

ARCHITECTURE POLICY FOR COPENHAGEN 2017-2025

ARCHITECTURE FOR PEOPLE



Front page:

Krøyers Plads (Krøyer's Square)

Vilhelm Lauritzen Architects, COBE and
GHB Landscape Architects / Completed 2016

ARCHITECTURE POLICY FOR COPENHAGEN 2017–2025

ARCHITECTURE FOR PEOPLE

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The word 'architecture' comes from Latin and means the 'art of building'. However, the concept covers more than buildings. It also includes urban planning, landscaping and gardens on the large scale and the design of everyday articles and rooms on the small scale. Architecture is referred to as a mechanical art, because it is the answer to a task. Architecture is created to meet a practical need – such as the need for a place to live or work. At the same time, architecture also has an artistic purpose. Architecture is a way of handling space, volume, materials, colours, light and sound to achieve a particular aesthetic expression.

Danish Architecture Centre



Kalvebod Bølge

Urban Agency and JDS Architects /
Completed 2012

Winter mood on Kalvebod Bygge (*Kalvebod Wharf*).
The shape of the promenade maximises the number
of sunshine hours all year round. The multiple levels
provide a unique public space on the waterfront
with facilities for recreation and water sports.

FOREWORD

Copenhagen has attracted global attention in many areas. As one of the greenest cities, the world's best city for cycling and a city with an extremely high quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

But Copenhagen is also an interesting city. A hotchpotch of neoclassical and modern buildings, shopping streets, green spaces and old fortifications. Copenhagen is a compact and diverse city, where every neighbourhood has its own special character and pulse. All in all, a complex architecture for a complex city. And that is what this architecture policy aims to support and promote. Not just because it makes for an interesting city, but also because it makes for a city that adapts to the life of individual residents.

Copenhagen faces several big challenges over the coming years. The population is growing, as more and more people want to enjoy the city and use its limited area. We also need to adapt the city to deal with more and more cloudbursts, and our

efforts to make Copenhagen CO₂-neutral by 2025 make their mark on the city's infrastructure.

We need to see these challenges as opportunities for creating good architectural solutions that enhance the quality of the city's buildings, green areas and other public spaces and improve the quality of life for everyone.

That is also why we call our new policy 'Architecture for people'. The name reflects the intention of this architecture policy to create a city with buildings and public spaces that put people first and are designed to accommodate human senses and needs.

Creating good architecture does not have to be expensive. On the contrary, we can achieve great benefits if we make the right choices – both in the municipal administration and in the architectural offices and consulting firms. We need to build with consideration for the climate and for

the urban environment, but especially for the everyday life and activities that the architecture should accommodate.

Based on Copenhagen's aim to be a livable, responsible city with an edge, the new architecture policy identifies three themes for architecture in the city: responsibly designed architecture, architecture built for Copenhagen life and architecture that tells a story. In other words, engaging and interesting architecture that takes responsibility for its role in the city.

With this architecture policy, I now invite developers, residents and all those involved in the city to help to create buildings and public spaces that put people first and so contribute to the quality of life in our city. The good city is a city we build together.

Morten Kabell
Mayor of Technical
and Environmental Affairs

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Architecture for people

Architecture is created by and for people and provides the physical setting for our collective and individual lives. The architecture of the city – including landscaping, neighbourhoods, buildings, public spaces and street furniture and equipment – should therefore be designed around the people who are the source of city life. Understanding people is thus a fundamental requirement for creating a good city.

The collective and the individual

We all have the same senses, and we have a number of basic needs, whoever we are, wherever we are, and however we live and work. We need to sleep and eat, we need light, and we need to be alone and to be together. But we also differ in our individual needs. We have different lifestyles, we use the public space differently, and we like to decide for ourselves how and where to meet others. The architecture policy should therefore focus on providing a setting for the community we are all part of as well as making room for diversity and individual needs – now and in the future. That is why the architecture policy of the City puts people first.

The rational and the emotional

People are both rational and irrational, and architecture has to allow for this. Rational qualities are concerned with what we can understand and measure. Emotional qualities revolve around aesthetics, sensuality and the unexpected – things we did not know we were thinking about, but which affect our quality of life. Architectural quality means uniting the functional and the rational with the aesthetic and the emotional while considering both specific details and the larger whole. That involves challenging our rational understanding of the world around us to find new ways of understanding and experiencing it.

Human scale

The architecture policy focuses on encouraging eye contact between the people inside the buildings and the people outside. It takes account of the human scale, expresses the way in which architecture underpins our quality of life and invites people to come together.

Urban life before urban space, urban space before buildings

The architecture policy insists on considering urban life before designing urban spaces and considering urban space before designing buildings in order to create a setting for collective as well as individual needs. Urban spaces are the space between the buildings, bounded by the facades that form the walls of the space. Urban spaces are all spaces, whether they are parks, roads, squares, courtyards, gardens or the harbour, and whether they are private or public.

The coherent city

The architecture policy focuses on a holistic perspective – the whole neighbourhood and the whole public space – whether the task at hand is to construct new buildings, modify facades, make new cycle paths, plant trees or introduce climate change adaptation measures. It is crucial to ensure a development that promotes Copenhagen as a coherent, sustainable city, enhances the city's unique places, makes the city greener and supports its physical and human diversity.

People experience the city at eye level. We use our senses: our ears and noses and especially our eyes. That is why we need cities that stimulate our senses with a wide variety of sensory impressions, a rich stock of tactile experiences from different materials and a human scale where we can hear and, most importantly, see each other.

Gehl - Making Cities for People



Eye contact

The design and openness of the ground floor make a big difference to the interaction between inside and outside. People inside can feel that they are part of the urban life, while the active facades provide a rich experience and a greater sense of security for people in the street.

COPENHAGEN'S DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

The city

Copenhagen is a charming city. It is justly famous around the world for its architecture and as a highly liveable city. Copenhagen is attractive and well preserved with a strong character rooted in our shared and continuing history, which we identify with and will continue to identify with, each in our own way. Copenhagen's defining characteristics are defined by the landscape, the water, the old city core, the green and blue belts, public spaces, buildings and railways.

Copenhagen's architecture policy aims to build on the city's defining characteristics in such a way that the development and transformation of new urban areas and the transformation and expansion of the existing city are expressed in a contemporary idiom with an eye for both specific details and the larger whole. Transformation is when an urban environment, a building, a public space or a bridge or railway line, for example, undergoes a major change but retains its essential character. That makes it possible to build on the existing architectural expression and adapt it to new functions and uses, so it can be part of an important continuing narrative.

The landscape of the city

The city has expanded in a relatively flat landscape, where the original natural environment has given way to the city, and the city's current parks and wild areas are mostly in the lowest-lying areas. The topography is most prominent in places like Valby Bakke, Bispebjerg Bakke and Bellahøj, where unique building complexes serve as landmarks that are visible across the city.

The city on the water

Copenhagen's contact with the water gives rise to special features which vary in history and character where the east coast of Amager, Kalveboderne, the North Harbour (Nordhavn), the Outer Harbour (Yderhavnen), the Inner Harbour (Inderhavnen) and the South Harbour (Sydhavn) meet the city.

The heart of the city

Søerne (*The Lakes*) and the former moat by the Christianshavn rampart enclose the heart of the city and define an almost circular urban area. This is divided in two by the harbour and includes Voldkvartererne, the mediaeval town, Frederiksstaden and Christianshavn, which ring the city's historic centre on Slotsholmen.

The city's green and blue belts

The Lakes form a blue belt around the heart of the city. The four green belts form the city's overall green structure, with Fæstningsringen encircling the heart of the city. After the Lakes, the line extending from Jagtvej into the parkland, from Vigerslev Park (Vigerslevparken) to Ryvangen and the Western Rampart (Vestvolden), and the marsh areas form the other more or less green belts that spread out from the heart of the city like ripples in the water, echoing the belts formed by the ramparts and the Lakes. Amager Fælled (Amager Common) reaches from the south along the harbour right into the centre of the city.

Approaches to the city

The older and more recent approaches to the city describe a radial pattern cutting across the city's belts, forming a distinct structure. The intersection between arcs and roads creates nodes that are important to understanding and wayfinding in the city.

Public spaces and buildings

The city's public spaces and buildings comprise the dense old town at its heart. Next, the grid-patterned city, followed by the parkland city and then, farthest out, the ring of suburbs, where the great expansion of Copenhagen took place after the incorporation of the former rural districts. In more recent times, the city has seen the addition of buildings on a larger scale, beginning with Kalvebod Wharf and the development of Ørestad and continuing with the transformation of the former commercial and industrial neighbourhoods into mixed neighbourhoods on Amager, in Valby and in the North Harbour district. On the whole, Copenhagen is a low-lying city, open, green and lowest in the outer areas and more built-up and higher in the inner parts.

The city's railways

The railway areas cut distinct paths across belts and radial streets. Some are visible either on the ground, in cuttings or on embankments, while others are under the ground, and others still have been transformed in use and appearance. For example, the former railway line into Copenhagen's Central Station can now be traced in the gentle curve of Sønder Boulevard.



01

Copenhagen's defining characteristics

The characteristics defining Copenhagen are the ring-shaped structure around with the heart of the city, the radial roads, the water and the distinctive green elements of Amager Fælled and the east coast of the island of Amager.

02

View of Copenhagen towards the northeast

The port areas, the belts formed by the lakes and the ramparts and Amager Fælled draw clear lines and frame the heart of the city. The towers and spires of the inner city rise above the old town and create a distinct outline, which defines the whole of Copenhagen. In the background to the left we glimpse the city's third, green parkland belt. In the foreground are the southern port areas, which are currently being turned into new residential districts.

THE UNIQUE DISTRICTS

The city's defining characteristics and local diversity

The landscape, water, belts, roads, public spaces, buildings and railways are Copenhagen's key features and create a coherent city with a continuing history and a strong and recognisable character.

