When it comes to credentials, these two authors are ideally placed in many ways to compile a work of this nature. Ulrik A. Hovmand is a structural engineer, energy consultant, and consulting engineer with his own company. Nancy M. Andersen is a government-certified translator and interpreter working principally between Danish and English. For many years now, Andersen has specialized in construction-related translations, often large projects, including tenders for clients like the Great Belt Link, Copenhagen Metro, the New Opera, and DR Byen. She runs her own translation agency outside Copenhagen.

Between them, they command all the skills and knowledge we are used to seeing in that one-man-band of German (et al.) lexicography, Dr. Richard Ernst, who, apart from being a hands-on, and, word has it, excellent linguist, worked for many years in the construction and engineering trades—a fact that shines through clearly in his redoubtable and still indispensable technical dictionaries. And there is no doubt that the practicing linguist’s analytical, thorough mind superbly complements the encyclopaedic knowledge base of the practicing engineer. (How often I find myself wishing I had found time to squeeze in an extra degree in some form of engineering!)

**Content**

This is a very welcome 363-page illustrated glossary of more than 4,300 Danish terms and 6,200+ English terms from the worlds of architecture and structural and civil engineering. With the aid of clear drawings and ample cross-referencing, terms are easily identified and concepts explained. Such definitions are often hard to find elsewhere in either language. The drawings themselves remind me of the Duden-style visual dictionaries (not a bad thing!).

Of course, any dictionary in a specialist field of this size has to limit its own scope, given the number of sub-disciplines covered by the term “building.” It is only fair to say that many aspects of building and construction are not covered. The dictionary is divided into 29 sections (e.g., plumbing, heating, ventilation, flooring, kitchens, roofs, stairs, etc.), its forte being the range of building styles included, both historical and contemporary. But you will find nothing here about that Danish trinity of bridge-building, road-laying, and marine installations, or even heavy plant and site machinery. Other dictionaries help fill those gaps (e.g., the L&H Publishing Co. technical bilinguals, www.lhpublishing.dk/order_cdentg.html), despite frequent complaints about their not being updated frequently enough and giving too shallow a level of explanation.

This particular dictionary has been compiled with a view to facilitating work on translating quotes and tenders for construction work—a worthy aim given the increasing internationalization of major building projects and the need to translate tender documentation, though I suspect this will benefit the English→Danish translator more than those who, like myself, work only in the opposite direction.

**Ease of Use**

In the short time I have had this on my desk to work with, I have found it useful and informative, easy to use, and often surprisingly detailed—like the sections on solar screening and kitchens, which are all subjects I had previously scoured the Internet to find. Useful areas include flooring and tiling, as well as an elaborate range of typical Scandinavian heating.
appliances (i.e., iron stoves and wood-burning stoves). That particular section, in fact, is reminiscent of a stroll through TV’s Antiques Roadshow.

That being said, I still wonder whether “tiled floor” is sufficient for *klinkegulv* and why English terms like “inglenook” get no mention—presumably because the core wordlist was worked out in Danish rather than sourcing any original English input. And why include *kraftvarmeværk* (combined heat and power plant) in this particular work?

So while it was useful to know that *mestergris* = bid rigging/collusive tendering, I was disappointed to see that *af runding*, an old favorite of mine, was nowhere to be found (= rounding, radiusizing, bell moulding, chamfering). On the other hand, it was pleasing to be given relevant abbreviations (PVL for *plastviklet ledning* and PVIKJ for *plastviklet installationskabel med jord*), but why add these in next to the English version (e.g., “Plastic coated wiring [PVL]”? Beats me.

Usage-wise, the dictionary provides ample synonyms and alternatives (e.g., “plastic insulated wire” and “service wiring” for “plastic-coated wiring”), at least in the Danish→English section, whereas the English→Danish section just has one-on-one terms. American usage is noted (e.g., *wc-kumme* = pan/WC pan; *bowl* [U.S.], *tank* [U.S.]), although not in as many instances as I would have expected (especially in the toilet/restroom area). There are also some inconsistencies, as in the entry “*affaldskværn* = garbage disposal unit, refuse disposal unit, waste grinder,” where none of the terms is marked U.S. (“(Food) waste grinder” was new to me, but having googled it, it seems kosher enough. Nonetheless, I would have marked “garbage disposal unit” as U.S. and possibly included “kitchen waste disposer” and “waste disposal unit” as U.K. versions. But then, as the Danes are so fond of saying, *kaerþ barn har mange navne* (“a dearly loved child has many names”).

**Overall Evaluation**

All in all, I have very few gripes about this dictionary. A lot of serious work has obviously gone into it, including the excellent reference section, with many references to Danish standards with dates and a wealth of English-language reference works. Personally, I would like to see it eventually expanded to include similar drawings and lexica for civil engineering, especially topics like bridge and road-building, given their importance for Danish→English translators and the abundance of tender material out there, whether from Denmark or the European Union.

Visually, the book is pleasant and restful on the eye and easy to take in, no matter what section is being referenced. Although there are invariably omissions, the dictionary will make a useful addition to any technical translator’s bookshelf, filling a gap that cannot be spackled with offerings from the net.

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