

16 January 2018

BLOX – iconic architecture and new destination opening on Copenhagen’s harbour front

BLOX is one of Copenhagen’s major urban development projects and a new destination in the city. Designed by the internationally renowned architects OMA. Built and funded by the philanthropic association Realdania.

BLOX is much more than a building. BLOX is virtually a new neighbourhood on the harbour front in historical, central Copenhagen. Among other functions, the building is home to the Danish Architecture Centre’s exhibitions and to BLOXHUB – an interdisciplinary innovation environment for sustainable development. The complex includes new public spaces, a harbour promenade, bridges, a café/restaurant with canal side terrace, fitness centre, apartments and the city’s coolest playground for young and old. BLOX is OMA’s (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) first project in Denmark and a new ‘must see’ in Copenhagen.

‘Our ambition is for BLOX to become a magnet for urban life. This is where people are going to go for lunch, to play with their kids or to enjoy the view of the harbour. New bridges and public squares turn the area into a key part of Copenhagen’s infrastructure, especially for pedestrians and cyclists. The building itself, the Danish Architecture Centre and BLOXHUB are all going to be important venues for anyone interested in architecture, design and sustainable development. With BLOX, we are bringing life to a part of Copenhagen Harbour that has been deserted for years.’ – Jesper Nygård, CEO of Realdania

On 2 January 2018 the building was handed over to the tenants, who are now gradually moving in – and on 6 May 2018, BLOX opens with a huge opening party. At this event, everyone is invited to take in everything the building has to offer, have a guided tour, play and generally experience the many cultural offerings in the Copenhagen Cultural District that BLOX is a part of. The outdoor area around BLOX is open to the public, also before the official opening.

Designed by OMA

BLOX is designed by OMA Partner Ellen van Loon. At BLOX, the urban routes reach into the heart of the building and create a broad range of interactions between the different program parts and the urban environment. Making the most of the site’s potential by bridging the road, the building is an ‘urban generator’ actively linking the city and the harbour front. Passers-by can look into and through the transparent building, which faces the city and invites people to visit the harbour front. BLOX was designed and built as a living building and an active contributor to the urban pulse.

OMA, founded by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, are among the leading architects in the international arena when it comes to reconciling theoretical practice with a playful, unconventional and dialogue-oriented approach to architecture. BLOX has already attracted considerable international attention, including from the BBC, and is set to

become an attractive destination for architecture tourists and anyone else who appreciates the amazing offerings on Copenhagen's harbour front.

Danish Architecture Centre

The Danish Architecture Centre is Denmark's meeting place for architecture, design and urban culture. Here, everyone is invited to take part in inspiring knowledge, experiences and fresh perspectives on architecture's potential to improve living conditions for the many. The Danish Architecture Centre occupies a central position in BLOX and offers world-class exhibitions, guided tours, events, a design shop, a café and conference and teaching facilities.

The Danish Architecture Centre opens at BLOX on 6 May with the exhibition 'Welcome Home', which is about a topic that we are all experts in: our own home. The exhibition is a kaleidoscope of different angles on Danish homes and housing dreams – from the historical shifts that have shaped the way we live, via current challenges that raise questions about the way we live today, to artistic and technological visions for our future dwellings.

With smaller and larger exhibitions that vary throughout the year, visitors are guaranteed to find experiences that expand their perspective and leave them with food for thought. Round off your visit to the exhibition with a tasty lunch or a good cup of coffee, and take in the city's best view from the large roof-top terrace.

BLOXHUB

BLOXHUB is an interdisciplinary innovation environment with more than 500 seats in open office spaces for everyone involved in developing our cities. Through custom-designed activities BLOXHUB match companies, organizations and researchers and help to disseminate the sustainable solutions that make cities liveable. BLOXHUB is an international player in the effort to define and develop good city life and ultimately help to achieve the UN Development Goal 11: to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

When BLOX opens in May, BLOXHUB covers a total of 10,000 m². In addition to the modern facilities at BLOX, BLOXHUB also occupies the listed complex Fortifications Depot (Fæstningens Materialgård) from 1740, which is going to house a large start-up and research community. BLOXHUB is jointly funded by the City of Copenhagen, Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs and Realdania.

World-class parking

The fully automated BLOX Parking opened on 2 January 2018 as Copenhagen's most modern car park. The facility occupies four underground storeys under BLOX. Underground parking leaves room for city life and quality of life, which are important aspects of the BLOX experience. If the cars were lined up bumper to bumper in the street, the line would stretch for 2 km. It also benefits the environment that drivers do not have to drive around the area, looking for a place to park; instead, they simply drop the car off in one of the elevators and leave the rest up to the fully automated system.

The car park is open 24 hours and is an attractive facility for out-of-town visitors to Copenhagen. At BLOX Parking, which is operated by Securitas, they can leave their luggage in the car, as the car park is safe from theft, break-ins and vandalism. Centrally located near one of the city's main arteries, only 50 metres from the harbour, a few hundred metres from the pedestrian streets and in the heart of the Copenhagen Cultural District.

Sustainability and quality of life

BLOX is a well-insulated low-energy building with high-tech features including solar cells, district cooling and intelligent control of the building's installations, daylight and interior climate quality. The building is designed for durability and a high degree of flexibility. For example, the building's lasting components have a lifespan of over 200 years. With high ceilings, movable walls and other features the building is adaptable to changing needs in the future. It will also be possible to fit in new types of technical installations and energy-efficient infrastructure that have yet to be developed.

In addition, there is a strong focus on quality of life that points directly to the users and into the future. BLOX will make a positive contribution to the city with its new urban spaces, green infrastructure, new bridges and an interior with a wide range of different functions. A source of life, city life and quality of life.

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Location and information

BLOX is located at Bryghuspladsen, facing the harbour at the end of the historical canal Frederiksholms Kanal and Vester Voldgade street. Right on the harbour front next to the Black Diamond and just a few hundred metres from City Hall Square, the pedestrian street Strøget and many of Copenhagen's main attractions.

Address: BLOX, Bryghuspladsen, Copenhagen K

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Links:

BLOX.dk

Realdania.dk

DAC.dk

BLOXHUB.org

OMA.eu

Facts:

- BLOX is funded by the philanthropic association Realdania.
- BLOX is built and owned by Realdania By & Byg, a subsidiary to Realdania.
- BLOX is designed by OMA with Ellen van Loon as Partner in charge.
- COWI and Arup are the engineers for BLOX.
- Züblin is the general contractor for BLOX, assisted by a large number of competent sub-contractors.
- Lödige delivered the fully automated underground parking facility.
- Metallbau Früh delivered the facades.

About Realdania

Realdania is a philanthropic association with more than 149,000 members. The association seeks to improve quality of life through the built environment, defined as the physical settings for our everyday life. Realdania is focused on both living and future generations and seeks to promote sustainability and generate new knowledge and innovation. Since 2000, Realdania has supported more than 3,200 projects with a total of DKK 17 billion. Anyone in Denmark who owns real estate can become a member.

www.realdania.org

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