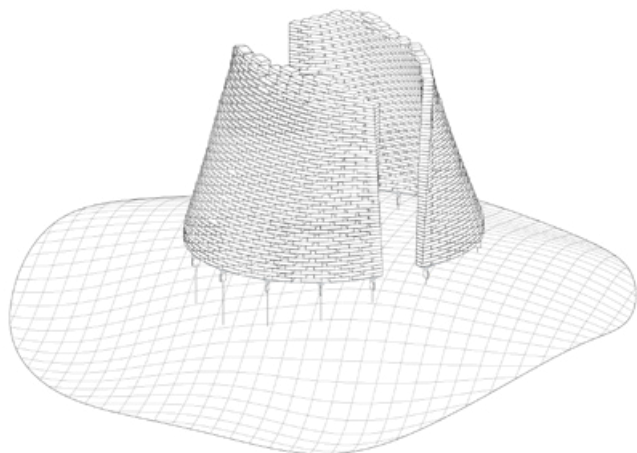
Adding to a landscape

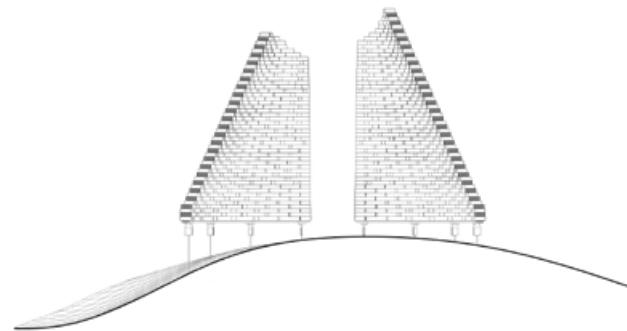
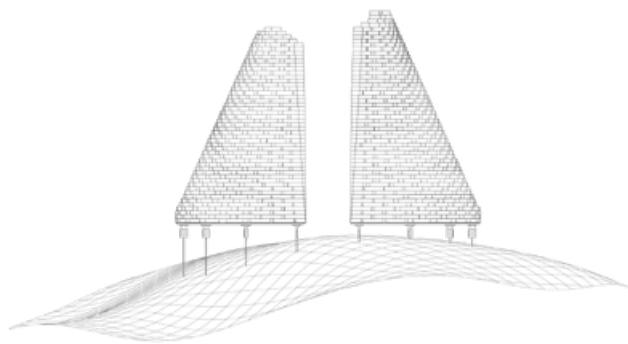
The choice for the site was guided by a strong desire to respect nature and find a balance within the extraordinary landscape. The pavilion seeks to embrace a sensitivity towards nature instilled in the local culture, and establishes a subtle presence by blurring the physical boundary between man-made structure and the natural terrain and landscape.

The pavilion is anchored in the rocky terrain. Drilled into the ground with 40-mm holes, the foundation is constructed with rock anchors in the exact same way that every typical house in the settlement is. Attached to the upper part of the metal poles is a custom made stainless steel bracket with a circular geometry. The metal bar is fully horizontal and the poles vary in length according to the terrain. The curving walls, constructed in glass blocks, form a linear pathway open at both ends, which serves as entrance to the pavilion.

One of the more distinctive features of the structure is its glass 'shell', its play of transparencies, scale and weight, resulting in a feeling of surreality. The Qaammat pavilion can simultaneously alter the viewer's perspective, merge, and even vanish into the surrounding topography.









