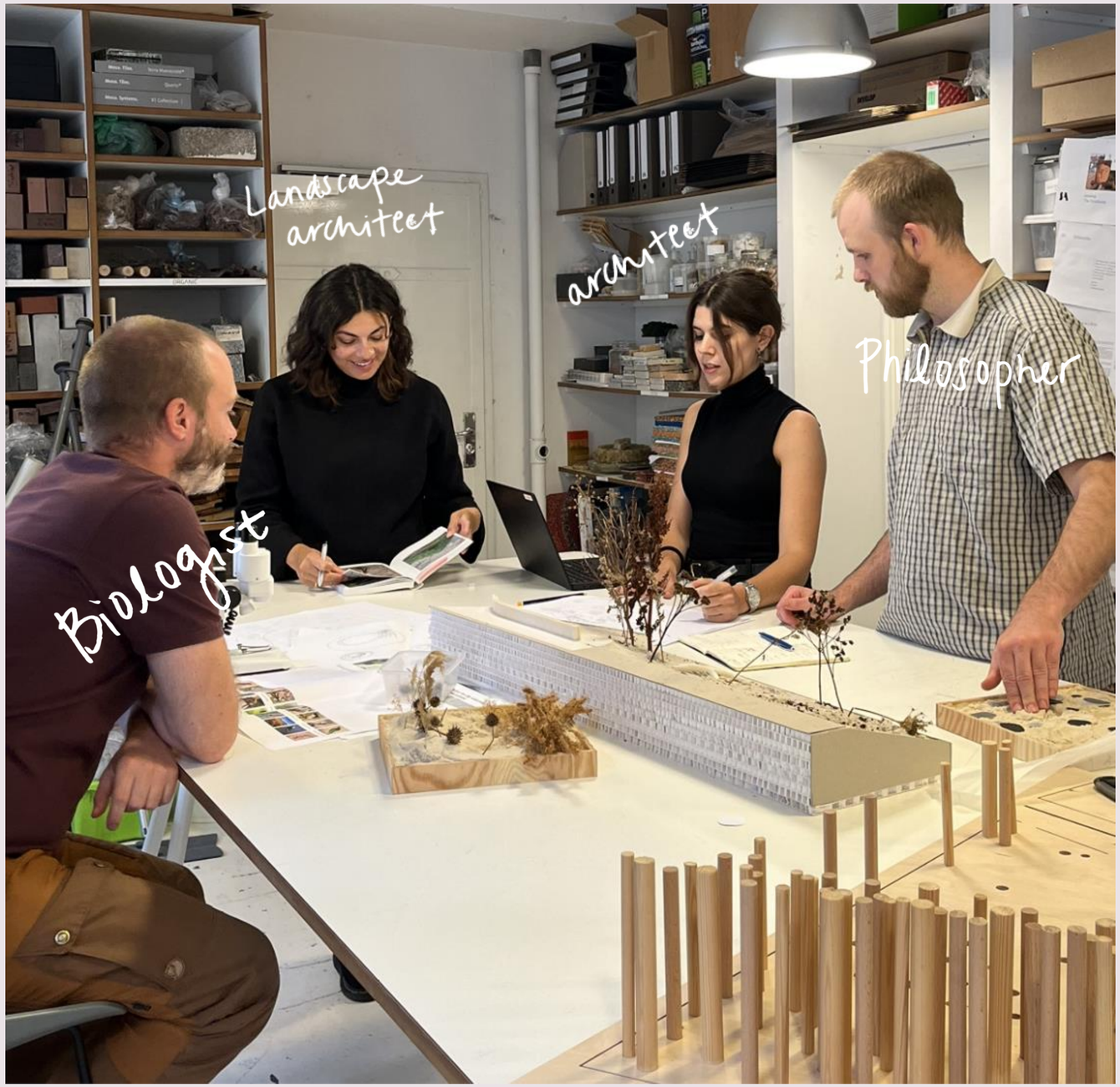
We are a nature-based design studio.
We design places for life.
All life.

July 2025

We are a learning and sharing organisation. We work in interdisciplinary teams to provide nature-based solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.

SLA is an interdisciplinary design studio, specializing in the intersections of nature, people, and design.

Together, we comprise more than 15 disciplines—from landscape architects, architects, urban designers, city planners, biologists, ecologists, forest engineers, anthropologists, and *cultural geographers*.



For 30 years, SLA has designed places, and cities that aim to put *people, plants*, and *planet* first.
Today, we are recognized as one of the world's *leading nature-based design studios*.

