



# New Central Urban Waterfront and MEDIASPACE



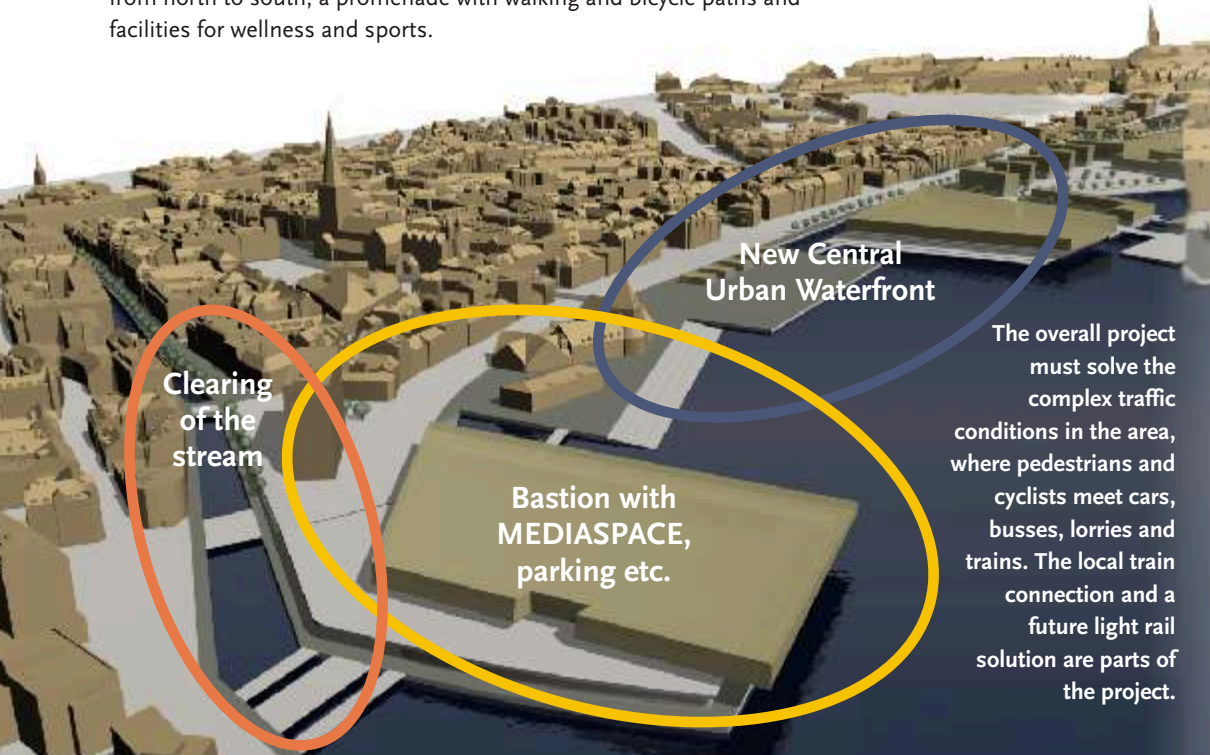
## What and Where?

The transformation of the Urban Harbour Areas is one of the greatest development projects in the history of Aarhus Municipality.

MEDIASPACE, the New Central Urban Waterfront and the clearing of the last section of Aarhus stream are parts of the transformation. The aim of the project is to connect the city centre and the waterfront to create a vibrant urban harbour area.

A recreational interconnection runs the length of the harbour area from north to south; a promenade with walking and bicycle paths and facilities for wellness and sports.

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Clearing  
of the  
stream

Bastion with  
MEDIASPACE,  
parking etc.

New Central  
Urban Waterfront

The overall project must solve the complex traffic conditions in the area, where pedestrians and cyclists meet cars, busses, lorries and trains. The local train connection and a future light rail solution are parts of the project.

## MEDIASPACE

The role of libraries is changing. Libraries are used differently than before and the Main Library in Aarhus cannot satisfy the demands of the future. Thus, Aarhus' new Main Library and Citizens' Services at the south bastion of the new urban harbour area will be inaugurated in 2014. The working title of the building is MEDIASPACE and – with its 28,000 square metres – it will be significant with regards to both architecture and contents. 18,000 square metres are dedicated to the Main Library and Citizens' Services, while the remaining 10,000 square metres will be let to external partners. The new Main Library and Citizens' Services will be situated in a hub of cultural and educational

institutions, where Aarhus Stream meets the sea. Thus, MEDIASPACE will become a natural meeting place and recreational area.

