

A photograph of a snowy street scene in a European city. In the foreground, a person is riding a bicycle across a snow-covered bridge. To the left, a large red and white boat is docked. The background features a row of colorful, multi-story buildings with many windows. A black lamppost is visible on the far left. The sky is overcast and snowy.

COMMUN The City Link

Discovering a Public Space on a Cycling Bridge

<http://competitions.uni.xyz>



Img_1: Streets for humans ?

Premise

Civilizations were made when **humans were able to mobilize large distances**. Fast-forwarding this to the current era, where science and technology have spread immensely, mobility and transportation are now easier than ever. The places we live in are becoming larger in scale every day and to mobilize people, transportation had to evolve with it.

Cities began to be reshaped more harshly to serve the growing need of vehicles, **urban planning of cities were dominated by transport centric designs**. Consequently leaving no space for the pedestrians and cyclists, where **human activities took place majorly**, at a much slower pace.

On the contrary, some places that did not want cars to define their city streets and brought a permanent change.



Img_2: A view of Amsterdam

Build up

Cities like **Copenhagen** (Denmark), **Amsterdam**, **Utrecht** (Netherlands), have changed this norm altogether, by adapting the model of bicycling as primary means of transport and establishing a culture that has survived for more than 50 years. They have ingrained **cycling as a habit** among its residents, where people of all age and class ride a bicycle to work, school, college.

Cycling is now a symbol of many things and its benefits are not limited to health and the environment. It has helped in building a society that promotes social equality, freedom and had [revolutionized women empowerment](#) in the 18th Century.

The number of cyclists in these cities is growing, and to support this, urban planners have been building cyclist bridges and routes, to develop physical cycling infrastructure all over the country.

While there are cities like these making a change, where do we stand?



Img_3: Cyclist moving at a pace faster than....

Issue

When tourists, migrants, International students get an opportunity to visit or stay in cities like **Copenhagen** and others, they witness the **cycling culture**. This experience is unmatched and entirely different from what they have seen all their lives.

As we strive towards modes of transportation that increase the ease and speed of travel, we continuously look for better options. In such a scenario, where change is perpetual, we have to switch to greener choices i.e. **bicycles**, which are a symbol of moving towards a sustainable city.

To trickle the culture of cycling all around the world, more than just urban infrastructure is needed. A facility that enhances the experience of tourists/ visitors and students altogether can intrigue them to take something back with them.

How do we attain this?



Img_4: LightPathAKL, Auckland, New Zealand.