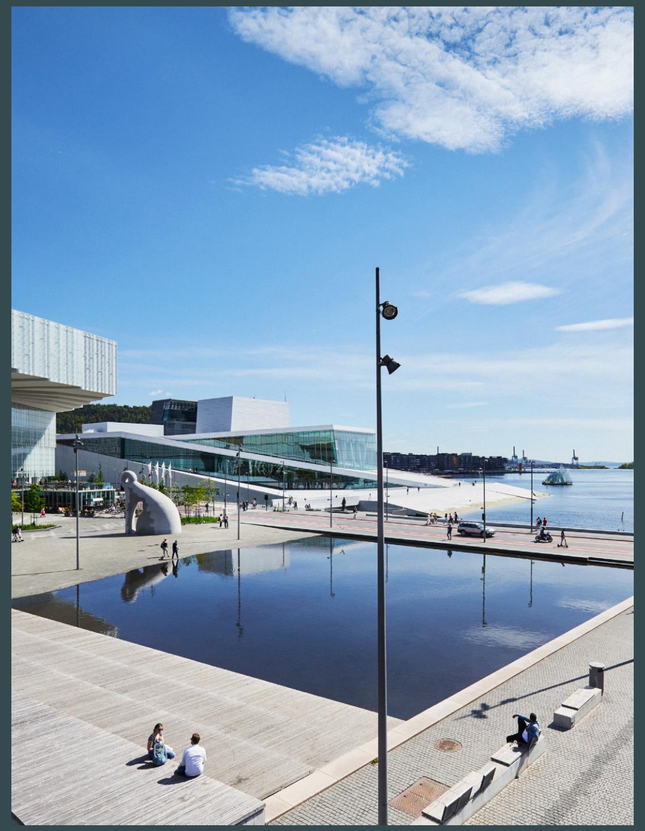
3 offices
130 people
1500 Projects

Purpose

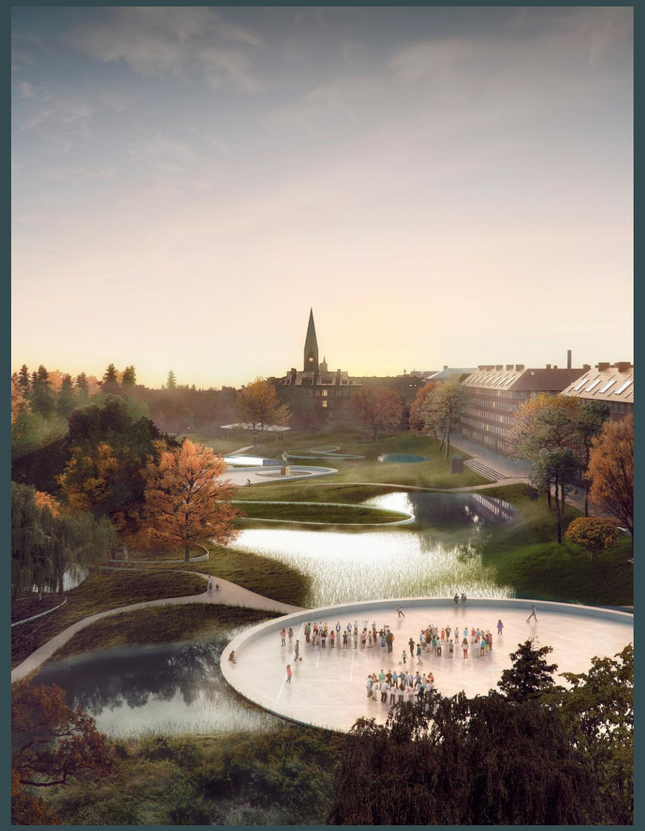
We address the major global challenges of urbanization, climate crisis, and biodiversity extinction while creating *livable, meaningful,* and *sustainable* places for life.

