



**Press feature
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Water, Space and Light: New Architecture in the Øresund Region

The story of the recent Architectural boom in the Øresund region begins with an ending. After a century of heated discussion, Sweden and Denmark agreed to build a bridge that would span the straits of Øresund. The resulting 8-km-long cable-stayed bridge, the longest of its kind in the world, was finally inaugurated on 1st July 2000. The consortium that built Øresund Bridge made no bones about declaring its vision for the Øresund region: To foster links that would be at once spiritual, cultural and economic.

The subsequent emergence of bold urban planning and world-class architecture in the Øresund region by internationally celebrated artists such as Sir Norman Foster, Santiago Calatrava, Henning Larsen, Jean Nouvel, Zaha Hadid and Daniel Libeskind is a testimony to the success of this mission.

Over 60,000 travellers take advantage of the 35-minute crossing between Malmö and Copenhagen everyday. It is possible to drive anywhere in the region in under an hour. However, most of the recent developments are concentrated in four key areas: Malmö Harbour, Ørestad, the Copenhagen Ports and Copenhagen itself.

MALMØ HARBOUR

The Western Harbour, once home to Kockum's shipyard, is now a lively combination of beach promenades, green spaces and award-winning, environmentally-friendly housing developments in which the Malmö University campus jostles for space with IT and telecommunications companies. Water dominates, so it is hardly surprising that the harbour has spawned an architectural vocabulary of reflective surfaces and plastic forms that exploit the interplay between internal and external space.

The new building with the highest profile is **Santiago Calatrava's** masterful '**Turning Torso,**' Sweden's tallest building. Calatrava based the design on his own sculpture, a study of the human body in white marble called 'The Twisting Torso,' and excused the building's iconic presence with the comment, 'I was asked to create a new sign for the city.' The tower's 54 storeys are arranged into nine cubes braced by a fin-like steel exoskeleton which twist through 90 degrees as they rise 190m above the floor of the Western Harbour. Needless to say, views from the top are truly spectacular.



Water also plays a key role in the design of '**Orkanen**' (The Hurricane'), which is an extension of Malmö University by the Swiss partnership **Diener & Diener**. The architects aimed to translate the interplay of water and light from the exterior to interior surfaces. Much of Orkanen's interior is flooded with light entering via floor-to-ceiling glazing, but it is the exterior that exploits the waterfront location to playful effect with reflective surfaces and shifting planes. The top-floor library offers students a natural meeting place, 700 workstations and a wonderful view of the harbour.

Moving inland from the harbour to Slottsparken, you'll come across one of Malmö's most intriguing buildings. Designed by Danish architect Henning Larsen, the '**Calendar of Light**' is a stunning addition to the nineteenth century Malmö Library. Completed in 1997, it pays homage to the minimalist yet sensitive approach to topology and detail of arch-modernist **Asplund**, a debt openly acknowledged by Larsen.

Hyllie, the area South of Malmö, has been the subject of an exciting new urban regeneration scheme. **C.F. Møller Architects** won the competition with a daring plan to build a 15000-seat arena, a major shopping centre, a business zone and a complex of apartments. The hub of the development is a new train station, which enters Hyllie via a tunnel under the main square, **Hyllievång**. The main station building will preside over the new station square and its constituent cafés, shops, offices and apartments.

The centrepiece of the development is **Point Hyllie**, a complex of four towers, the tallest of which will boast 27 floors and reach a height of 95 metres. The second tallest tower in the complex is to be 49 metres high, and together the twin towers are intended to symbolise a gateway to the rest of Sweden. As **Lone Wiggers**, the **C.F.Møller** architect in charge of the project explains, "We want to use materials such as glass, steel and natural stone to emphasize the elegance of the new district." There is a subtle transition between high and low as the volumes step up to their full height. The whole design has an undulating facade made up of reflective surfaces reminiscent, and perhaps inspired by, the **Turning Torso**.

ØRESTAD

Crossing the Øresund Bridge from Malmö we arrive on the island of Amager, home to Copenhagen International Airport and the second of our areas of intense architectural activity. Ørestad is more than the latest phase of urban planning. It is a new city.

The strategy for the 3.1 million m² Ørestad development was fought for in the international arena. The eventual winner was a firm of young Finnish architects called ARKKI, which impressed the judges by:

- Linking city and landscape
- Granting good access for pedestrians and cyclists



- Integrating Canals and lakes into the design
- Raising the metro on columns

Clearly, circulation is to play a dominant, even dramatic, role in the scheme.

The new city's four neighbourhoods, **Ørestad City**, **Ørestad North**, Amager Fælled and **Ørestad South** are connected by a spine created by the central canal and **Ørestads Boulevard**. Of these, **Ørestad City** and **Ørestad North** are the closest to being fully realised, although work has also begun on **Ørestad South**, and already the essential characteristics of the design are emerging.