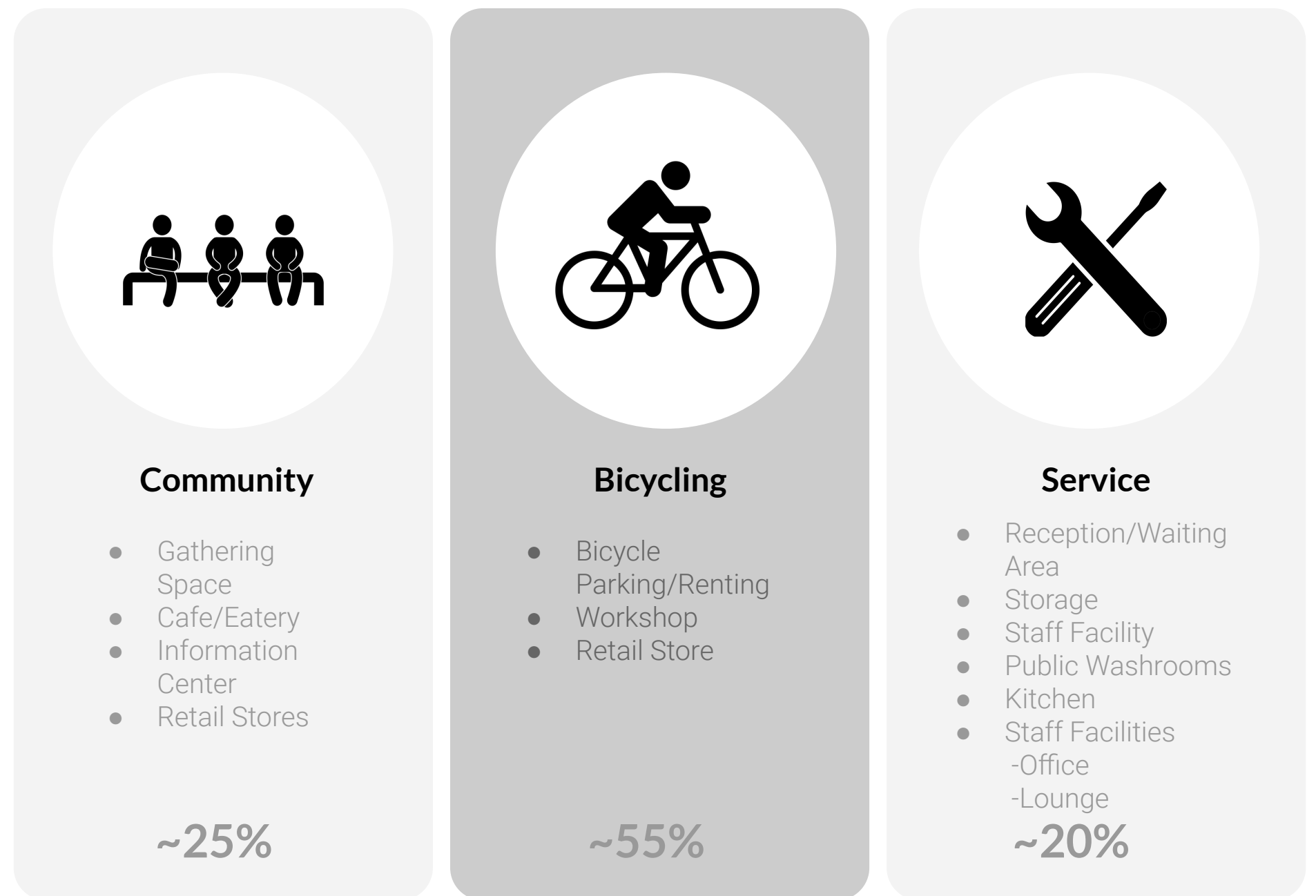
Brief

To be able to live in cities with an atmosphere that is dense and getting polluted, the shift to sustainable options in all fronts is a necessity. Adapting from cities with prevailing a bike culture, can give a unique experience for the visitors that promotes cycling worldwide. It can be a starting point for tourism and exploration within the city and inculcate the habit of cycling that they can continue back home.

Brief: The challenge here is to design a bridge for pedestrian and cycling that is not limited in its absolute function. It must utilize the bridge as a powerful public space as well as a pioneer for tourists or first-time cyclists to explore the city.

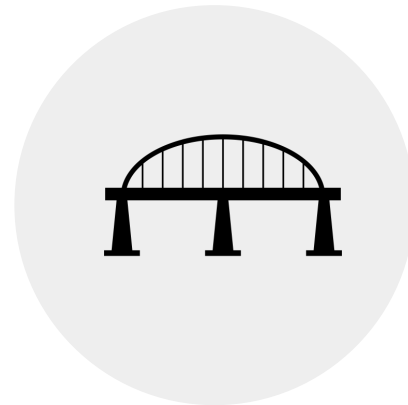
A bridge that usually serves a single purpose of cutting the travel time between two destinations can be explored for more. In urban areas that are already condensed with built structures, a functional bridge can be a turning point in shaping architectural experiments.

Programmatic Outline



The programme of the **City Link Bridge** must include the above. However, the participants are free to add other programmatic facilities depending on their design.

Objectives



Functional

Project must be functional as a bridge to be used for pedestrians and cyclists



Blend

Programmatic requirements and the purpose of mobility must be fulfilled



Iconic

Structure must be iconic and monumental for the residents of copenhagen



Public Space

Structure must act as a vibrant public space for the commuters and visitors

The following objectives can be a point of beginning to conceive this design.

The idea of this challenge rests on discovering breakthrough design concepts for a “**functional bridge**” that accommodates a public space within it. This also includes finding innovative forms and structural concepts that can furnish such a design programme.