Services —

Public space and landscape design

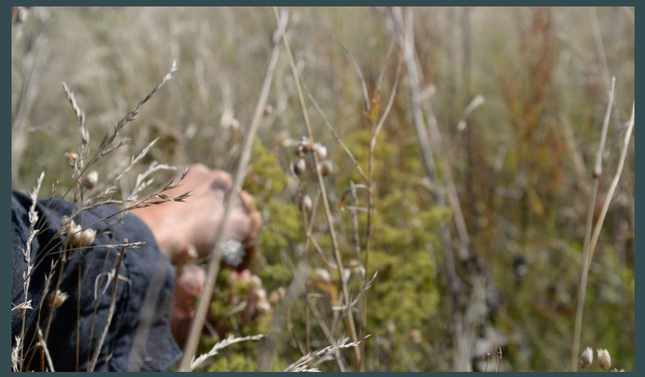


Master planning & city-wide strategies



Nature-based climate adaptation

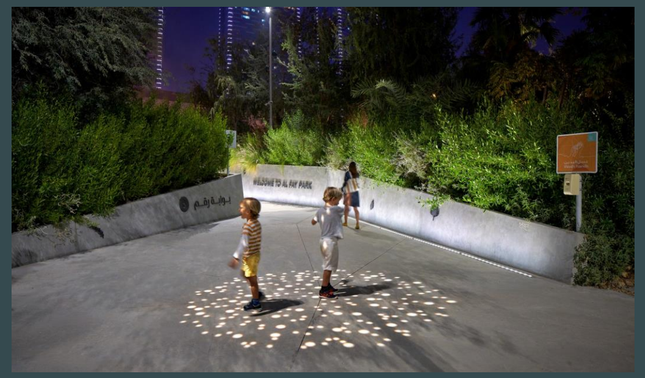
Services —



Biodiversity Baselines

Nature Strategies

Community Engagement



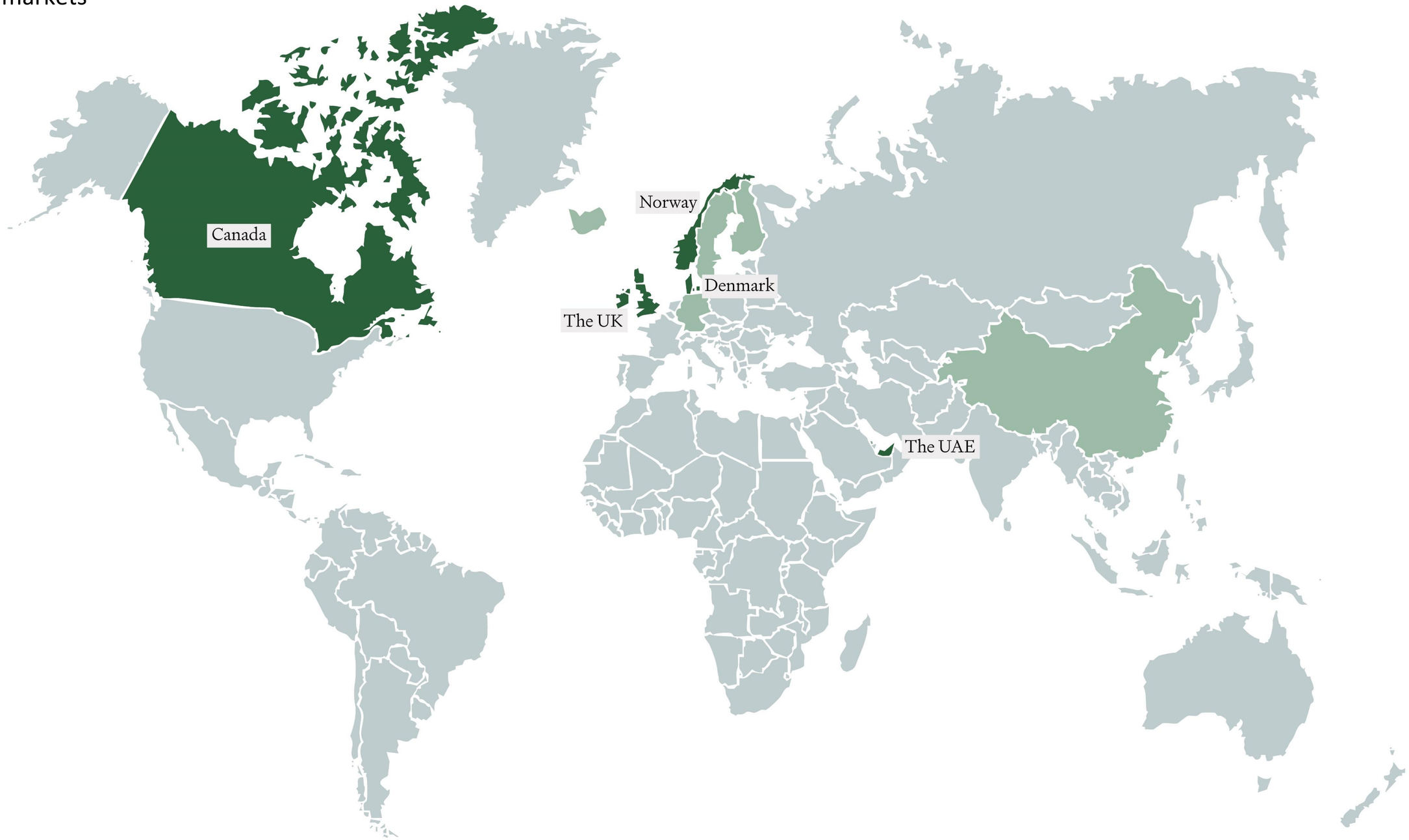
Lighting Design

Scientific Research Projects

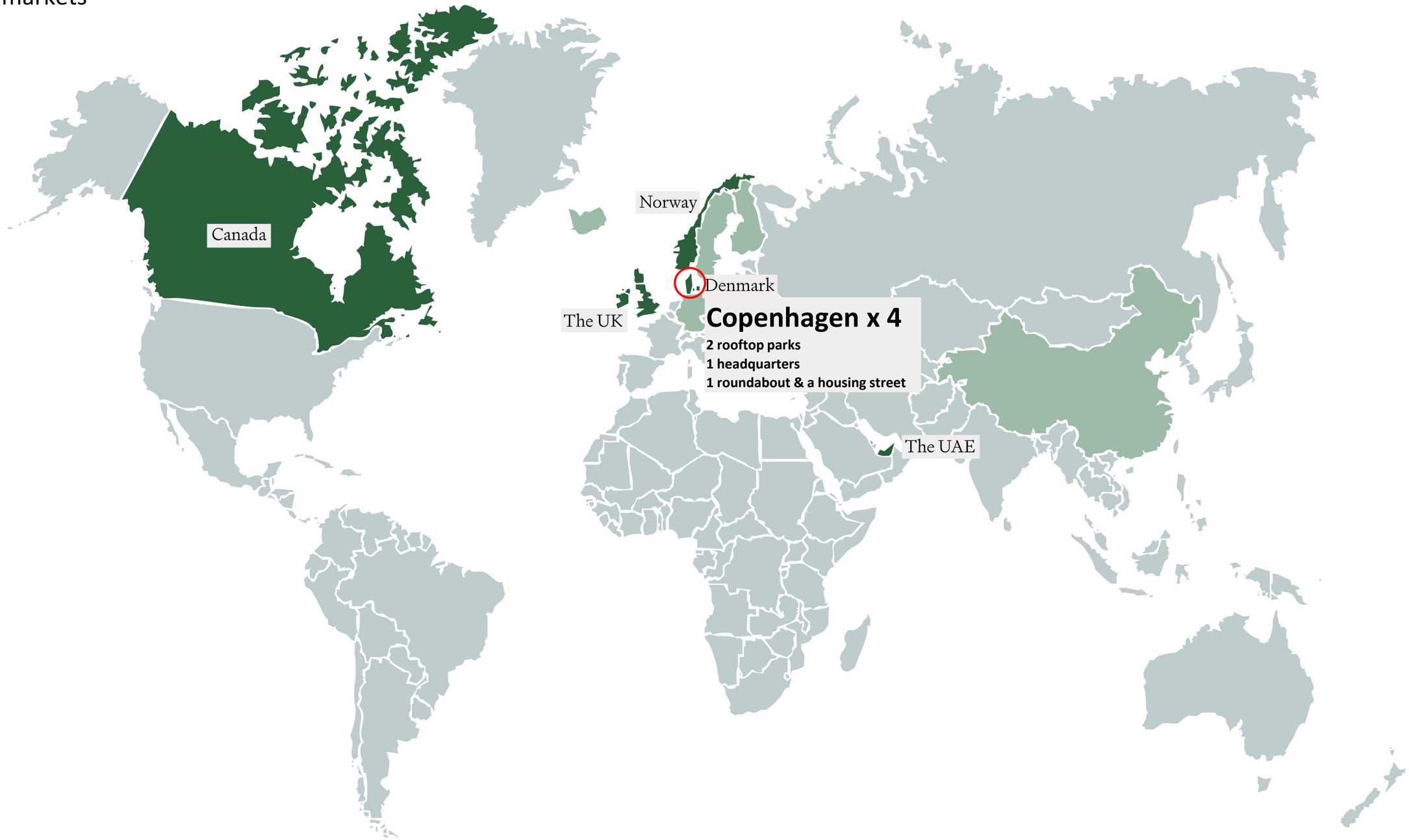
Exhibitions

— and so much more.