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Sarfanguit, Greenland | Photo : Aannguaq Reimer-Johansen

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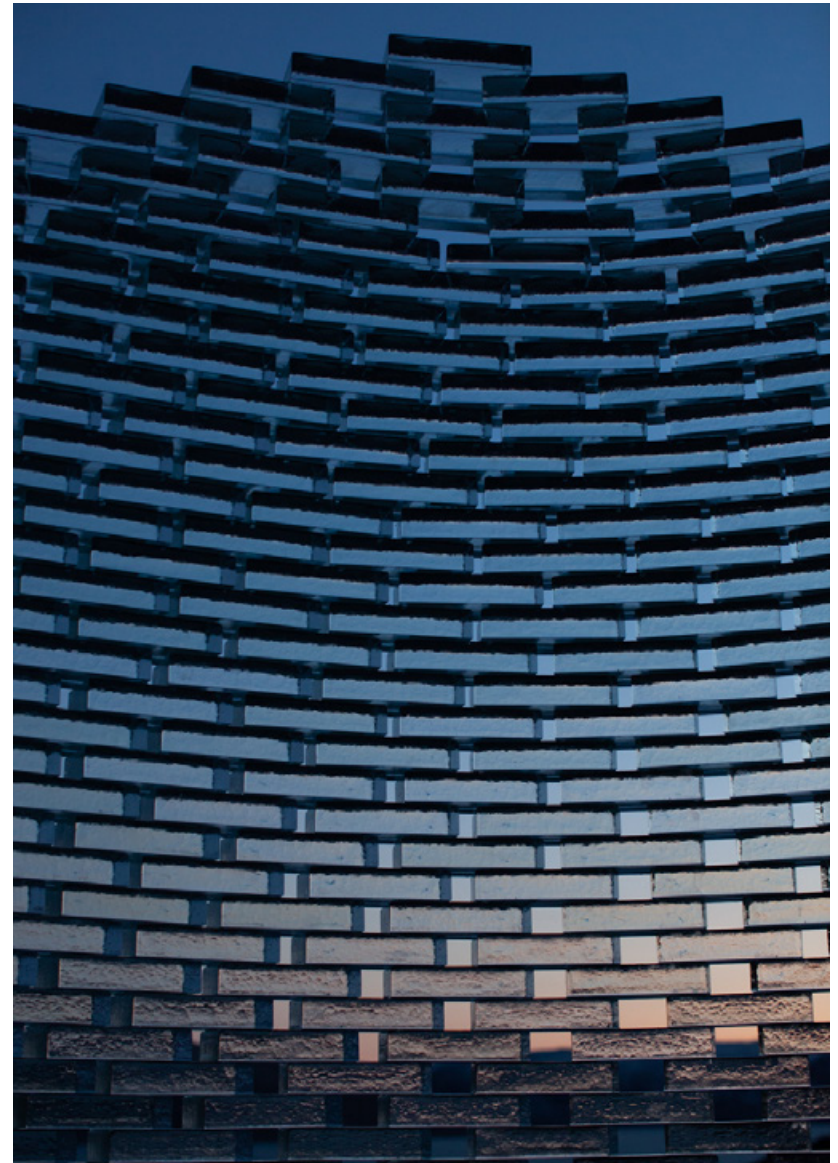


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Sarfannguit, Greenland | Model : Konstantin Ikonmidis

Konstantin Ikonmidis

Light

The design draws inspiration from the moon and the Arctic light in combination with the snow's reflections. An important part of the design phase was site-specific research by Konstantin Ikinomidis. Following his earlier work and research on the subject of home, Konstantin focused on his interest in integrating landscape, culture and human stories into the design. Marked by encounters, conversations and interviews with the locals, the architect's intention is to reflect these experiences, stories and myths poetically in the design of the pavilion.





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Sarfannnguit, Greenland | Photos : Julien Lanoo

