



Landscape Urbanism in Contemporary Danish (Sub)Urban Development

TINA MARIA RODEN

Cand.arch, PhD Fellow

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts
Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation
Institute of Planning (CBP)

WHAT

The project explores the duality between landscape urbanism as an academic discourse (theory) versus landscape urbanism as a concrete practice (concept) by identifying and discussing the potentials and problems of practicing landscape urbanism seen in relation to the Danish Urban Production System (UPS).

WHY

As the urban complexity increases, the premises for designing the urban environments change. Overlooking the development within the urban practices, it appears that the way the urban practitioners understand and treat the relation between built and unbuilt is changing, and the understanding of landscape, and its role in urban development is evolving.

Over the past decades, landscape has emerged as a framework for describing the conditions for contemporary decentralised urbanisation, and the landscape discipline has experienced an increased interest in relation to designing contemporary urban environments (e.g., Corner, ed., 1999a; Czerniak, ed., 2001; Reeser and Shafer, eds., 2002; Mostafavi and Najle, eds., 2003; Waldheim, ed., 2006c; Czerniak and Hargreaves, eds., 2007; and many others).



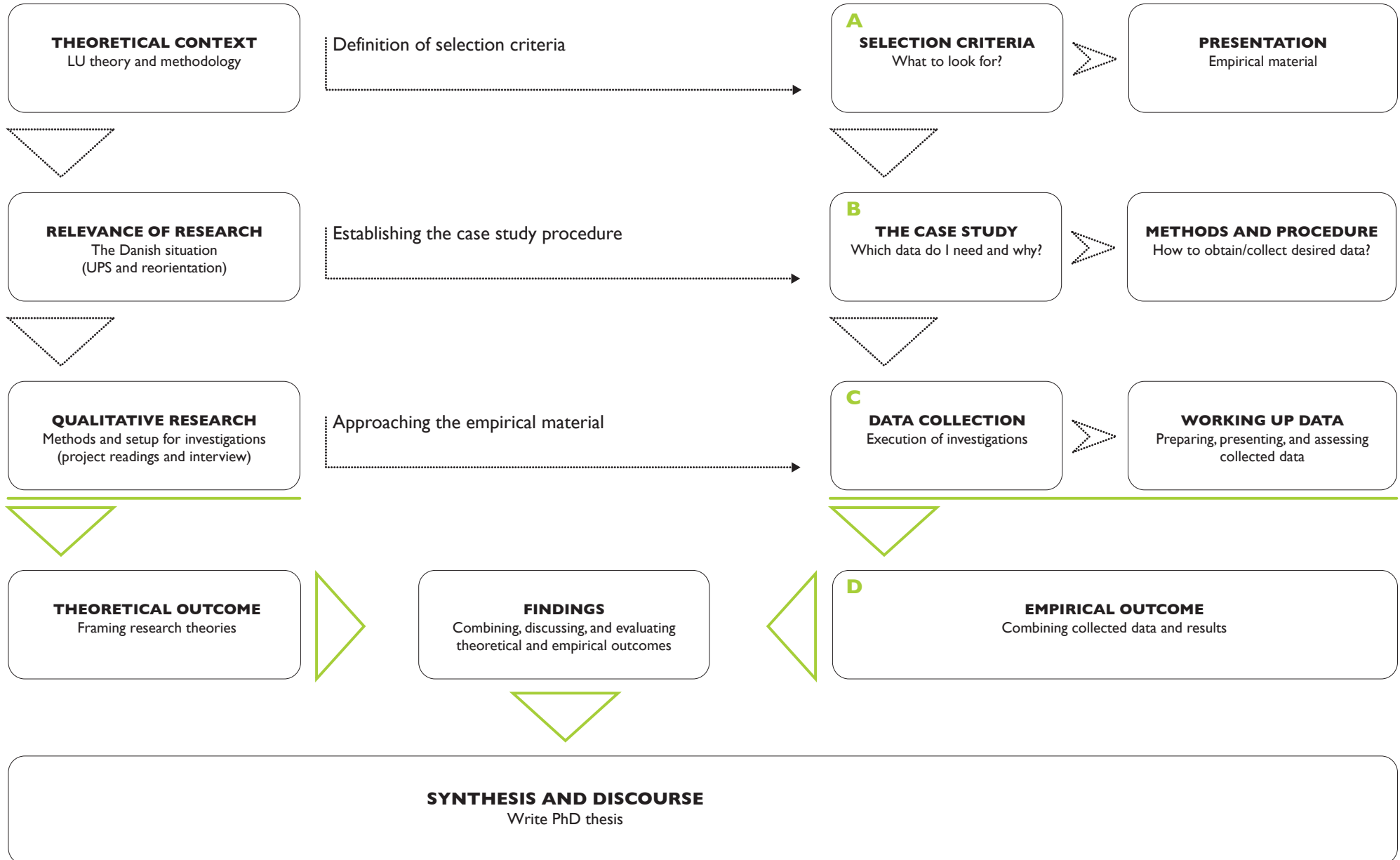
HOW

THEORY AND LITERATURE STUDY

(investigating the ideological and methodical foundation of the LU approach)

EMPIRICAL STUDY

(investigating applied landscape urbanism and its practicability in relation to UPS)



Suburban development

ULLERØDBYEN

Hillerød Municipality
Invited competition 2002-2003
Partly realised

SLA

BELLINGE FÆLLED

Odense Municipality
Commission 2010
Site preparation begun

Schønherr a/s

TANKEFULD

Svendborg Municipality
Invited competition 2007-2008
Site preparation begun

NORD et al.

SVENSTRUP SYD

Aalborg Municipality
Commission 2012-2013
In process (municipal plan 2013)

ENGarkitekter

New Town

Landscape Plan

Urban Production System

(very simplified..!)