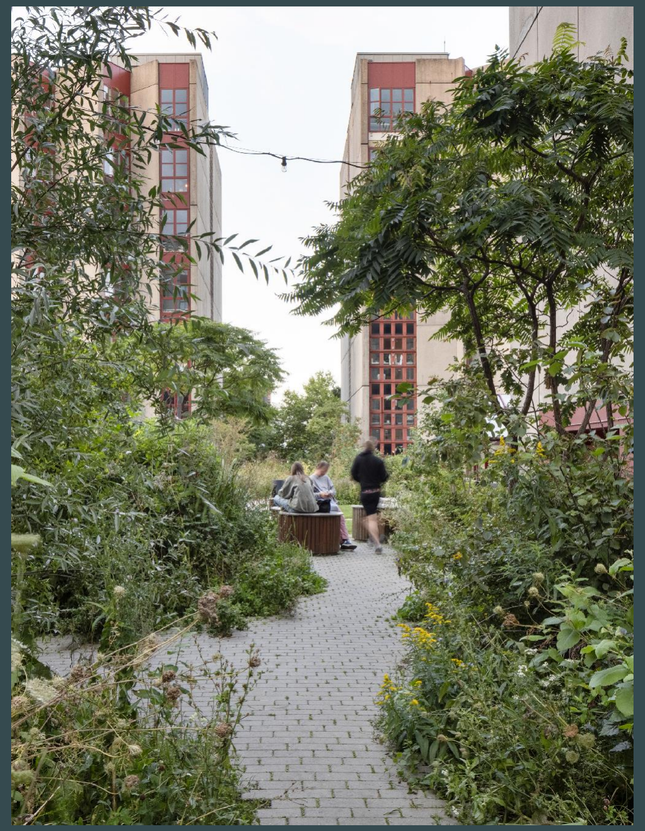
5 Key markets



5 Key markets

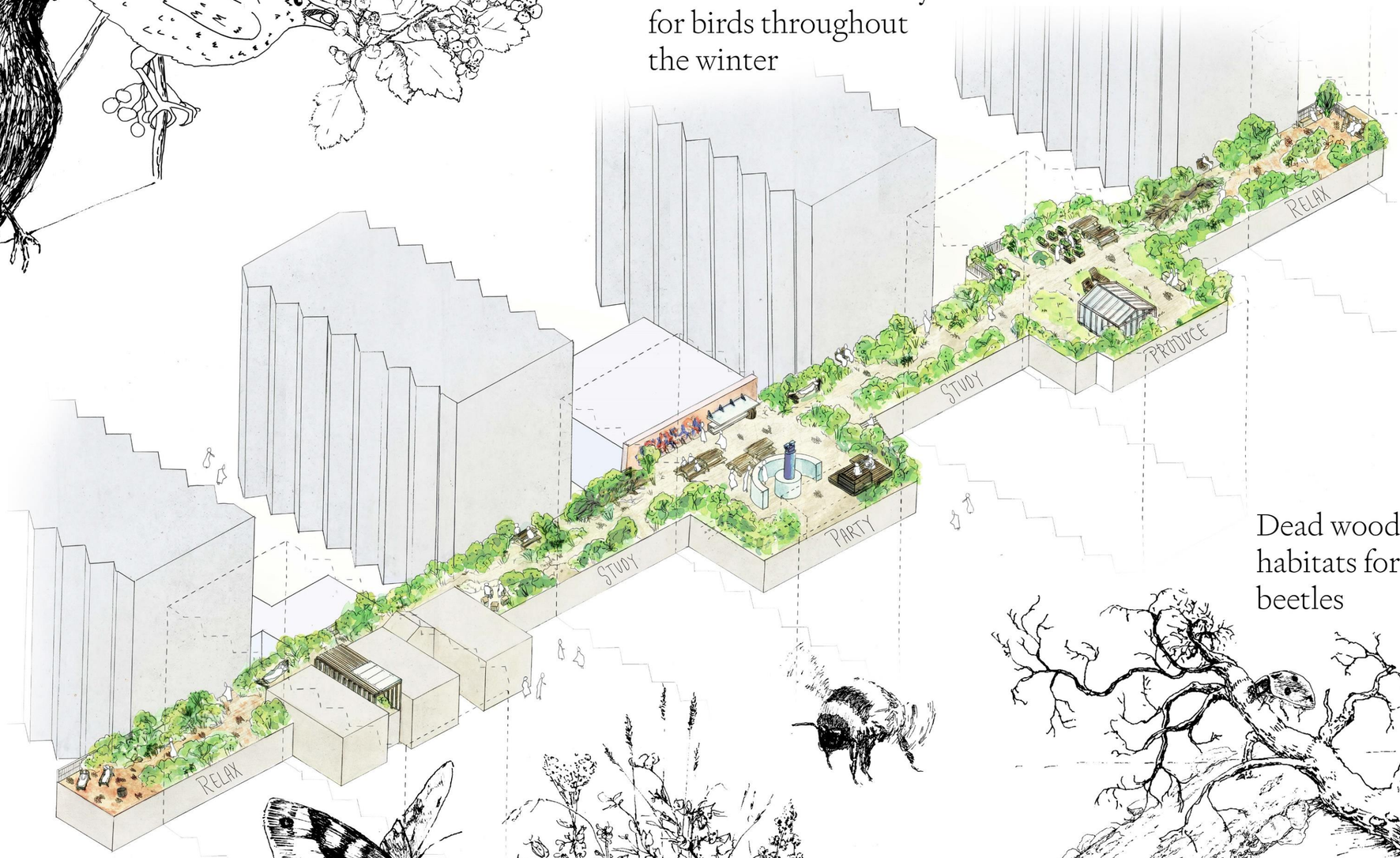


Residential :
The Social Spine,
Copenhagen—

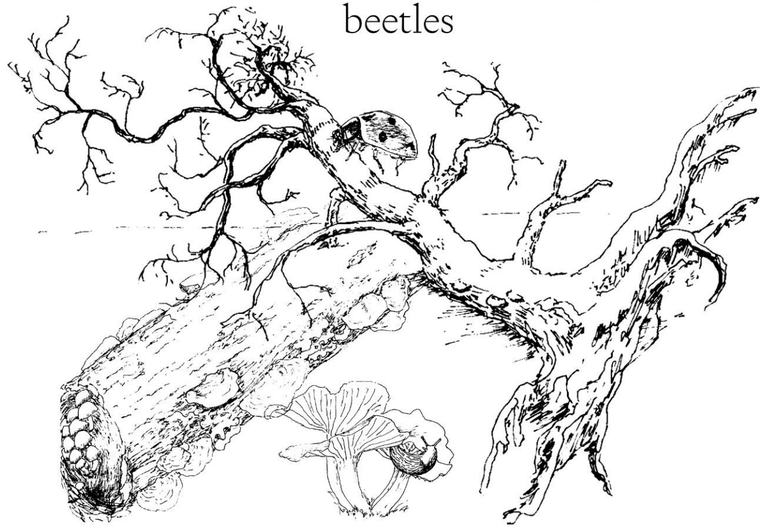


The Social Spine is Copenhagen’s game-changing green project, proving that *impactful* transformations don’t require a big budget—just big ideas. It’s a prime example of how green roofs can deliver on climate, sustainability, biodiversity, and community values, all in one.

Fruit bearing trees ensure food availabilty for birds throughout the winter



Dead wood provides habitats for fungi and beetles



Flowering native plants for pollinators

SLA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Biodiversity measures

Fruit-bearing trees ensure food availability for birds throughout the winter

Preserving old trees with bark microhabitats

Dead wood adds habitats for fungi and beetles

Bare soil provides space for new plant species and sunning spots for pollinators

Different native plants create a variety of habitats

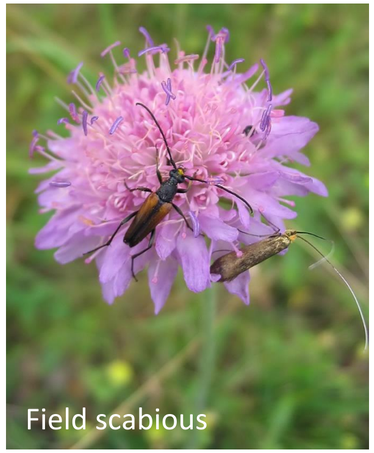
Flowering plants provide nectar for pollinators

Planted native plants with high biodiversity effect

Herbs


Bladder campion


Brown knapweed


Field scabious

Climbers


Common ivy


Bramble


Perfoliate honeysuckle,

Trees and shrubs


Sea-buckthorn


Pedunculate oak


Juniper

Wildlife observed at site after 1 year


Goldcrest

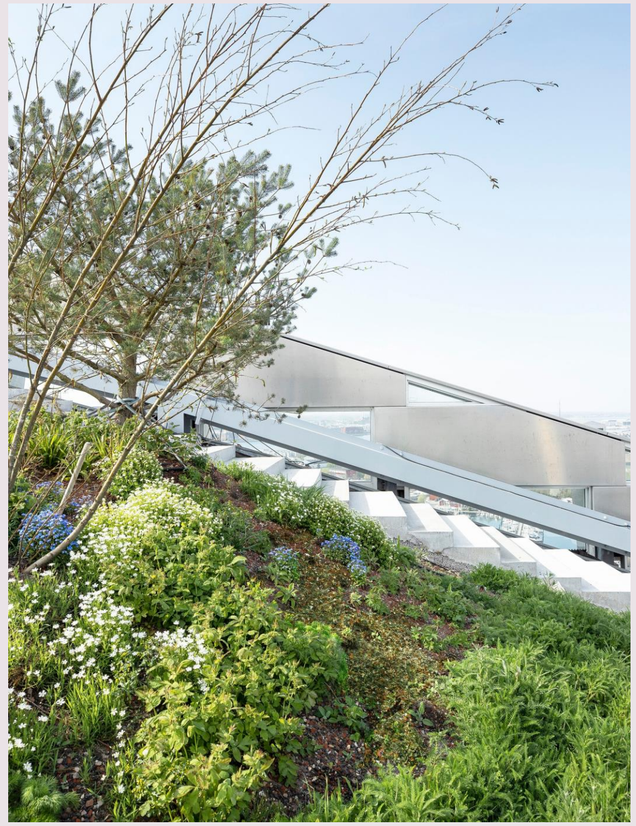

Robin


Small Yellow-legged Robberfly


Everywhere our purpose is the same:
To design *places for life*.


Our method?
Nature!

