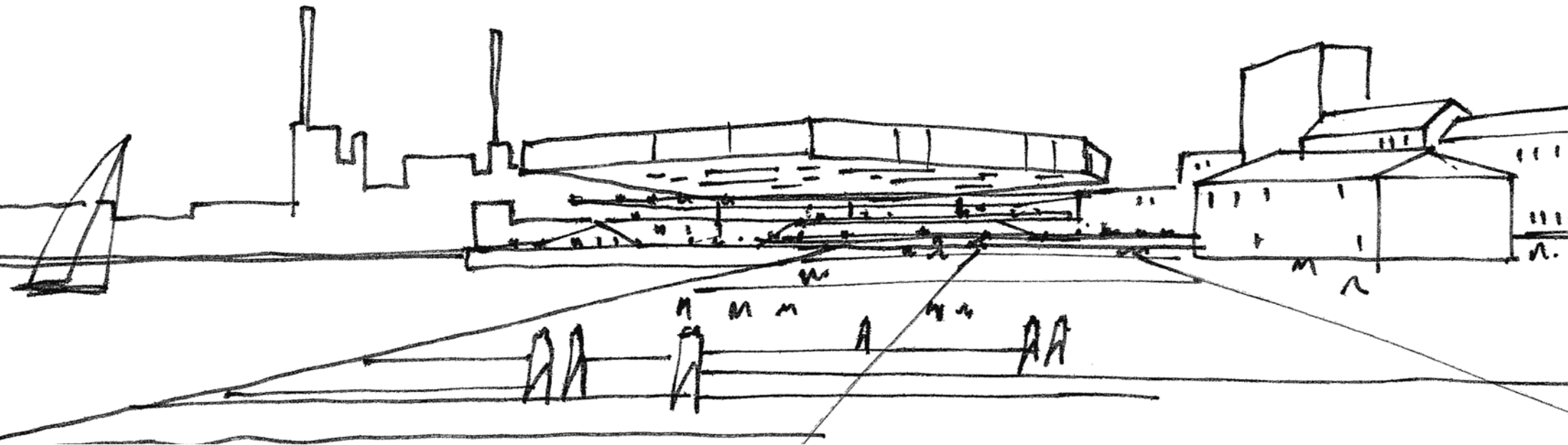


# URBAN MEDIASPACE AARHUS









Mediaspace and the waterfront area is more than just a building and a square – it is a brand new urban space.

# URBAN MEDIASPACE AARHUS

Urban Mediaspace Aarhus is the largest construction project in the history of the City of Aarhus and it is part of the transformation of Aarhus Inner Harbour from industrial harbour to urban space. The project creates a relation between city and water and will have great influence on the harbour area and urban life. The area is convenient for Aarhus city centre, the Cathedral, the pedestrian zone and the river milieu.

The project includes Mediaspace, the future Main Library and Citizens' Services, an innovative automatic car park with 1000 parking spaces, three new vibrant waterfront spaces, restructuring the area's infrastructure, opening of Aarhus River and climate protection of the city centre. The new spots and recreational spaces, Mediaspace as well as restructuring of traffic flow means that the area

will become a multi-purposed, diverse and active urban space.

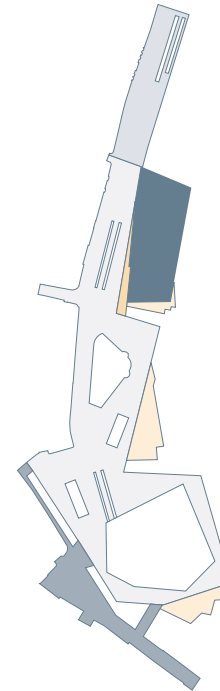
The project is carried out in partnership with Realdania and Realdania Byg, who take part in establishing the waterfront spaces and the automatic car park.

The architectural firm schmidt hammer lassen architects is the architect and coordinating contractor for the project and they are affiliated with Arkitekt Kristine Jensens Tegnestue and Alectia A/S as sub-consultants. Rambøll Denmark is the client consultant on the project.

Mediaspace and the car park are scheduled for the end of 2014 while the waterfront spaces and the rest of the project will be completed at the end of 2015.



PROJECT OWNER: City of Aarhus  
[www.urbanmediaspace.dk](http://www.urbanmediaspace.dk)  
 PARTNERS: Realdania /  
[www.realdania.dk](http://www.realdania.dk) and  
 Realdania Byg /  
[www.realdaniabyg.dk](http://www.realdaniabyg.dk)  
 BUILDING CONSULTANT:  
 Rambøll Denmark / [www.ramboll.dk](http://www.ramboll.dk)  
 ARCHITECT AND  
 COORDINATING CONTRACTOR:  
 schmidt hammer lassen architects /  
[www.shl.dk](http://www.shl.dk)  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:  
 Arkitekt Kristine Jensens  
 Tegnestue / [www.kristinejensen.dk](http://www.kristinejensen.dk)  
 ENGINEER: Alectia A/S /  
[www.alectia.com](http://www.alectia.com)  
 Total Construction Sum: 1,940  
 million Danish kroner  
 (2011 price level)



- Urban Floor, standard: 8,750 m<sup>2</sup>
- The Harbour Square: 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Open space levels: 6,050 m<sup>2</sup>
- Seating: 970 m<sup>2</sup>
- Urban Floor, special: 58,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Urban Context, incl. bridges: 9,210 m<sup>2</sup>

- The building's gross floor area: 28,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Area for library and citizens' services: Approx. 17,500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Area to let: 10,500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Area for arrival centre: 500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Areas for technical rooms, depot etc.: 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Basement: Large capacity with room for automatic car park and 1,000 cars
- Roofed outside space beneath the building: 10,500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Number of expected visitors per day: 3,500 people
- Number of parking spaces: 1,000
- Number of bicycle parking spaces: 500



# USER INVOLVEMENT

Only by involving future users and the city's major cultural players can we generate new urban waterfront spaces and a Mediaspace that will exist in a hundred years.

