

## Oslo Opera House and the Norwegian architectural firm *Snøhetta*



Prof Tarald Lundevall, Senior Architect of Snøhetta, and CoScan Vice-President Peter Wright OBE



Tom Remlov, General Director of the Opera, and Peter Wright

The spectacular building houses The Norwegian National Opera & Ballet and after the opening in 2008 it soon became a landmark and a style icon. It has three performance spaces for opera, ballet and concerts and a gross area of 49,000 m<sup>2</sup> in about 1,100 rooms. The Opera has also become a major tourist attraction as the first opera house in the world to let visitors walk and picnic on the roof.

On October 31 we reached the Opera to make the presentation of the CoScan International Award 2010 and we found waiting a most enjoyable reception. Receiving on behalf of the Opera were Tom Remlov, General Director, Prof. Tarald Lundevall, Senior Architect of Snøhetta and Senior Architect Sigrun Aunan. The reception was attended by key people from the Opera: Head of Marketing and Communication Cathrine Pia Lund, Head of Press Lene Jacobsen and PA to Tom Remlov Kari-Anne Amundsen. And from CoScan: Kari Moss Wright Embassy Liaison, Anna Sophie Strandli Editor of CoScan Magazine and Helena Schmidt Youth and International Officer. There was particular appreciation shown of the list of previous recipients and no doubt what so ever of the value of the Award and the significance it gave to the recipients.

As always Peter Wright identified the importance of the networks of clubs in CoScan and their capacity to act as many embassies. He outlined the functions of CoScan including the preservation of traditions; the Travel Awards and the AGM meetings held in all the capital cities of Scandinavia. After the reception we had the privilege of a complete tour back stage conducted by Kari-Anne Rasmussen. Everywhere we noted the sense of commitment and dedication and share enjoyment. A key to this has been the capacity of the architects to listen and incorporate the ideas of the staff in the design.

(Peter Wright and Anna Sophie Strandli, CoScan Magazine 2011)