Park: Copenhill Rooftop Park, Copenhagen



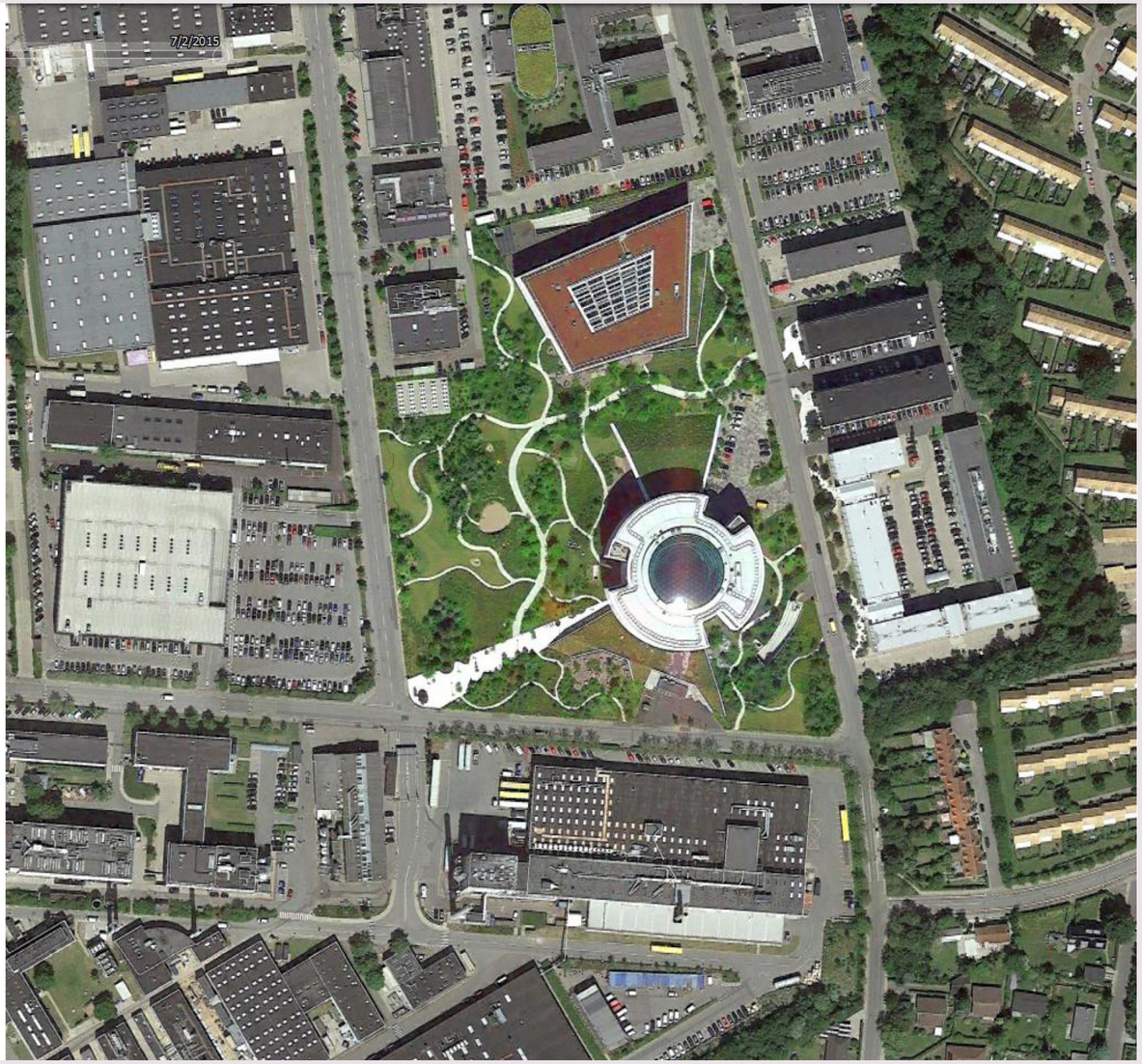
SLA's design of a *green rooftop park* for Copenhagen's new waste-to-energy plant offers hiking trails, playgrounds, vantage points, and climbing walls – along with a 500+ meter ski slope. All of it designed within a wild mountain nature with plants, rockscapes, 7000 bushes, and 300 trees.


Spontan.
56 spp
Planted
in 2019
62 spp
2020

Public park:
Novo Nordisk Nature Park, Copenhagen—

Scandinavian nature, SLA has created a unique public park with *maximum nature value* and minimal maintenance. The park provides a strong, green brand and a recreational destination for both employees at the HQ, visitors, and nearby residents to enjoy.

Novo Nordisk Nature park



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Climate Adaptation:
Copenhagen
Climate Quarter —

Sankt Kjeld’s Square and Bryggervangen form a *cornerstone* in the Copenhagen Climate District and is one of the city’s largest and greenest cloudburst mitigations projects to date.

2015
vs
2020

SLA

Skt. Kjelds & Bryggervangen

- Property values increased by 4,5% (428 Million DKK).(8)
- Annual tax revenue increase of 14,5 million DKK. (8)
- Reduced UHI effects, cooling surface by 21% from 34,9°C to 28,9°C.(8)
- 50% reduction in stormwater runoff, significantly lowering the risk of flooding during extreme rainfall events (8)
- From 45 to 586 trees and 7.620 bushes, 66 different species, creating 5 urban biotopes.
- In 2024, the SLA team of biologists registered 186 insect species and 101 new plant species on site, which indicates that the area has become a habitat for not only plants but also insects living of the plants. The majority of the new species of plants were spread to the area through birds, which also shows the area is habitat for birds.

Real estate within 500 meters' proximity to a park sees its value increased by 10 percent.0

Source: University of Copenhagen & Spacescape (2013): Examination of real estate sales and tenancy in Aarhus and Copenhagen

As consumers, we are willing to spend 12 percent more on commodities sold on a tree-lined street than in an ordinary setting.

Source: Wolf, K.L (2005): "Business District Streetscapes, Trees and Consumer Response". Journal of Forestry 103, pp 396-400

Countless studies have shown the connection between nature and creativity and productivity. One study shows that people working in an environment with strong natural elements are 15% more creative and 6% more productive

Source: Elzeyadi, Ihab (2011): "Daylighting-Bias and Biophilia - Quantifying the Impacts of Daylight on Occupants Health" in Thought and Leadership in Green Buildings Research.

Danish scientists have studied 1 million children, and concluded that growing up surrounded by nature reduces the risk of mental disorders by 55%

Source: WHO and Bioscience Aarhus University, 2019)

Employees with access to wild nature have 27 percent higher job satisfaction and 10 percent less stress symptoms than their peers

Source: Lottrup, Lene et al.(2012): "Workplace Greenery and Perceived Level of Stress: Benefits of Access to a Green Outdoor Environment at the Workplace" in Landscape and Urban Planning 110, pp 5-11.

Communities and companies can realize cost savings of 40% to 60% by integrating green nature projects with infrastructure improvements.

Source: Water Environment Federation (2015): "The Real Cost of Green Infrastructure" in The Stormwater Report

Why nature?