Inside, the building will facilitate experience, insight, learning, activity, tranquillity and contemplation. Users can borrow books and other media, study, listen to lectures, participate in events and interact with analogue and digital services. In Citizens' Services, people can pick up their new passport or driving license or be guided through the use of self-service solutions. At the same time, the surrounding harbour areas offer opportunities for outdoor activities in a beautiful setting.

## Clearing of Aarhus Stream

The aim of clearing the last section of Aarhus Stream is to expand the city environment all the way to the bay, and with the transformation of the area around Europa Square, the setting surrounding the stream is connected further to the harbour environment. People will be able to pass freely along the stream and dwell close to the water surface. The mouth of the stream will - in interplay with the new MEDIASPACE and the central harbour space – become characteristic and attractive. It must be a fascinating area rich in experiences.

## The New Central Urban Waterfront

The New Central Urban Waterfront – from Nørreport in the north to the mouth of the stream in the south – is central to the project. The open space must be buzzing with life and diversity and must offer excellent opportunities for leisure-, sports- and cultural activities. The design must ensure that it is a multifunctional city space with room for spontaneity and a multitude of uses throughout the year.

# When?

## 2008

- Competition materials are published
- Further development of services and activities in MEDIASPACE

## 2009 - 2010

- The winner of the project competition is selected
- Development of architecture and facilities
- Projection and planning of the project
- Invitation to tender on contract work

2009 - 2015 : Citizens are continuously involved

## Historic Site

MEDIASPACE will be situated at one of the most historically interesting sites in Aarhus. The area along the stream shows positive traces of settlements as far back as the year 770. This was the early Viking age and the town of Aros was on the threshold of becoming a well-known town and centre for trading. Here, the Viking ships gathered, sailed off to trade or plunder, and merchants arrived at the town to load and unload their commodities.

**2011 - 2015**

**Building phase**

- Main projection
- Work in progress
- Development of services and activities in MEDIASPACE
- End of 2014: MEDIASPACE is completed
- End of 2015: The New Central Urban Waterfront and the clearing of Aarhus Stream are completed. The project is concluded.

in the various phases of the project

## Financing

Aarhus City Council has approved the financing of MEDIASPACE, traffic alteration, clearing of Aarhus Stream and the New Central Urban Waterfront. The project will also be financed by the proceeds of the sale of the present main library and profits from letting parts of MEDIASPACE.

Furthermore, Realdania and its subsidiary company Realea A/S have raised the entire project to another level through an engagement of approximately 700 million DKK (2008-price level). This contribution is allocated partly to the construction of an innovative parking area with room for 1,000 cars, partly to the development of a fascinating and vibrant urban waterfront. The budget for the entire project is 1.7 billion DKK (2008-price level).



## Background

Since 1997, Aarhus Municipality has worked on the development of the waterfront. As a result, the harbour activities close to the city will be relocated to the new East Harbour, which makes it possible to use the area for urban purposes.

In 2003, the Unified Plan for the Waterfront was passed and later that year the City Council set aside financing for the construction of MEDIASPACE. The final location of MEDIASPACE was decided by the City Council in 2006 together with the design of tenders and core values.

In 2007, Realdania and its subsidiary company Realea A/S offered to invest in a parking area with room for 1,000 cars as well as to invest in the central urban waterfront. Donation and investment make up approximately 700 million DKK (2008-price level). With Realdania's engagement it was possible to merge MEDIASPACE, the clearing of Aarhus Stream and the New Central Urban Waterfront into one major and innovative project. MEDIASPACE will be completed in 2014, while the New Central Urban Waterfront will be ready for use one year later.



## Citizen and User Involvement

Citizen involvement is an important parameter of the project. It is the citizens' project and it is vital that they have the opportunity to share their views. All citizens are therefore invited to become involved, state their opinions and thus gain influence on the project.

Employees, networks and cooperation partners are also involved in the process. Through their involvement it is possible to develop activities and services based on the knowledge and expertise represented by the users. In this way, the quality of the process is raised to a higher level.



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