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Climbers at the Munch

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During the construction of the Munch Museum, a question of significant architectural substance arose. The facades, which were finished with perforated corrugated aluminium panels to screen out sunlight, required more meticulous cleaning than the usual method employing baskets suspended from the cornice. The work required was closer to maintenance, in the broad sense of the term, than to mere cleaning. After weighing up several high-tech solutions, none were deemed to cover all the specialisations required so a team of professional climbers was eventually hired. The theory was that the very act of climbing demanded a series of skills that were similar to those involved in repairing, fastening and checking devices, as well as applying new joints and seals. Such a solution can only be reached when different specialists who share a need to address unforeseen issues through design come together around the table.

Transforming the building into a rock face and placing it in the hands of a group of young mountain enthusiasts was a way of reflecting the Norwegian love of nature in the middle of the city and of demonstrating that architecture does not necessarily require us to constantly reinvent but to find new uses for what we already know.

Image

Estudio Herreros. Munch Museum. ©Tove Lauluten