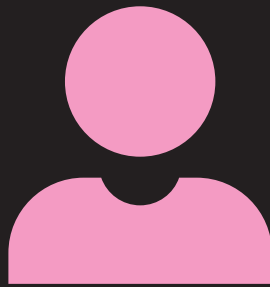
Owner



Vision/need



Designer



Concept



Administration



Implement plan



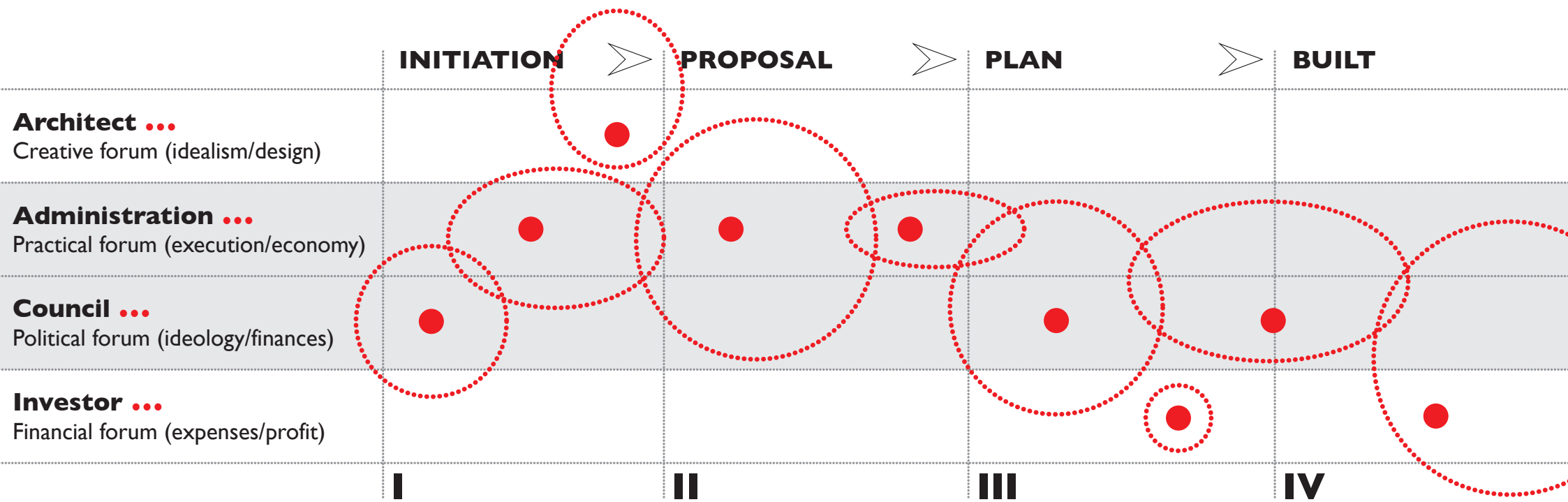
Market

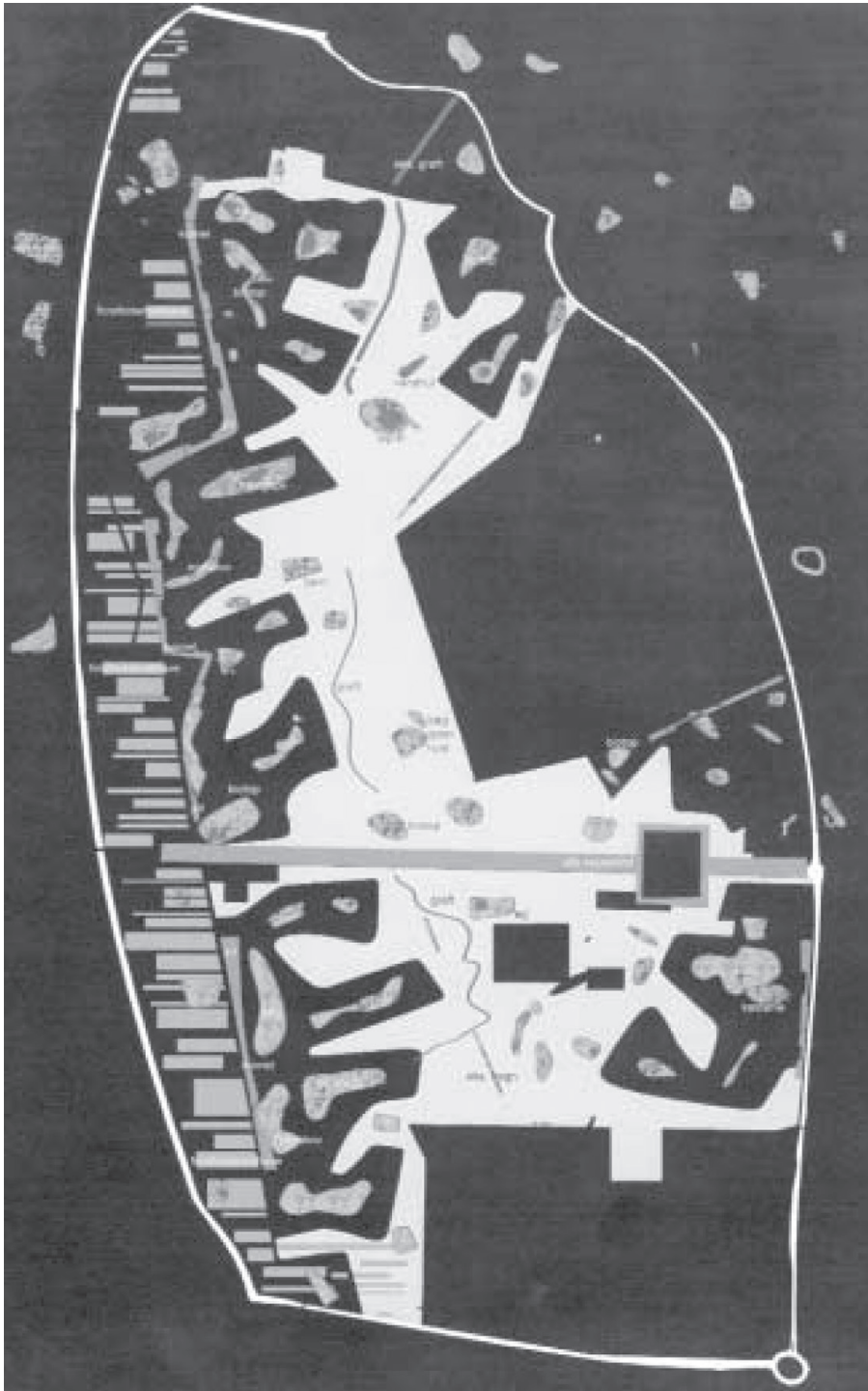


Realise project

Keywords:

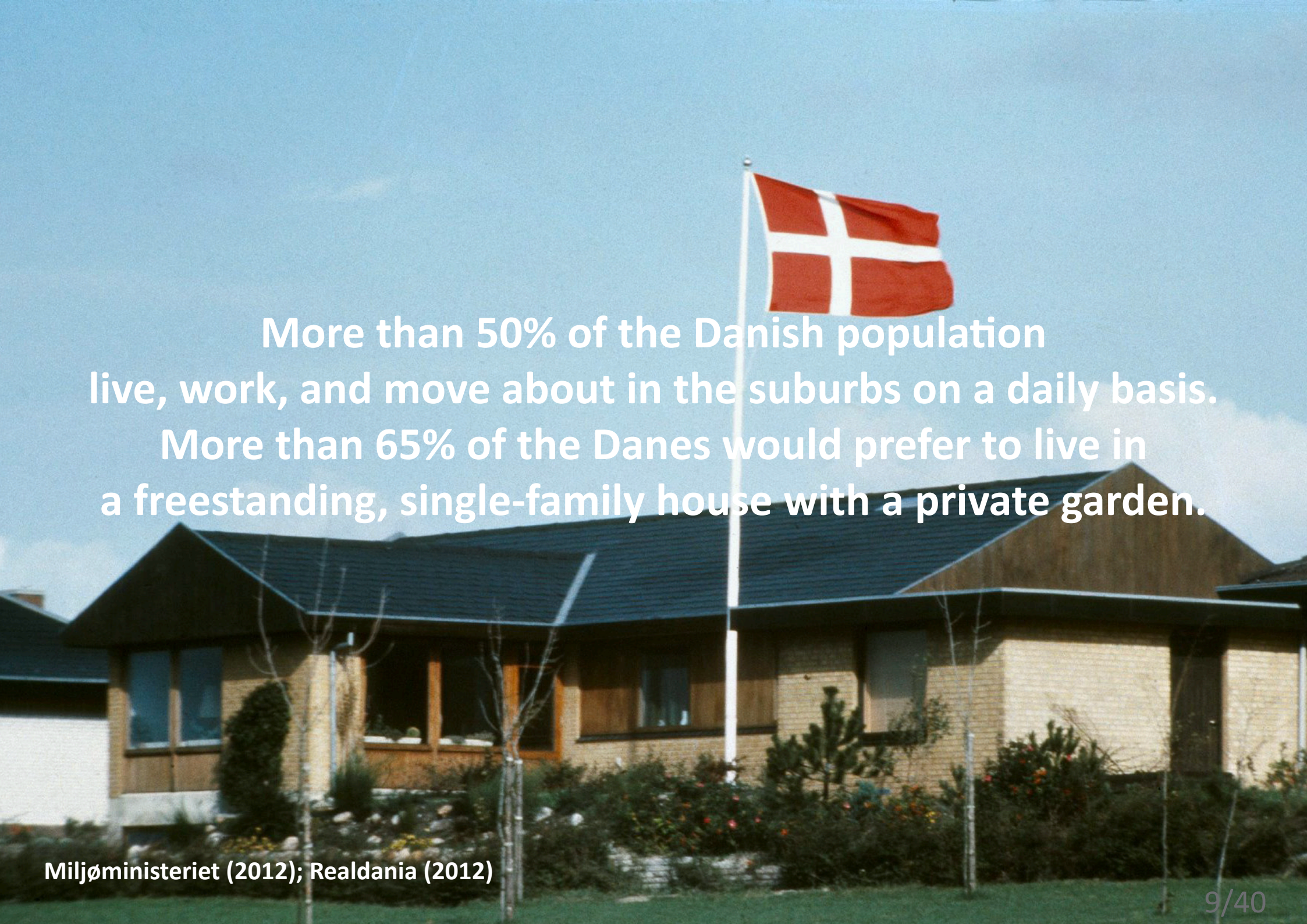
Interpretation and translation; errors and synergy





Bellinge Fælled by Schønherr

Ullerødbyen by SLA



More than 50% of the Danish population live, work, and move about in the suburbs on a daily basis. More than 65% of the Danes would prefer to live in a freestanding, single-family house with a private garden.