UTILITY VALUES

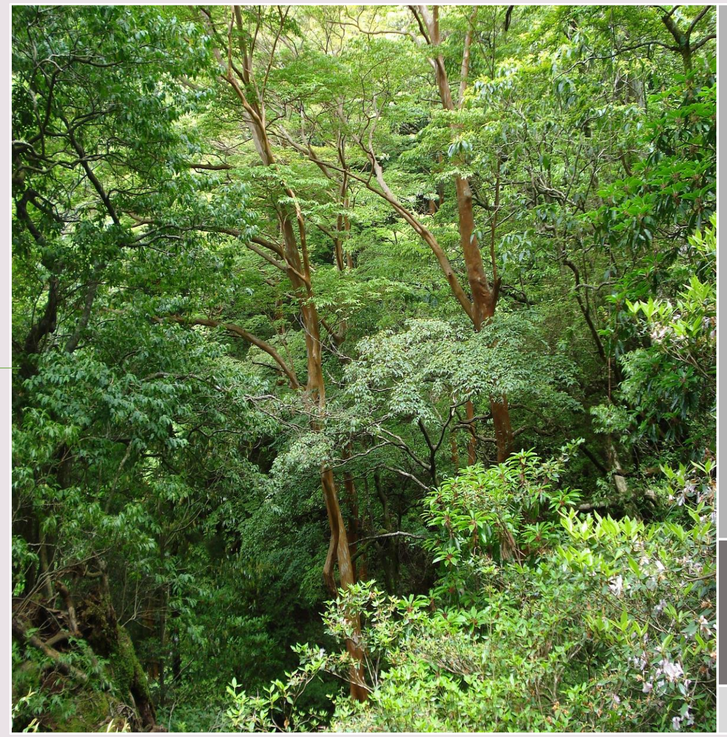
- CO2 reduction
- Air quality
- Rain water management
- Urban heat island effect
- Noise reduction

