Move the Neighborhood is a practice led research project exploring design collaboration with children through designing and building urban installations for a public green space together. Our aim was to investigate how we can bring the field of design methods and design thinking into the 5th grade classroom and how this in turn could influence community development. These questions also led to a reflection on how to balance our double role as both facilitators of a co-design process and as researchers exploring design collaborations.

The project crisscrossed between design disciplines, didactics and community engagement. We collaborated with 30 5th grade pupils through classic design methods such as mapping, site analysis, collage making, model building, and fieldtrips as a way to shape ideas for what the public space could become. The process also helped form a common language around design and especially about public space. Thus, notions of publicness and community had significant pedagogic roles in the process. We negotiated and merged design ideas into three urban installations that we built on site in a collaboration between children, design researchers and carpenters. The on-site activities and the completed installations rendered children visible in the neighborhood and eventually influences how the space was perceived and managed by both the community and the municipality.
In this paper and presentation, we will reflect on the complex interaction between the three aspects of design pedagogics, community development and research practice and on how both children, community and researchers can reciprocally benefit from design collaborations.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Bettina Lamm, Landscape architect and Associate Professor at the Division of Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Copenhagen. She holds a landscape architecture degree and a Ph.D. from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art, School of Architecture. Lamm’s research addresses the interaction between the urban environment and the lived life in the public realm. She studies through practice and theory how temporary interventions, play design and art installations can facilitate spatial practices and social interaction in public space and how art strategies can contribute to a reprogramming of the interim landscape.

Lamm has counselled numerous architectural projects focusing on design for play and engagement in public space. In 2012 she co-curated the exhibition Urban Play where artists and architects created works that responded to Køge’s industrial harbourscape and in the EU research project SEEDS 2012-2015 she led the UoC group that explored temporary use as tool for reprogramming derelict urban spaces. Since 2012 Bettina has taught the master course Urban Intervention Studio where students design and build site specific urban interventions into transforming landscapes. Lamm is currently project manager of the practice-based research project Move the Neighborhood that explores co-design processes of urban environments with children.

Anne Margrethe Wagner is an assistant professor at the Section for Landscape Architecture and Planning, Copenhagen University (UCPH). Anne M. Wagner trained as an architect at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, Copenhagen and the Academy of Fine Art, Vienna and holds a PhD in Landscape Architecture and Planning from The University of Copenhagen. Her scholarly work focuses on urban transformation processes and public outdoor space within contemporary urban planning and design practice. In particular, it considers understandings and implementations of temporary, alternative and experimental transformations of urban spaces and landscapes, informal space creation, as well as emerging performative properties of public and semi-public space. Her research seeks to examine and develop design and planning methods related to urban prototyping and co-design within participatory urban practice. Anne works with practice-led research in close collaboration with citizens, planning agencies and experts across fields such as design, arts & technology and natural science. Anne teaches and coordinates several courses at Master and Bachelor levels, such as the first year studio ‘Plan & Design’, the Master course ‘Urban Intervention Studio’, performs individual supervision and is a frequent lecturer and examiner at UCPH and other institutions.
Laura Winge, Senior Design Anthropologist and Ph.D. student at the Division of Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Copenhagen. She holds a degree from Institute of Visual Design, from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Design. In her research Laura investigates co-design methods as a way to include citizens in the political agenda and the transformation of urban public spaces. She has many years of experience as an independent designer and consultant on the involvement of citizens in social design projects, co-design processes and public innovation. Winge is part of the practice-based research project, Move the Neighbourhood that explores co-design processes of urban environments with children.