Superkilen Park
Copenhagen, Denmark

How does this park accommodate children and youth?

- Variety of Spaces: The three colour zones support different activities and identities which enables children to navigate the area easily, facilitating their independent mobility.
- Connects the Community: Encourages active transportation and socialization.
- Engaging and Playful Design: The unique play structures provide neighbourhood identity and a sense of whimsy.

The Superkilen project is part of an urban revitalization plan undertaken by the City of Copenhagen in partnership with Realdania, a philanthropic organization. The linear park has made a strong impact on the community by physically connecting a community through a gesture in the public realm. The design focuses on children and youth and included new play equipment such as swings, monkey bars, a boxing ring, slides, punching bags, skateboard ramps and an integrated cycling route running through the site. The project is conceptually divided into three zones:

The Black Market: The market is a modern interpretation of the neighbourhood square and offers an intimate gathering space for the community. Youth are attracted to the multiple amenities that are located away from the main street, including benches and barbecue facilities, backgammon and chess tables, and the Japanese octopus playground. The Black Market is an urban living room for the dense neighbourhood.

The Green Park: The park landscape offers slopes, play areas, picnic areas and sports fields. Its soft green hills appeal to children, youth, and families. The park unites the neighbourhood and celebrates the multicultural diversity of area residents through site elements inspired by their cultures. By interacting with these play elements, children are exposed to the variety of cultures that live in their community.

The Red Square: This zone is designed for team sports and outdoor fitness activities. The square is brightly coloured in red, orange and pink and serves as an extension of the sporting and cultural facilities in Nørrebrohall. A large central space with a variety of gym equipment invites residents to meet for and through physical activity and games.

Superkilen Park is part of a larger redevelopment initiative to support this area that has seen a spike in population growth. Several local elementary schools and child care centres are over-capacity due to its popularity with new families.

• Many objects in the park have been specially imported or based on designs that represent over 60 countries such as swings from Iraq and benches from Brazil.

The community is culturally diverse: 26% of area residents are newcomers. The park’s unique features celebrates this diversity and encourages social interaction.

The Black Market includes a Moroccan fountain which is one symbol of the area’s cultural diversity. More than 20 different ethnic groups are represented in the area.

The Green Park is known for its soft hills and landscape. It is a popular place for children, young people and families to meet for picnics, relax on the green lawn and participate in physical activities.

The Red Square opens up to the local arterial street and connects to transit and services. The park acts as a spine for active transportation.