

Team One: Density & Parks

Superkilen

Copenhagen, Denmark

Urban Park

355,000 SQ FT

Year Completed: 2012

Architect: BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group

Project Partners: TOPOTEK 1, Superflex



Project Summary: Superkilen is a 355,000 square foot urban park in Copenhagen. It was designed through an intense public participation process with the surrounding community, representing the voices of more than 60 nationalities in one of the most ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods in Denmark. The project includes a variety of features to support physical activity and community gathering, including swings, monkey bars, a boxing ring, slides, punching bags, skateboard ramps, and a bicycle lane that runs through the entire site. Superkilen encourages adults and kids alike to be more active while celebrating the diversity of the neighborhood. This project was awarded the 2013 AIA National Award for Regional & Urban Design.

The park is conceptually divided into three different zones of activity: the Red Square is an area for sports, cultural activities, and a weekly marketplace; the Black Square is the “urban living room” where locals can meet and play chess or backgammon; and the Green Park is a green landscape and playground where families with children can meet for picnics, sunbathing, and breaks in the grass.

The design team commented that the impetus for including health-promoting strategies in the project was to create a dynamic, public space for the neighborhood. A space that includes opportunities for physical activity is a way to keep the community engaged and not only do the bike paths, boxing rings, slides and monkey bars promote physical health, but they also promote a healthy community.

Team One: Density & Parks

Group Leader: Kai-Uwe Bergmann, Bjarke Ingels Group*

Volunteer: Agustina Garcia Villanueva

Team Members:

Denzil Gallagher (BuroHappold)

Manuelle Gautrand (Manuelle Gautrand Architecture)

Rick Splinter (Mecanoo)

Kevin Kudo-King (Olson Kundig)

Eveline Petcu (Gehl Architects)

Jessica Healy (Secretary, Van Alen Board of Trustees)

Boris Brorman Jensen, Curator, Danish Pavilion

Jacob Blak, NORD Architects

Susanne Dam Hoffmann, CF Møller

Connie Enghus, ROCKWOOL Group

Kristoffer Rasmussen, ROCKWOOL Group

Mode of Transportation: Bicycles

Team One: Density & Parks

Prompts: Site Visit

15 MN Kai presents the space, explains the project

30 MN Team walks around the site, as well as its bordering neighborhood, and answers the following questions:

- What unique design elements to the park invite passersby to interact with one another?
(Write or sketch)
- Who is the park made for? What design elements give clues to the intended demographic for its use? (Write or sketch)
- Where is the park:
 - a) Alleviating some of the stresses of density in the surrounding neighborhood?
 - b) Providing opportunities for increased density in the surrounding neighborhood?
- When do you think this space would be the busiest? The quietest?
- Where in the design of the park is there evidence of a user-based approach?
- What opportunities for density do you see? What density challenges do you see?
- How do safety elements in the design of the park impact its role as a density alleviator/facilitator?
- We know Superkilen is a park that was designed with lots of community engagement. Considering this, what are people doing in the park in spite of the design?
- What about this park looks and feels like another park you've seen? What parts don't?
- What elements of the park are unique to the culture of Copenhagen, what elements of the park can be adapted to other cities?

Prompt: Afternoon Session

As a group, pick either:

- 1) An iconic park from another European city outside of Copenhagen
- 2) Another park in Copenhagen

The park 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 Superkilen, as well as the expert knowledge of Copenhagen from your local team members. Work together to write a 200-word abstract and draw an accompanying sketch that engages the park you've chosen in the year 2060 as a density alleviator and/or facilitator for its surrounding neighborhood. The space should:

- Accommodate a multigenerational, diverse, dense population of people
- Include flexible programming for local interpretation
- Welcomes strangers to interact with one another in new ways

- Includes covered and uncovered space for play
- Offers unique services to local residents
- Consider the extreme weather conditions we may be living with in 50 years

The sky is the limit. Think BIG.