

COPENHAGEN EAST HARBOUR

How does the city meet the water?

Margo Neemela

Copenhagen, like all coastal metropolises, is facing a series of new challenges in the coming years. Due to the climate change, the threats of rising sea level, flooding and storm surges have become increasingly more relevant. In addition the rapid population growth puts enormous pressure on the housing and infrastructure. These challenges also provide a unique opportunity to develop new visions for coastal cities and the way they interact with water.

The East Harbour is an expansion of the city towards Øresund and will act as a buffer zone between the existing city and the sea, while improving the integration between each other. The area consists of numerous islands that are grouped into seven new city districts formed within walking distances of stations. Each of the districts will develop its own identity, but the overall design builds upon the qualities of traditional Copenhagen neighbourhoods while adjusting to the climate challenges and embracing the maritime lifestyle. As a counter measure to urban sprawl it provides attractive living environment in dense neighbourhoods that are situated within an easy biking distance from the city centre as well as large nature areas.

An infrastructural spine will connect the districts in a chain and fill the missing links in the current public transport, road and bicycle networks - providing better mobility for all. Out at the perimeter of the city a series of dikes provide protection against storm surges, but they are designed to be multifunctional as diverse natural areas that also offer many recreational opportunities.