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## LANDSKAB 6 2018

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# ESBJERG

Annemarie Lund

LANDSKAB 6-2018 rummer historien om en planlagt, relativ ung bys parkpolitik. Da Rigsdagen i 1868 vedtog lov om anlæggelse af en havn ved Esbjerg lå der kun to gårde og tre huse med blot 23 indbyggere i et forblæst hedelandskab. Fra 1890'erne voksede fiskeriet voldsomt, i 1970'erne blev olieudvinding i Nordsøen rentabel og gjorde Esbjerg til center for olieaktiviteter, og de seneste 20 år har vindenergiudvikling og udskibning af vindmøller bidraget til byens udvikling. Først efter Anden Verdenskrig kom der rigtig gang i byens vækst. Arkitekt og professor Steen Eiler Rasmussen fik til opgave at udarbejde en udviklingsplan, og *Esbjerg Dispositionsplan*, fra 1949 blev en meget grøn plan.

Steen Gelsing beskriver dette i de to indledende artikler *Fra barsk og vindblæst nybyggerby til blomstrende grøn energimetropol* og *Esbjergs grønne historie*. Han fortæller, hvordan et af udviklingsplanens mål var at skabe læ og frodighed: 'Der var plads til de brede, lægivende skovbælter og hegn omkring bydelene; der var plads til de store bynære landskabskiler og til nye bydele med rummelige parcelhusgrunde og store fælles grønne friarealer.' Esbjerg har en relativ tæt bykerne omgivet af villakvarterer, etage- og parcelhusområder. Steen Eiler Rasmussen så Esbjerg som en grøn haveby, og foreslog at bevare og udvikle de åbne naturgivne landskabskiler til at adskille bydelene. Fovrfeldkilen blev i planen fastlagt som landskabskile.

I artiklen *De bynære landskabskiler* uddyber Mette Esbjerg Jørgensen og Steen Gelsing den overordnede grønne struktur omfattende fire landskabskiler, en grøn ring og kyststrækningen. Mette Esbjerg Jørgensen, Ulla Lyngs Ladekarl og Mette Lise Ginnerup skriver uddybende om *Helhedsplan for Fovrfeld Ådal*.

I *Niels Bankes grønne Esbjerg* tegnes et kærligt portræt af en passioneret stadsgartner. Dette viser, hvor stor betydning hans virke har haft for byen. Lars Bach og Mette Esbjerg Jørgensen siger, 'at Esbjerg i dag er så grøn og frodig, skyldes i høj grad, at stadsgartner og senere vej- og parkchef Niels Banke tilførte byen store grønne værdier i kraft af sin gartneriske faglighed, nysgerrighed og personlighed. Fynboen Niels Banke kom fra en stilling som landskabsarkitekt i Odense Kommune, og han blev ansat som stadsgartner i Esbjerg Kommune i 1979. Banke tilhører den nye generation af unge stadsgartnere, der sammen med Lars Østerbye i Herning, Per Glad i Odense, Børge Clausen i Aalborg og Søren Bjerregaard i Lyngby-Taarbæk tænkte nyt og anderledes om parkforvaltningen.'

Karen Margrethe Bak fortæller om Esbjergs få traditionelle parker: Byparken anlagt 1884, Vognsbøl-parken anlagt som Vognsbøl Plantage i 1902, I.C. Møllerparken, der er udviklet siden 1995 på et tidligere kirkegårdsområde, samt Remiseparken, som siden 2007 etableres på en gammel remisegrund.

Udviklingen af byens torve, pladser, små opholdssteder og gader beskrives i *Livet i midtbyen*. Steen Gelsing fremhæver, at Esbjerg som følge af sin rationelle plan ikke har 'de små pladser og skæve hjørner, som man ser i mange ældre byer, hvor der er plads til træer, ophold og spontan sammenkomst for gadens beboere.' Derfor indrettes de bredeste sidegader med 'mini'-parker i solsiden, og en helhedsplan og en samlende lokalplan for Esbjerg midtby viser, hvordan midtbyen kan gøres grønnere.

Steen Gelsing og Tine Kierkegaard fortæller i *Betydningen af gadetræer i byen*, at der genplantes ca. 300 nye gadetræer om året og i et varieret artsvalg. Store og flere træer i bybilledet er også vigtige af klimamæssige årsager. Så for at fastholde byens grønne præg plantes gadetræer, hvor det er muligt, også på de få 'skæve' hjørner. Langs hovedindfaldsvejene til Esbjerg by plantes store, markante vejtræer, og hver ottende parkeringsbås i et parkeringsområde skal være tilplantet med træer. Ældre boligområdernes gamle træer bevares, og ved alle nye bolig- og erhvervsudstyknings områder ønskes udlagt brede rabatter, så der er optimal plads til træerne. Niels Bankes *Plant et træ i forhaven*-kampagne gav træer i private haver; også de bevares.

Alt i alt dokumenteres en væsentlig og betydende parkpolitik, der har affødt store, åbne landskabskiler, brede hegn, robuste læplantninger, rummelige parker, utallige gadetræer, solrige 'mini'-parker i små sidegader og karaktergivende træer i forhaven, hvilket tilsammen beriger og gør Esbjerg forbilledlig. *AL*

# SUMMARY

*From a harsh and windswept pioneer town to prosperous green-energy metropolis, p. 158*

**Steen Gelsing**

This year Esbjerg is celebrating the fact that 150 years ago the establishment of Esbjerg Harbor started, and with that the city of Esbjerg. From a few windblown fisherman cottages on the edge of the Jutland Wadden Sea, Esbjerg has grown to now be Denmark's fifth largest city.