Characteristically, however, there is considerable variation in the manifestation of these characteristics in the individual districts and neighbourhoods. This diversity is important for Copenhagen and is the source of the distinctly local character of the various parts of the city.

This local identity is what makes Copenhagen architecture so special and defines the architectural character of the individual neighbourhoods. It is this sense of being at home, the feeling that this is 'my' part of town, that ultimately shapes an inclusive city with room for everyone.

The illustrations on this spread show a few examples of the diversity that is such a key source of the local character of the individual areas.



01 Inner city

The dense, organic street layout of the medieval town.

02 Inner city (illustration)

The medieval town, Frederiksstad and Christianshavn – three different urban areas. The Gothersgade street forms the connecting axis.

03 Østerbro

The grid pattern of this district meets and contrasts with low-rise housing developments.

04 Vanløse

Green low-rise suburbs, taller buildings along major roads and the distinct line of the railway with the town centre as a focal point.

05 Valby

Many low-rise developments, with railways and roads dividing the district.

06 Valby

Different patterns, many contrasts, the new and the old.



07 **Vesterbro/Kongens Enghave (illustration)**

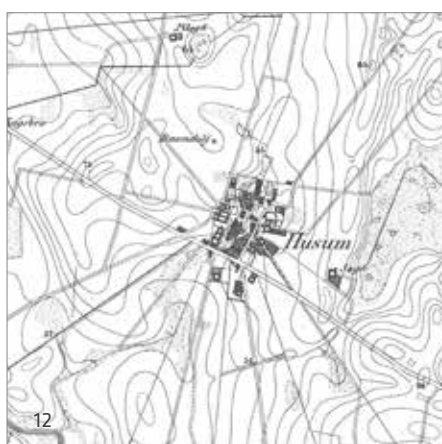
Clear division into two different grids, railway town and port city.

08 **Kongens Enghave**

Planned residential district with distinct green spaces and boundaries.

09 **Vesterbro**

Dense planned city with green courtyards and 'oases'.



10 **Bispebjerg**

The planned and green part of the district with Grundtvig's Church on top of the hill.

11 **Brønshøj/Husum/Tingbjerg**

Unique radial structure in the layout of Husum.

12 **Husum (illustration)**

Husum's former village centre and characteristic radial pattern.



13 **Nørrebro**

Former railway transformed into a unique green space winding through the district.

14 **Amager East and Amager West**

Varied street layout both tied together and divided lengthwise by the main street Amagerbrogade.

15 **Amager West**

Amager West - Ørestad is a new urban development between Amager Common and the old part of Amager.

VALUE-CREATING ARCHITECTURE

Smart construction

Quality-conscious development of the architecture in Copenhagen does not mean expensive projects but intelligent projects. It means that we should make a dedicated effort. We should do so because the built environment has a major influence on everyday life, and because we know that good architecture makes a difference.

We know that homes that have a comfortable indoor climate, good access to daylight and effective noise reduction improve the residents' health and well-being. We know that passages and crossings with light and life between homes and public spaces provide a sense of security

for residents and passers-by. We know that respectful conservation and development of the architectural character help to make areas more attractive and bring in investments.

We know that areas with a high degree of diversity are the foundation of urban life. And we know that investments in energy renovation, climate change adaptation and durable materials are worth it in the long run. We can create better homes and more recreational green spaces and use the world's scarce resources more efficiently. In short, we know that architecture is an investment that pays off.

The built heritage is an economic asset for homeowners all over the country. Among other points, the built heritage means 30% higher selling prices for single-family houses that are worthy of preservation, and 13% higher prices for homes in areas where more than 15% of the buildings are worthy of preservation. Homeowners are not the only ones who benefit from our built heritage. As a carrier of cultural history and architecture, the built heritage attracts tourists and new residents to an area. That rubs off on business and creates jobs, with a positive effect on the municipal economy.

Realdania

An attractive commercial life with many different shops can increase the value of homes by up to 30%. A nearby park can boost the value of homes by a further 10%. These are some of the conclusions from the research project 'Byliv der betaler sig' (Value-Creating Urban Life).

Danish Nature Agency 2013



AlmenBolig+ North-West

ONV Architects / Completed 2012

Passages and crossings with light and life between homes and public spaces create a sense of security for residents and passers-by in the non-profit housing development AlmenBolig+ on Jordbærvej in Copenhagen's North-West district. The costs of building AlmenBolig+ were reduced by the use of standard modules that can be adapted to fit the location.

COPENHAGEN TOGETHER

Community

The city is created by all of us, whether we are politicians, businesspeople, building clients, architects, innovators, entrepreneurs, developers, engineers, contractors or ordinary Copenhageners. Thus, the themes, principles and priorities of the architecture policy should guide our joint effort to ensure quality architecture for all. In accordance with the relevant regulations, the Municipal Plan and other political objectives, of course.

Direction

The architecture policy defines how the City of Copenhagen, together with all the people building and contributing to the city's development, can help to make Copenhagen even better by creating quality architecture.

Architects and other professionals should engage in dialogue with everybody else to broaden the debate, release energy and turn goals and aspirations into unexpected solutions.

We have differing and sometimes conflicting desires and expectations. This calls

for early dialogue, so we can arrive at a shared perception and understanding and make sense of things together, before we launch projects in earnest. It is also important that we rethink, experiment, learn and share knowledge with each other. And we need to identify solutions for each project in a way that uncovers different possibilities so that we can arrive at holistic solutions that go beyond our preconceived ideas and expectations.

In this joint effort, which goes across administrative and organizational boundaries, the City of Copenhagen strives to maintain a special focus on learning, early dialogue and innovation.

Learning

In the development of Copenhagen we aim to learn from experience – from both successful and less successful projects. The City of Copenhagen is constantly evaluating completed projects and conducting surveys and censuses, for example to record the number of cyclists or activities in the city. Results, good experiences and successful solutions are then incorporated into future projects.

Learning from temporary use can often be used in new contexts or bring quality and new ideas to the permanent development of an area. In collaboration with landowners, entrepreneurs and local innovators, the City therefore promotes the temporary use of areas where the original use has partly or entirely ceased, for example in port or industrial areas and in areas with vacant premises where a more permanent use has not yet been determined.

I think at the moment if you think about making society better you have to count mostly on this [convivial] level of human integration. ... You architects and urbanists should not consider yourself as managers of humans, you should see yourself as liberators, animators, inspirers who inspire people to do interesting things (themselves) and who help develop their potential which otherwise would be stifled.

Zygmunt Bauman, sociologist



Enghave Mini-park

Kenneth Balfelt Team and Spektrum Arkitekter /
Completed 2012

This inclusive temporary public space provides a kind of rehousing of a group of socially marginalised people who used to hang out in the square Enghave Plads during the construction of the Copenhagen Metro. The project is an example of how socially marginalised citizens, the local council, architects and artists have worked together to design a public space, from idea to implementation.

Early dialogue

The City of Copenhagen has long-standing experience with involving Copenhageners and other stakeholders in the development of the city and in running actual projects. Whether we are developing an area, a complex, a building or a public space, the City considers from the outset how the dialogue can best be organised in the specific situation.

It is important to draw up a programme for each assignment, focusing on efficient use of resources and on involving specialists with the right skills. In the vast majority of assignments, it makes sense to involve Copenhageners in the planning process. In the City's experience, early dialogue stimulates the creative processes and generates local buy-in. Early dialogue has been formalised in many areas, including advance dialogue ahead of building permit applications, engagement in non-profit housing projects and local involvement in the development of detail plans, where local committees play a key role. The City of Copenhagen should provide the framework and direction for the development of the city, but should not define the solutions on its own.

Often, it is just as important to ask questions as to provide answers. The City takes responsibility for ensuring that Copenhagen offers quality to all, and that there is quality throughout the city – but quality has to be defined together with the actual users. Early dialogue provides valuable insight into the many different needs – the needs of users, developers and the city itself.

Innovation

For all architectural projects in Copenhagen, the aim is to come up with the right idea or concept for the specific place where the project is to be implemented. Innovation can be achieved in many ways, including architecture competitions, parallel commissions, partnerships and other bidding procedures. These are processes that produce both high architectural quality and great variety in the city, so the City of Copenhagen encourages the use of architecture competitions for all major projects. Competitions invite ideas from a wide range of architects, established as well as up-and-coming. The aim is to identify multiple scenarios, explore the assignment from every possible angle and arrive

at proposed solutions that nobody foresaw when the assignment was defined.

The City of Copenhagen wants to promote the testing and development of ideas, methods and solutions in order to create sustainable solutions, develop new ways of living and promote a circular economy in the construction industry. The City makes specific areas available for pilot projects, as has happened, for example, in the climate resilient neighbourhood of Østerbro, EnergyLab Nordhavn and the Copenhagen Solutions Lab.

The City of Copenhagen also engages in closer collaboration in the form of partnerships for new ways of living, for example, both to develop ideas for specific projects and to generate learning for future projects. Copenhagen is already involved in many partnerships and networks – both in Denmark and internationally – which provide inspiration and new ideas. Partnerships and networks help to develop creative processes and tools.



01



04



07



02



05



08



03



06



09

Copenhagen together

Dialogue, learning and innovation can be achieved through a wide variety of processes, involving the public as well as the experts on the planning panel, district evaluations, award procedures, prototyping and temporary solutions.

01 **Adopt a flower bed**
Vesterbro / 2016

02 **Prototypes**
Climate resilient neighbourhood / 2016

03 **Dome of Visions**
Søren Kierkegaards Plads (Søren Kierkegaard's Square) / 2014

04 **Bypanelet (Urban Panel)**
Visit to Skolen i Sydhavnen (a school in the South Harbour district) / 2016

05 **Temporary local recycling station**
Herman Bangs Plads (Herman Bang's Square) / 2016

06 **Public involvement**
Area renewal in Nørrebro / 2017

07 **Urban design in Copenhagen**
Findings from Sluseholmen / 2013

08 **Ideas competition**
Papirøen (Paper Island) / 2015

09 **Publication**
Building awards 2017

THREE THEMES

Principles and actions

The architecture policy is based on three themes, all of which put people first. Each theme includes three principles and a number of actions that set the course and undergird the theme. The principles and actions govern the development of the city's architecture and the dialogue with all of the stakeholders in the city.