Open structure, low density

Segregation between housing types

Distinction between functions and physical division between zones

Infrastructure is highly prioritized

Extended (auto)mobility and commuter traffic

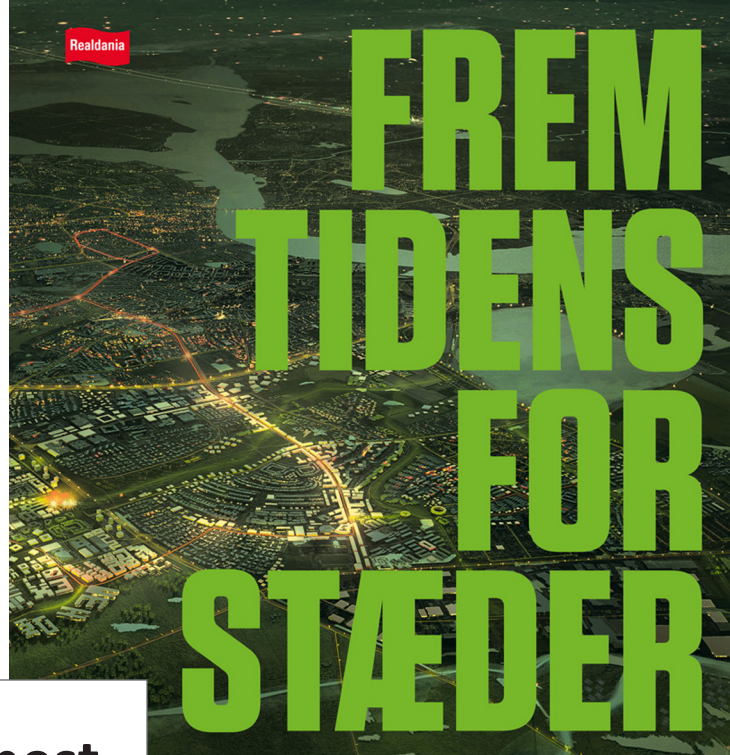


BÆREDYGTIGE FORSTÆDER

UDREDNING
OG
ANBEFALINGER
FRA
FORSTÆDERNES
TÆNKETANK

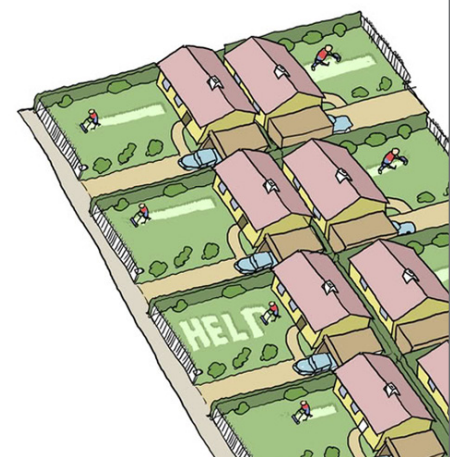
Tænketank: Drop de lange villaveje

Politiken 12. sep. 2012




Forstadsbeboere forurener mest

MetroXpress, KBH, 19. feb. 2008

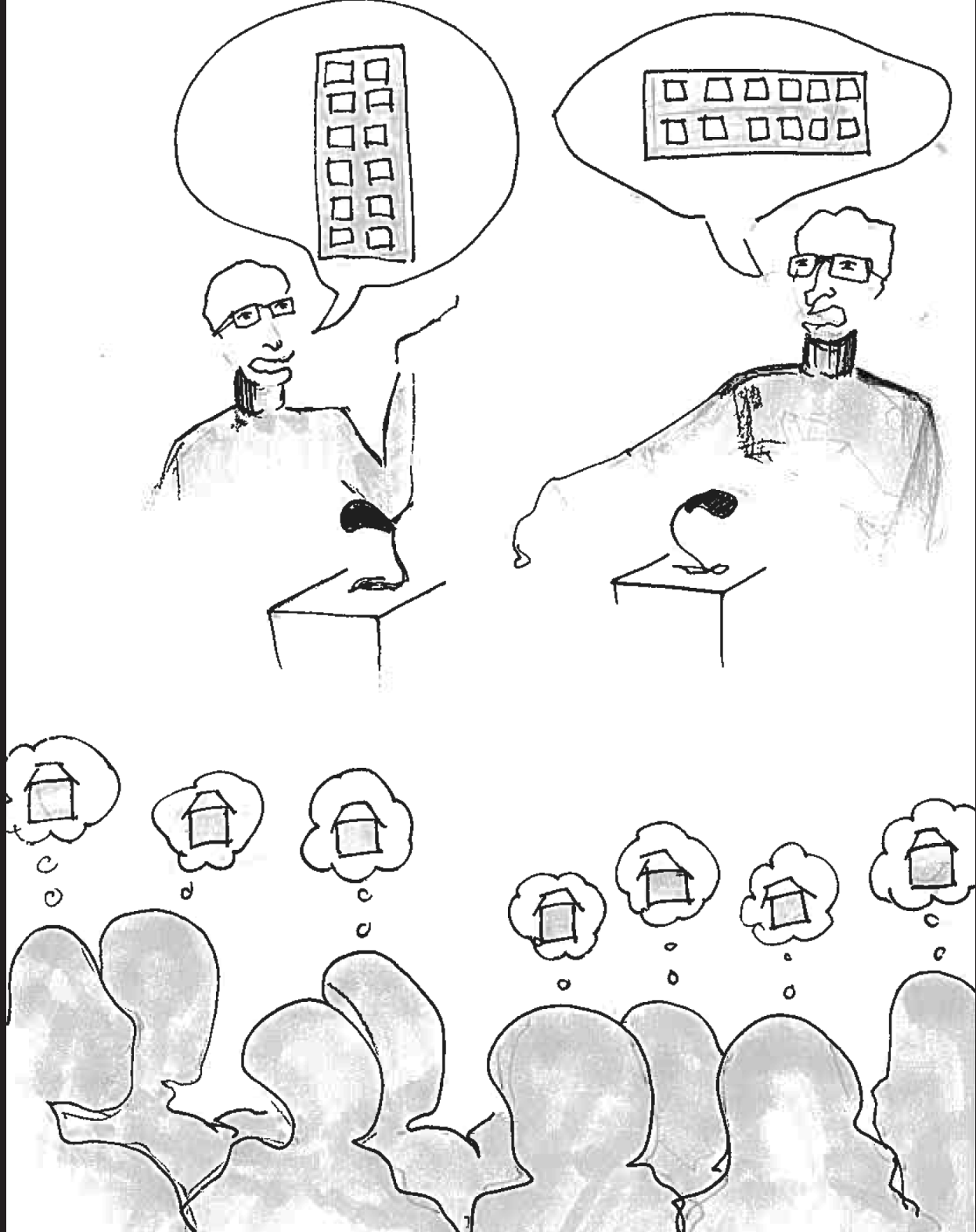




Byomdannelse i stedet for byspredning
Find finansiering
Brug de lokale ressourcer
Kortlæg og anvend dynamikken i forstaden
Tilpas bystrukturen
Styrk bæredygtig mobilitet
Fasthold og udbyg attraktiviteten i forstaden
Påvirk adfærd
Forny planlægningen
Afmonter administrative og lovgivningsmæssige forhindringer
Igangsæt forsknings-, eksempel- og udviklingsprojekter

