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World in Denmark 2014  
Copenhagen 12th and 13th June  
**NORDIC ENCOUNTERS  
TRAVELLING IDEAS ABOUT  
OPEN SPACE DESIGN AND PLANNING**

Call for abstracts

*For a decade, the World in Denmark conferences have brought prominent international designers and planners to Copenhagen.*

*This 10th conference investigates the role of Denmark – or more broadly the Nordic countries – in the world.*

*Scholars and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts that discuss cultural encounters in open space design and planning.*

*International keynote speakers from landscape architecture, urban design and urbanism will reflect on recent interventions in the urban landscape.*

“Super Danish”, “New Nordic”, and “Scandinavian welfare design” are among numerous seductive names that coin planning and architecture practices from the north these years. Drawing on historic recognition of design traditions, the Scandinavian approach has recently experienced a profound revitalisation.

Landscape architects and urban designers from Denmark and the other Nordic countries have increasingly become exporters of design solutions to places like Beijing, New York and Christchurch, while Copenhagen repeatedly receives awards for its liveability. Nordic planning is often promoted as particularly human, ecologically sustainable and democratic.

However, looking beyond the immediate branding effect, which themes and values, methods and challenges are current in Nordic urban space design and planning in these years? Where are the gaps between imaginary and reality?

How does the Nordicness relate to what is going on in other regions and cultures and what does it potentially have to offer? Which movements, paradoxes, conflicts and challenges exist? And how do these current trends reflect traditions of design and placemaking?

The issue goes beyond Denmark and the Nordic countries. It concerns what it means to intervene in cities and landscapes in a global era. What happens when Western designers work in places whose local languages are new to them?

How do general ideas about improving cities migrate and mutate, synergize and conflict in the encounter with specific contexts? What are the potentials and losses of producing traditions – such as the Danish or Nordic – in open space design and planning?

This conference invites contributors from landscape architecture, urban design, heritage- and urban studies, geography, anthropology, ethnology, art history and more to discuss how design and planning mindsets travel. Scholars and practitioners working with historical and contemporary design, planning, theory, and education from a broad variety of perspectives are encouraged to submit abstracts related to the following tracks:

### **Track 1: Process, site, and nature**

Danish and Nordic planning and urban space design is often presented as particularly site-specific and in line with nature. The practices of designers and planners are culturally grounded and imply certain habits of thought. The way that we understand site, nature and identity has deep roots and colours our daily working approaches. How does interpretation of site, nature and identity influence design and planning? And what happens when certain mindsets encounter and negotiate between different professions, regions and cultural spheres?

### **Track 2: Liveability, welfare, and democracy**

Liveability, democracy and citizen's participation are often associated with welfare planning as practiced in Scandinavia and Northern Europe. And yet, such concepts are not indigenous to this part of the world, neither necessarily constant. How are such concepts defined and practiced by different actors in the design and planning of open spaces? How are the spaces of the heydays of welfare urbanism in the 1960s and 1970s handled today? The financial crisis has been much less severe in Scandinavia than in many other regions. Is the Scandinavian idea of liveability and welfare planning relevant in other parts of the world? Are notions of liveability and welfare universal? What is democratic planning in Scandinavia and in other countries – historically and in the present?

### **Track 3: Traditions, narratives, and politics**

There is always someone behind the construction of an architectural movement, like the Nordic, and there are always certain agendas. In this track, we ask who produces and promotes a certain planning tradition – why, for whom and with which implications? How come that a certain formal language becomes connected to a certain set of values? How are design and planning approaches appropriated, reproduced, and altered in specific contexts? How do the construction and deconstruction of narratives influence our cities? In this track we will look into questions about subjectivity, and power.

## Keynote Speakers

Gehl Architects, Denmark, [www.gehlarchitects.com](http://www.gehlarchitects.com)

Jenny Osuldsen, Snøhetta, Norway, [www.snohetta.com](http://www.snohetta.com)

Belinda Tato, Ecosistema Urbano, Spain, [www.ecosistemaurbano.com](http://www.ecosistemaurbano.com)

Kongjian Yu, Turenscape and GSD Harvard, China, [www.turenscape.com](http://www.turenscape.com)

Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen, Yale School of Architecture, Finland/USA

**Moderator** Paola Viganò, l'Università Iuav di Venezia, Italy

## Submission Requirements

A one-page abstract of maximum 300 words + five keywords is required. The abstract must be submitted to [www.windk.dk](http://www.windk.dk) no later than 1st April 2014.

All abstracts and papers must be written and presented in English. Proposals for complete panels are welcome. Following a blind peer-review process, abstracts will be selected for an oral presentation at the conference. The accepted abstracts will be published in the online conference proceedings.

After the conference a double blind peer-review process will accept a selection of the abstracts for the publication of papers in Nordisk Arkitekturforskning/Nordic Journal of Architectural Research (For Danish contributors: NA is classified in the best rated bibliometrical category).

Contributors whose abstracts are accepted must register for the conference, pay registration fees, and revise their abstract according to the reviewers' comments. A limited number of seats for a reduced registration fee are available.

**Please submit your abstract to [windk@ign.ku.dk](mailto:windk@ign.ku.dk) before 1st April.**

For further enquiries contact us at [windk@ign.ku.dk](mailto:windk@ign.ku.dk) or [www.windk.dk](http://www.windk.dk).

### Conference Schedule (2014):

Deadline abstracts 1st April

Notice on accept 14th April

Early Bird registration offer until 30th April

Deadline for registration 15th May

Deadline revised abstract 12th May

Conference 12th-13th June

Post Conference Trips 14th June

**On behalf of the organizing committee,**

Research Group of Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism

Division of Landscape Architecture and Planning

University of Copenhagen, Denmark

[www.ign.ku.dk](http://www.ign.ku.dk)

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