Among other things, the principles should provide direction for detail plans and construction projects, both for the City's own projects and for private developments and urban spaces, all within the framework of the Municipal Plan. The principles aim to ensure that the municipality and the stakeholders in the city incorporate all the relevant aspects into the specific project.

Co-Create Copenhagen

The three themes in the architecture policy reflect the vision 'Co-Create Copenhagen'. The vision was adopted by the City Council in 2015 and aims to build A Liveable City, A City with an Edge, A Responsible City.

ARCHITECTURE THAT TELLS A STORY

This theme focuses on building on the distinctive character of Copenhagen and our shared cultural heritage and on transforming and developing the city in a contemporary architectural idiom. It also aims to reinforce uniqueness, the defining character of a place, based on local needs, narratives and architectural features. It is about place-making in the city, based on human and physical diversity.

BUILDING FOR COPENHAGEN LIFE

This theme focuses on building a liveable city based on sensory qualities, the scale of the human body and life in the public space. It focuses especially on everyday life in Copenhagen, on creating a mixed city with room for everyone and on making Copenhagen greener. The theme also focuses on the interplay between buildings and public spaces, on variation and on community.

RESPONSIBLE DESIGN

This theme focuses on how Copenhagen can continue to take responsibility for environmental and climate-related challenges and on how we can design architectural solutions that provide quality of life, flexibility and resilience to change. It also aims at creating resource-efficient physical settings and adapting the city to the climate of the future.

We will do this by ...

Each of the nine principles of the architecture policy is accompanied by concrete actions to support our efforts. However, these actions are not in the hands of the City of Copenhagen alone. The shape of the city's development is ultimately a result of the joint efforts of citizens, developers and authorities and all the other actors in the city.

When the actions are headed by We will do this by ..., **'we'** means all of us.

All the city's buildings, public spaces and landscapes are part of the larger whole that is Copenhagen. The architecture policy therefore includes considerations to ensure that each project contributes to the larger whole and, hence, that the values of the city and the district are preserved and developed.

Co-Create Copenhagen

A LIVEABLE CITY ▶

A CITY WITH AN EDGE ▶

A RESPONSIBLE CITY ▶

Architecture policy 2017–2025

ARCHITECTURE THAT TELLS A STORY

BUILDING FOR COPENHAGEN LIFE

RESPONSIBLE DESIGN

Principles

- 01 Create new architecture based on the distinctive character of Copenhagen
- 02 Build on local traditions to reinforce diversity and uniqueness
- 03 Respect existing cultural values in the built environment, buildings and public spaces
- 04 Design buildings and public spaces that put people first
- 05 Prioritise a mixed city with architectural variety
- 06 Design buildings and public spaces with room for co-creation and private initiatives
- 07 Enhance the quality of the city with climate adaptation and resource optimisation
- 08 Create physical settings that contribute to resource optimisation
- 09 Design durable buildings and public spaces that deliver long-term value

**Skibbroen**

Holscher Nordberg / Completed 2016

Transformation from a port area in Sydhavn (the South Harbour) district to a mixed urban area with room for all, close to the water and the existing city.




The researchers' apartments in the Carlsberg district are architecture that tells a story about the special character of the city and the existing cultural values in J. C. Jacobsens Have, while reinforcing the unique character of the area through a restrained and contemporary idiom.

RESEARCHERS' APARTMENTS IN THE CARLSBERG DISTRICT

Praxis Architects / Completed 2017



ARCHITECTURE THAT TELLS A STORY

- 
- 01 Create new architecture based on the distinctive character of Copenhagen
 - 02 Build on local character to reinforce diversity and unique neighbourhoods
 - 03 Respect cultural historical value in the built environment and local area

Unique neighbourhoods in context

The vision is to enhance Copenhagen as a city of unique neighbourhoods within a cohesive context. The architectural cohesion is strengthened by understanding and building on the cultural history that is the foundation of Copenhagen and by always considering landscape and building together. The unique neighbourhoods and locations can be enhanced by considering the local conditions that have their own stories to tell.

We continually supplement, transform and add new architecture which interprets and renews what is already there, both in regard to the wider context and in dealing with specific locations.

Copenhagen design

Copenhagen is a city that is known for its design at every level, from city planning to buildings, from public spaces to street

furniture and equipment. 'Copenhagen design' is design that combines functionality and aesthetics, and which manages both to create a unified whole and to highlight the particular.

Unique character is the city's 'edge'

'Architecture that tells a story' is concerned with distinct architectural character. Architectural character comes from the site-specific features that the history of the city has created and continues to create. It is linked in different ways to the city as whole, a district, a neighbourhood or a specific place. This is what makes Copenhagen's architecture unique and defines the architectural character of the city and its individual neighbourhoods.

The Copenhagen narrative

Copenhagen's unique character tells a story of how the city developed from a fortified city into a modern metropolis, and

how the city's architecture has shaped the ambitions, concerns and aesthetic ideals of every era.

Over time, we have built on and added new layers to the city, continually converting the city's buildings and spaces to match new functions and uses with respect for their history. Today, Copenhagen thus remains largely well-preserved and recognisable, with great diversity among the individual districts and neighbourhoods.

The unique character of the city contains important architectural values. A continuing narrative based on these values ensures that we can all identify with the city in our own unique way. Thus, we can continue to feel at home in Copenhagen, however long and how often we spend time in the city.



The Kvæsthus project

Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects/
Completed 2016

Krøyers Plads (Krøyer's Square)

Vilhelm Lauritzen Architects and COBE /
Completed 2016

**View from Kvæsthusmolen (the Kvæsthus Pier)
and the Royal Danish Playhouse**

Krøyers Plads with the tower of the Church of Our Saviour can be seen as a landmark in the background. The transformation of Kvæsthus Molen has created a new maritime and cultural meeting place in front of the Playhouse. The new buildings on Krøyers Plads reinterpret the warehouse character and scale of the port, for example in their treatment of roof shapes, facades and materials.

01 Create new architecture based on the distinctive character of Copenhagen

Copenhagen's defining characteristics

Copenhagen should retain its feel of a well-preserved city that adds new layers and narratives to the city's character by means of new construction and green spaces that reinterpret and transform the existing environment. Copenhagen's defining characteristics should therefore be retained and reinforced as the foundation of the city's development.

Increased density and climate change adaptation

Accelerating population growth and the need for climate change adaptation in the urban space require the city to accommodate completely new needs. New public spaces and buildings, new urban areas and urban renewal should add to the existing city. That requires careful considerations of design, size and placement.

New, larger developments and high-rise buildings that break with the city's general scale, profile and landscape call for particular attention and forethought. They need to bring added architectural value to the city and to the specific site – not least on a human scale.

We will do this by ...

- 01.1 using Copenhagen's defining characteristics and existing architectural values as a basis for contemporary architecture.
- 01.2 reshaping buildings with respect for the retention of essential architectural values, both in the urban environment and in the individual building, so that new additions and changes represent contemporary interpretations of existing architectural qualities.
- 01.3 designing and placing high-rises and large corporate buildings or residential developments in a way that matches the character of the city and the particular area – taking into account the existing topography, profile, density, scale, views and sight lines.
- 01.4 generally designing and placing high-rises as slender tower buildings that serve as landmarks that support wayfinding in the city.
- 01.5 using architecture competitions or parallel commissions in connection with high-rise projects and defining conditions for the architectural expression of high-rise buildings and their facades in detail plans that allow for high-rise developments.

...



01
Valencia
Dorte Mandrup / Completed 2015

This dance hall from 1861 has been home to many different functions over the years and has been gradually enclosed by surrounding buildings. The renovation therefore aimed to open up the space to make the unique qualities of the building visible again.



02
Ny Vestergade 3
Tegnestuen B19 / Completed 2013
Ny Vestergade 3 is an apartment building from 1848 that has been renovated and rebuilt. The original building has been preserved, and a new penthouse floor has been added. The new elements interface directly with the old as a contemporary interpretation of the existing architectural character.



03
Axel Towers and Axel Torv (rendering)
Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects / Completed 2017
The redesign of Axel Torv (Axel Square) reinterprets Copenhagen's former city walls, heavily inspired by the verdant character of the old ramparts. The altered landscaping of the square thus makes it part of the belt of green public spaces that runs from Tivoli via Axel Torv to Pumpehus (the Pump House) site behind the Palads cinema.

04
Mærsk Tower (Maersk Tower)
C.F. Møller / Completed 2017
The impression of the tower changes with one's distance to it. The building acts as a landmark for the Nørrebro district and assists wayfinding in the city. It is open and welcoming with a transparent ground floor, and the public is invited right up to the top with a café and viewing area.



01



02

01 Lighting

Subtle suspended general lighting in Strædet (the Strait) and subdued café lighting along the sides. The light in the clock in the City Hall tower creates an effect and shows the way. The evening sky above the city frames the City Hall tower.

02 Dantes Plads (Dante's Square)

GHB Landscape Architects and COBE / Completed 2011
The unusual convex paving on Dantes Plads differs from the classical Copenhagen paving. The tiles emphasise the local character and context of the square, while the tree beds are planted with a variety of flowers to provide a sensory experience. The city's classical Copenhagen benches and waste bins are also present, producing a recognisable Copenhagen identity.

We will do this by ...

- 01.6 making Copenhagen greener with more and better green spaces in order to enhance the character of the city and ensure that climate change adaptation is an integral part of the architectural solution.
- 01.7 maintaining and developing the universal Copenhagen identity in urban furnishings and exteriors to preserve a sense of recognition and coherence in public spaces designed for free movement (traffic flow as well as recreation) while consciously developing and supporting local identities in city squares and parks.
- 01.8 aiming at architectural consistency by creating a combination of general and effect lighting that brings out the character of the city and the unique local areas, public spaces, buildings and contexts and allows people to experience the night sky, the changing seasons and the Nordic light and darkness.





