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**FRAGILE:
RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**

LUKAS KAUER
Founder of Fragile



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**TURNING INNOVATIVE IDEAS INTO SUSTAINABLE,
AND IMPACT-DRIVEN BUSINESS VENTURES**

IE University's NextGen program continues to grow from strength to strength, providing an international platform for budding real estate and built environment professionals to tackle emerging challenges in the city of tomorrow. This latest edition, themed "Fragile: Resilient & Sustainable Design," dove deeper into the future of physical, social and economic development around the world. Lukas Kauer, founder of Fragile, joined an exclusive list of illustrious speakers to have graced this online forum.

Fragile has managed to turn strategic imagination into innovative design solutions to help future-minded companies achieve global impact. Through a mix of knowledge, passion and collaborative leadership, it has spearheaded game-changing projects across the globe.

DESIGNING FOR RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF EXCEPTIONAL CHANGE

Lukas Kauer is the founder of Fragile, a unique concept and venture studio based in Copenhagen. Its mission is to conceptualize and actualize initiatives that foster resilience and make life better for future generations. Working together with like-minded organizations around the world, Fragile turns inventive design solutions and disruptive business ideas into impact-driven ventures that have the potential to transform our society.

An architect and engineer by training but an entrepreneur at heart, Lukas has spent most of his career nurturing innovation in various capacities. Most notable, though, is his work with Karla Camilla Hjort as strategy director—the founder of Space10, IKEA's future-living research and design lab. This opportunity not only served to introduce Lukas to the strategy side of business but it was also his "bridge to Copenhagen," where he is now based. It also resulted in the Urban Village project, which drew in a lot of investor interest and ultimately led Lukas to launch Fragile.

Since its inception, the company has been focused on sustainability, resiliency and the circular economy. For Lukas, the most exciting part about his newest venture is that his work no longer ends at the concept stage: "The biggest impact is building the ideas we have and making things happen." According to him, the key to Fragile's success is its collaborative approach. "We convince companies around the world to build ventures with us; we team up with everyone," he says. Lukas now blends his natural affinity for concept design with an ability to find the right local partners to build his concepts, bridging the gap between good design and construction.

One of Fragile's distinctive qualities is its use of new technologies to design and put up prefabricated developments. Specifically, Lukas highlights the CREE System as one of his biggest competitive edges. The system, a flagship of its parent company CREE Buildings, is an innovative timber-hybrid solution for high-rise and large-volume development that produces versatile and sustainable prefabricated buildings faster, more affordably and tailored to the unique needs of different markets.

Lukas first teamed up with Hubert Rhomberg, a "sustainability pioneer" and inventor of the CREE System, during a previous commercial and residential project. However, he stuck with the platform because it offered a proven system, a vast catalog of prefabricated components and consistent standards across the board. "With this software, you become part of a community that operates under different building systems around the world. All you need is to buy a license, get onboarded and start building and constructing CREE buildings," he explains.

Through Fragile, Lukas has applied this approach in various projects successfully. For example, Biome Homes was a project commissioned by the Groningen local authority and various private investors to construct adaptable homes using the prefab system. The goal was to reimagine traditional apartment living by coming up with simple solutions that incorporate the end-users' needs. Conversely, in a project for Edge Technologies, the company developed a multifunctional luminaire with sensors to provide real estate asset managers with adequate data to understand a building's performance holistically—from its energy needs to its overall health.

Fragile is on a mission to transform the built environment by providing innovative solutions to optimize the smart buildings of the future. By following the ethos of the circular economy to reimagine the spaces where we live and work, Lukas hopes to design development that encourages resilience and sustainability for current and future generations.