Urban Mediaspace Aarhus has been developed through a visionary and involving process. Using *The Aarhus model for citizen involvement* as a starting point, the project is based on citizens' use of services, ideas and wishes, making them visible throughout the development process and in the final project.

Citizens, networks, employees and cooperation partners are all key users of Urban Mediaspace Aarhus. By making the users our starting point, the project is strengthened through continuous involvement processes. When involving users it is imperative that the latitude for

influence is clear and that the processes take place at times during the process when there is an actual opportunity to influence the project. Urban Mediaspace Aarhus must be a unique place for cooperation – during development and building process as well as when the project is completed.

# THE MASTER PLAN

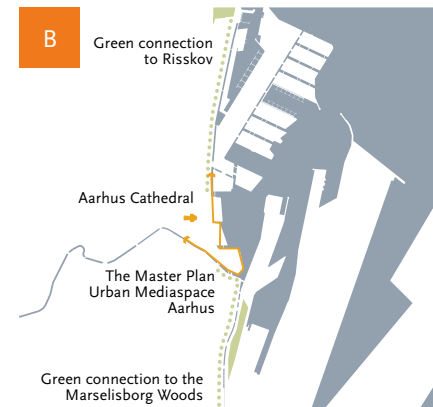
*The Junction* is the expression which best describes the vision of the overall master plan. With Mediaspace as a significant centre of rotation, the city's many directions are conveyed. The dynamic, hovering shape of the roof plate is inspired by the rotation of this directionless urban space.

The connection between city centre and harbour is essential. It is created by letting the promenade along the river continue around Mediaspace and into the waterfront spaces. By the mouth of the river large steps are created by open space levels all the way down to the water, producing a new and vibrant urban pulse on this spot.

The master plan's consistent formation of space across Kystvejen will be constructed as a vast surface – the Urban

Floor – forming a visually cohesive pavement from urban front across the road and light rail tracks and all the way to the waterfront.

The new waterfront spaces create an opportunity for new activities and the urban front, the row of buildings along Kystvejen, will have a direct connection to the water.



- A The comprehensive master plan for the new urban waterfront and Mediaspace is based on the city's scenic location: the terrain that stretches from the lakes in the west along the river to the bay in the east and with the woods to the north and south.
- B The master plan with waterfront spaces and Mediaspace connects the river and bay.





The urban harbour space is a large adaptable urban space, structured around the idea of three spaces in one where the three space formations have different qualities and encourage different usage.

# CORE VALUES

Mediaspace should be the city's heart for knowledge and culture. Through an involvement process with participation from citizens, users, networks, employees and politicians, seven core values have been developed for Mediaspace:

- The citizen as key factor
- Lifelong learning and community
- Diversity, cooperation and network
- Culture and experiences
- Bridging citizens, technology and knowledge
- Flexible and professional organisation
- Sustainable icon for Aarhus

The seven core values were adopted by Aarhus City Council.

Daylight is drawn in via skylights and rectangular openings distributing light deep into the building. With the split levels it generates a number of different spatialities.



# MEDIASPACE – ARCHITECTURE

The new Mediaspace is not simply a building. It is a place – a space for the exchange of knowledge and opportunities. It is a cultural rendezvous which will change people's perception not only of Europaplads and the harbour, but of the entire city.

Openness and 360 degree contact with the city are the words that best describe the design for the new Mediaspace. Mediaspace's entirely open façade creates an intentional linking together of outside and inside and ensures a coherence with the surroundings – modern urban life, historical city centre, industrial harbour, the water's great open surface, and the horizon.

Europaplads runs along and under the building, producing a roofed outdoors arrival- and transit centre with a unique

quality. Here, travellers meet in a large dynamic space with open façades to the river, the water, the city and the new waterfront spaces. Large sculptural stairs con-

nect the level above with the promenade along the river and harbour and create a physical connection between the building and the city. At the same time, access to

the outdoor area on level 1 provides an opportunity to ascend to a high place where you can truly experience the view of the great harbour space and the horizon.



A large media ramp connects the two main floors of Mediaspace, creating a free flow between levels.



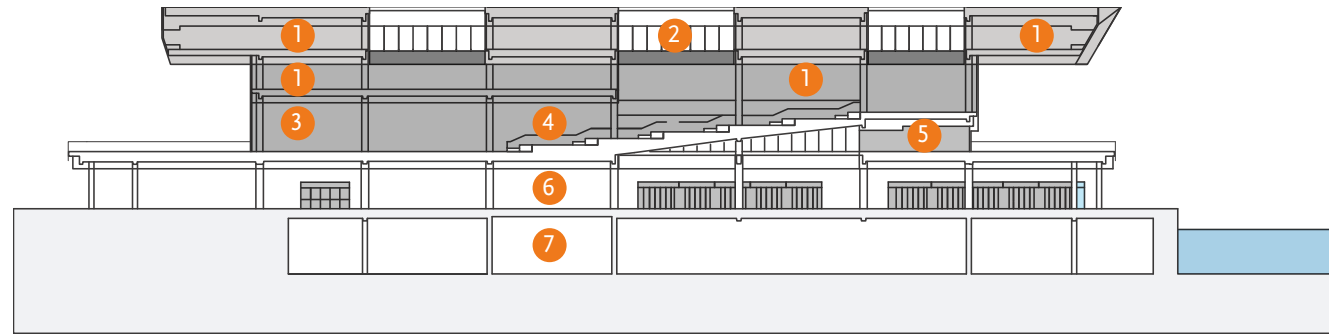
# WHAT IS MEDIASPACE?