03



04



05

03 Public space by SEB Bank

SLA / Completed 2010

The head office of SEB Bank and Pension is next to the large and busy road system around Kalvebod Brygge (Kalvebod Wharf). The buildings mark the corner and frame the landscaping, where urban nature and climate adaptation are integral design elements.

04 Panum Institute (rendering)

C.F. Møller Architects and SLA / Completed 2017

The Maersk Tårnet adds a new landmark to the city and the Panum Institute, and the overall plan for the project makes the city greener. A large open forecourt integrates the building into the street-scape and invites people in. A new public park replaces a former car park, and a stretch of gardens with cycle tracks and footpaths curves through the site, connecting the building to the city. Green roofs collect rainwater.

05 The Copenhagen identity

The Copenhagen identity is characterised by several universal and recognisable items of street furniture and paving types that tie the city together and let you know that you are in Copenhagen. The Copenhagen bench and the Copenhagen pavement are just two of the city's identifying design elements. This Copenhagen identity should be retained on all thoroughfares, while squares may apply a different design if the local character calls for it.

02

Build on local character to reinforce diversity and unique neighbourhoods

Unique neighbourhoods

Copenhagen's districts, neighbourhoods and sites all have their own unique character and stories, which gives them their unique local feel. Bispebjerg is different from Brønshøj and Nørrebro, and Vanløse is different from Vesterbro and Ørestad. Within the individual districts too, there are special features and local narratives, which mean that any given district will contain several different areas and locations. This gives the districts and the city a distinct architectural character, which all development should aim to strengthen.

Any given project is initiated to fulfil a specific function, which could be housing, offices, a cycle path or a recreational area. It is important for the city that the individual project not only fulfils its function but also considers the site-specific architectural character, including green areas, building types, heights, exteriors and connections and transitions between public spaces.

Give something back to the city

We should also focus on how new features create value and give something back to the place and the surroundings. Thus, new buildings and facilities should support local life and help to meet people's wishes and needs in the local environment.

We will do this by ...

- 02.1 planning urban development around a basic concept that considers buildings and landscape together and enhances the character of the city and its local narrative.
- 02.2 promoting cohesion between areas of urban development and the surrounding neighbourhoods, providing closeness and access to public spaces, amenities etc.
- 02.3 promoting architectural quality in the individual projects, so their contemporary idiom relates aesthetically and functionally to the cultural heritage, landscape features and knowledge of the users' needs and well-being. ■



01
Faste Batteri (Fixed Battery) (rendering)

Arkitema Architects, THIRD NATURE, Entasis and POLYFORM

The new neighbourhood at the edge of Iceland Wharf (Islands Brygge) encompasses a stretch of parkland and picks up the height, structure and materials of the surrounding city, thus tying the areas together. The central strip of parkland will contain green areas with open spaces for the benefit of both residents and users in the area, planted facades, cycle and footpaths and storm water protection. The ancient monument is restored and laid out as a park.

02
Grønttorvet (The Vegetable Market) (rendering)
WERK, POLYFORM and SANGBERG

Grønttorvet (The Vegetable Market) has been planned as a high-density residential area with a green profile, which will help to create a strong local narrative. At the heart of the area, the 23,000-m² produce and vegetable market will be turned into an attractive park, which will also benefit people living outside the Vegetable Market, and so help to establish the new residential area in the city.



03
Grønttorvsparken (Vegetable Market Park) (rendering)

1:1 Landskab

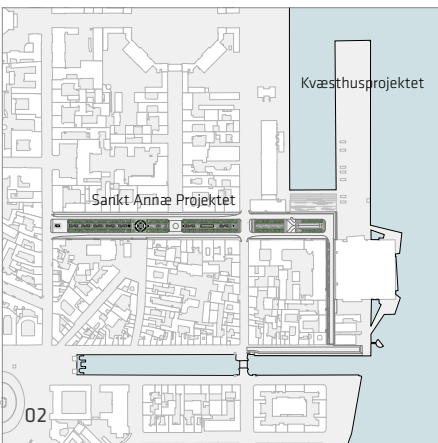
Past and present are elegantly linked by retaining some of the existing structures from the old vegetable market hall and allowing trees and bushes with edible fruits, nuts and berries to grow up among them. Visitors can literally take a bite of the park while leaning against elements from the former marketplace for fruit and vegetables.



04
Renovation of Bellahøj (rendering)

Henning Larsen Architects, Erik Møller Arkitekter and GHB Landscape Architects

The renovation of the iconic Bellahøj development ranges from individual building elements to the area as a whole. Buildings and landscape will be renewed with respect for the cultural heritage, users' needs and new knowledge. At the same time, the development will be opened up and linked with the surrounding city.



01 Sankt Annæ Projects
Schønherr A/S / Completed 2016
Renewal and storm-water protection for Sankt Annæ Plads (Sankt Annæ Square) reinterprets the baroque public space in Frederiksstaden to produce a contemporary solution. The sunken garden, the two long rows of trees and the wide pavements preserve the architectural values of the area and a peaceful everyday life in the city. The square changes when there is a rain storm, as the water from large parts of Frederiksstaden will collect in the sunken garden to be diverted out into the harbour.

02 The Kvæsthus and Sankt Annæ Projects
Developed and coordinated as one, these projects have relied on simple concepts and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders to create a new setting between the city and the water. The functions of the individual public spaces complement each other, and the local values of the area have been enhanced.



03

03
Kvæsthus project, Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects

Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects / Completed 2016

The project encompasses three main elements, which support each other: 1) Kvæsthuspladsen (Kvæsthus Square) on the quay facing the harbour; 2) Kvæsthus Basin with a new set of steps leading down to the water; and 3) the underground car park Kvæsthusmolen (Kvæsthus Pier). Materials, lighting, furniture and size combine to create a new maritime space, which is functional and attractive round the year and relates to its surroundings.



04

04
Kvæsthusgade

A row of new trees has been planted along the Kvæsthusgade street, and the surface has been paved with classic granite slabs, which harmonise with the rest of the area. Rainwater is handled by storm gutters, which form part of an overall paving solution under the trees. The solution also includes bicycle parking, so all the functions are gathered under the crowns of the trees.

03 Respect cultural historical value in the built environment and local area

The narrative of the place

The development of Copenhagen should respect existing cultural values. Thus, we should not only consider whether a building or other physical structure is worth preserving in itself but also address what may hold particular cultural or social value for the city's residents and users. Our aim is to preserve, add to and transform the city.

Copenhagen's cultural history exists both in larger entities – cultural environments – and in individual identifying elements. A cultural environment is a recognisable context that links to and tells a shared history. Identifying valuable cultural environments helps to incorporate important historical settings into urban development. However, important traces of an otherwise vanished historical context can also provide continuity and identity to the city of today and tomorrow.

We will do this by ...

- 03.1 considering and supporting the valuable cultural environments and historical values associated with the area when we plan urban development.
- 03.2 respecting existing buildings and green spaces of particular architectural or cultural value by identifying them as worthy of preservation in detail plans and only demolish or remove elements for good reason.
- 03.3 transforming existing districts, public spaces and buildings so they preserve the essential historical values while adding new layers to the narrative of the city.

01 (then) & 02 (now)

**Silos in Nordhavn (the North Harbour district)
then and now**

COBE and Praksis Architects / Completed 2017

The conversion of the two iconic silos into residential units adds a new layer to the historical narrative of Nordhavn. Combined with the general renewal of the area the transformation takes Nordhavn into the future.





01
Den Frie Udstillingsbygning (Centre of Contemporary Art)

Bente Lange Arkitekter, Tuxen Design and Schønherr / Completed 2015

The renovation and expansion of Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art recreated the original exterior of the building. An extension was removed and a new basement floor added. Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art now stands on a clear and open site, as it did after Willumsen's expansion in 1934, and it has regained its prominent position opposite Østerport Station. The landscape around it has been developed to enhance the line of the city wall from Kastellet (the Citadel fortress) to Østre Anlæg (Parc), one of the city's defining green belts.



02 & 03
Vigerslev Allé Skole (School)

Nøhr & Sigsgaard and 1:1 Landskab / Completed 2015

The run-down but historic 100-year-old school has been renovated to produce a new and modern school that encourages physical activity throughout. The school has added new classrooms for the creative arts in a former, outdated swimming pool building. The renovation was carried out with respect for the essential historical values and added new layers to the story of the place.



04 & 05
Dansekapellet (The Dance Chapel)
 DOMUS Architects / Completed 2012

As part of the restoration and conversion of the historic chapel and crematorium on Bispebjerg Torv (Bispebjerg Square), the building has been turned into a dance and exercise centre. The labyrinthine room layout has been preserved, the changes to the outside have been kept to a minimum, and the North-West district has acquired a unique attraction.

06
Forfatterhuset (The Authors' House) childcare centre
 COBE / Completed 2014

Five small buildings in the partially converted assisted living facility De Gamles By (the Old-Age Pensioners' Town) in Nørrebro contribute to the surroundings with a reinterpretation of facades, green roofs and roof terraces. The old tree on the site has taken on an important role as an important part of the green quality in the street and as inspiration for the children's play under the spreading branches.



Guldberg City Square (Guldberg Byplads) was built for Copenhagen life and is an attractive public space that serves as a city square for all and as a playground and schoolyard for the children.

Guldberg Plads

NORD Architects / Completed 2011



BUILDING FOR COPENHAGEN LIFE

04 Design buildings and public spaces that put people first

05 Prioritise a mixed city with architectural variety

06 Design buildings and public spaces with room for co-creation and private initiatives



Putting people first – human-centred planning

The vision is that Copenhagen should continue to be a city where urban development is driven and defined by living. Copenhagen's architecture is the physical setting for life in the city. The city's developments, landscapes, buildings, public spaces and street furniture and equipment should invite people to come together and serve as a welcoming venue for locals and visitors. Building a city for Copenhagen living calls for architecture that puts people first.