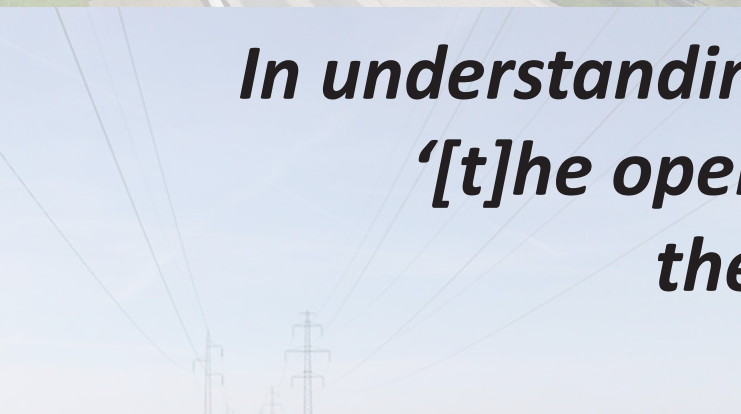


***‘Open spaces and natural areas
link directly to the environmental sustainability.’***

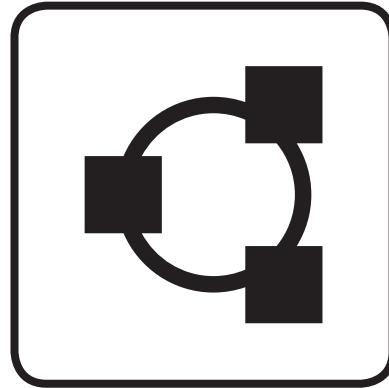
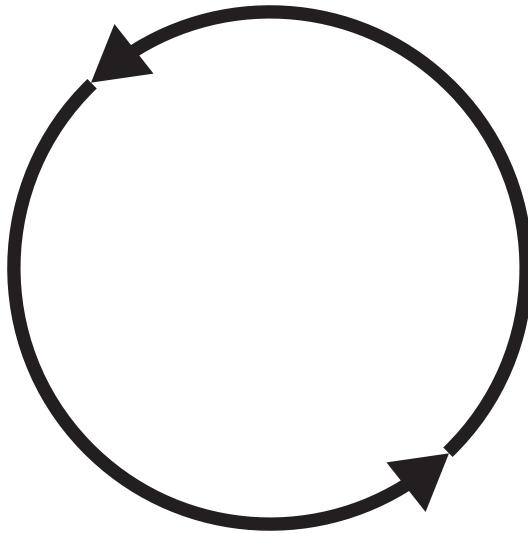
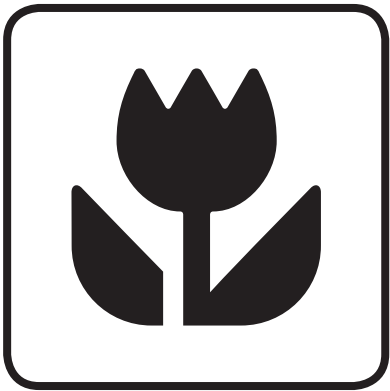




*In understanding the city as an "urbanised landscape"
 '[t]he open space of landscape will become
 the actual creative field [...]'*



Sieverts (2003, pp. 121-122)





‘Landscape in urban planning has become subject to considerable attention [...] and [landscape] has changed status from being ‘background’ to [...] ‘foreground’

Braae (2013, p. 5). Translated from Danish by author

Image © 2010 COWI A/S, DDO

56°10'24.26" N, 10°07'13.72" E, elev. 54 m


©2010 Google

Eye alt. 2.04 km



The landscape organizes not only objects and spaces but also the flow of urban activities. As such, landscape is both the representation of the present urban condition and the material of which the urban surface is constructed

'Landscape urbanism can be read as a disciplinary realignment in which landscape supplants architecture's role as the basic building block of urban design'

An aerial photograph of a landscape featuring a winding river, green fields, and a city in the background. The river flows through the center of the image, surrounded by lush greenery and some developed areas. In the distance, a city skyline is visible under a hazy sky. The overall scene depicts a blend of natural and urban environments.

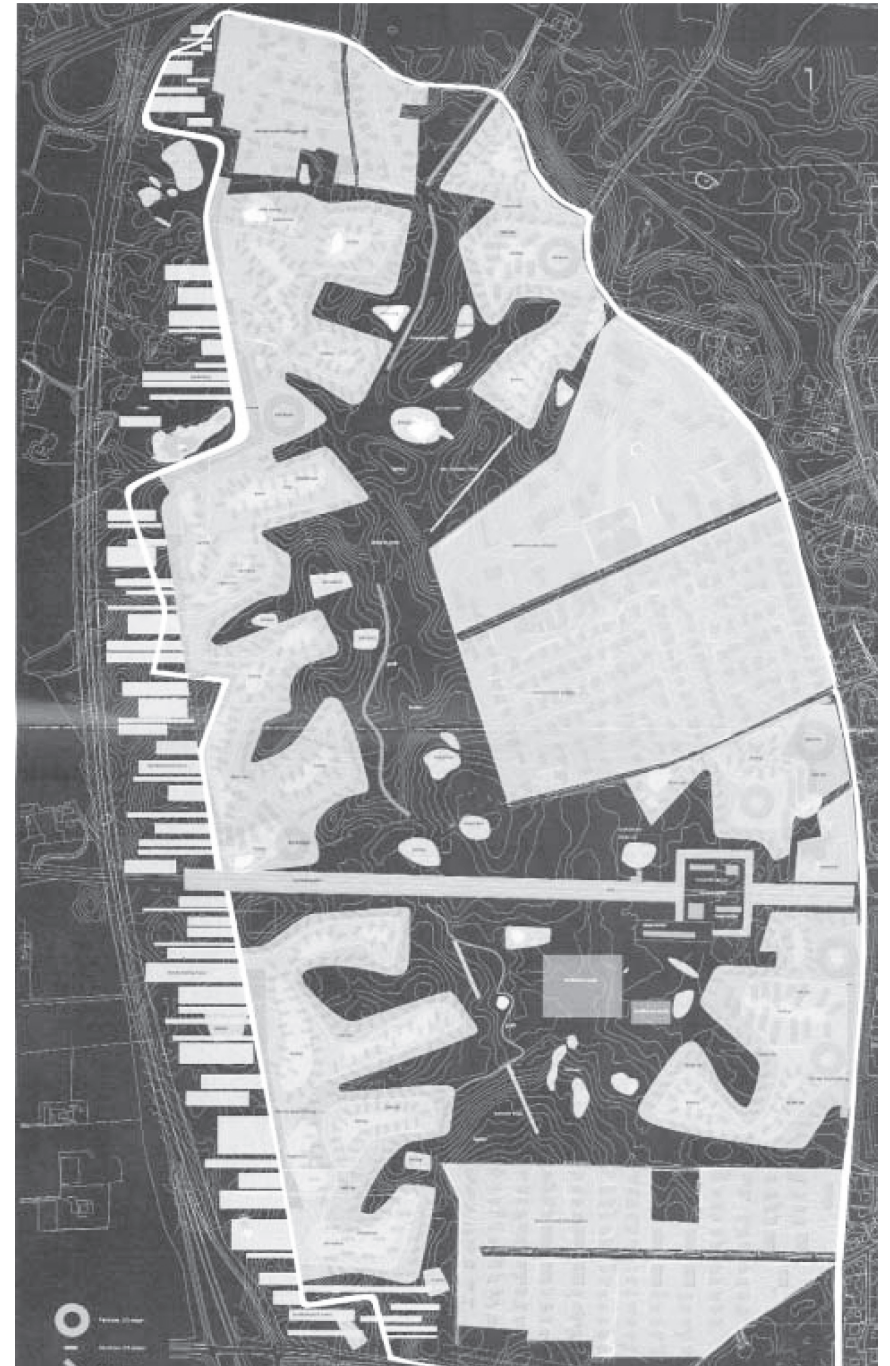
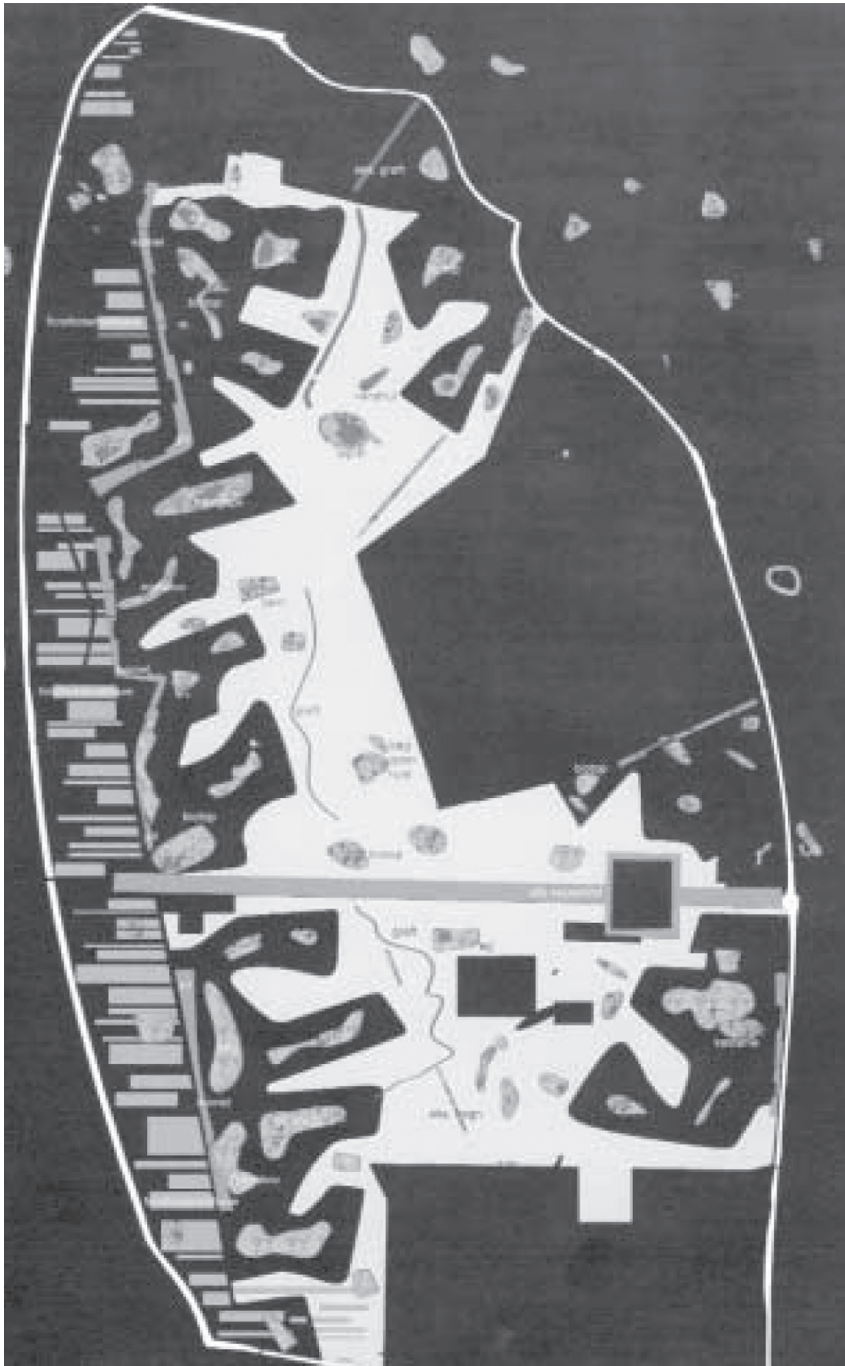
‘[The] structuring of the horizontal surface becomes a predominant concern for landscape urbanism, for the surface is the organizational substrate that collects, distributes and condenses all the forces operating upon it. Land division, allocation, demarcation and the construction of surfaces constitute the first act in staking out ground; the second is to establish services and pathways across the surface to support future programmes; an the third is ensuring sufficient permeability to allow for future permutation, affiliation and adaptation’.



