

# Contemporary philosophy in Scandinavia.

**Johns Hopkins Press - Contemporary Philosophy in Scandinavia by Raymond E. Olson**



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**Raymond E. Olson (ed.), Contemporary Philosophy in Scandinavia**

Architect Erik Gunnar Asplund was the chief architect of the exhibition and thus presided over the breakthrough of the modern Functionalist style in Sweden, although many doubt that he was personally a whole-hearted adherent of the movement. Prior to 1900, the five countries drew largely on national folklore for their decorative inspiration, especially in Norway, where Viking-revival imagery enjoyed great popularity. Some believe this led to a new form of justification by works.

## The Characteristics That Define Scandinavian Design

Eschewing biography, they attempted to make art that could be anonymous. Emerging in the 1950s alongside the movement in Europe and America, Scandinavian modern style prioritized democratic, affordable, and sleek furnishings and interiors. See the Finnish design house for examples.

## Scandinavian Modern Inspiration

Some examples: modular Ikea pieces, under-the-bed storage, and anything with extra drawers and shelves. Black and white photographs, strategic placement of olive branches and other simple floral decorations, and small, brass bowls often serve to add a homely feeling without adding unnecessary clutter. Again, due in large part to how harsh the Scandinavian climate can be, function has long been favored over form.

## The Philosophy of Scandinavian Design

Golden Press, New York, 1961. Kåge dedicated the next twenty years to pursuing this end, as did artists Simon Gate and Edward Hald who likewise were introduced to manufacturing companies by the Svenska Slöjdskröningen. This exhibition of decorative arts and design attempts to address both these unifying qualities and the distinct differences.

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