

Islamic Garden

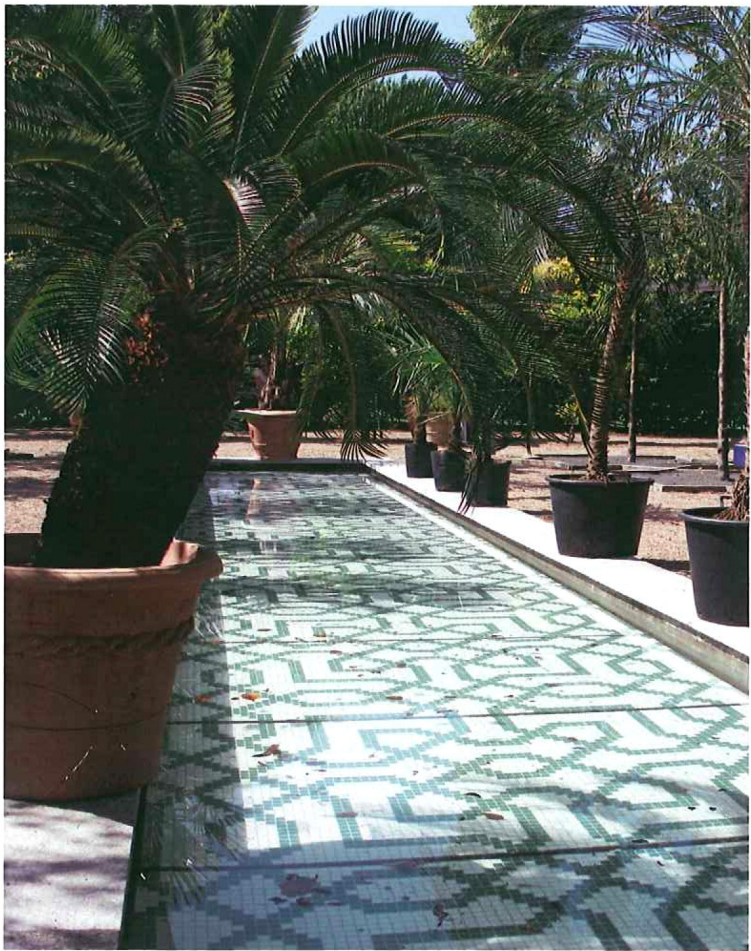
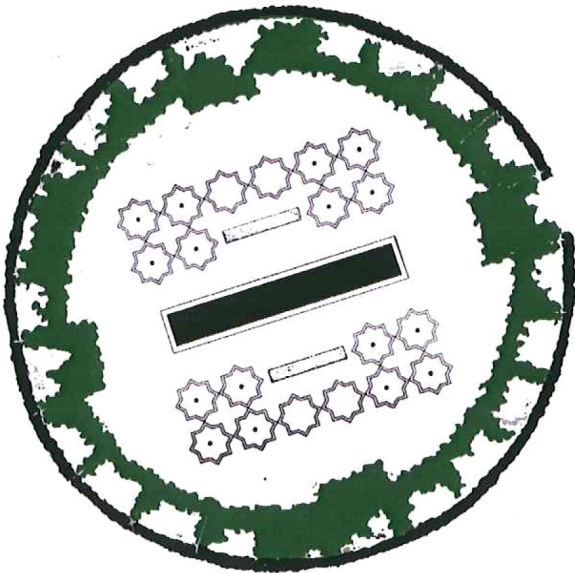
Valbyparken
Copenhagen, Denmark

Architects	Blaestblaest Landscape Architects Copenhagen, Denmark
Clients	Copenhagen Municipality Copenhagen, Denmark
Commission	2004
Design	2004
Construction	2004 - 2009
Occupancy	2004
Site	805 m ²
Ground floor	805 m ²
Total floor	805 m ²
Costs	168,350 USD

Programme The aim behind this project was to provide a public garden which honoured new immigrants and their Islamic traditions. It is a small urban space, set within a larger park, and facilitates a public meeting of Danish and Islamic architecture, as well as people and culture. The design combines traditional elements of Islamic architecture (mosaics, symmetries, shadow hallways arranged around courtyards), with Danish context and materials (pinewood, shrubs, conifers, grasses). Symbolically and practically, this public Islamic garden acts as a binding agent between the two cultures.



THE ISLAMIC GARDEN

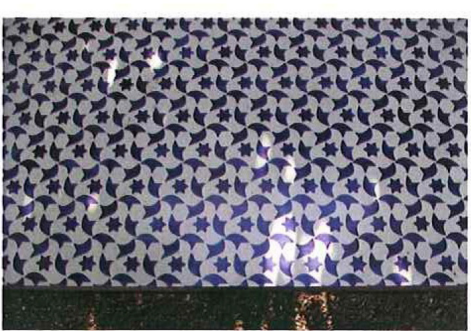
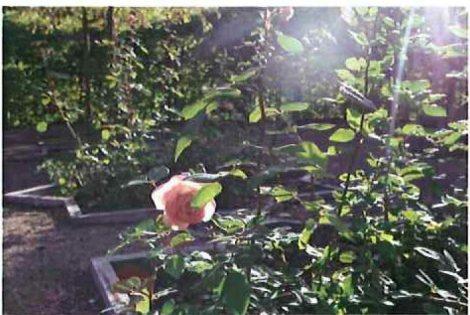


This project was realised by the Municipality of Copenhagen in 2004 with the aim to provide a public garden that would honour the many new immigrants and their Islamic garden traditions. It was meant to be integration of an Islamic tradition of architecture into a Danish (design and park) setting.

A new small urban space was demarcated within the larger park, Valbyparken, in Copenhagen to facilitate a public meeting of Danish and Islamic architecture, as well as people and culture. The plot of the garden was circular in shape, 32 meters wide, a total of 805 m2.

The Danish Landscape Architects MDL Mads Farsø and Juan José Palma-Alvarez won the open competition with a proposal that - as simple as possible - attempted to do an interpretation of an Islamic architecture tradition to the Danish context and materials.

In the design, elements of Islamic architecture such as mosaics, symmetries and shadow hallways around court yards was combined with Islamic gardens traditions such as water basins, plants grown in pots and fruit trees.



The ambition of the architects was to merge a paradise-like wilderness with an elegant order- and peace-oriented architecture. To use common Danish materials and garden elements to provide an experience of common patterns, forms and cultures within Islamic architecture.

The garden is unique in the way that it so far is the only constructed piece of architecture in Denmark, which attempts to translate and bridge elements of Islamic Architecture into a Danish/Nordic design tradition and park context. In the garden traditional Danish materials and plants are used to mimic and articulate a Islamic-inspired culture/language of architecture, form and patterns.