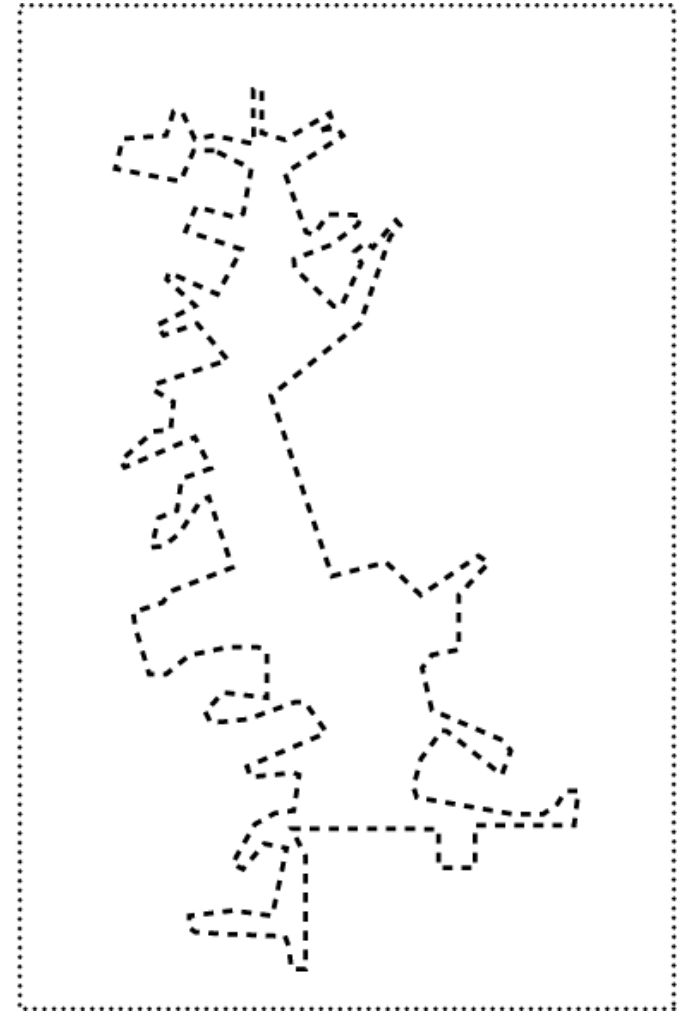
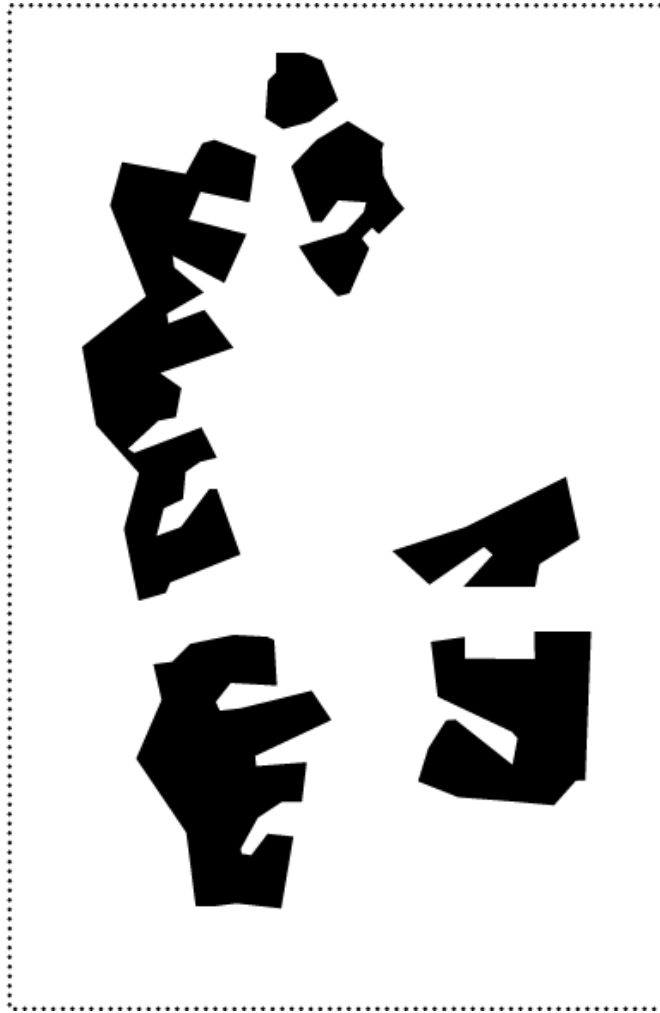
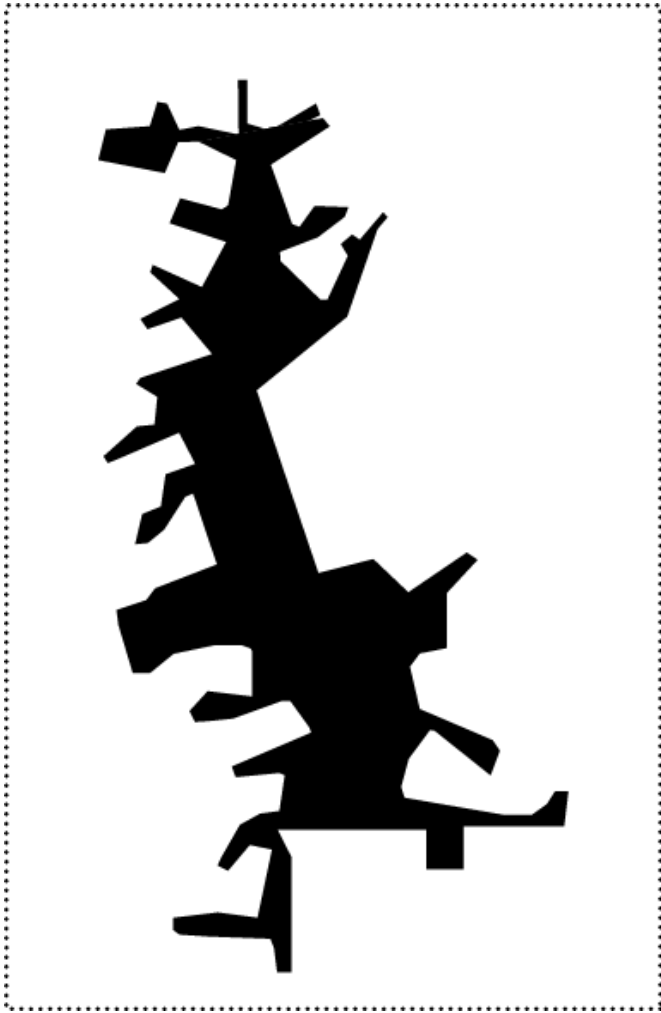
The designer's representation of "reality" - or projection of urban and natural conditions



Creating and preparing the stage for constructing relations



Ullerødbyen: Landscapes and structure plan. By SLA (DAL's Competition Secretariat (ed.), 2003, pp. 6-7



Ullerødbyen. Unbuilt (left). Built (middle). Contact surface (right). The meeting between built and unbuilt dictates the design and dynamic of the proposed plan for Ullerødbyen. Organisational, the built and the unbuilt are equalised; the built and the unbuilt weave untroubled together and appear as equal design elements. The spatial contrast between open and built, between green and grey, appears to generate the dynamic of the area.

