

THE CITY DUNE SEB BANK & PENSION HEADQUARTERS

Study by Hao Liang + Midori Fukutani

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark
Architect: SLA
Client: Lundgaard & Tranberg
SEB Bank & Pension
Constructed: 2011
Cost: € 4,850,000
 (~ 6.62 million USD)

Copenhagen's harbor area has been widely criticized through the years for being the site of flawed infrastructure and unusable public spaces. The City Dune, an urban space designed by SLA and inspired by the texture and form of the sand dunes on the coast of north Jutland, is an urban gesture that bonds the SEB Bank building together with the traffic-heavy crossroad, the harbor front, and the rest of the Danish capital. This pattern of undulating hard and green surfaces transforms the urban monoculture of offices and roads to an environment for the people.



The design was inspired by the natural sand dunes.



The City Dune within the urban fabric.



A path zigzags up from Baernstorffsgade street.

Although the City Dune is a privately-owned property of SEB, the site must remain open to the public according to Danish laws. The City Dune is successful in making the entire complex a pleasant and accessible place in the city.

The design language is strong, but the construction and the appearance is understated. The green is not only embodied in the trees, but also in the sustainable concepts - rainwater is collected and recycled and not a drop finds its way into the city sewers. The mechanical nebulizer and the lighting system were both placed in the site as measures for promoting its overall sustainability.



Concrete is a sparkly element in the City Dune.



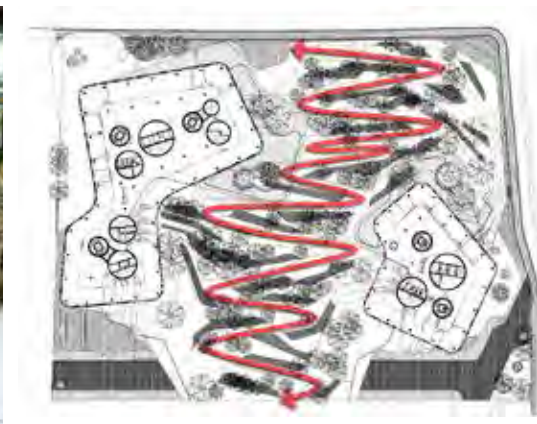
Vertical relationship of open spaces.



The City Dune is a cycling path...



...and a skateboarding paradise in Copenhagen.



The site plan emphasizes the zigzagging path



■ SITE: Copenhagen Harbor