Amager is extremely flat. This horizontality is articulated on different levels by mixing the raised metro link with bicycle trails and footpaths, and emphasised by contrasting the flat landscape with new buildings of great density and height.

Ørestad North sidles up to **Islands Brygge** along the wharf opposite mainland Copenhagen. It has been described as Copenhagen's new knowledge centre for culture, media and communication – a social laboratory for new ways of living in a network society. Construction work on the **North Ørestad** area is due to be completed by the end of 2012.

Here you will find Denmark's most controversial new building, **DR Byen**, the new home of national Danish broadcasting. The master plan, designed by **The Vilhelm Lauritzen Partnership**, is inspired by the Middle Eastern 'casbah' form. Thus an interior street serves as a meeting place for employees and visitors, and links the four main studios, each of which has been designed by a different architect.

The building's exterior is conceived as a series of giant blue screens. During the day its transparency reveals the movies and animations projected on the internal walls and surfaces of the 'casbah.' At night, the building morphs into a stack of giant televisions as moving images are projected onto its external skin.

The controversy surrounding the scheme was sparked by the largest of the four studios, which also functions as a world-class concert venue. Designed by flamboyant French architect Jean Nouvel, whose projects are infamous for both their imaginative solutions and extravagant budgets, the construction soon faced spiralling costs. Although DR has already moved into its new premises, the concert hall is not due to open its doors to the public until early 2009.

Next door to the DR Byen is the new **ITU – Information Technology University – Building**. This is an appropriately high-tech composition of steel, concrete and glass by **Henning Larsen** in collaboration with **Carl Bro** which effectively exploits the flow of light from the surrounding canal system.



The **ITU Building**'s main atrium features cantilevered meeting rooms that jut out into the six-storey central space. Like its new neighbour, projections enliven the interior's planar surfaces, and the atrium has become a popular venue for international conferences and business meetings.

A third building that has garnered international acclaim is only a 3-minute walk from the ITU. **Tietgenkollegiet** is more than just a hall of residence for students of Copenhagen University – it is an architectural study in communal living space, and as such was nominated for the 2007 Mies van der Rohe Award.

Peter Thorsen, chief architect on the project by **The Lundgaard & Tranberg Partnership**, explains the origins of the building's striking concept: 'While we were sitting discussing the generally angular architecture that characterises Ørestad, someone placed a stack of dinner plates in the middle of the table. That brought our pencils rapidly to life, and the round shape set our thoughts going around the living space that a student residence represents – the interplay between the shared and the individual in modern college life.'

Ørestad City, the second neighbourhood of Ørestad under development, is being developed after a master plan created by the internationally renowned architect **Daniel Libeskind**. Libeskind's scheme, expected to be completed by the end of 2015, includes an elliptical central plaza, a pedestrianised main street and twin 20-storey towers. Models of the scheme show the towers' curving, tilting facades, perhaps meant to reference the spires that mark out the main public spaces of Copenhagen's mediaeval centre.

The scheme encompasses two major buildings that have already been completed. The first is the **Ferring Pharmaceutical Building**, which at 80 metres is the tallest building in Ørestad to date. Designed by Henning Larsen, this slim tower acts as a beacon for traffic driving to and from **Øresund Bridge**, and provides its occupants with fabulous views over Amagerfælled.

Ørestad City also plays host to **Field's Shopping Centre**. **C.F. Møller Architects** have provided Ørestad with the largest shopping mall in Scandinavia, offering more than 150 shops under one roof.

COPENHAGEN PORTS

In 2000 two Dutch architectural firms, **WEST 8** and **Sjoerd Soeters**, and the Danish firm **Henning Larsen Architects**, proposed a major redevelopment plan for the **Copenhagen Ports** area. Industry had largely disappeared from the three main ports, Inderhavn (The Inner harbour), Nordhavn (The Northern Harbour) and Sydhavn (The Southern Harbour), so the Copenhagen authorities welcomed a scheme that promised to inject new life into the area with open arms. Results of urban regeneration projects can already be seen in the new waterfront apartments, cycling and pedestrian bridges and, most spectacularly of all, new buildings for art and culture.



A precursor to the waterfront redevelopment programme is the 1999 extension to the 15th century Royal Library. Known as **The Black Diamond**, it has already become an icon of the new, progressive Copenhagen. The Danish architecture firm **Schmidt, Hammer and Lassen** won the international competition with a design that employs black granite – mined in Zimbabwe, cut and polished in Northern Italy – inclined facades and angled bridges to interact with both the waterfront and the traffic that passes through the core of the building.