Mediaspace will become Aarhus' new Main Library and Citizens' Services. It is a relocation, expansion and development of the current Main Library in Aarhus.

Mediaspace offers manifold facilities for social and association activities as well as networking. By means of project rooms, study cells, media, café, classrooms, halls, activity- and transformation spaces and informal open spaces in particular, the building and its facilities generate a flexible and dynamic sanctuary for everyone in search of knowledge, inspiration, and personal development – an open and accessible learning environment supporting democracy and community.

Mediaspace provides access to differentiated knowledge and the latest media and offers room and opportunity for numerous expressions.

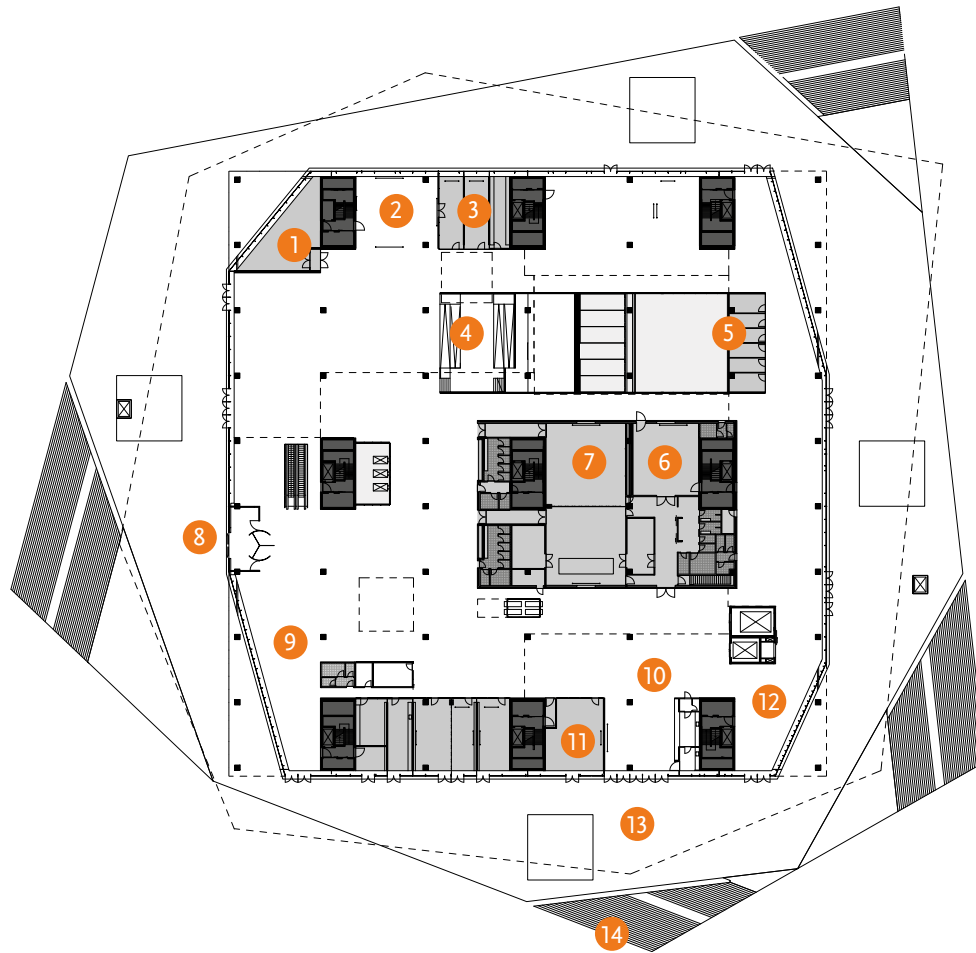




#### CROSS SECTION

- 1 Area for let
- 2 Open to floor 2
- 3 Media area
- 4 Media ramp
- 5 Study cells
- 6 Urban Floor and transfer cabins
- 7 Automatic parking facility

Mediaspace is an open and democratic space in the city – a place for everyone.