AMENITY VALUES

- Community
- Sensing
- Learning
- Belonging
- Identity

Biodiversity

All Life – *‘Leave no species behind’*



Plants 82,5 %

Bacteria 12,8 %

Fungi 2,2 %

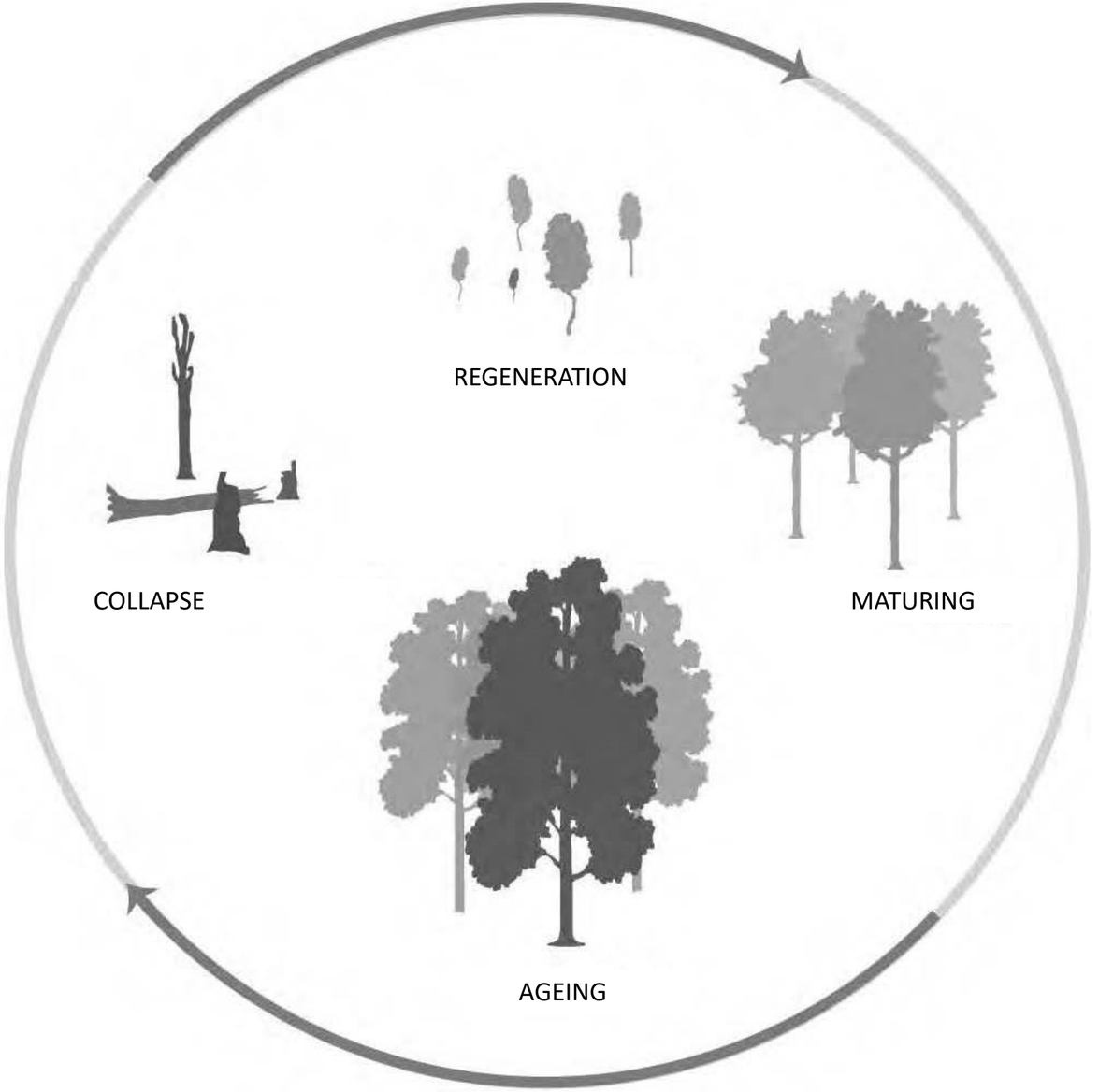
Archaea 1,3 %

Vira 0,04 %

Humans 0,01 %

Protists 0,7 %

Fauna 0,4 %



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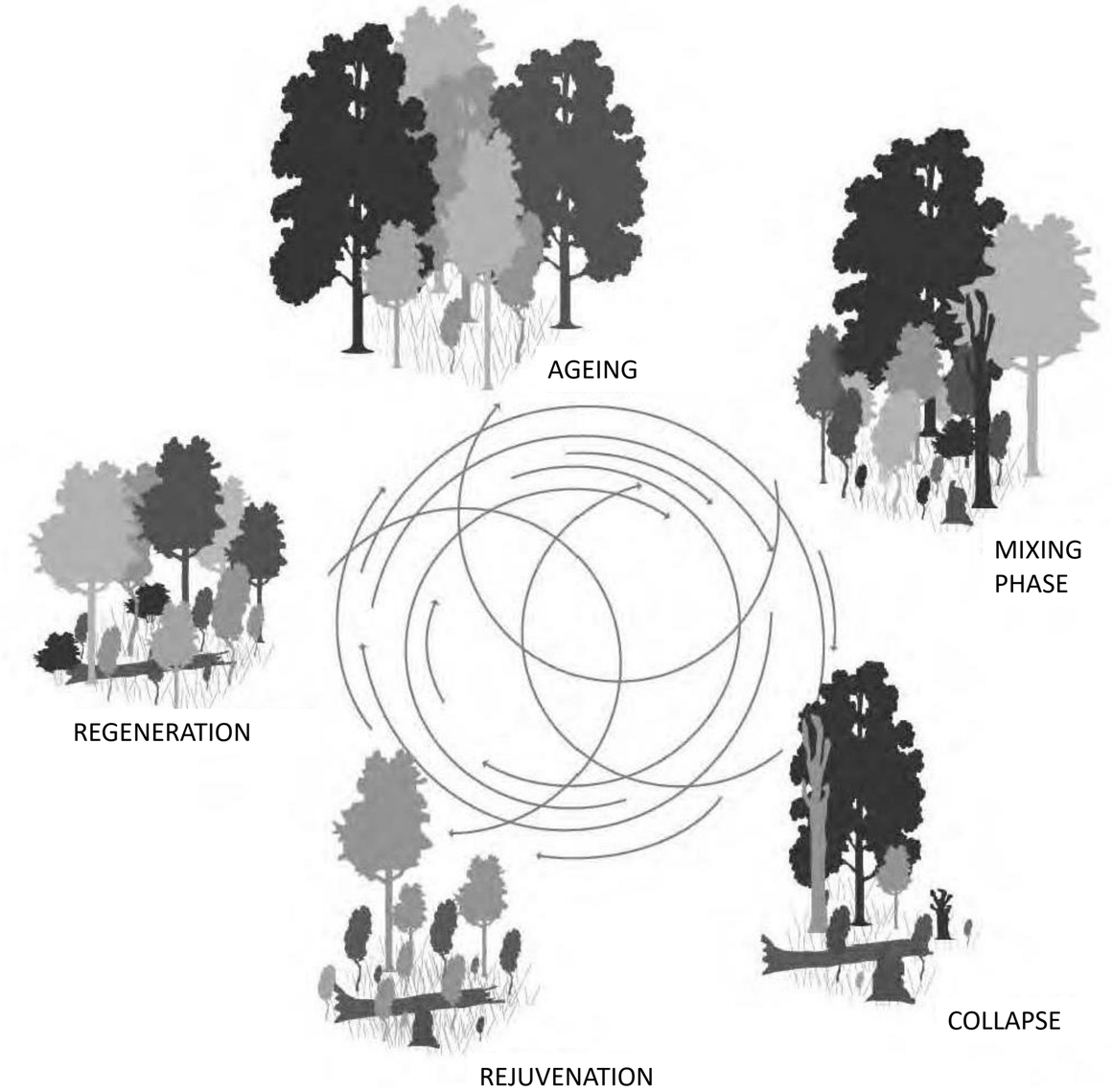
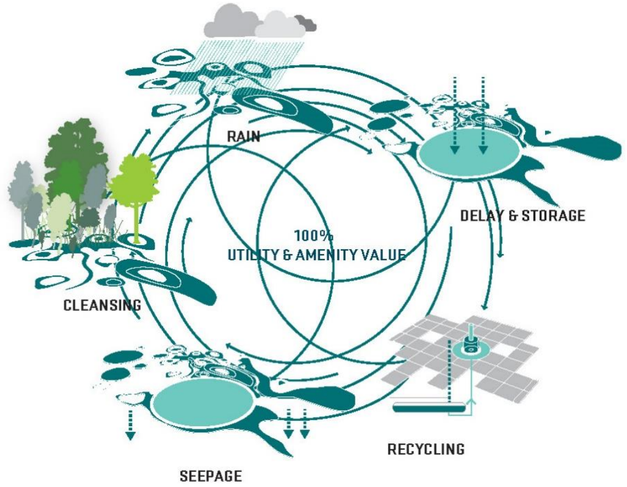
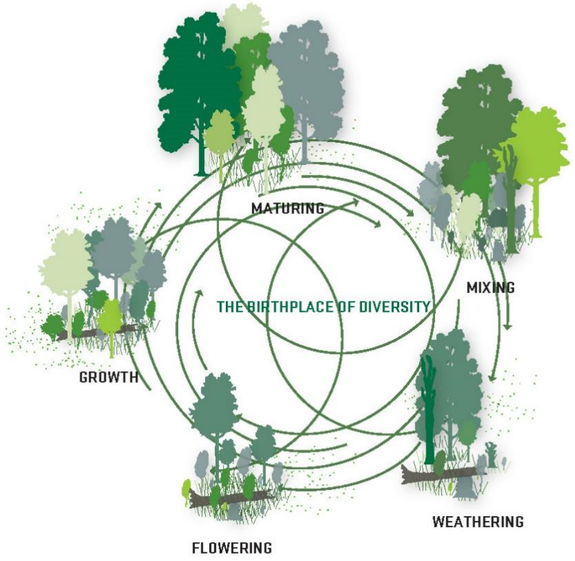
Ecological succession