At night the clear glazing of the atrium bisects the Black Diamond's granite cladding. Ribbons of light from the illuminated offices add a touch of abstract composition to the waterfront facade. However, perhaps the most striking feature for the visitor approaching from street level is the continuous glazing at street level that makes the entire building appear to float above ground.

Perhaps the most prominent building to have been built in the **Copenhagen Ports** area is the new **Copenhagen Opera House**. Financed by the A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation, **Henning Larsen's** design is an uncompromising symbol of confidence and power – a far remove from the often 'democratic' palette of Danish design. Opened in January 2005, the Opera House commands a site directly over the water from Amalienborg Palace, the home of the Danish royal family.

The Opera House's five-storey glass facade bulges beneath an enormous 158 metre-long cantilevered roof 32 metres of which is pure overhang. Covering an area of 41000 m² with more than 1100 rooms the building required 2.4 million hours from 3500 workers, consultants and experts to complete.

As well as a hi-tech auditorium that seats 1400 people and subterranean rehearsal room cum recording studio 50m below sea-level, the opera house's foyer plays host to some exquisite artwork including four bronze reliefs by Per Kirkeby and three light sculptures by Olafur Eliasson.

On the opposite bank of the same canal The Danish Royal Theatre, which has been sharing the Royal Theatre building on Kongen Nytorv with The Royal Opera and The Royal Ballet, is preparing to move into its new playhouse, which is due to be completed in 2008.

Boje Lundgaard and **Lene Tranberg**, senior partners at **C.F. Møller Architects**, won the international competition with their design which provides two theatres – the larger of which seats 750 while its smaller sibling seats 275 – a restaurant and a generous public space that extends to the waterfront and commands views over Copenhagen's shipping canal.

When Sojakagefabrikken closed down in 1991, the opportunity to create a new neighbourhood with the twin seed silos as its centrepiece arose. Architectural firm **MVRDV** clipped a lightweight steel and glass structure to the exterior of the concrete cylinders to maximise views over the harbour and environs, leaving the interior of the silos free to function as an atrium. Ramps



and sculptural staircases protrude into the central space and Spiral upward to the twin glass domes. This integration of old industrial forms and modern apartments is poetic in its simplicity.

COPENHAGEN AND ENVIRONS

The **Danish Jewish Museum** opened in 2004 as an international celebration of Danish-Jewish history. **Daniel Libskind** restyled the interior of the 17th Century former Royal Boathouse using forms abstracted from the Hebrew word 'Mitzvah' which means 'good deed' or 'deeply felt reaction.' This highly conceptual motif can be experienced in the tilted surfaces, slashed glazing and floor plan of the corridor that leads visitors through the exhibition spaces.

As **Daniel Libskind** explains, 'The intertwining of the old structure... and the unexpected connection to the unique exhibition space create a dynamic dialogue between architecture of the past and of the future – the newness of the old and the agelessness of the new.'

A very different integration of old and new architecture has been realised at **Ordrupgaard**, Charlottenlund. The extension to the **Ordrupgaard** art gallery opened in August 2005 and has produced an equally dramatic exhibition space. Only this time it is the landscape rather than history that provided the inspiration for the forms the architect, Iraqi-born **Zaha Hadid**, adopted. The flowing lines of concrete and glass follow the gentle undulation of the North Sjælland landscape. In fact, **Zaha Hadid** has declared his deeply analytical approach as a way to 'break the code of the landscape, interpret it in diagrams and translate it to structural models.'

Although **Arne Jacobsen's SAS Royal Hotel** was completed in 1960, it deserves to take its place in any consideration of new architecture in the Øresund region simply because Jacobsen is considered to be the godfather of Danish design. Any modern architectural pilgrimage to the Øresund Region should include a visit to room 606, which is maintained as a shrine to its designer, featuring the original furniture and fittings. And in the hotel restaurant **Alberto K** on the 20th floor you will still be dining with Jacobsen's space-age cutlery, which was used in the film '2001 – A Space Odyssey.'

It might come as a surprise to learn that one of the largest attractions in Denmark, visited by over 1.2 million guests every year, is **Copenhagen Zoo**. It's largest animals, the group of Indian elephants, are during 2008 to be rehoused in a new and ambitious complex to replace the cramped 1914 enclosure. The design by English hi-tech architect **Sir Norman Foster** aims to restore the visual relationship between the zoo and Frederiksberg Park as well as provide the elephants themselves with a stimulating environment.

The new enclosure takes advantage of the latest research into elephant behaviour and habitat, enabling the elephants to sleep together and play in the mud holes and dry riverbeds just as they would in the wild.



Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek's French Wing, which has been called, 'A masterpiece of light and space,' represents another triumph for Danish architect **Henning Larsen**. The new extension opened in 1996 and houses the museum's collection of French painting. Larsen has gone to great lengths to show the art in an authentic Mediterranean setting by employing the bright Italian plasterwork 'Stucco Lustro.'