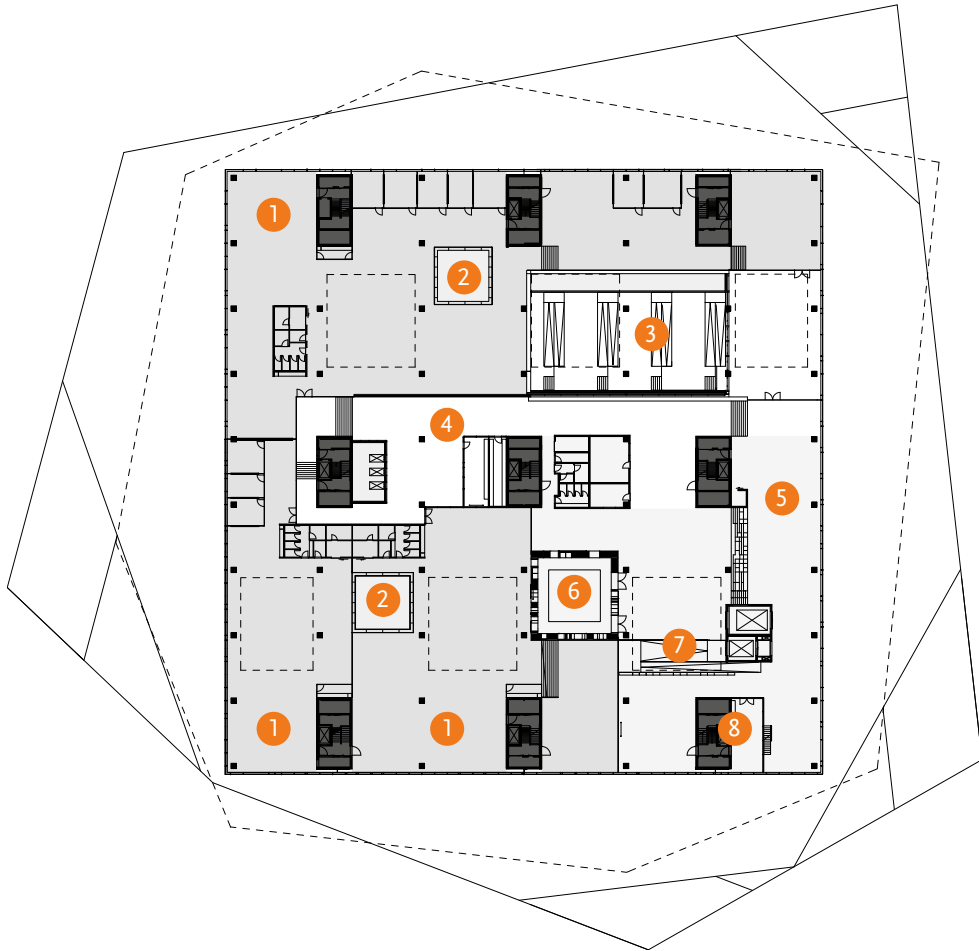
### FLOOR 01

- 1 Study hall
- 2 Transformation room
- 3 Project room
- 4 Media ramp
- 5 Study cells
- 6 Auditorium for children's theatre
- 7 Multi Hall
- 8 Main entrance
- 9 Citizens' Services
- 10 Café
- 11 Meeting facilities
- 12 Living room
- 13 Outside area
- 14 Stairs

### SKETCHES / FLOOR 01

- A At the main entrance, one will encounter a large, lively arrival area with a reception, Multi Hall, Citizens' Services and much more.
- B Study cells offer the users calm and quiet rooms for absorption and work in small groups.
- C The media ramp connects the floors making them seem as one continuous course.





### FLOOR 02

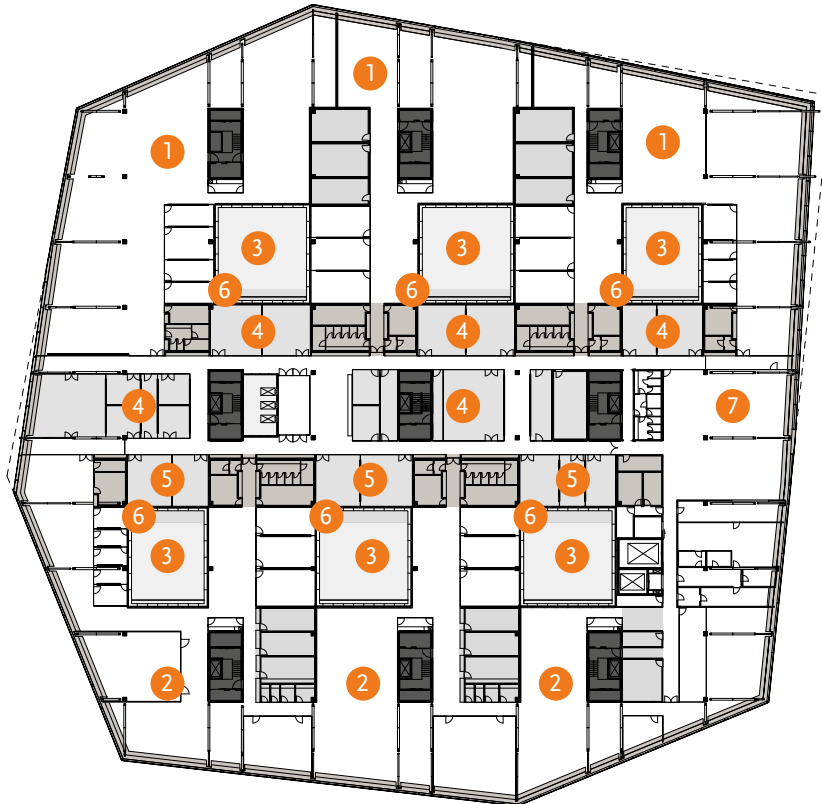
- 1 Area for let
- 2 Open to floor 1
- 3 Media ramp
- 4 Media area
- 5 Children and families
- 6 The library at play
- 7 Mini ramp
- 8 Children's lab

### SKETCHES / FLOOR 02

- A The nursing zone and picnic area provides children's groups and families with the opportunity to eat while in Mediaspace.
- B The large stairs can be used for reading aloud, theatre, play and learning for children as well as adults.
- C Split levels and openings which provide light make it possible to see through all floors of Mediaspace.





