

Open Call - Slow Pavilions

Set out to imagine what a great deceleration of the global system might look, feel, and sound like on a local scale. Design and build a pavilion in the Cultural Quarter of Copenhagen, that will act as a symbol and hub for the first Copenhagen Architecture Biennial.

'Slow Down' – the Copenhagen Architecture Biennial invites emerging spatial practitioners to participate in our Open Call and to contribute to the design and construction of the Pavilions for the forthcoming Copenhagen Architecture Biennial 2025, September 18th to October 19th.

Slow Pavilion is a unique opportunity to create architectural forms that engage the public and explore innovative approaches to sustainable solutions in architecture, at central locations in the heart of Copenhagen Cultural Quarter, at Søren Kierkegaard Plads and Gammel Strand.

Slow Down, the theme of Copenhagen Architecture Biennale 2025, investigates architecture as matters of time and means of slowing down overheated sites, cities, and societies. Cooling in the shadows of the great acceleration—a century of an unprecedented upsurge in population, global GDP, energy use and use of natural resources—we set out to imagine what a great deceleration of the global system might look like, feel like, and sound like.

Get a platform and connections to architects, professionals and experts. Help create awareness, sensual experiences and an access point for architecture enthusiasts, citizens, tourists, and journalists from around the world visiting Copenhagen during Copenhagen Architecture Biennial 2025.

The architecture of the 21st century will be an architecture of the slow. For it's really not about whether we slow down, nor if we need to. It's about how slowness will arrive.

About the Open Call

We are seeking proposals for two pavilions to be located in [the Cultural District](#). One will be installed at Søren Kierkegaard Plads, and one on Gammel Strand (see the attached maps for details). The pavilions must:

- Accommodate public programs and serve as information stands for the Biennial.
- Be sourced and constructed from recycled, regenerative and reusable materials, promoting a circular building approach and aim to be for zero waste.
- Reflect the theme 'Slow Down', both in concept and design.
- Modular and re-assemblable, allowing for transportation and storage, for relocation and reuse in collaboration with other regional Nordic cultural institutions.

Eligibility

- Architects and spatial practitioners (urban, design, landscape, building) from the Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Faroe Islands, Åland Islands)

- Multidisciplinary teams or individual (engineers, artists, designers, scenographers, scientists)
- Emerging spatial practitioners (Students are also eligible)

What do you gain by participating?

- Prize: The two selected projects will each receive a prize of DKK 60,000.
- Active contribution and manifest for critical building transformation and knowledge through applied research and building projects.
- A platform and connection to architects, professionals and experts.
- A chance to create awareness, sensual experiences and an access point for architecture enthusiasts, citizens, tourists, and journalists from around the world visiting Copenhagen during Copenhagen Architecture Biennial 2025
- The opportunity to be a part of Copenhagen Architecture Biennial, present your concept and have your design built in the heart of Copenhagen.
- Exposure by being a part of a comprehensive marketing and communications campaign, including exposure to Danish and international press.

Submission Requirements

- Pavilion dimensions each: Maximum 5×5 meters wide and 5 meters tall, from the ground to the highest point..
- The applicants must submit one proposal for one of the two designated sites (Søren Kierkegaard Plads and Gammel Strand)
- Submit as a PDF (maximum 6 pages A3 plans (portrait), 20 MB) including:
 - A brief text describing concept, material approach and planning/building processes
 - Estimated budget (materials, carpenters etc.) - Copenhagen Architecture Biennial can provide up to DKK 250.000 in financial support for production costs
 - All necessary floor plans, elevations, sections, perspectives 1:50
 - Visual material showing your design. It could be a visual sketch, drawing, collage or photos of a model.

Jury

The project proposals will be evaluated by an acknowledged jury:

Lars Autrup (Danish Association of Architects), Chrissie Muhr (Experimental Foundation), Anders Lendager (Lendager), Amy Frearson (Dezeen) and Ida Willadsen Bang Kjeldsen (CAFx)

Timeline

- January 30, 2025: Open Call launches.
- April 22, 2025 (midnight CET): Submission deadline.
- April 28, 2025: Jury preview of proposals.
- May 19, 2025: Jury selection
- June 6, 2025: Notification of the two winners.
- May–August 2025: Pavilion development and planning.
- September 2025: Pavilion construction at Gammel Strand and Søren Kierkegaard Plads, opening on September 18.
- Late November 2025: Pavilions are dismantled and relocated for future reuse.

Key Criteria

- The structures must deliver a static and operation concept accounting for strong wind conditions and be designed with consideration for visitor safety, logistics, daily operations, and accessibility for the disabled. The pavilion must comply with standard safety regulations BR18 - <https://www.bygningsreglementet.dk>, including requirements for accessibility.
- Sustainability and resource-conscious design - get inspiration from our material insight partner Revalu.
- The pavilions should integrate with the landscape and architectural context of the two locations.
- The pavilions must be able to be constructed at the site in 4 days and dismantled in 4 days.
- The pavilions must be removable without leaving any permanent traces on the site. Excavation or the establishment of permanent foundations is not permitted unless otherwise agreed with the landowner. Existing surfaces, vegetation, furnishings, and other features must not be damaged or removed without prior agreement.

Initially, the selected teams behind the pavilions will be responsible for the construction. However, as part of the overall pavilion project, it will be possible to get support for regulatory approvals and dialogue with the municipality, landowners, and engineers, contact with potential funding partners and workshop access, as well as guidance and coordination of activities during the exhibition period.

Be aware that the construction of the pavilions might be modified to comply with municipal guidelines/regulations.

Let your ideas come to life at the Copenhagen Architecture Biennial 2025.

For more information, visit our website cafx.dk.

Thanks to Dreyers Fond