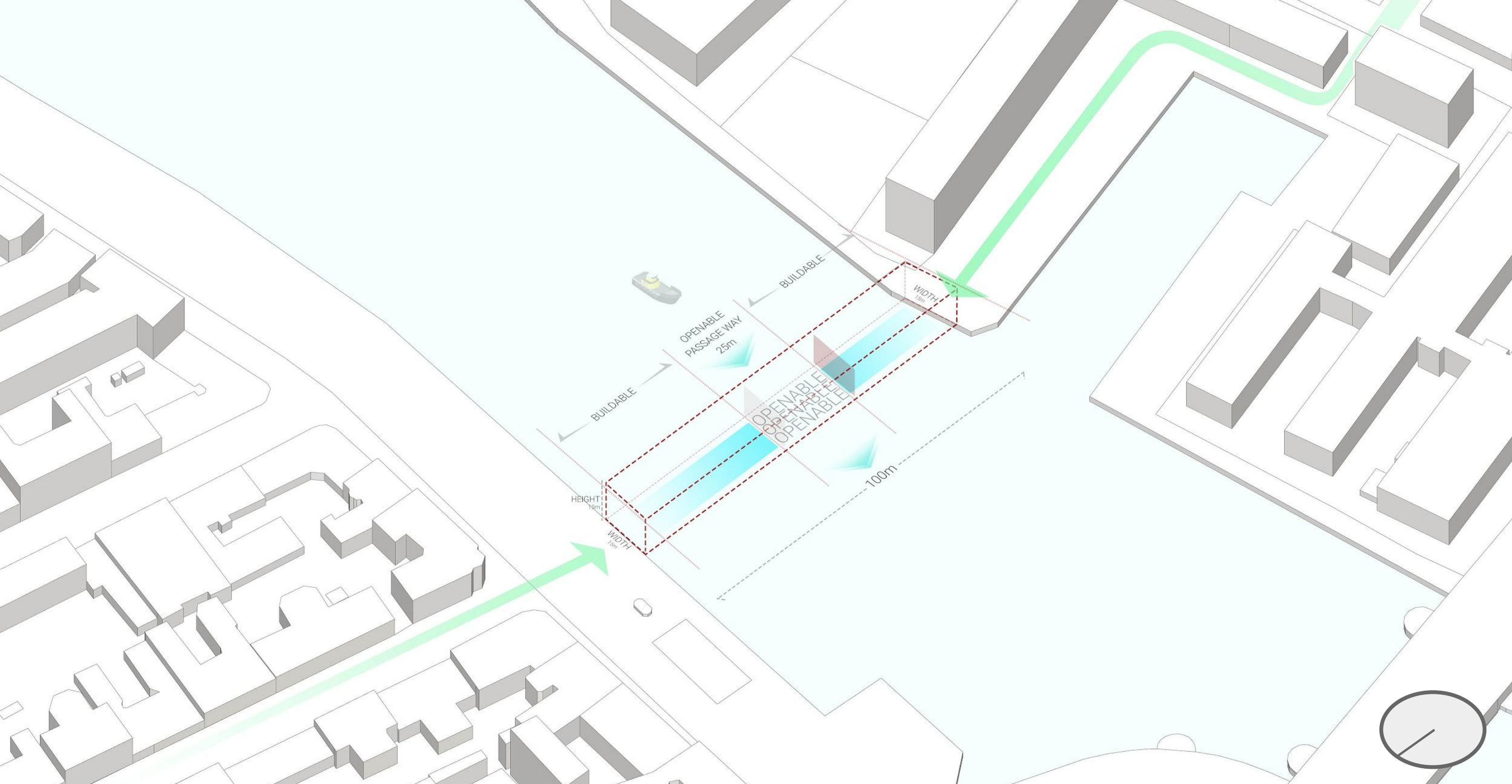
This design challenge does not require technical/structural detailing or calculations of the bridge.



Img 5: People using bicycles around the city of Copenhagen.

Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Denmark's capital, sits on the coastal islands of Zealand and Amager. It was originally a viking fishing village established in 10th Century. The city is known to be one of the most sustainable cities in the world, efficiently working towards climate change through its transportation & town planning. After the oil crisis in 1973 and increased number of road accidents due to motor vehicles, Danish population cumulatively promoted and demanded the use of **Bicycles** and have been using it ever since. Establishing a **100 years** long bicycling culture across the city which was **actively supported by government and urban planners** of the city.

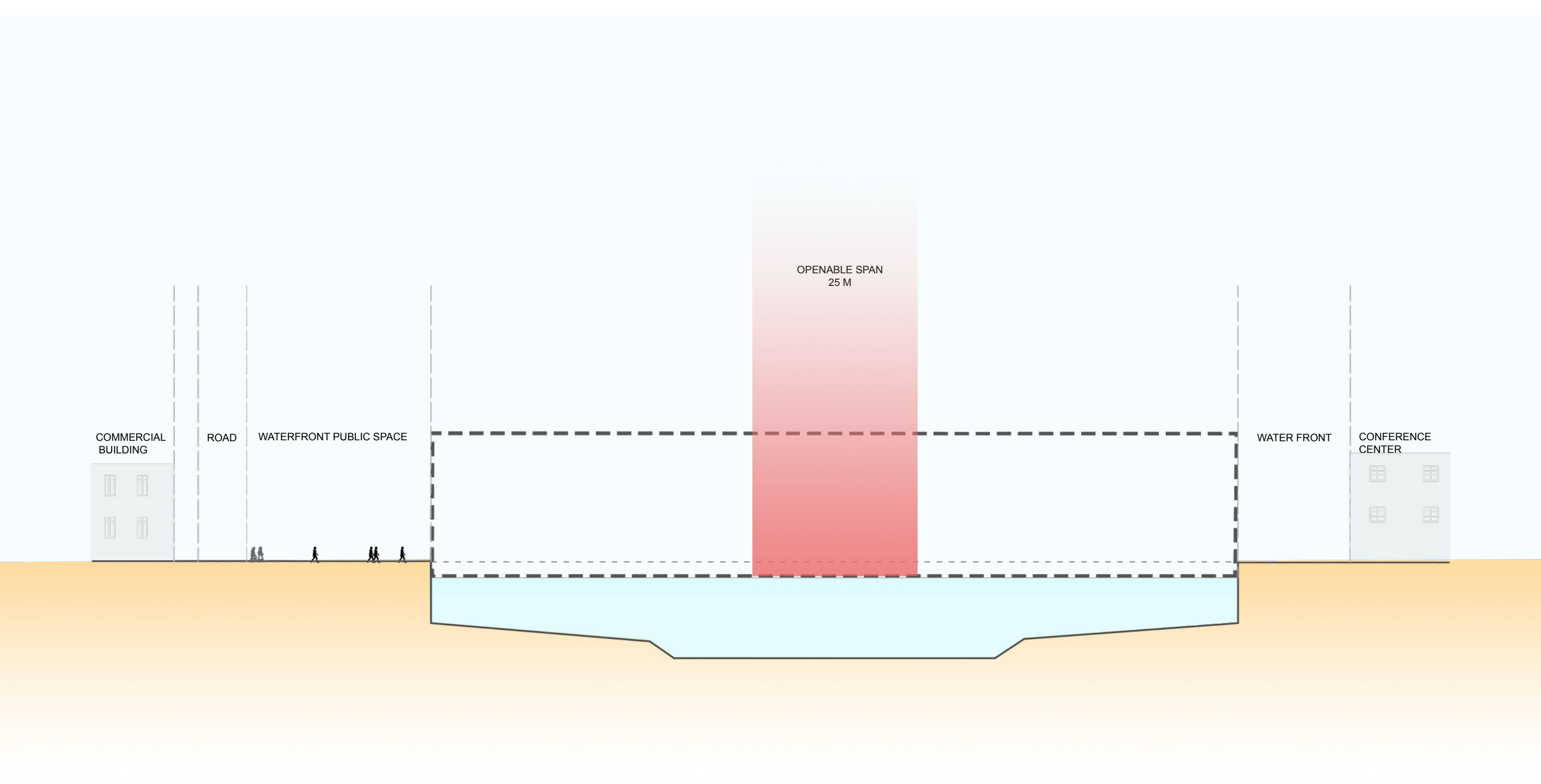


Img.6: Isometric site view and buildable area.