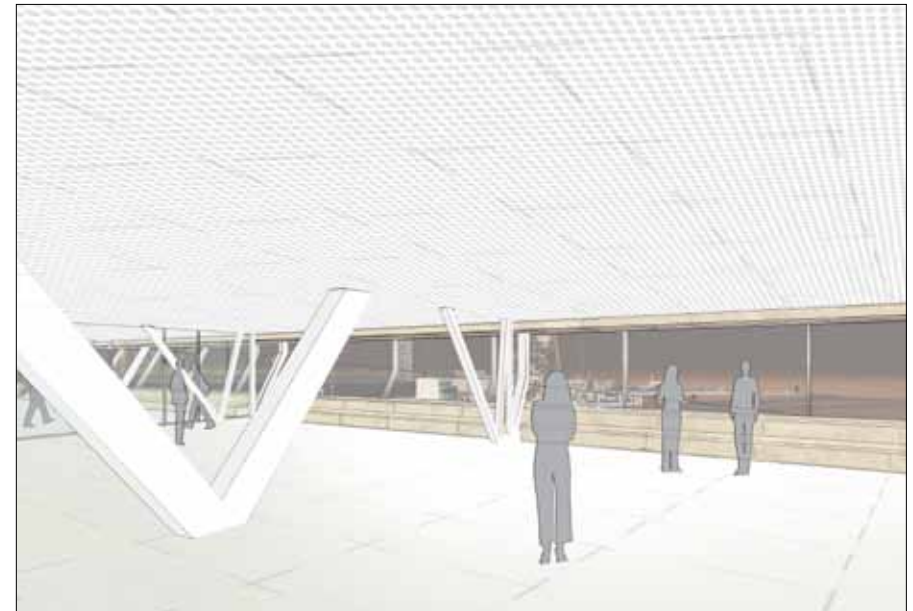


### FLOOR 03

- 1 Area for let
- 2 Citizens' Services and Libraries administration
- 3 Open to floor 2
- 4 Meeting facilities
- 5 Project rooms
- 6 Hanging gardens
- 7 Canteen

### SKETCH / FLOOR 03

Within the roof plate an office landscape, which takes advantage of the 360° view of harbour and city, will be situated. Through large light atriums inside the building a close visual contact with the rest of the building is created.





FLOOR 0

- 1 Stairs
- 2 Car lift
- 3 Light rail transit
- 4 Arrival centre
- 5 Sorting system
- 6 Lift for floor 1
- 7 Logistics area
- 8 Area for let
- 9 Aarhus River

# AUTOMATIC PARKING FACILITY

An essential part of Urban Mediaspace Aarhus is a large, advanced and fully automatic parking facility with 1000 spaces. Here, you hand in your vehicle in a light and pleasant terminal with a view of the ocean, before the automatic machine takes over and lifts the car onto an empty shelf in the underground storage. Parking must be a carefully contemplated quality experience, architecturally speaking. With its fully automatic solution, the car park will become the largest and most advanced automatic car park in Europe.

The parking terminals where you hand in and pick up your car are an integrated part of the space beneath the building. They are positioned as light and transparent glass boxes on a rambla that runs toward the water. You place your car in a box and it disappears into the ground.

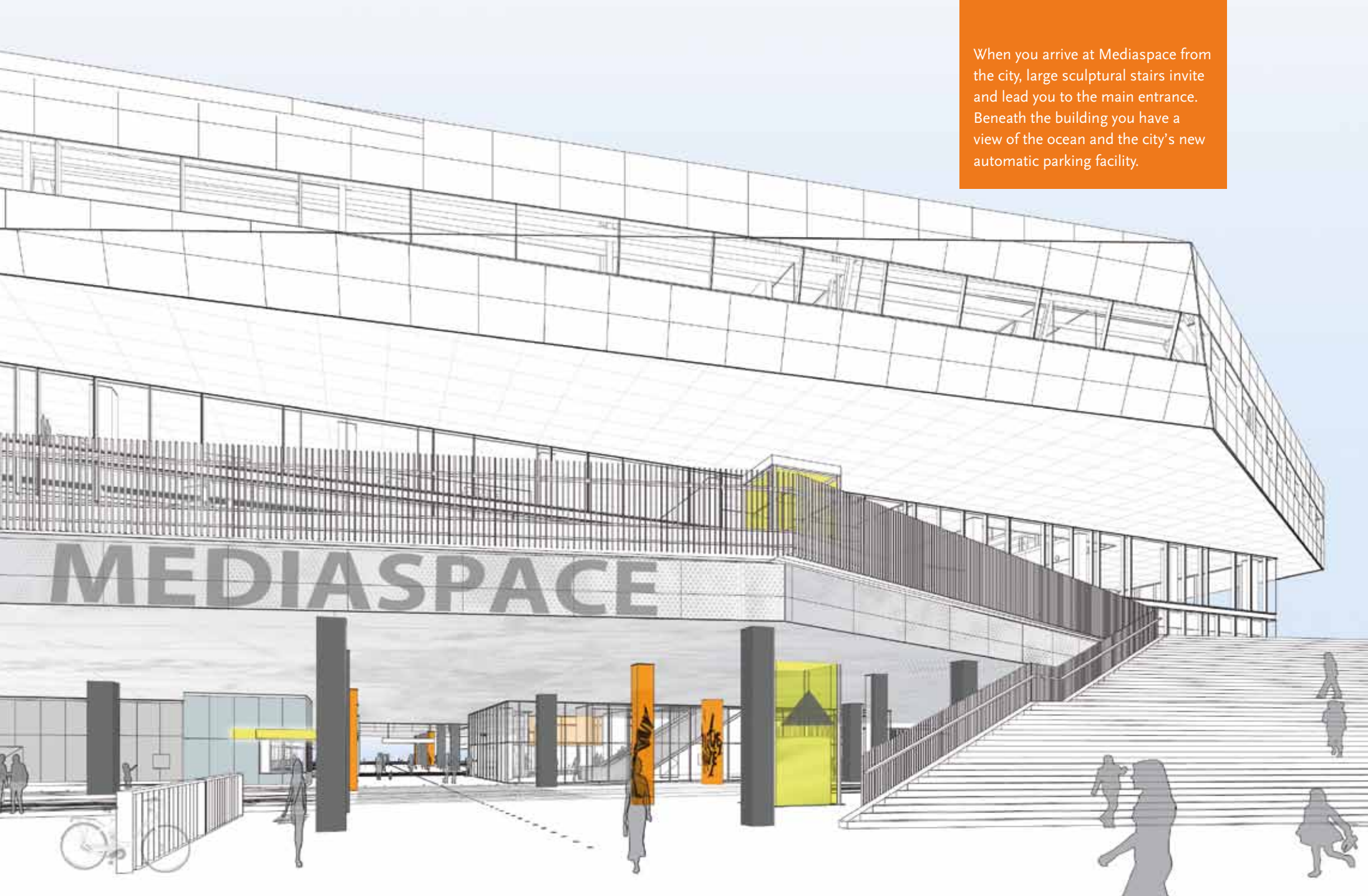
From here, you can ascend to the building or you can just continue into the city. When you pick up your car it is delivered at the surface again.