A good city is one that provides a setting for people with different needs and attitudes. It is a city that is accessible and makes room for people's self-expression and activities, including those we do not yet know about.

Sammenhængskraft

The architecture in Copenhagen should support everyday life and people's sense of belonging. The physical conditions should be set up to make it easy and safe to move from A to B, so buildings and public spaces make room for life to unfold at different times of day and during all four seasons.

Architecture should also support Copenhageners' health and well-being, for example by prioritising and expanding both green and blue spaces. The architecture should help to reinforce the cohesiveness which is one of Copenhagen's defining qualities. A city that continues to make room for everybody.

**Cirkelbroen (Circle Bridge)**

Olafur Eliasson / Completed 2015

Five staggered circular platforms of different sizes, each with a mast in the middle, sparking associations to sailing ships and the cultural history of the Christianshavn district that surrounds the canal. In contrast to the long straight quay, the bridge invites us to slow down and take in the view.

04

Design buildings and public spaces that put people first

City on a human scale

There should be a focus on the way people experience the city when they use it. The design of buildings and public spaces should reflect a human scale and our ability to pick up and process impressions from our surroundings. That means designing developments, buildings and public spaces to provide quality of life for the individual.

The architecture in Copenhagen should be varied, so it stimulates the senses and enriches everyday life. When we create physical settings which put people first, more people will want to live and stay here and use the city.

We will do this by ...

- 04.1 supporting life and lingering around the edges of buildings through the layout and physical design of private, semi-private and public zones in the transition between buildings and outdoor spaces. This will give the city living edge zones and active ground-floor levels with visible signs of life.
- 04.2 incorporating and designing solutions for accessibility as an integral part of the architecture to provide equal access and a good experience for all of the city's users.

...



Edge zones

The edge zone is the area where the building meets the city. A good edge zone is where the architectural treatment of the transition between building and public space contributes to a living city and a city for people. It is where the edge zone supports experiences at eye level, security, activity and community.

- 01 **The A House (A-huset), Islands Brygge**
Holgaard Architects / Completed 2010
- 02 **Nordhavn (North Harbour)**
Mangor & Nagel / Completed 2017
- 03 **Hall C, Holmen (the Islet)**
Christensen & Co and 1:1 landskab / Completed 2013
- 04 **Pakhusene (The Warehouses), Njalsgade**
Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects / Completed 2014
- 05 **Emaljehaven (Enamel Park), North-West**
entasis and Creo Arkitekter / Completed 2007
- 06 **Sheltered homes, Grøndalsvænge**
BOGL, ONV architects and Algren and Bruun / Completed 2012
- 07 **Town houses, Islands Brygge**
Vandkunsten / Completed 2015-2016
- 08 **Pavement garden**
Tagtomat



01
Sundholm Syd, AlmenBolig+
 AI and BOGL / Completed 2015

The exterior of this residential building is constructed using a variety of materials and features balconies, patios and careful detailing. The small patios and mini-gardens in front of the building encourage community spirit and lend a personal touch.

02
Town houses on Islands Brygge (Iceland Wharf)
 Vandkunsten / Completed 2015-2016

The town houses are a modern take on the classical urban terraced house. The offset floors and open staircase make for a transparent home with lots of daylight. The facade, roof terrace, garden and courtyard look out on the surroundings and provide visual contact between life indoors and outdoors.

We will do this by ...

04.3 promoting architectural solutions that take inspiration from the site to create variation in the exterior of buildings, for example with divisions, alcoves, bays, detailing and the choice of materials, and by allowing for entrance areas with a personal touch.

04.4 designing exterior walls, balconies and terraces to allow visual contact between the life in and around buildings and life in the city.

04.5 using daylight wherever possible to design well-lit buildings and homes with a view of their surroundings and the sky.

...



03 & 04

Østerbrogade 105

C.F. Møller / Completed 2006

The bay motif reflects the shapes of the facades of neighbouring buildings. The bays provide draw daylight into the homes and establish openness and visual contact between inside and outside.



05

Frederiksborgvej 73 (rendering)

BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group

The future flats along Dortheavej are of varying sizes and on different levels to maximise the influx of daylight. All the flats also have a balcony or terrace.



01

01

Israels Plads (Israel's Square)

COBE and SWECO Architects / Completed 2014

Urban spaces can meet people's need for physical exercise and form a public playground for Copenhageners of all ages. Sites or fixtures in the urban space that we encounter by chance as we move around the city create a sense of play and life for all, both children and adults.

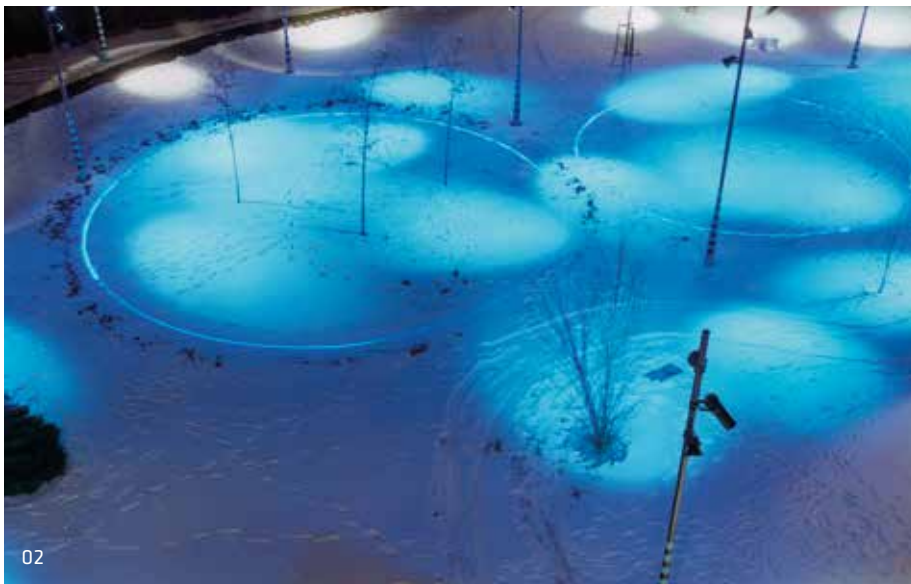
We will do this by ...

04.6 planning and designing architecture that provides opportunities for physical exercise.

04.7 planning and designing access to recreational green and blue spaces close to where people live and work and preserving and developing new calm spaces in the city.

04.8 developing, planning and maintaining green areas to offer pleasant and well-arranged public spaces inspired by the site, using variation in colour, light and mood to bring a sensory dimension to the city all year round.

04.9 illuminating urban spaces to promote comfort, accessibility and a sense of security and to set a mood that encourage people to linger, even after dark.



02

02

Lighting in the North West Park

SLA / Completed 2010

The North West Park provides opportunities for playing and lingering and for physical exercise. The lighting in the park comes in different colors and shapes and allows for many different light experiences and contributes to a sensory dimension throughout the year. The lighting promotes ambience and sense of security, allowing you to stay longer even after dark.



03



04



05

03 Sønder Boulevard
SLA / Completed 2006

The former traffic artery has been turned into a diverse park zone that offers sensory dimensions, room for calm reflection and opportunities for physical activity. The flexible arrangement of the public space can change and adapt to changing local needs. The choice of planting provides a varied experience of colour, light and shade throughout the year.

04 Courtyard Garden, Hothers Plads
Niels Lützen Landskabsarkitekter / Completed 2014

Courtyards make up a significant part of Copenhageners' outdoor spaces close to home, with meeting places, spaces for playing and lingering and facilities for local communities. The courtyards also offer a potential for managing climate-related challenges in private areas.

05 'The 5 Islands'
Open Research Team (ORT) / Completed 2012

The 5 Islands are located in the canal between Sivegaden and Ørestad Boulevard on the section from Arne Jacobsens Allé to C.F. Møllers Allé. They introduce the human scale, a new idiom and a new type of materials to Ørestad and provide a space for quiet moments.

05

Prioritise a mixed city with architectural variety

The diverse city

Copenhagen has a diverse and attractive city life and a broad demographic make-up encompassing people of all age groups, from many different income groups and with widely differing cultural backgrounds and interests. This diversity is a great asset for the city.

Population growth puts increased pressure on the city. It is important to preserve and develop the diversity of the existing housing stock. That is why both new and existing residential areas should provide variety in dwelling sizes, types, ownership models and functional range. This is also an occasion to rethink and facilitate new and different ways of living.

We will do this by ...

- 05.1 promoting the design of mixed-use districts, including varied shopping facilities, and allow for areas in new district plans to be sold as small plots to create variation and room for small initiatives and building associations.
- 05.2 promoting the development and design of residential buildings to encourage mixed housing models with variation in dwelling sizes and types and forms of ownership, in both new and existing residential areas.
- 05.3 promoting the development of new housing models for different target groups, including new types of dwellings and ownership models and communal housing.



01

Papirøen (Paper Island) (rendering)

COBE

The buildings are laid out with active, open ground-floor levels that will accommodate a mixture of public attractions and local functions, such as a food market, a swimming pool, shops, workshops and exhibitions. The mixed functions and varied facades with arcades, niches, edge zones and entrances to flats contribute to an exciting built environment and a vibrant city life.



02

Papirøen (Paper Island) (rendering)

COBE

To reinforce Papirøens new status as a cultural and urban meeting place, the existing halls are being replaced with new halls with flats on the upper floors, which form a coherent block around a large green courtyard. The development is encircled by a public promenade.



01
Carl Jacobsens Vej

Vandkunsten / Completed 2016

The mix of different functions and dwelling types promotes population and architectural diversity. Along with a preschool and nursing home, the project features several types of public housing: two-storey 'terraced houses', single-storey flats, penthouses and artist's homes with studios.