As one of the country's youngest cities, there exists photo documentation of the city's entire development, from the wind-swept heath landscape to a prosperous and very green major city with large green and lush suburban recreational landscapes. All this due to a special tenacious Western Jutland spirit and outlook among the city's citizens, planners and politicians. From the very beginning they have known how they wanted the city to develop. Quite rapidly a number of goals were established with a number of strong and reliable development plans, and these have been loyally followed.

One of the first great and very visible goals was to create shelter from the wind and a great degree of fertility. Because Esbjerg started on an open field, there has been space to realize this goal. There was room for the protective forest belts and hedgerows around the city quarters; there was room for the large suburban landscape wedges and the new urban quarters with spacious home plots and large common green recreational areas.

There has also been a degree of patience in waiting for the more delicate urban spaces and parks, until the large sheltering fringes had grown up. This has probably given the former visitors the impression that Esbjerg was not really with it in terms of the newest tendencies in urban and landscape design.

Now the fringes and the climate are such that one can implement the more delicate solutions, and at present Esbjerg is experiencing a rapid development as an energy metropolis, where new and tall buildings are going up, and where care is being given to detailing of the streets, squares and the city's green areas.

*Esbjerg's green history, p. 160*

**Steen Gelsing**

Today, Esbjerg is the West coast's main city. On the other hand, if one visited Esbjerg in 1867, it consisted of two farms and three houses, and there were 23 inhabitants. Esbjerg was just a group of buildings in Jerne Parish.

Development didn't really commence until Parliament passed the legislation for the establishment of a harbor at Esbjerg on April 24, 1868. From the 1890's and the following many years the fishing trade saw an

intense growth, and around 1970 there were more than 600 fishing boats based in Esbjerg.

At the end of the 1960's, the search for oil in the North Sea gave results, and with the energy crisis in 1973, extraction became profitable. This whirled Esbjerg into an off-shore adventure, which resulted in the city becoming Denmark's first and only center for oil activities. During the last 20 years, oil has been supplemented with wind energy, and today Esbjerg is Denmark's absolute energy metropolis. The shipping of wind turbines not only affects the harbor area, but also the highways and traffic circles in and around the city and the harbor.

After World War II, things really got going in Esbjerg. The city council thus saw a great development potential for Esbjerg as a major city, and thus the need to produce a master plan for Esbjerg as an instrument to control the future growth. It was architect and professor Steen Eiler Rasmussen, who was commissioned to draw up this development plan, and in 1949 the Esbjerg Master Plan was finished. The plan is an extremely green plan, and Steen Eiler Rasmussen noted that: "Overall in Esbjerg efforts are being made to give the population green areas, efforts which must form the basis for the dispositions in the comprehensive plan".

In 1949, Esbjerg was characterized, as it also is today, by a very dense urban core lacking many green measures and a very large suburban area consisting of villas and public housing apartments near the city center - and in recent years large single-family home areas in the surrounding suburbs.

Steen Eiler Rasmussen envisioned Esbjerg's future green image as a garden city, as well as the need to bring nature into the city to give the citizens a differentiated nature experience with large green areas. His proposal was that Esbjerg should preserve and develop the large natural landscape wedges, which separate the different quarters of the city as urban recreational green areas. Regular city parks were not part of his plans, and thus Esbjerg has only a few traditional park areas today.

The plan resulted in, what today is known as the Fovrfeldkilen wedge, which was established as a neighborhood-dividing recreational space, and that in the future one should aim at creating similar green wedges as the city developed.

Steen Eiler Rasmussen also designed a plan for Esbjerg's future approach roads, which he proposed should lie as wide roads bordered by plants or windbreaks to again reinforce the image as a green city.

This master plan, by and large, has been followed, and during the 1950's, 60's and 70's

the green wedges, green rings and the wide green approach roads were established, which today are so characteristic of Esbjerg, and result in the fact that everyone in Esbjerg has no more than a 10 minute walk or bicycle ride out into the green landscape.

When city gardener Niels Banke came to the city in 1979, one of his greatest areas of effort was to continue work on the master plan's basic ideas. And especially to reinforce the city's green areas by activating a massive planting scheme with windbreak belts and afforestation, so the urban climate became strongly improved and much less wind-swept. Esbjerg's green, but very open image was thus over a few years endowed with a massive, sheltering lushness, which made the city's suburban recreational wedges and housing areas much more attractive to live in.

In order to ensure the development of the green structure and the green areas, in 1998 the first completely green plan for Esbjerg, The Green Sector Plan 1998-20?? was produced and politically adopted. There were so many new features in the plan, that no one dared set a completion date and thus the 20??. The Green Sector Plan, up until the municipal mergers, formed the basis for the character of the deployment of the green areas in the municipal and local planning and the building permission approvals. The Green Sector Plan was the first completely green plan for Esbjerg. It was here that the green structure was defined with housing and nearby recreational areas, neighborhood and city quarter parks and suburban nature areas. Almost all of the plan's new initiatives have been realized today.

In 2009 a new nature and park legislation was passed that included the new large municipality, and which contained both park, nature and landscape themes from the former municipalities and from the county. The plan was produced in collaboration with Thing & Wainø landskabsarkitekter ApS.

In recent years it is thus the functional content of these now lush green areas that is being addressed. The city's citizens have wishes and demands to do things, and have experiences in the city's green areas.

This places new demands on the green wedges' robustness and content, and it is this need that is one of the main areas of effort for Vej & Parks' landscape architects.

In conclusion, Esbjerg has now become a city, where the need for shelter, nature areas and greater activity opportunities is supplemented by a demand for places with peacefulness for reflection and quiet pauses, and where the desire for a lush beauty as a more park-like scheme with perennials, rose and fruit gardens.

**Pete Avondoglio**