Andersson (2013):

‘What is interesting in this is that it is not a “design manual”. It is a “quality program”. A design manual describes what to do in order to obtain a certain [architectural] expression. [...] My idea of making a quality program is that we care not so much about what it is going to look like. We care about which values you create when you do certain things. So, we would like to control the actions that everyone should do in the area in order to optimize the qualities that everyone would like to have in an area [...]. As such, a program of how to create quality - and not a program for how to make designs’



... and what about landscape urbanism?



Andersson (2013):

*'Focus has been the so-called **landscape urbanism** and many architecture firms have embraced it. What is interesting by landscape urbanism is that it is not interested in design. **It is a method to solve some technical problems.** It identifies that the city has various problems - including pollution - and **nature possesses a way** to handle this problem. Therefore, extremely many landscape urbanism projects are about how to get plant material into the city. Here, it is the idea **to regenerate the city** in a more positive and better way [...] We formulate **process urbanism** in opposition to **landscape urbanism** because we are now starting to take an interest in design [...] We realize that while doing landscape urbanism or organic planning or whatever name you use, then **it is essential to have a design profile** [...] Process urbanism is about how to **design processes** and how to consciously work towards an expression that can **generate a new value** in the city. On the one hand a **utility value** (that is landscape urbanism) on the other hand an **amenity value**. This amenity is not accidental - it should be designed. So, **process urbanism is about adding value and provide amenity.** Here, amenity is to be understood as both something that "we" think is great when we walk around in the city and **enriches** us in **our daily lives**, and something that enriches the people, who have a financial interest in the area.'*

'Bellinge Fælled will be Odense's new sustainable area. Here people, community, environment, nature, and the good life meet. Bellinge Fælled is a community that has sustainability as a common denominator [...] Together, Odense Municipality, future residents, and stakeholders, who are passionate about sustainability test how we can develop an area that considers both the environment and ourselves'

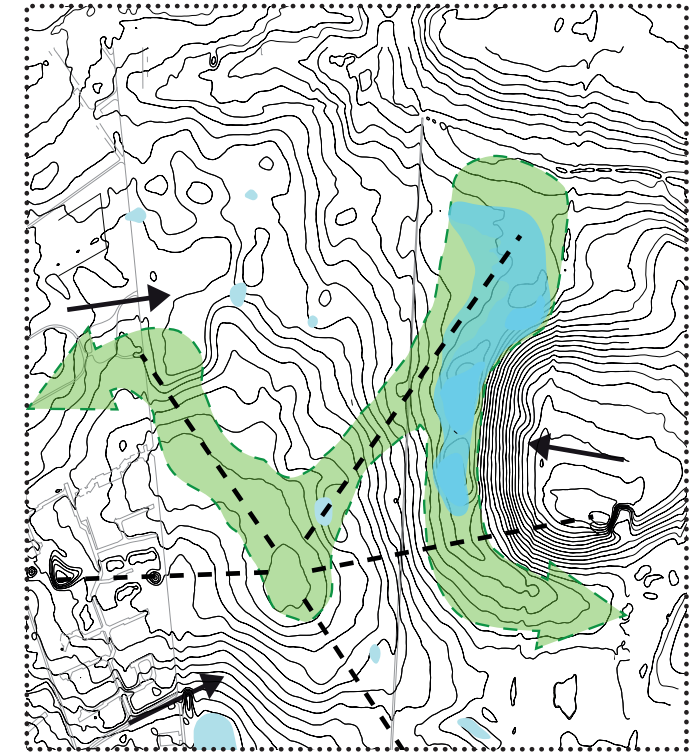
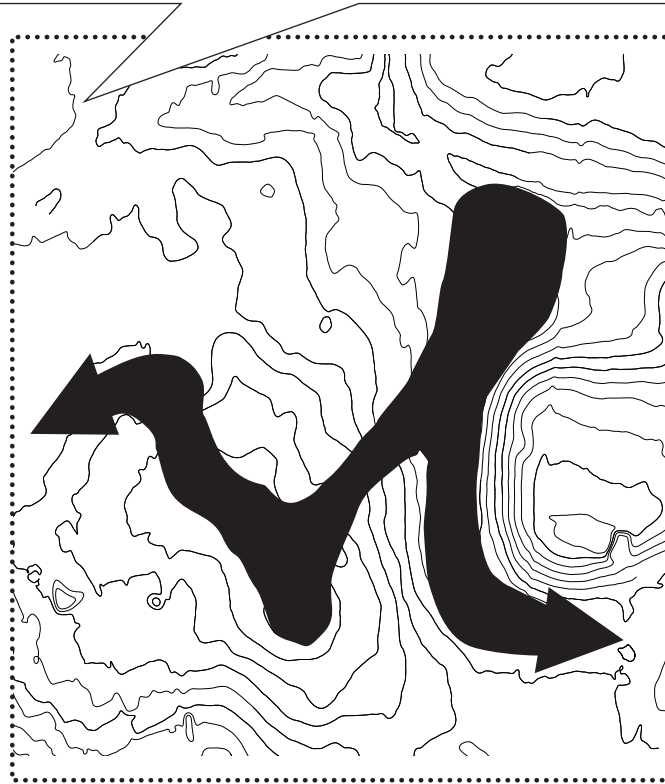


Bellinge Fælled structure plan by Schønherr a/s. In Odense Kommune & Schønherr a/s (2010, p. 9)

Bæredygtig B
Plan 1:1000 p
November 20
Schønherr

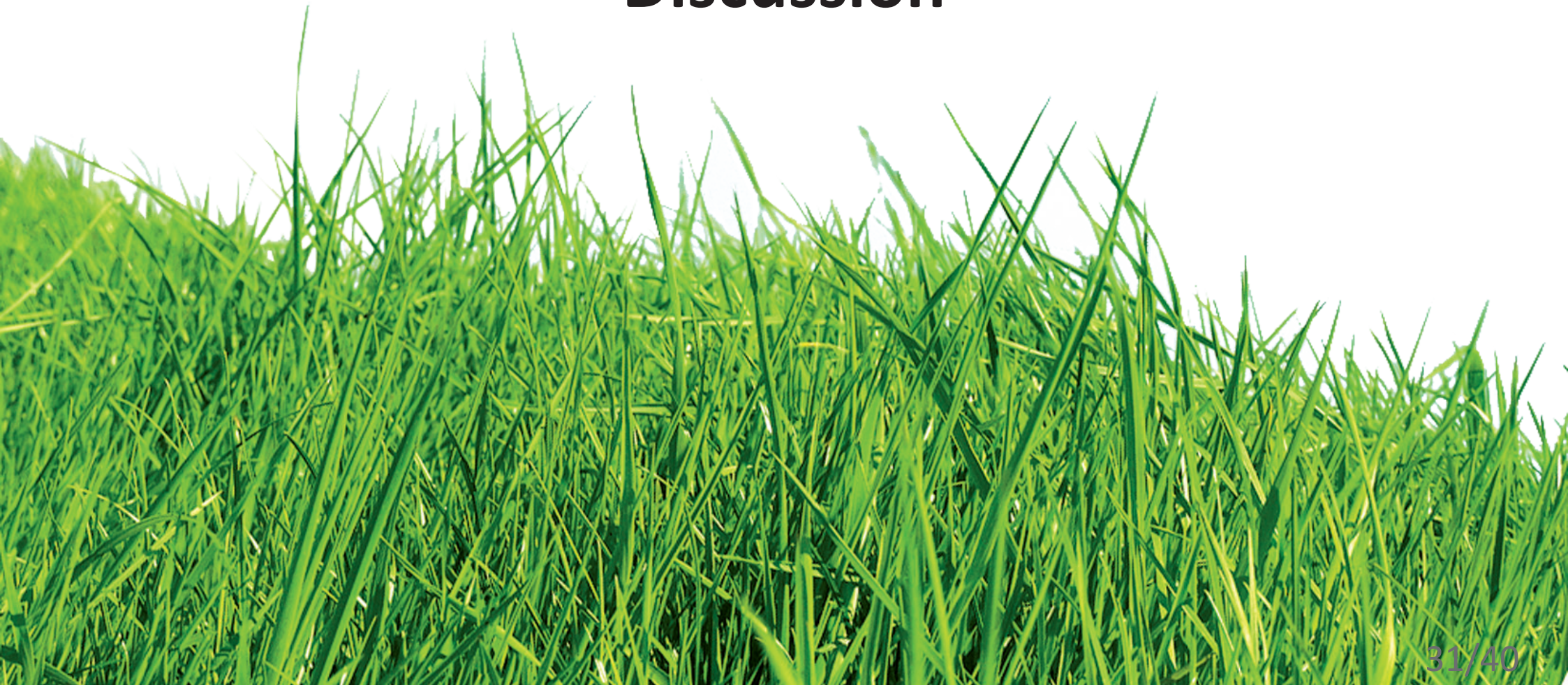
Jensen (2013):

