

European Garden Heritage Network - Award ceremony 2022 at SCHLOSS DYCK / JÜCHEN

Laudation for category: Climate mitigation measures in parks and gardens

By Lieneke van Campen, Karres en Brands, the Netherlands, Member of the jury, EGHN

Winner: “Enghaveparken Copenhagen, created by Tredje Nature, Cowi and Platant

ENGHAVEPARKEN

The more than 90-year-old green oasis, Enghaveparken, in the Vesterbro district of Copenhagen has been transformed. With the redesign, the team TREDJE NATURE, COWI and Platant has given an answers to the question: how do we honor our design legacies while also adapting our cities to the reality of the 21st century's more extreme climate?

History

The area west of Enghave Plads was laid out as allotment gardens at the end of the 19th century. They lay here until 1927, when construction in the neighbourhood started. In the place of the allotment gardens, Enghaveparken was laid out as a green breathing space in the working-class district of Vesterbro. World renowned Danish architect Arne Jacobsen actually began his career at Enghaveparken, drawing several small pavillons and other structures. The park is listed, and it was therefore important to preserve its original architectural characteristics. The garden plan was designed by Copenhagen city gardener *Valdemar Hansen* and inaugurated in 1929. The park, which covers 3.6 acres, was laid out in an austere, neoclassical style, with a division into lawns, gardens, playgrounds, ball fields, etc. As something very modern in the 1920s, there was a track for roller skating. In the 1950s, Enghaveparken was a popular meeting place for young people, and there were held for example asphalt balls.

Context

In the 2010s Copenhagen - and Vesterbro in particular - has been hardly hit by cloud bursts resulting in floods and extremely costly damages. With Enghaveparken's location at the bottom of a hill, the park has become a strategic location in the handling of extreme rain.

The Enghaveparken renovation is the largest so far out of a total of 300 climate change adaptation projects to be completed in the City of Copenhagen before 2035. Therefor the City of Copenhagen received in 2017 the European Garden Award in the category Large-scale green networks and development concepts.

Copenhagen's population density is increasing, also in the Enghaveparken catchment area, and the extreme rainfall events of the future will be more frequent and more intense. Therefore, the residents of the district of Vesterbro need protection against flooding during cloudbursts.

Water

The task the team was given was to find space for 22.6000 m³ of rainwater in the park, while honouring the park's historical design.

At the heart of the park's abilities to handle 10- and 100-year rain events are three integrated levee walls to the park's east, south and west boundaries. When combined with a closed underground reservoir, an equivalent of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools of water can be retained. Less extreme downpours utilise

a variety of 'softer' interventions.

The rainwater from the nearby roofs will be led to the park and to a retention basin. The rainwater is circulated in a channel on top of the dike, so visitors can run their hands through the water and the water is also utilized in an adjacent fountain garden where kids can play. In case of extreme rain, the automated gates will shut down the park to the public, and the park will mirror the adjacent buildings while sparing them from the extreme rain.

The rainwater will be stored and used for watering a diverse range of plants and trees during dry spells and can even be used to clean the streets of Copenhagen. In dry periods the levee can also be used as for play and as a bench for sitting.

Space for people

In addition to reusing rainwater, Enghaveparken has been significantly improved for users of the park. It now has better spaces and facilities for play and recreation and more urban nature, with many new plants and trees. It is a safer, more fun and more enjoyable park than before. Among other things, the park now has a splash park and a permanent outdoor roller-skating rink as in the '20.

The municipality has sowed a total of 220,000 bulbous plants and 11,000 perennials divided between 55 different species. Moreover, 950 rose bushes have been planted, along with 83 new trees divided between ten different species. Completing the park's transition will be 100 community plant boxes for growing local fruit and vegetables.

Throughout the project period up to 2019, local residents were invited to take part in the project. Among other things, a working group of 50 local residents was very active, contributing ideas and helping identify needs.

De jury is very enthusiastic about the project. With the redesign, the team has given practical and aesthetic answers to an urgent dilemma. The transformation of the park has turned the water challenges to a variety of new experiences for recreation and interaction, while honouring the simplicity of the park's historical design.

It is a model project par excellence. Enghavenparken is, as it was before, an important place in the city. It is a place to sport, to meet, to stroll, to unwind. It is place to be. Certainly during the corona period, the importance of green space in the city was evident. Enghaveparken shows, par excellence, that this attractively designed green space in the city makes a great contribution to urban life. The well-designed park is, as it were, a living room of the city. We praise the plan that, in principle, has to provide an answer to the climate issues of our time. An answer has been provided in a design-oriented manner. Cities and designers can learn from this!

Of course, we congratulate the City of Copenhagen for this award as well. Their clear vision on how to deal with the climate challenges is at the basis of this task. This shows insight and perseverance and has resulted in a great gift to the city.

On behalf of EGHN I would like to congratulate Enghaveparken in Copenhagen with this award. We would like to ask Flemming Rafn and Malene Krüger on stage to receive the award in the category Climate mitigation measures in parks and gardens.

FACTS

Client: City of Copenhagen, Greater Copenhagen Utility (HOFOR), Areal Renewal Project

Place: Copenhagen, Denmark

Size: 35,000 m² (380,000 sf)

Cloudburst Capacity: 22,600 m³ (800,000 ft³)

Team: COWI, THIRD NATURE and Platant

Period: 2014-2020