02
Kollektivhuset (Collective Building) flats

DOMUS Architects / Completed 2016

The former office floors at the top of the building have been turned into new communal living units. Each shared unit is made up of three flats, each with its own bathroom and kitchen and a large double-height common room. The common room provides a place for the residents to socialise, while the rooms on the upper floors allow for privacy.

03

Sundbyøster Hall II

Dorte Mandrup / Completed 2015

A soundproof sports hall with a supermarket on the ground floor and flats on the top floor. This mixture of functions in a three-in-one solution is a good approach to future development in big cities where space is at a premium. It is one of the first examples of a public-private partnership in Copenhagen. The City makes the site available to a private developer and buys back half for itself while the rest remains on private hands.



03



04

04

Sølund (rendering)

C.F. Møller and THIRD NATURE

The Sølund nursing home is being turned into an ambitious example of the integrated urban care centre of tomorrow. It mixes assisted-living units, student flats and senior flats with shops and a childcare facility on the ground floor. The shared facilities and outdoor areas will provide a setting for communal life and give the Nørrebro district an active building with a diverse group of residents and users.

06

Design buildings and public spaces with room for co-creation and private initiatives

More people to stay longer in the city

A good city is one in which we can be outside at all times of day all year round, and where the public spaces are a natural extension of our homes. Architectural development in Copenhagen should invite people to come together and provide a setting for private initiatives. The city's squares and streets are used for many different purposes over the course of a year, including markets, festivals and sporting events. The public space is complemented by the city's more private spaces, particularly its courtyard gardens which provide a secure setting for neighbourliness and social activities.

Community and multiple functions

There should still be room for Copenhageners and users of the city to shape the life and activities in the public space. A successful public space allows us to meet others, take responsibility and feel a sense of ownership. More and more people want to use the city's spaces, and we need to be better at considering the big picture and supporting multiple functions in the physical layout of the city. The architecture should provide a setting for communities, so we can support contact between people and cohesion in the city

We will do this by:

- 06.1 designing durable public spaces which invite versatile use and can provide a setting for both spontaneous and planned activities all year round.
- 06.2 supporting a sense of community in the city by designing public spaces that invite many different users to stay and meet regardless of culture, age and gender, including communal cultural, sports and childcare facilities.
- 06.3 planning cultural and leisure functions or other attractions in deprived urban areas, and planning urban development measures that promote city life and interaction across the city and residential areas

...



01
Square in front of Nordvest Bibliotek and Kulturhus (North-West Library and Cultural Centre)

Schönherr COBE and Transform / Completed 2014
 The square faces Ring 2, where there used to be a Shell garage. The square is the result of close public involvement focusing on accessibility, diversity, security and visibility. The landscape elements create a human scale, screen off the traffic and lend the area a green lushness and multi-functional practicality.

02
Garden at the SMK, the National Gallery of Denmark
 WERK, Sangberg Architects and karres+brands / Completed 2014

The new museum garden at SMK, the National Gallery of Denmark, invites visitors and passers-by in. The garden is open all day, and the movable furniture provides flexible opportunities for lingering and socialising. The large pool invites people to sit down and enjoy the reflections of the sky and the city's towers in the water, but it can also be emptied and used for art installations and concerts or turned into a skating rink in the winter.



03
Gammeltorv (Old Square) and Nytorv (New Square)
 City Architect's Office / Completed 1992

The square is an example of a public space with a high quality of materials and simple layout that has created a durable setting for many different everyday and ceremonial activities over the last 25 years, at all times of year. The design of the square is based on the distinct slope of the terrain and an interpretation of the historical references in the paving.



04
Overall plan for Mjølnerparken (rendering)
 KHS Arkitekter

The overall plan is an ambitious transformation of the Mjølnerparken residential development in Nørrebro. The plan aims to support the sense of community in the neighbourhood and across the city. It includes measures such as improved transport connections through the area, conversion of ground-floor flats for more public functions and the establishment of a new community centre.



05
Tingbjerg Kulturhus (Tingbjerg Cultural Centre) (rendering)
 COBE

The Cultural Centre will provide Tingbjerg with a meeting place for a whole series of social and cultural activities. The building is an extension of the existing school, so the facilities can be used by both pupils and visitors.



We will do this by ...

06.4 creating settings for physical experiments, user-driven communities, initiatives and creative entrepreneurs.

06.5 experimenting with shared space and facilities, where the design of buildings and public spaces contributes to city life across the boundary between public and private.

06.6 promoting a sharing culture by planning, designing and establishing more shared facilities and functions in the district and buildings, for example satellite rooms, kitchens, outdoor kitchens, function rooms, bicycle workshops, commercial premises and so on.



01 & 02

Hauser Plads (Hauser Square)

WERK, Sangberg Architects and karres+brand / Completed 2012

A former underground car park has been turned into a service building for the city's street cleaners, with a new playground above. The atrium provides contact between the two places and draws light into the workspace, enabling dual use of the location.

03

Tove Ditlevsens Plads (Tove Ditlevsen's Square)

Bascon / Completed 2015

The schoolyard and street area have merged and can now be used as a place to linger, meet others and engage in temporary activities. A few elements around the edges of the square extend over the roadway and dissolve the boundaries between school and street, creating a shared space.



04



05



06

04
ØsterGRO
Completed 2014

In an experimental citizen-driven initiative, Denmark's first rooftop farm has been established on top of a car showroom in the Østerbro district. The 600-square-metre area is used to grow organic vegetables and keep bees and chickens. The committed instigators and volunteers share the work on the urban farm.

05
Amager Fælled Skole (Schoolyard at Amager Common School)

NORD Architects / Completed 2015
Pulling down the walls and fence around the school has dissolved the sharp division between schoolyard and street. The now open area with a recreational urban wood and activity zone offers many different experiences for both pupils and local residents.

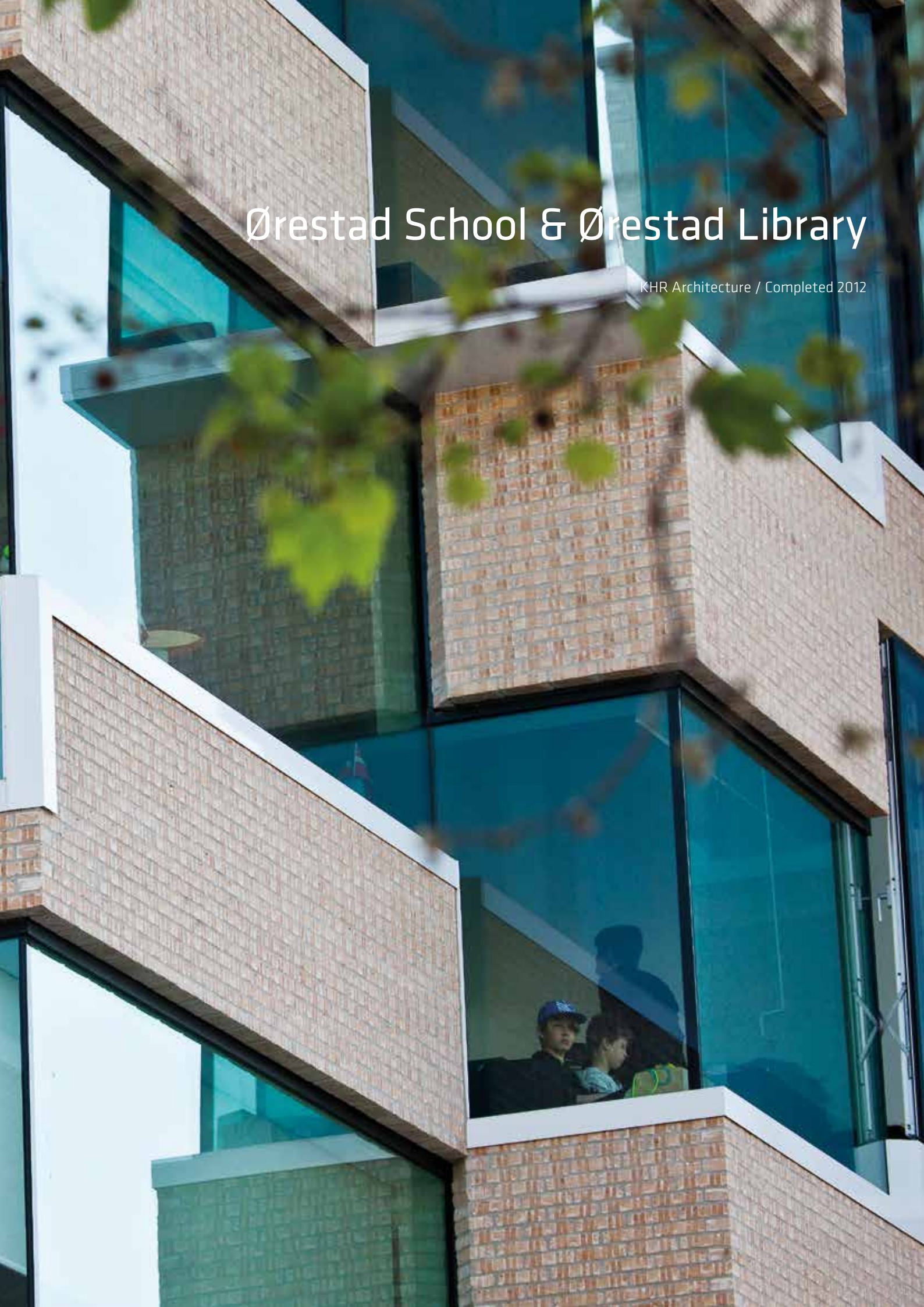
06
Linjen (The Line)
Bureau Detours / Completed 2015
On a long, narrow site along the railway line by Nørrebro Station, a group of entrepreneurs have created a container town with open workshops aimed at promoting cooperation, innovation and sustainability. The Line has become a meeting place for local residents and visitors.