The parking project of Urban Mediaspace Aarhus is an investment in urban life and the quality of life for Aarhus. It replaces a large number of surface parking spaces in streets and spaces and provides more space for people. The project should serve as inspiration for creating parking solutions that are well incorporated into the city and give the users a quality experience.

Realdania Byg is behind the car park, which will be operated by Dansikring. The German company Lödige Systems GmbH supplies the facility.



Via lift or escalators from the arrival centre, you can quickly ascend to all floors of Mediaspace.



When you arrive at Mediaspace from the city, large sculptural stairs invite and lead you to the main entrance. Beneath the building you have a view of the ocean and the city's new automatic parking facility.



A Colours, graphics and modern technique enable a quick and effective service when parking in the automatic car park.

B Here is a view of city and ocean as well as into Mediaspace.



On the Urban Floor beneath the building you can hand in your media day and night and watch the sorting system at work.



The area's special identity is the experience of water and views in the water indentation between Europa-plads North with Mediaspace and Hack Kampmanns Plads South with Pakhus 13, where the granite sheets of the open space levels unfold towards the water.

# WATERFRONT AND URBAN SPACES

The new urban waterfront will become the city's access point to new experiences of bay, harbour and water. The new central urban waterfront spaces stretch from Aarhus River and Mindet to the Nørreport-intersection and is bounded by the urban front along Kystvejen. The master plan's continuous formation of spaces across Kystvejen is constructed as one large surface – the Urban Floor – which forms a continuous coating from the urban front across the street and new light rail tracks and all the way to the waterfront.

Three new spaces will emerge, each with its own character and functionality: The dynamic transit space Europaplads, which slides under Mediaspace; the open space Hack Kampmanns Plads by Toldboden with room for the historical buildings; and the activity

space Harbour Square with a separate asphalt surface for all situations and events. Large, staggered open space levels stretch toward the water establishing large white plateaus to the

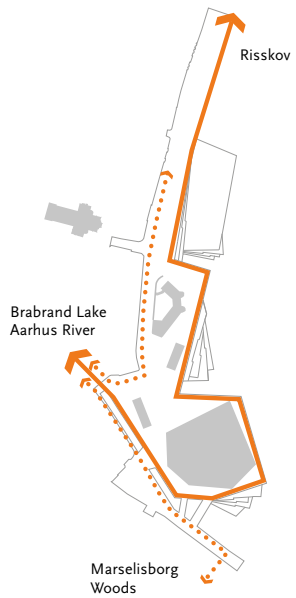
south. From the open space levels, it is possible to walk barefoot to and into the water. The new spaces will create a vibrant and active area consisting of beautiful, robust and ambient urban

waterfront spaces, which can create a great many opportunities for recreation, experiences and play.



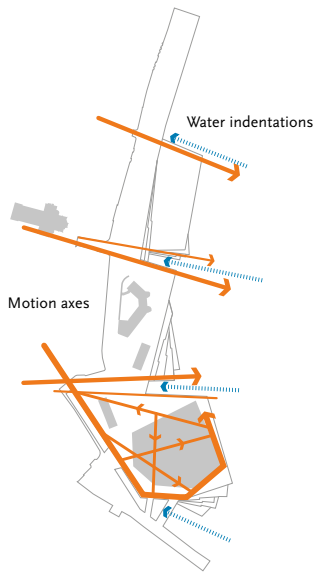
The area's quality is the correlation between the promenade along Aarhus River and Europahuset and Mediaspace respectively. At the same time, the stretch is the main access from the city centre along the river to Mediaspace, which crosses Havnegade to the green area which presents the building with the large stairway and the main walkway under the building.

### THE MASTER PLAN – LENGTHWISE



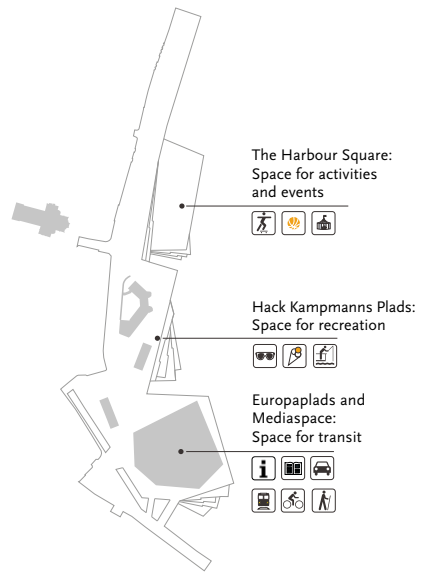
The master plan tackles the area's general direction of motion from city to water – length- and crosswise.

