

# 134

EXIT UTOPIA



BIG U

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### BIG U

De fleste danske kystbyer ligger enten under eller lige over det nuværende havniveau. Ekstreme regnfald og kommende havvandsstigninger er i dag en af velfærdsstatens store udfordringer. Forestillingen om den danske velfærdsmodel som et perfekt komponeret SimCity spil med 'disasters turned off' er ikke længere holdbar. Problemet udfordrer den klassiske planlægning, fordi truslen er meget svær at forudse.

BIG U er et eksempel på en modreaktion. En fortsat fremtidsoptimisme, der forsøger at tænke bæredygtighed og klimatilpasning sammen med mulige goder. Hvis BIG U realiseres, vil projektet beskytte Manhattan mod fremtidige klimakatastrofer og samtidig give metropolen en ny og bedre infrastruktur for fodgængere og cyklister. Klimatilpasning som kvarterløftsstrategi.

### THE BIG U

*Most of the main Danish cities are coastal, and much of Denmark's capital lies just above the current sea level. Extreme downpours and rising sea levels are some of the main challenges to the welfare state today. Denmark has long been spared natural disaster, but the perception of the Danish welfare model as a perfectly composed SimCity world with 'disasters turned off' is wearing off. Climate changes are looming, posing a very concrete threat to urban infrastructures and the citizens' safety. This threat also challenges classic prognostic planning, because it is vague and hard to predict.*

*The 'BIG U' project is an example of a counter-response. A sustained optimism about the future that addresses sustainability and climate adaptation as potential advantages. The project is BIG's largest so far, and if the plan is fully realized, it promises to protect Manhattan from future disasters like Hurricane Sandy, in addition to giving the metropolis a new hedonist infrastructure. Climate adaptation as urban renewal strategy. A love child of Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses.*

#### ARCHITECT

BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group

#### TYPE

Climate adaptation

#### REALIZATION

Under development

#### LOCATION

New York City, USA

#### CLIENT

US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

#### ENGINEER

Buro Happold, Level Infrastructure, Arcadis

#### LANDSCAPE

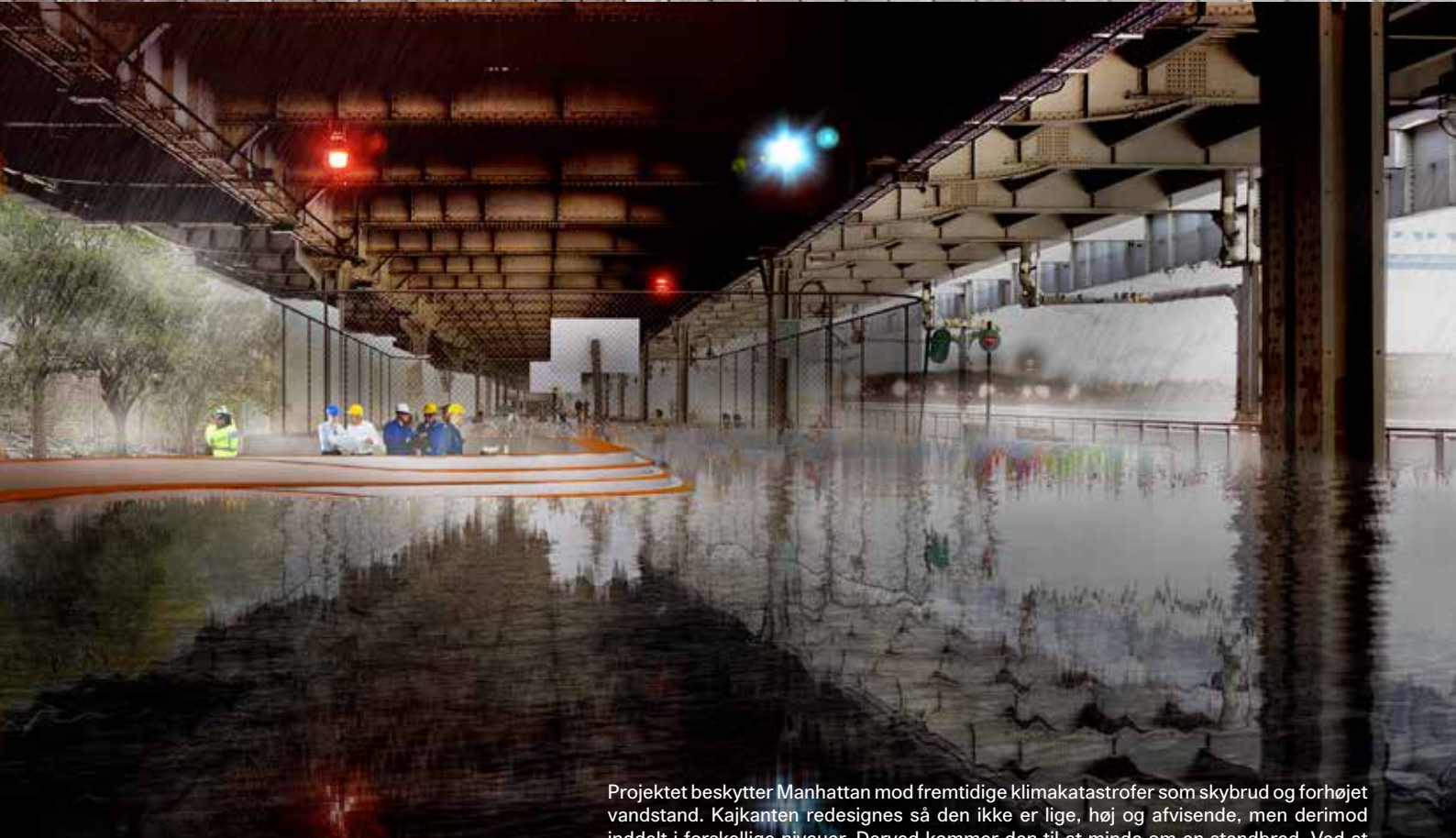
Starr Whitehouse

#### COLLABORATORS

One Architecture, James Lima Planning & Development, Green Shield Ecology, AEA Consulting, Project Projects



BIG U



Projektet beskytter Manhattan mod fremtidige klimakatastrofer som skybrud og forhøjet vandstand. Kajakanten redesignes så den ikke er lige, høj og afvisende, men derimod inddelt i forskellige niveauer. Derved kommer den til at minde om en standbred. Ved at tillade vandet at løbe ind over de lavtliggende områder, undgår man oversvømmelser af byen og kloarksystemet, der ikke er designet til at kunne håndtere de store mængder vand.

**BIG U**