The 1998 **Extension to Denmark's National Gallery** by **Anna Maria Indrio** of **C.F.Møller Architects** was the result of an international design competition, and although many such competitions for cultural buildings were held in the decade leading to 1998, the **National Gallery Extension** was the only one that was realised.

The extension, which now houses the museum's modern art collection, occupies a space between the rear of the original building and the surrounding parkland. The two buildings are linked by a series of steel and glass bridges that span the glass-roofed volume between them. This means the two buildings, and the collections they house, can be experienced as two separate entities interacting across a time lapse of 200 hundred years.

A visit to the **Danish Architecture Centre** on Strandgade is a must for anybody interested in the future of architecture and urban planning. The **DAC's** mission is to discover and disseminate innovative work in architecture and construction that will have an impact on global planning. The centre has a frequently updated schedule of temporary exhibitions featuring artists, engineers and designers from all over the world.

Finally, no survey, however brief, would be complete without mentioning the new **Cph ADD (Copenhagen Architecture & Design Days) Festival** that took place for the first time in May 2006. This annual event is designed to appeal to a broad audience and includes tailor-made guided tours, access to places normally out-of-bounds to the public and extended opening hours to key museums and buildings of interest in Copenhagen and the Øresund region.

As we have seen, Øresund plays host to a wealth of architecture by local designers such as Henning Larsen and Arne Jacobsen as well as international star architects such as Zarah Hadid, Jean Nouvel, Norman Foster and Daniel Libeskind, all of whom have left their unique stamp on the region. The **Cph ADD** is a celebration of the region's confidence and sense of style in the new millennium, and what's more, many of the events and activities on offer are free of charge.

Further information:

www.visitoresund.info <<http://www.visitoresund.info/>>

www.visitcopenhagen.com

www.malmo.se <<http://www.malmo.se/>>

www.skanetur.se <<http://www.skanetur.se/>>

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<p>Malmö City Library: 'The Calendar of Light' http://www.malmo.com/culture Regementsgatan 3 SE-205 81 Malmö Tel: +46 (0) 40 660 85 00</p>	<p>Point Hyllie http://www.cfmoller.com</p>
<p>Ørestad http://www.orestad.dk/ Nordre Toldbod 7 // Postbox 2083 DK-1013 Copenhagen K Tel: +45 3376 9800</p>	<p>DR Byen http://www.dr.dk/OmDR Emil Holms Kanal 20 0999 København C Tel: +45 3520 6262</p>
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<p>Ferring Pharmeceuticals Building http://www.ferring.com Tel: +45 28 78 72 09</p>	<p>The Black Diamond http://www.kb.dk/ The Royal Library Postbox 2149 DK-1016 Copenhagen K, Tel: +45 3347 4747</p>
<p>Copenhagen Opera House http://www.operaen.dk/Besoeg.aspx Ekvipagemestervej 10 DK - 1438 Copenhagen K Tel: +45 3369 6933</p>	<p>The Royal Danish Playhouse http://www.kglteater.dk Tordenskjoldsgade 8 P.O. Box 2185 DK-1017 Copenhagen K Tel. +45 33 69 69 33</p>
<p>Gemini Residence http://www.mvrdv.nl</p>	<p>The Danish Jewish Museum http://www.jewmus.dk</p>



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Elephant House, Copenhagen Zoo http://www.fosterandpartners.com Roskildevej 32 DK-2000 Frederiksberg Tel: +45 72 200 200	Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, French Wing http://www.glyptoteket.dk/ Dantes Plads 7 DK-1556 Copenhagen V Tel. +45 33 41 81 41
Extension to the National Gallery http://www.smk.dk Sølvgade 48-50 1307 København K +45 3374 8494	Danish Architecture Centre http://www.dac.dk Strandgade 27B DK-1401 Copenhagen K Tel: +45 3257 1930
Cph ADD, Copenhagen Architecture & Design Days Festival http://www.cphadd.com/ Wonderful Copenhagen Gl. Kongevej 1 DK-1610 Copenhagen V	

Facts about Copenhagen / Øresund

The third fase of the Project Copenhagen / Øresund, runs from 2007 – 2009. The budget is over DKK 81m, including DKK 8.3m from the EU's INTERREG IIIA. The markets targeted by the project are Germany/Switzerland, Great Britain/Ireland, USA, China, Italy and Spain. Copenhagen / Øresund partners are SAS, SPANAIR, Copenhagen Airport, the Oresund bridge, Avis, Malmö Tourism, Position Skåne, VisitDenmark and Wonderful Copenhagen. The aim is to place the Øresund region on the world map and make the destination more accessible.



Links to our partners:

www.visitcopenhagen.com

www.visitdenmark.dk

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