### THE MASTER PLAN – CROSSWISE

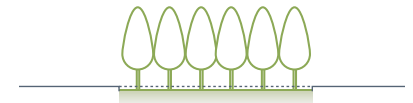
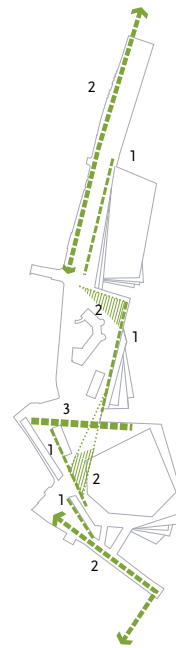


Three spaces in one – one master plan with various spatiality and characteristics which provides versatile opportunities for recreation and activity.

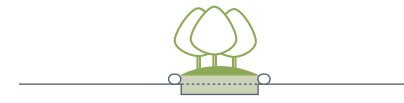
### 3 SPACES IN ONE



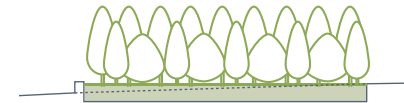
### PLANTATION



1 Rows of trees

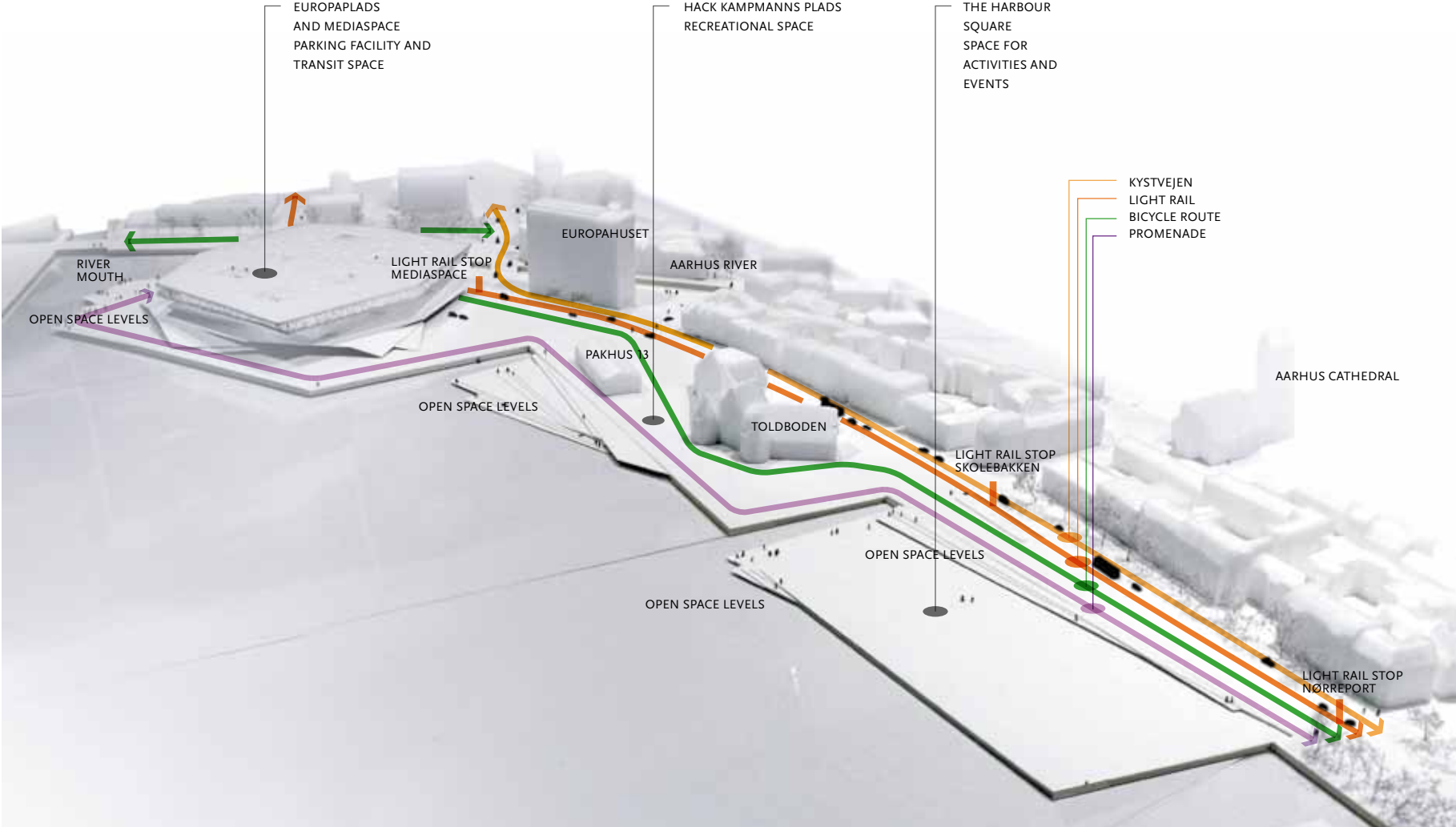


2 Plantation islands with separate trees and tree clusters



3 Plantation element on Europaplads with several rows of plantation





CATHEDRAL AXIS /  
HACK KAMPMANNS PLADS NORTH /  
THE HARBOUR SQUARE SOUTH

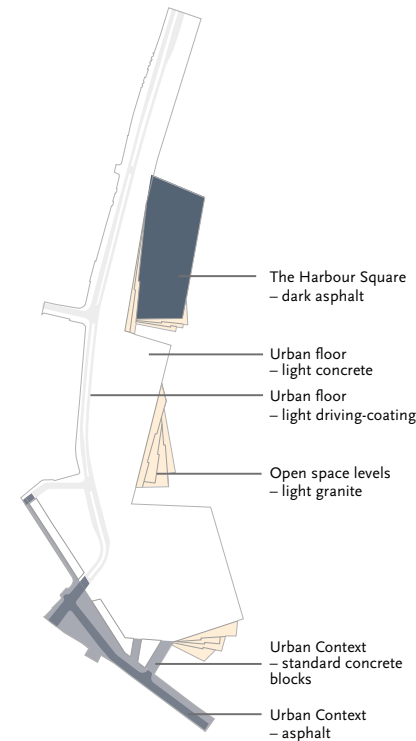
The architectural and spatial experience along the water indentation in the cathedral axis, Hack Kampmanns Plads and the Harbour Square is the area's unique quality. Views of the water and Aarhus Bay can be enjoyed from Skolegyde. The spaces expand – with various coatings, as an invitation to utilise the new urban waterfront spaces' versatile opportunities for activities, motion, play and recreation.



# THE HARBOUR SQUARE

The new Harbour Square will become a large, flexible and open space for activity with a coating that calls for play and games. To the east, the Harbour Square ends in a large stairway, which can be used as spectator's stands and for recreational purposes. A landing stage is established at the foot of the open space levels enabling people to go ashore from kayaks, canoes or rowboats.

The Harbour Square is designed for various purposes depending on the time of year. It creates room for daily, unorganised activities such as street skating, street performers and ball games as well as special seasonal activities such as beach bar or Christmas market and very large events such as concerts, markets or tournaments.



## COATINGS

Coatings on the new urban waterfront spaces epitomise the large harbour space. These are: a large, light concrete surface on the open space levels, and dark asphalt on the Harbour Square. The graphic and tactile finish of the coatings creates a poetic and changeable graduation between light and dark, between reflection and shade. The coatings of the project thus range from black to white, from solid to liquid.

# ACCESSIBILITY

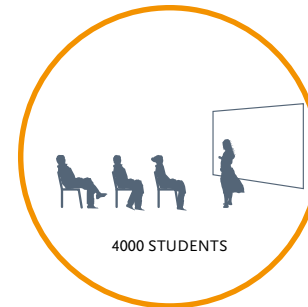
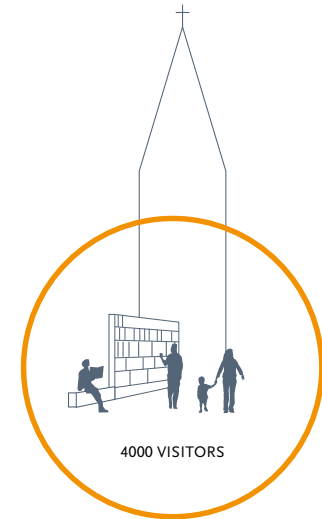
Free and equal access to all areas are keywords in Urban Mediaspace Aarhus. Design principles and -solutions are developed taking this into consideration.

In relation to accessibility, Urban Mediaspace Aarhus has special focus on the blind and visually impaired and allergy sufferers as well as increased focus on wheelchair users and the walking impaired, the visually- and hearing-impaired, the dyslexic and people with impaired cognitive functionality. In the building as well as the parking facility and waterfront spaces, special focus is on accessible routes, means of access, wayfinding, courses of movement, plantation, safety, functional aids, resting stations, lighting etc.