Ørestad School (Ørestad Skole) and Ørestad Library (Ørestad Bibliotek) are responsibly designed with solar cells and heat storage, and the building, with its hanging gardens, is an inviting setting for both pupils and visitors.

Ørestad School & Ørestad Library

KHR Architecture / Completed 2012



RESPONSIBLE DESIGN

07 Enhance the quality of the city with climate change adaptation and resource optimisation

08 Create physical settings that contribute to resource optimisation

09 Design resilient buildings and public spaces that deliver long-term value

A responsible city now and in the long term

The ambition is for Copenhagen to remain one of the world's most eco- and climate-friendly cities. That means that the city will continue to take responsibility for its citizens and for the world that we are a part of. Both here and now and in the long term.

Responsible design strategies

The architecture should make it attractive to live in a sustainable way in the city. That is why we invest in long-term climate protection and reduce our consumption of energy and resources. At the same time, we are working on new solutions for the sustainable city of the future, so we can help to drive a development that benefits the city and promotes the international competitiveness of the Danish construction sector. That is responsible design.

In Copenhagen, we have adopted a number of ambitious targets for the climate and the environment. Copenhagen also aims to take the lead in implementing a circular economy. Architecture plays an important role in a sustainable transformation and in meeting the targets we have set. The way in which we change and lay out the city must be able to handle increased quantities of rainwater and support resource-conscious behaviour and more modest consumption of materials. At the same time, resource optimisations should help to reduce the city's CO₂ emissions.

Synergy effects

The investments that we make in the city to make it more sustainable should also help to enhance architectural quality in the city and quality of life for individuals. That is why we strive to maximise synergy.

Quality of life

When we climate-adapt public spaces to cope with cloudbursts, flash floods and rising sea levels, we have to do it in a way that preserves the character of the city and local areas and improves recreational facilities for everyday life. When we energy-optimize buildings, we can provide new spaces, a better indoor climate and more daylight. Architecture should contribute to the overall quality of the city; it should be durable and consider what each project does for our society.



Nørreport Station

COBE and Gottlieb Paludan Architects /
Completed 2015

Efficiency, accessibility and convenience come together at Denmark's busiest station thanks to a holistic approach and an eye for detail. The design of the new station was informed in part by studies of the movements of pedestrians and cyclists across the square. The organically shaped areas and buildings create a unified traffic hub. That is responsible design.

07 Enhance the quality of the city with climate change adaptation and resource optimisation

Combining needs and initiatives

To enhance the quality of the city, we combine needs and initiatives when we develop our city. By incorporating climate change adaptation and resource optimisation measures into the physical design and layout of the city, we can ensure that the projects add value in many ways. At the same time, we need to ensure that these measures respect the unique character of the location where the projects are implemented.

There is a particular potential for adding value when we climate-adapt the city, energy-renovate the existing building stock and construct new energy-efficient buildings.

Climate change initiatives with added value

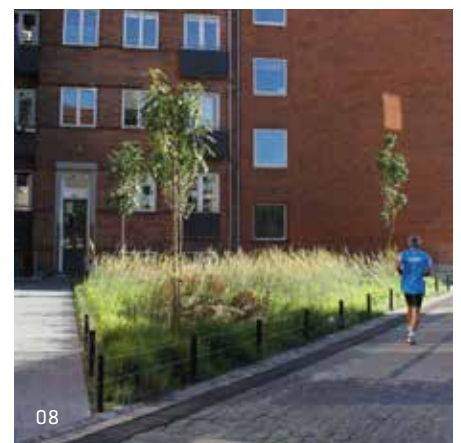
That means that climate change adaptations should be carried out in a way that adds quality to the city, supports the city's spaces and landscapes and creates green recreational areas. That could mean anything from major climate change adaptation projects across districts, which could also improve the infrastructure and create new green spaces, to establishing more green roof terraces to benefit residents and promote biodiversity in the city.

It also means that energy renovation should lead to better buildings, for example by adding penthouse apartments or balconies, increasing the influx of daylight and sunshine with bigger windows or improving the indoor climate.

We will do this by ...

07.1 ensuring that climate change adaptations create added value in the form of new recreational facilities and more and better green spaces.

...



Climate change adaptation

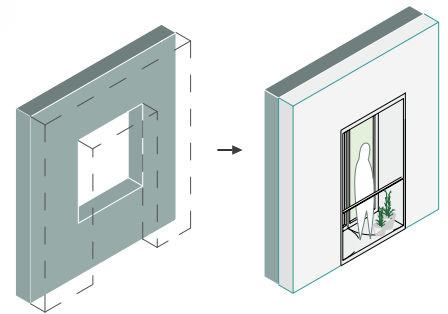
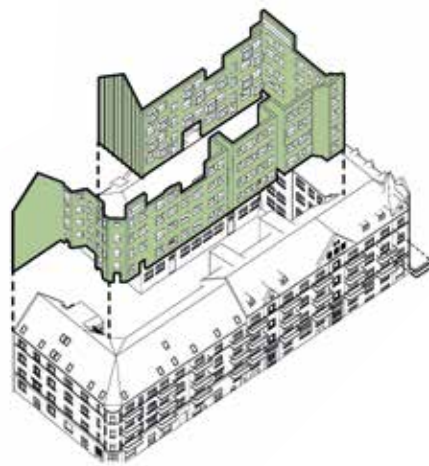
In addition to handling increasing quantities of rainwater, climate change adaptation of the public space can also open the way for completely new functions and experiences. That could mean anything from small rainwater beds in courtyard gardens to large green or blue recreational areas, which together enhance the quality of the city. In this way, climate change adaptations can contribute to a more comfortable urban climate, more greenery and more sensory experiences.

- 01 **Public space with climate change adaptation, Tåsinge Plads (Square)**
GHB Landscape Architects / Completed 2014
- 02 **Temporary pavement garden, Bryggervangen**
TagTomat / Completed 2013
- 03 **Storm-water reservoir, Enghave Park (rendering)** / THIRD NATURE
- 04 **Public space with climate change adaptation, Skt. Kjelds Plads (St. Kjeld's Square) (rendering)** / SLA
- 05 **Storm-water dike, Enghave Park (rendering)**
THIRD NATURE
- 06 **Courtyard with climate change adaptation, Hothers Plads (Hother's Square)**
Niels Lützen Landskabsarkitekter / Completed 2013
- 07 **Traffic island and rainwater bed, Æbeløgade**
City of Copenhagen / Completed 2015
- 08 **Rainwater bed, Bryggervangen 56**
Niels Lützen Landskabsarkitekter / Completed 2014



We will do this by ...

- 07.2 undertaking an overall assessment of energy consumption, daylight and indoor climate in relation to the rooms, windows, insulation and equipment in the building.
- 07.3 adding architectural and practical value to the existing buildings in connection with energy renovation, such as balconies and/or new exterior walls that let in more natural light.
- 07.4 promoting architectural solutions that ensure a good and effective use of daylight and natural ventilation.



01
Turbinehuset (Turbine Hall)
 Danielsen Architecture / Completed 2016
 In the DGNB-certified office complex on Adelgade, the atrium and different windows contribute to low energy consumption and a good indoor climate while also bringing an alternating rhythm to the outside.

02, 03 and 04
Climate Resilient Block Østerbro
 (illustration and prototype)
 Henning Larsen
 The Climate Resilient Block demonstrates how energy renovation can lead to better homes in a typical residential building block. The external insulation transforms the courtyard walls while leaving the historic street-facing facade unchanged. Insulation allows for more daylight and more space, including balconies or bays, which residents can choose among on-site prototypes.



05 & 06

Ryesgade 30 A-C

Krydsrum arkitekter and Rönby.dk / Færdig 2012

The total renovation of this property from 1896 has delivered improved quality housing, a better indoor climate, new penthouse apartments and significantly lower energy consumption while also enhancing the historic architecture.



07 (then) and 08 (now)

Konstabelskolen (Naval College) then and now
Vandkunsten / Completed 2015

The renovation of the former naval college, including external insulation, has created new and attractive flats for young people with great respect for the tradition and architecture of this historic building.



08

Create physical settings that contribute to resource optimisation

No waste of resources

In Copenhagen, the city's buildings and public spaces should be designed a way that optimises resource efficiency.

To save resources as our numbers grow, we need to rethink ways of living and being close together. We can do this by using the space more efficiently, for example by introducing multi-functional solutions that meet many needs at the same time or at different times throughout the day.

Designed for shared responsibility

The design and layout of developments, buildings and public spaces should minimise the consumption of resources needed to run them and make it natural and attractive for residents and visitors to share in the responsibility.

Thus, the architecture should make it easy to sort waste at source, for example, and choose environmentally friendly transportation. Among other things, this means that waste management solutions and cycle parking should be integrated into the architecture of buildings and public spaces.

It also means that we must be willing to experiment with new ways of doing things, so we can get even better at creating a sustainable and resource-conscious city.

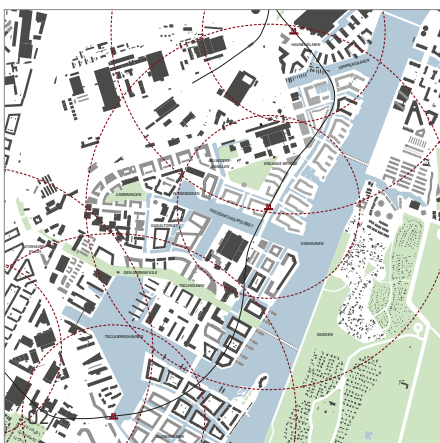
We will do this by ...

- 08.1 planlægge tætte funktionsblandede bebyggelser, så transportbehovet mindskes, fordi de funktioner, et dagligliv er organiseret omkring, så som bolig, arbejdsplads, institutioner, indkøb osv., er inden for gå- eller cykelafstand eller tæt på en station.
- 08.2 promoting architectural solutions that enable people to live and work closer to each other, for example by enabling sharing or dual use of space and functions.
- 08.3 exploiting the potential in converting existing roof spaces to dwellings.
- 08.4 promoting architectural solutions that integrate the ability to use rainwater in buildings and public spaces, including developing and designing green facades and roofs or roof gardens.

