

④ Harness Hands-On Power

DAYDREAMERS OF ALL ages inevitably find the most interesting part of a classroom the window. Keeping this fact in mind, architects and designers are harnessing the power of the building to aid learning and to encourage more active engagement.

Amsterdam's Nature & Environment Learning Centre is the work of Bureau SLA. In a city whose primary schools have a special programme devoted to nature and environment, the studio designed a building that would literally embody the course. Among the structure's sustainable elements is its shape, which contributes to the success of a solar-panelled roof that makes the most of sunlight. Concrete slabs on the main façade of the energy-neutral building heat fresh air before it enters the interior.

In Møre og Romsdal, the outside of the Norwegian Mountaineering Centre exemplifies the training and teaching that takes place inside. The angular form and tessellated façade of the centre – which includes a climbing hall, areas for exhibitions and film, a shop and a library – heavily references the building's mountainous setting. The rugged terrain continues inside, where climbing walls echo the building's exterior and a rocklike screen greets visitors to the cinema. ●

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Photos: Filip Dujardin (Client)

The design of Bureau SLA's Nature & Environment Learning Centre in Amsterdam, a case study in sustainable building methods, was determined by the need to find the best angle for its solar-panelled roof.

