Team Five: Density & Transportation

Cykelslangen

Copenhagen, Denmark

Year Completed: 2015

Client: Municipality of Copenhagen

Architect: DISSING+WEITLING architecture

Project Summary:

In 2010 DISSING+WEITLING were presented with the task of building a ramp to replace a public staircase on the harbor, a time-consuming obstacle for around 12,500 cyclists that daily passed through the area. Instead of just replacing the staircase with a ramp, the office proposed a plan with a completely new approach to the area. The cyclists were in fact exposed to many obstacles, not just from the staircase, but also continuously throughout the nearby area, from sharp corners and many pedestrians. The pedestrians were likewise exposed to unnecessary dangers from the cyclists. The proposal was a long sculptural bridge, where the cyclists could be separated from the pedestrians. This way, the cyclists could ride quickly and effortlessly through the area, while pedestrians at the 1st floor level would still have a unique and exciting experiences of the harbor. The pedestrian roof of the project gives walkers comfortable surroundings and shelter from bad weather.

Today, The Bicycle Snake meanders 6-7 meters above sea surface with a length of 200 meters and with 30 meters of ramp. The bridge is made of steel, which gives it a light and elegant look. The surface has a bright orange color, which creates a clear visual route for cyclists.

With the built-in lighting, the bridge is clearly illuminated at night. Furthermore, it enriches the area as a bright visual element in the night.

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Group Leader: Steen S. Trojaborg, DISSING + WEITLING
Volunteer: Michelle Vinløv

Team Members:
Michael Henriksen (Coffey Architects)
Michael Sørensen (Henning Larsen)*
Gabriela Frank (Olson Kundig)
Olivier Raffaelli (Triptyque)
Anna Bertoni (Guest of Olivier Raffaelli)
Jan Bunge (Squint Opera)
Jonas Edblad (Wingardhs)
Mads Quistgaard, Urgent Agency
Thomas Scheel, Vilhelm Lauritzen Architects

Mode of Transportation: Bicycle

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Prompts: Site Visit

15 MN Steen presents the space, explains the project

30 MN Team walks and bikes around the site, and answers the following questions

- What densities is this new highway accommodating? Avoiding?
- What unique design elements to the Cykelslangen invite passersby? (Write or sketch)
- Who is the Cykelslangen made for? What design elements give clues to the intended demographic for its use? (Write or sketch)
- How does the design of the Cykelslangen show adaptability for busy and quiet times of day?
- Where is the Cykelslangen:
  - a) Alleviating some of the stresses of density in the surrounding neighborhood?
  - b) Providing opportunities for increased density in the surrounding neighborhood?
- What elements of the Cykelslangen's design could be adapted for other types of transportation?
- What opportunities for density do you see? What density challenges do you see?
- How is the design of the Bicycle Snake impacted by the safety concerns of dense groups of pedestrians, vehicle drivers, and bicyclists in the surrounding neighborhood?
- How does the design of the snake impact biker speeds?
- How does the snake interact/stand out from it's surrounding space?
- What makes the Cykelslangen design unique to Copenhagen? What could be adapted from the design to meet the needs of other cities and communities working to normalize alternative forms of transportation?

Prompt: Afternoon Session

As a group, pick either:

1) A transportation system in another European City
2) Another transportation mode in Copenhagen

The project you choose must be in a city that most team members know and have visited.

Consider the design elements and responses from your morning site visit to Cykelslangen, as well as the knowledge of Copenhagen from your local team members. Work together to write a 200-word abstract and accompanying sketch that enhances that transportation system, to be built in 2060, as a sustainable, bustling route of the future that:

- Accommodates a multigenerational, diverse audience and is equitable
- Includes flexible navigation for user interpretation
- Perhaps, welcomes strangers to interact with one another in new ways

- Creates distinct connections between transportation alternatives and public spaces
- Offers inexpensive, sustainable models for transportation to local residents
- Adjusts to accommodate increasingly dense populations from its surrounding neighborhoods
- Attracts passersby and daily users alike
- Makes users of the future feel safe and