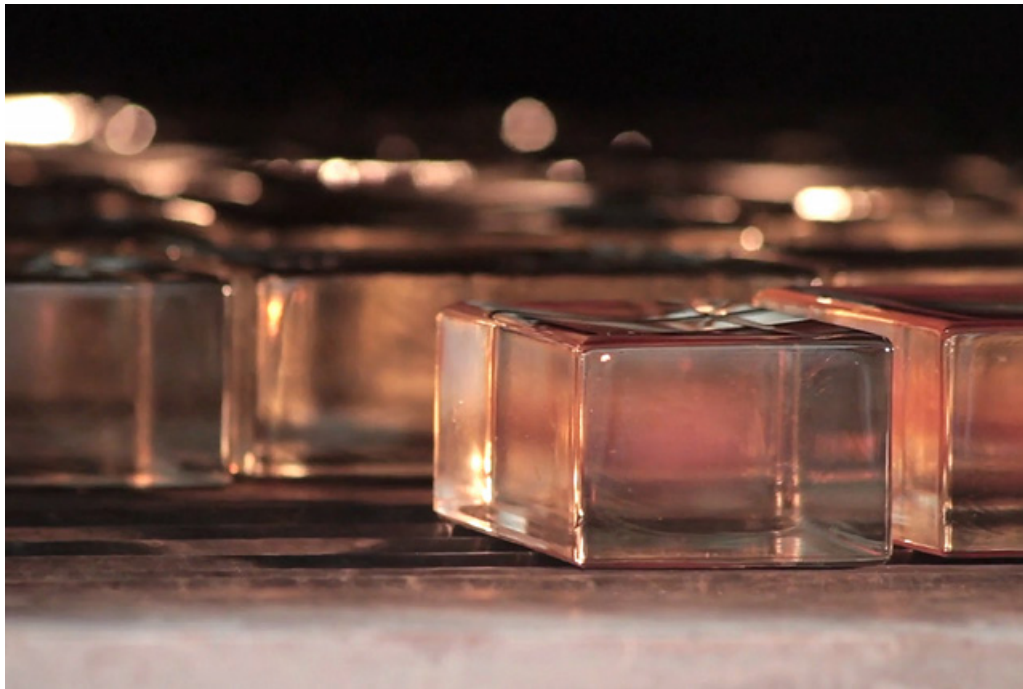


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Sarfannguit, Greenland | Photo : Konstantin Ikonmidis

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Glass

The solid cast glass bricks are manufactured and partly sponsored by WonderGlass. Founded in 2013, Christian and Maurizio Mussati have built the company leveraging on the bespoke glass savoir-faire, made in Venice, Italy, which encompasses lighting as well as handcrafted installations. Every product relies on solid traditional techniques such as blown, cast and fused glass. By bonding craftsmanship with contemporary design and art, WonderGlass consistently provides tailor-made solutions to incorporate artisanal creations into projects of any scale.



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Sarfannguit, Greenland | Photos : Konstantin Ikonmidis



Konstantin Ikonmidis

The glass meets the rock

The building's edifice comprises glass blocks arranged in a way that forms two narrow openings, which invites the visitor to experience its intimate atmosphere and opens up to the wider landscape. There is an immense sense of power in this natural landscape, yet it also reminds us of nature's vulnerability. The concept of using glass as a building material 'anchored' in the rock translates this sensibility.

Glass was chosen for its palpability, its ability to highlight transparency; it camouflages the building and delineates the landscape – the pavilion inserts its presence but remains almost invisible. The interior architectural space develops an intricate relationship with the outside, and provides an interesting and enjoyable space. While sitting inside, the viewer experiences the opaque material in combination with the sun, with the snow. The pavilion is imagined as a canvas, which will come alive through reflecting the colour palette of its surroundings – sun, snow, the different seasons, reflections of the building's visitors.

The glass will absorb and fluctuate light, and seen from a distance, it will reflect the colours of the surroundings, the seasons, the passing of time. Through these multitudes of reflections and abstractions on the terrain, the pavilion will generate the effect of a bigger space and form diverse experiences.