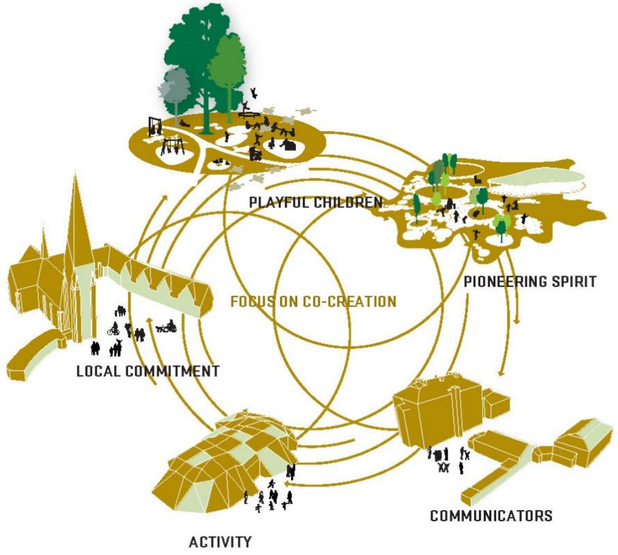
Synergy in process



The hydrological circuit



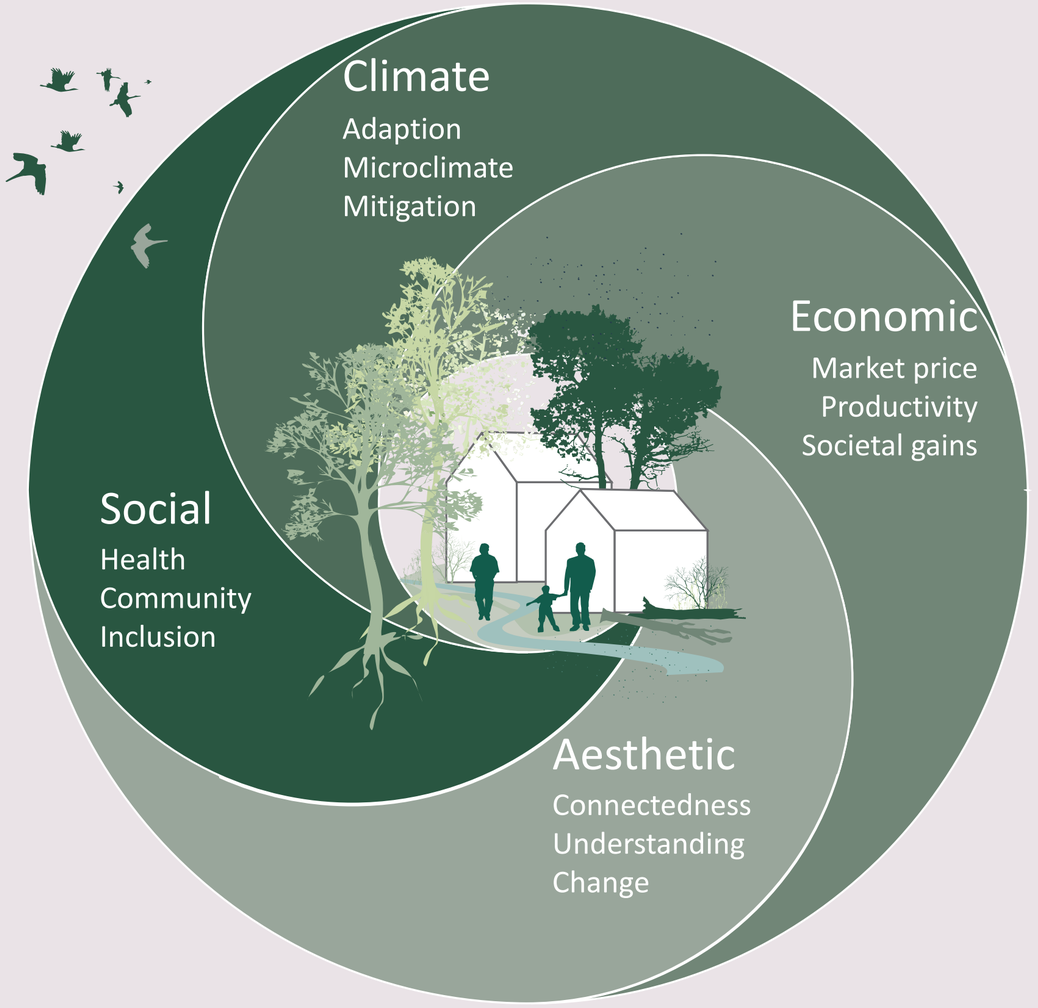
The biological circuit



The social circuit

Value proposition by nature-based design

Biological
Protect
Restore
Enhance

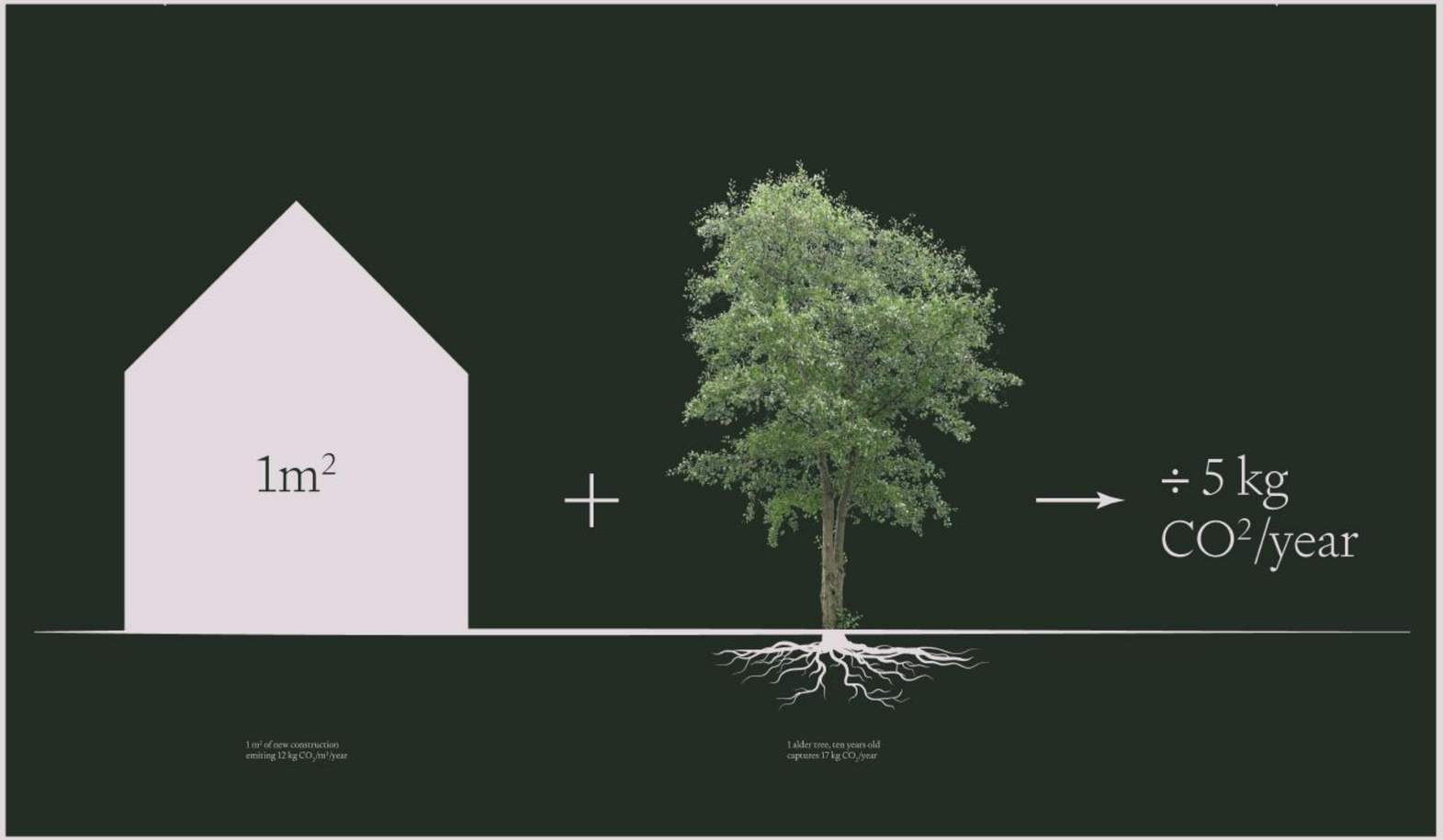


Biodiversity

Nature-based solutions

SLA

Value proposition by nature-based design



City Nature and Life Cycle Assessments — We know that it's a complicated calculation. But simply put, it can look like the example above when doing an LCA that includes vegetation. Something which is not yet happening. Hence, SLA is currently working with a team of talented engineers and researchers to make the assessment possible and fully qualified. If you want to get engaged, don't hesitate to reach out to Alexandra Vindfeld Hansen, SLA's head of R&D.

Why is 12 kg CO_2/m²/year used in the example?

As of January 2023, 12 kg the limit for new constructions > 1000 m² in Denmark. The example stems from an ongoing study made in collaboration with Aaen Engineering.

Strategic consulting that develops organizations

Cities for Life

‘First life, then spaces, then buildings’ heralds the end of planning with concrete first. Instead, we will create cities for life. All life.

We will direct our attention towards transforming city life through infrastructure based on natural processes,
creating urban futures where thriving ecosystems go hand in hand with climate resiliency and the well-being of humans.

Let’s envision cities that have a positive impact on life,
where what we give to nature and each other is much more than we take.