Site Location

The location for the Bridge is chosen across the Port of Copenhagen in **Denmark**, approximately 100 m in length and in close proximity to the Knipples Bridge. With rich public spaces and community centers across both the sides of the site makes the location appropriate for enhancing public life with a unique architectural intervention. The marked range would be the volume of intervention for fulfilling programmatic requirements and the central portion of minimum 25 m must be openable, to allow passage of ships, boats etc.

Area: 1500 m²
 Height Limit : 15 m
 Site Coordinates: [55°40'31.9"N 12°35'22.8"E](#)
 Openable Passageway Width : 25 m



Img 7: Schematic Site Section

Site Location

The “**The City Link**” is an attempt for an architectural experiment that has never been seen before. However, the intervention for this structure is restricted to approximately 37.7 m from both the ends. This is done to enable a passageway for boats, ships etc making it openable. Technical details associated with the functioning of the opening mechanism are not under the scope of this competition. The type of openable design used is subjective to each participant’s design entry and has no restrictions. The section above shows the buildable span of the bridge to be measured from both ends of the canal and the functional representation of the streetscape along the waterfront.

Submission

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

- A maximum of 4 boards / sheets. – [**2362px x 3544px**] or [**400mm x 600mm in 150 dpi**] in portrait digital format (JPEG).
- Each image should be less than **15MB**
- You can find the preset PSD, AI and INDD template files in the 'additional resources folder' and [here](#)

This additional resources folder contains: FAQ Questions, High Res maps, and CAD file of the site plan.

Minimum requisites in the sheets are 3 sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

- Site plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 4
- Cover image/Thumbnail of size 2000 x 1000 px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
- Floor plans, images, sketches (if any) can be added to support the entry in the form of additional images.
- Answer 6 FAQ questions in the discussion section as given on the 'additional resources folder'.

-
- + The team limit for this competition is 4 members maximum.
 - + Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.
 - + Ensure that the final sheets which are submitted do not include your name or any other mark of identification.
 - + Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.
 - + This is a design ideas challenge only. There is no built commission/realization is associated with the problem
 - + Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.

Registration page here: <https://competitions.uni.xyz/the-city-link>

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines here: [Schedule](#)

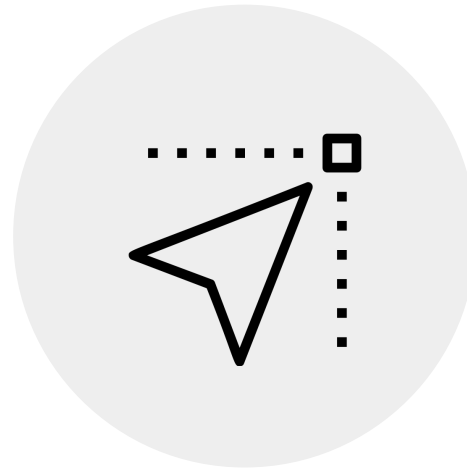
Rewards



Grants of up to a total of **15,000\$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page [here](#).

Judging Criteria

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criteria:



Presentation

The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



Concept/Idea

Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



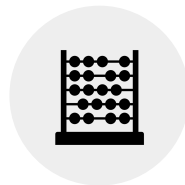
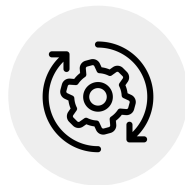
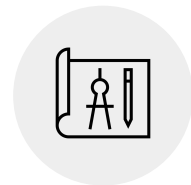
Spaces/Programme

How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



Design Output

The final architectural outcome of the solution.



The judging panel can also add other criteria based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criteria first in their design.

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About COMMUN

Commun serves as a unit block for **UNI** in the field of Urban Design. It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation and conceptual exchange of ideas in **urbanism, society, culture and ecology**. It is a research initiative dedicated to provide opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the boundaries of the discipline and enrich our built environment holistically; thereby opening up possibilities for promotion of urban design thought at a global level.

Queries: support@uni.xyz

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COMMU The City Link

A landmark that
inspires the world to
choose cycling.



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