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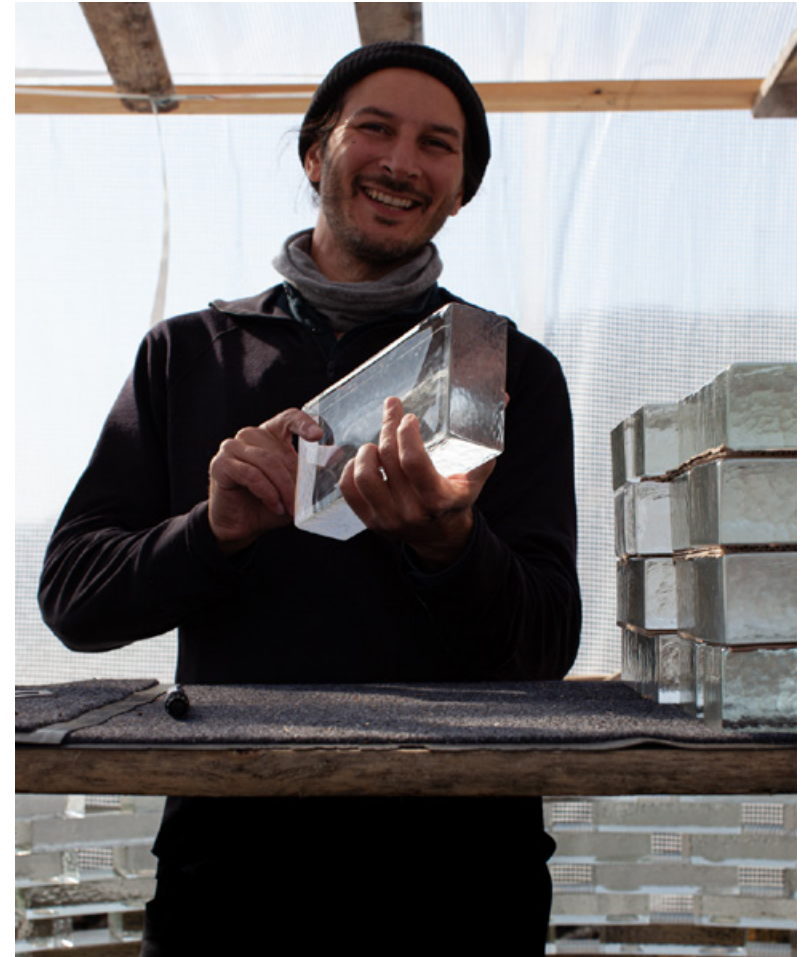
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Konstantin Ikonomidis

Biography

Konstantin Ikonomidis

Architect, Maa

Konstantin Ikonomidis is a Swedish architect. He graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, Copenhagen in 2014, and studied at the Department of Architecture of the College of Built Environment at the University of Washington in 2012. His work bridges the territories of art, architecture and scientific research with a special interest in extreme climates.

He has played a key role in the development of prototype housing that seeks to prevent the transmissions of malaria borne diseases in tropical areas of Sub Saharan Africa. Konstantin has been researching and documenting remote landscapes in Greenland, exploring the subject of “home” and its immaterial aspects and meaning, and its symbols returning to the humbler task of understanding, rather than reforming.

Since 2019, Konstantin is developing a design-build cultural project, located on a UNESCO World Heritage site in Sarfannguit, Greenland. Designed to celebrate and promote the Inuit intangible cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the environment, the Qaammat pavilion opened to the public on October 2021.

Biography

Paninnguaq Fleischer Lyberth

World Heritage Nipisat – Nipisat site manager

Paninnguaq is the lead manager of the 4000 km² UNESCO World Heritage site between Inland Ice and sea. Her role is to preserve, develop and promote the inuit hunting cultural landscape. Paninnguaq collaborates with Sisimiut Museum and the Arctic Circle Business among others and is the official contact person for the World Heritage Site, Aasivissuit - Nipisat.



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Sarfannnguit, Greenland | Photo : Julien Lanoo

Konstantin Ikonmidis

Qaammat Fjeld pavilion

Sarfannguit, Greenland

Konstantin Arkitekter
Architect: Konstantin Ikonomidis

Client:
Qeqqata municipality, Greenland
UNESCO World Heritage Aasivissuit – Nipisat

Collaborator:
Sisimiut Museum (Sisimiut Katersugaasiviat)

Sponsors:
WonderGlass
Dow Inc.

Glass research
Konstantin Ikonomidis in collaboration with: Faidra Oikonomopoulou and Telesilla
Bristogianni from TU Delft University.

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