...



01



02



03

01 Birkegade Rooftop Penthouses JDS Architects / Completed 2011

In one of the most densely built-up areas of Nørrebro, a leaky roof has been replaced with penthouse apartments. The project uses the roof area for homes and has also created a large garden on the roof with a grassy slope, a wooded terrace and an activity area.

02 Masterplan, Sydhavn (South Harbour)

This part of the South Harbour has been planned as a canal-side community focusing on creating a coherent area with bridges, closeness to public transport stations and good connections for cyclists and pedestrians. The plan is for a mixed residential and commercial area with a number of functions, including retail, day care and recreational facilities. The circles on the map show the walking distance (5 and 10 minutes) from the new Metro stations, which are expected to open in 2023.

03 Car park Lüders

JAJA Architects / Completed 2016

Integrated plant boxes break up the scale of the multi-storey car park and bring green life to the facade.



We will do this by ...

08.5 ensuring that local energy production is integrated, for example with solar cells on roofs or outside walls, with respect for efficiency and overall architectural quality.

08.6 promoting innovative architectural solutions that integrate design, technology and knowledge of human behaviour into a whole, for example in establishing cycle parking or waste disposal facilities.

08.7 designing coherent connections with short cuts and easy access to walking, cycling or using public transport.



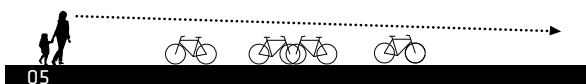
01
Andreas Bjørns Gade / Brobergsgade
Krydsrum arkitekter and Rönby.dk / Completed 2013
The integrated solar cells on the roof safeguard the historical value of the building and supply green energy to the residents.

02
Belvederebroen (Belvedere Bridge)
SLA / Completed 2016
The temporary bridge between Frederiksbrygge (Frederik's Wharf) and Enghave Brygge (Enghave Wharf) in Sydhavn (the South Harbour) completes Havneringen (the Harbour Ring) for cyclists and pedestrians. Inspired by Japanese paper folding, origami, the bridge provides a light and poetic crossing until the future bridge over the Frederiksholm Canal is finished in 2018.

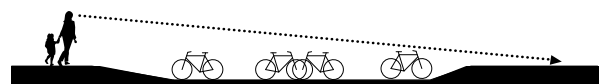
03
Cykelsslangen (The Bicycle Snake)
DISSING+WEITLING Architecture / Completed 2014
The new bridge connecting Vesterbro and Islands Brygge (Iceland Wharf) provides a useful shortcut for cyclists. The characteristic winding route over the bridge makes crossing it an experience in itself.



04



05



04 & 05

Nørreport Station

COBE and Gottlieb Paludan Architects /
Completed 2015

The needs of cyclists and pedestrians were a key concern in the design of the new Nørreport Station. The sunken bicycle bays allow an unobstructed view across the square and clearly demarcate the bicycle parking from circulation areas.

09

Design durable buildings and public spaces that deliver long-term value

Long-term value

The total housing stock in Copenhagen represents a tremendously valuable asset. It is crucial to the future of the city that this asset be maintained and expanded with a view to future needs. We need to safeguard the future value of Copenhagen when we renovate and construct new buildings and public spaces.

Resilient buildings

The use of and requirements for both indoor and outdoor spaces change over time. Buildings and public spaces should therefore be good to use now, but also flexible enough to be developed and reshaped to match new uses in the future. We will do this by creating durable architectural solutions. That means designing

developments, buildings and public spaces so they are fundamentally healthy and attractive and easy to maintain and upgrade. We will also design buildings and public spaces that support varying uses over the years and which are durable and made from materials that can be recycled. It also means that buildings with short service lives should be assembled from components that can be incorporated into new buildings.

Circular economy

By incorporating the circulation of resources into the architecture, we can promote the development of methods aimed at establishing a circular economy in the construction industry.

We will do this by ...

- 09.1 creating flexible architectural solutions in which buildings and public spaces are designed so they can be adapted to new functions and needs over time.
- 09.2 promoting lifecycle assessments of building elements to qualify the choice of designs with a minimal environmental impact.
- 09.3 undertaking a total cost analysis of the initial investment and operating and maintenance costs over the lifetime of buildings and public spaces.

...

01

Hal C

Christensen & Co and 1:1 landskab / Completed 2013

In this multi-purpose sports centre, inside and outside are directly linked, for example by directing daylight in through large skylights and low windows. This brings an even distribution of light into the indoor areas. The internal stands virtually grow through the front of the building and down to the water, where they form a communal space along the canal.



02

Upcycle Studios (rendering)

Lendager Group

The future terraced houses in Ørestad will be flexibly arranged to maximise the usefulness of the homes throughout the day and across the residents' lifespan. The houses can be used as combined homes and workshops, as two smaller homes or as one home. Large parts of the building are made from recycled materials, and collected rainwater is used to flush the toilets, for example.

03 & 04

KMC Nordhavn

Christensen & Co / Completed 2013

The City's environmental office runs this facility for contaminated soil in Nordhavn (the North Harbour) district, which is located between a new urban development and a nature reserve. The DGNB-certified zero-energy building is flexibly laid out so it can take on a new function when the soil depot closes, perhaps for public and cultural purposes to benefit the new district in the North Harbour district.



01

We will do this by ...

- 09.4 promoting architectural solutions for public spaces and buildings that allow materials to be separated out for recycling or reuse.
- 09.5 choosing materials of high aesthetic and functional quality, which are also free of undesirable substances, to ensure sustainability.
- 09.6 examining the possibility of using existing building materials on site when we build something new.



02

**02
IMPACT FARM**

Copenhagen Human Habitat / Completed 2016

A used sea container provides the setting for a portable pop-up farm for local cultivation of vegetables all year round. The prefabricated, recycled materials used in the structure are delivered as an assembly kit in the container, which can be separated out and reused.



03

**03
Den Grønne Friskole (The Green Independent School)**

EEN TIL EEN Arkitektur / Completed 2015

A former paint factory has been turned into a sustainable school building, in which certified materials and technical solutions contribute to a healthy indoor climate and long-term sustainability. As part of their lessons, the children in the school were involved in the construction process.

01

Royal Arena

3XN / Completed 2017

The round body of this multi-purpose arena reduces energy consumption and the use of building materials. The light wooden slats on the outside are impregnated with natural acid without any harmful substances, making the exterior resilient for the coming decades. Reusable materials with long service lives are a top priority in the building.



04

The circular economy is a unique opportunity for architecture and construction. We need to rethink the way in which we build and design towards a scalable, value-based resource economy
Kasper Guldager Jensen, director of GXN

Kasper Guldager Jensen,
 director of GXN

04
Katrinédals Skole (Katrinédal School)
 JJW ARCHITECTS / Completed 2016

The school has been renovated and extended with recycled bricks from Bispebjerg Hospital, among other places. Cradle-to-cradle-certified cement-free lime mortar binds the structure together, so the bricks can be reused in the future. Lime mortar is also breathable and contributes to a good indoor climate.

05
Upcycled concrete (prototype)
 Lendager Group

The concrete for the Pelican Self Storage facility contains over 60% recycled material. Moss will grow in the gaps in the facade, combining to make an organic pattern.



05



06

06
Pelican Self Storage (rendering)
 Lendager Group

Crushed concrete from the original buildings on the site will be used in concrete for the new warehouse building. This brings significant environmental and financial benefits. The open workshops will be retained on the ground floor facing Prags Boulevard.

PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Along with the Municipal Plan, which defines the framework for the development of the city, the architecture policy should be read in conjunction with a number of the City's other plans and policies.

Policies, plans and strategies that affect the architecture policy:

[City of Copenhagen Municipal Plan 2015](#)
[The Coherent City](#)

[Co-Create Copenhagen](#)
[Vision for 2025](#)

[CPH 2025](#)
[Climate Plan Roadmap 2017–2020](#)

[Copenhagen Climate Adaptation Plan](#)

[Cloudburst Management Plan 2012](#)

[Urban Nature in Copenhagen](#)
[Strategy 2015–2025](#)

The City of Copenhagen's Tree Policy 2016–2025
(In Danish only)

[A Harbour of Opportunities 2014](#)
[Visions for more activity within the Harbour of Copenhagen](#)

Policy for Deprived Urban Areas
(In Danish only)

Valuable Cultural Environments in Copenhagen
(In Danish only)

[Good, Better, Best](#)
[The City of Copenhagen's bicycle strategy 2011–2025](#)

[Action Plan for Green Mobility 2012 – short version](#)

[Copenhagen Traffic Safety Plan 2013–2020](#)

A Lift for the Roads
(In Danish only)
Renewal plan 2016–2022

[A Greener and Better Everyday Life](#)
[Local Agenda 21 strategy for Copenhagen 2016–2019](#)

Action Plan for Road Noise 2013–2018
(In Danish only)

[Resource and Waste Management Plan 2013–2018](#)

The City of Copenhagen's Economic and Growth Policy
(In Danish only)

Policy for Developing the City of Copenhagen's Cemeteries until 2065

Local plans
(In Danish only)

Local renewal, neighbourhood plans
(In Danish only)

District plans
(In Danish only)

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sammen med Bascon, Transsolar
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The City of Copenhagen thanks all those
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**LIFE, SPACE AND BUILDINGS:
THE LIFE OF THE CITY AS A BASIS
FOR ITS ARCHITECTURE**

In Copenhagen, we consider urban life before designing urban spaces, and we consider urban space before designing buildings. We do this because it is urban life that makes the city. There is no city without the people who use it; who live, work and spend time in its buildings and streets. Public spaces are designed for urban life. And the city's buildings should relate to the public spaces and support the urban life that unfolds in them, in order to create a pleasant and interconnected city.



2017

Technology and Environment Department
The City of Copenhagen