*'[The entire plan] is so dependent on the landscape.
The landscape has imposed the structure [...]*

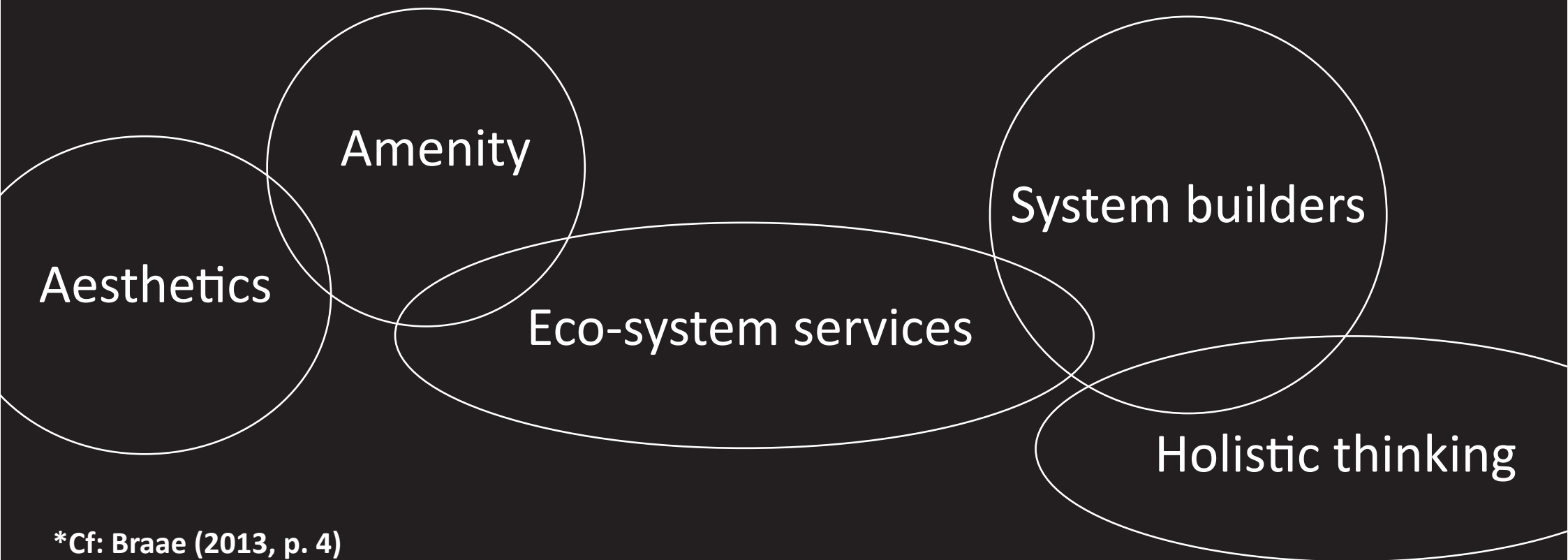


Bellinge Fælled. Built vs. unbuilt (left). Terrain dynamic (middle). The unbuilt and the terrain define the overall structure of the plan. The green/blue areas, rises and hollows, draw the visual profile of the area (right).

Discussion



*Form, process, and practice**

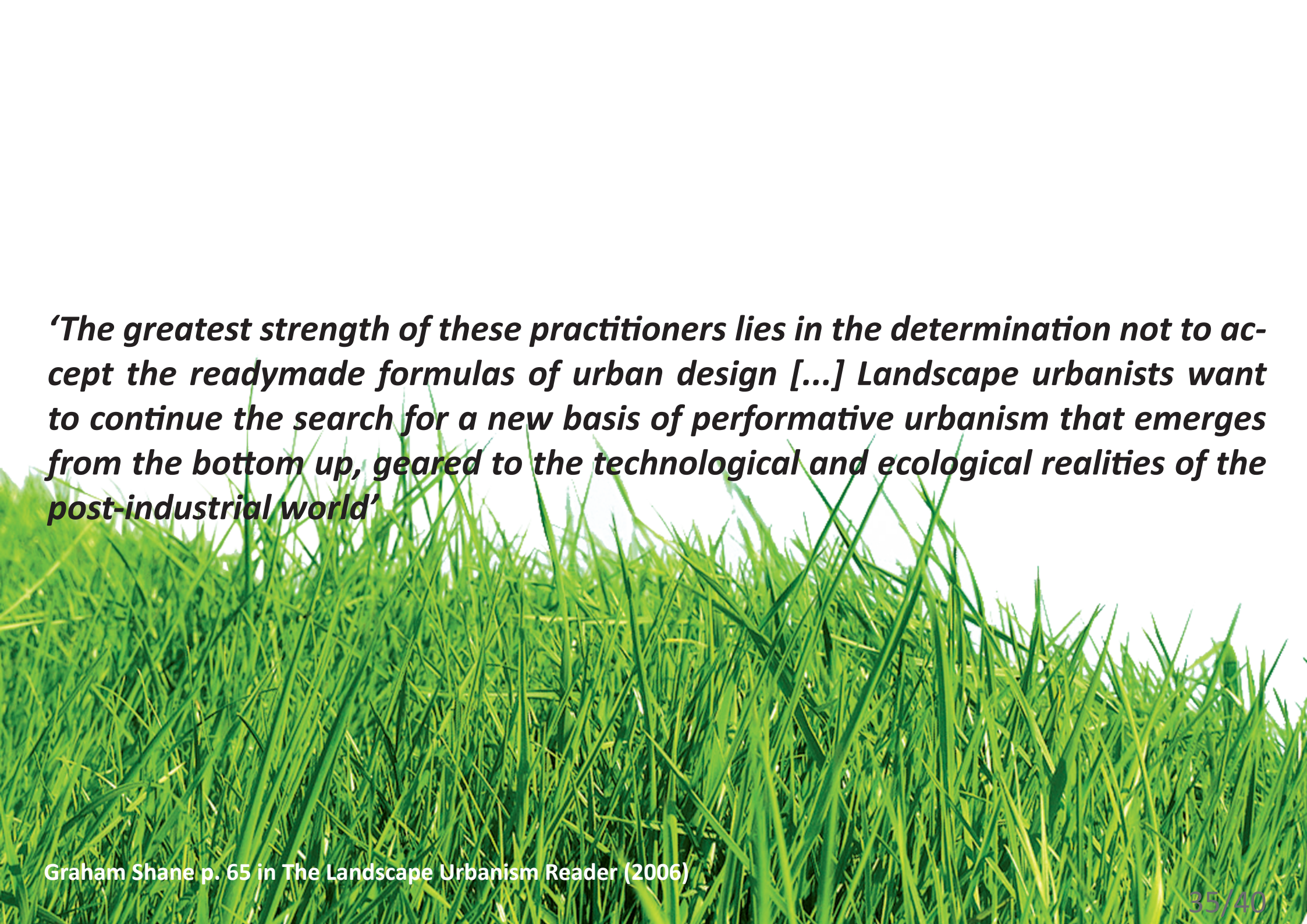


*Cf: Braae (2013, p. 4)

“Landscape urbanism – as a set of ideas and frameworks – lays new ground for design and urbanistic practices: performance-based, research-oriented, logistics-focused, networked. Here, the design practitioner is re-cast as urbanistic system-builder, whose interests now encompass the research, framing, design, and implementation of expansive new public works and civic infrastructures”.