An accessibility consultant is attached to the project to continuously scrutinise and advise on solutions and options.

It is the goal of the City of Aarhus to ensure accessibility, both in a traditional physical sense and in relation to information and communication.

## EXPECTED USERS OF THE HARBOUR SQUARE



LIGHT RAIL: 1100 passengers/hour.  
PARKING FACILITY EUROPAPLADS /  
NAVITAS PARK: 1450 spaces  
BICYCLE ROUTE: 4500 cyclists/day  
THE RECREATIONAL ROUTE:  
500-1000 pedestrians/day

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:  
4000 visitors/day  
STUDENTS: 4000  
RESIDENTS: 350  
EMPLOYEES: 1500

# SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION

To ensure focus on sustainability and environment, environmentally safe project engineering is used in the development of Urban Mediaspace Aarhus. The project works to reduce energy consumption in the operation phase, reuse existing materials, use natural products, and protect the existing environment in the area.

Mediaspace is built as a low energy building standard 2015. In styling as well as in the design of technical solutions, focus is on sustainable initiatives with the building and its surroundings as their focal point. A solar cell panel of 3000 m<sup>2</sup> is placed on the roof of Mediaspace to optimise energy and as the building is situated on the waterfront, seawater cooling of the building has been chosen in order to reduce energy consumption for cooling. The building's

compact shape results in smaller surface area and reduced thermal loss. For the same reason the size of levels and their position in relation to each other were chosen to create natural shade, which minimises the resource consumption.

To protect the city centre around Aarhus River from future flooding as a result of global climate changes, climate protection has been built into the project. A lock facility in Aarhus River and a flood tide barrier, which is built into the traffic corridor between Europaplads and Mediaspace and behind Toldboden, will ensure that high water levels in the harbour will not result in flooding of the city centre. A pump facility will ensure that accession of water to the river will not result in flooding but will be led to the harbour instead.



URBAN MEDIASPACE AARHUS

English version

City of Aarhus 2011

ISBN: 978-87-89860-89-3

Read more about the project at [www.urbanmediaspace.dk](http://www.urbanmediaspace.dk)  
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Plans, sketches and visualisations: schmidt hammer lassen  
architects and Architect Kristine Jensens Tegnestue

Layout and translation: ITC Design

Print: Chronografisk