“Good practice”, open space networks, and amenity values



A close-up photograph of a field of tall, vibrant green grass. The blades are long and thin, with some showing signs of being cut or broken. The background is a bright, clear sky, suggesting a sunny day. The overall tone is fresh and natural.

‘The greatest strength of these practitioners lies in the determination not to accept the readymade formulas of urban design [...] Landscape urbanists want to continue the search for a new basis of performative urbanism that emerges from the bottom up, geared to the technological and ecological realities of the post-industrial world’

Good intentions
VS.
THE REALITY



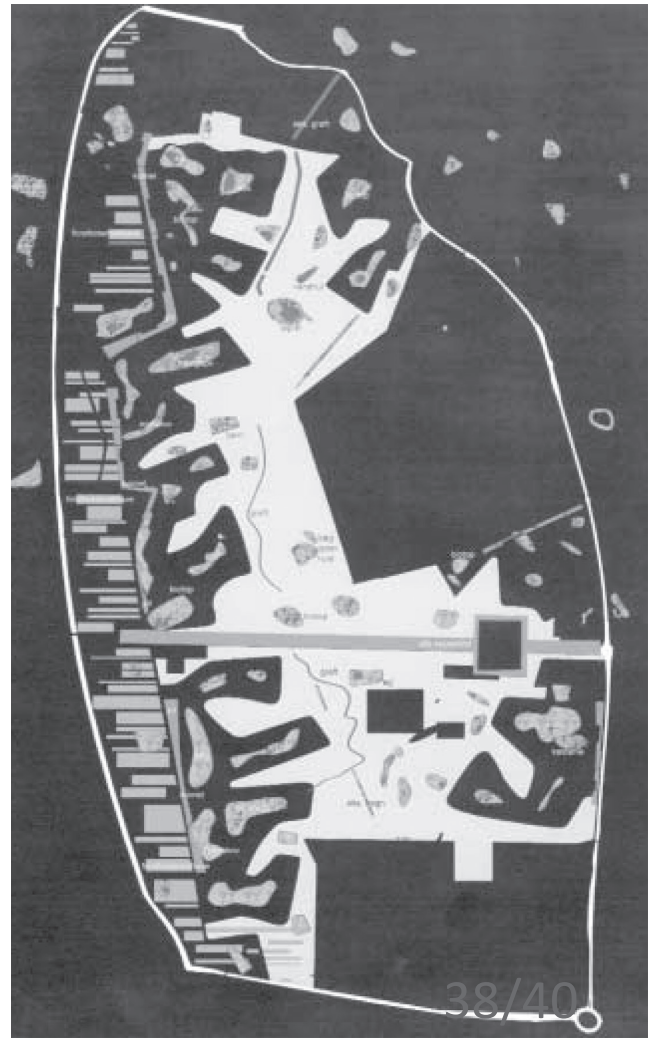
En bæredygtig bydel

'Maybe only 15 percent knows what [sustainability] means. For sure, more than 15 percent uses it all the time! [...] There are a lot of people using a term they do not know what means [...] Today, there is another word that we could have written into process urbanism [...], resilience [...], it actually covers what we are trying to describe in the terminology of flexibility and robustness [...] Sustainability, it means that you are struggling to keep something in a particular state, and that is exactly the opposite of what we are looking for. As you can see, we have a problem when we have to tell the client that we can not be sustainable when most developers believe, it is the way to save the world'.

Andersson (2013. personal communication)

Bellinge Fælled will be Odense's new sustainable area. Here people, community, environment, nature, and the good life meet. Bellinge Fælled is a community that has sustainability as a common denominator [...] Together, Odense Municipality, future residents, and stakeholders, who are passionate about sustainability, test how we can develop an area that considers both the environment and ourselves.

From sales/promotional material (Odense Kommune, n.d.)





KVALITETSPROGRAM
ULLERØDBYEN SYD

HILLERØD KOMMUNE

IDÉKATALOG - BEBYGGELSESPRINCIPPER

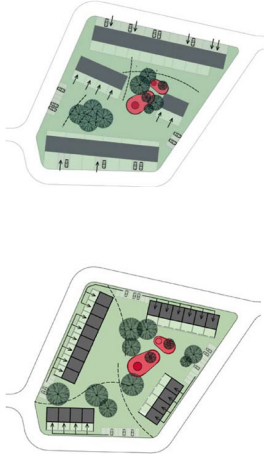
De 4 planer illustrerer forskellige muligheder for at bygge storparcellerne. Afhængigt af placering af boligene dannes mere eller mindre lukkede indre grønne byrum.

Parkering kan afvikles ved den enkelte bolig eller som fællesparkering, hvorfra staniag leder frem til den enkelte bolig.

Bebyggelsen er disponeret med friliggende stokke. Inde mellem stokkene ligger det indre grønne byrum. Boligstokkene er placeret således, at hver bolig er orienteret mod nord-syd. Fællesparkering er placeret i forbindelse med boligvej eller ved boligen. Stier leder gennem det indre grønne byrum og til de baboers, der parkerer ved boligvejen.

Bebyggelsen omslutter delvist det indre grønne byrum og danner passager og kig mellem boligvej og det indre grønne byrum. Parkering er således i grupper ved de åbne passager. Stier leder til de enkelte boliger. Private udrum er orienteret mod syd eller vest - således at en del af boligene har ankomst og udrum orienteret på samme side.

38 KVALITETSPROGRAM



Gennem byrummet løber en vandrende, der ender i en sø. I byrummet er desuden punktvise indgreb af varierende karakter som f.eks. siv, græsser, træstøt og en platform i tøm.



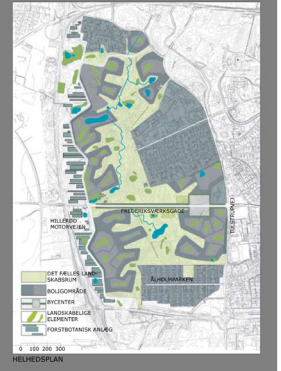
41

Helhedsplan for Ullerødbyen
Ullerødbyen er en sluttet bystruktur med et sammenhængende, fælles landskabsrum, som samtidig orienterer sig mod det store landskab.

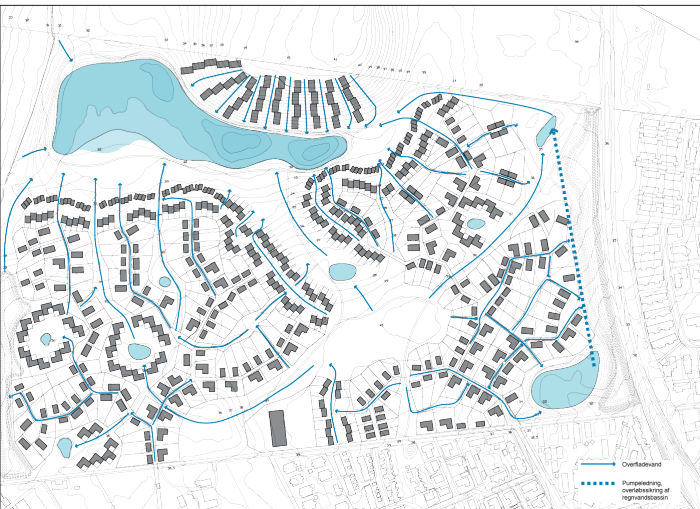
Helhedsplanen har landskab som identitetsgivende udgangspunkt, og intentionen er, at der skabes de bedste rammer for liv, komfort og samvær.

Udformningen af området tager afsæt i landskabet og dets eksisterende værdier og biologiske potentialer. Området præges idag af terrænets form med bakker, kanter, lavninger og søgulliner. Potentialet er landskabets naturområder med søer og moser, beplantninger og græssenge. Disse forhold regulerer placeringen af infrastruktur og bebyggelse.

Samlingspladsen skabes der en infrastruktur, som minimerer biltrafik i området, og der etableres landskabelige elementer med lave pleje- og driftsomkostninger. Samlet set er hensigten at skabe et smukt sluttet område samt give boerne og besøgende både bymæssige bekvemmeligheder og landskabelige oplevelser.



7



Even though landscape urbanists claim to have a holistic perspective, the sub-urban landscape represents a complexity where much is beyond their control and outside their expertise...

