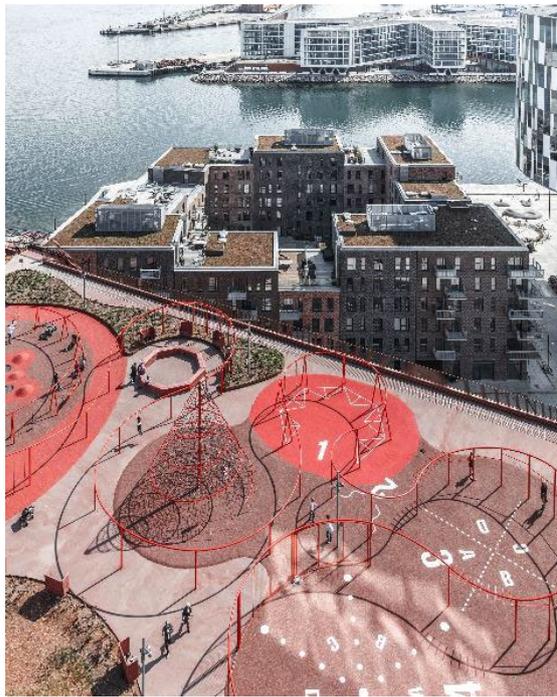


PRESS

INFORMATION of February 19, 2026

Frankfurt / Main



*PARK & PLAY - P-HUS_KONDITAGET_LUEDERS, Kopenhagen
JAJA Architects, Kopenhagen; Photo © Rasmus Hjortshøj –
COAST www.coastarc.com*

THE CITY IS SPORTS - Cities in motion: European projects

February 21 – June 7, 2026

Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)

Schaumainkai 43, 60596 Frankfurt/Main - Germany

PRESS CONFERENCE:

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 11 a.m.

EXHIBITION OPENING:

Friday, February 20, 2026, 7 p.m.

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS:

On Saturdays and Sundays, 3 p.m.

OPENING HOURS:

Tue/Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed 11 a.m.–8 p.m.,
closed on Mondays

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Sports, movement, and physical activity are important social elements of life in cities today. Be it kicking a ball about in the park with friends, the group street workouts in parks or on plazas that have become so immensely popular ever since the Covid pandemic, or jogging, walking, or cycling round your neighborhood. Sports is manifestly increasingly claiming its place in public life: There's more movement in our cities.

While in the past, sports activities tended to focus on specific sports and games areas designated for the purpose, many of which were located out on the city limits, today they are ever more a part of urban lifestyles. They now take place much more frequently downtown, on public squares, in the street, in greenbelts or parks – during the week or at the weekend, in the evening or in-between work hours, often without any entrance or membership fees. In the process, sports' new visibility in cities not only creates spaces for unusual niches and hitherto unknown trending sports activities, but also gives rise to a new culture of spectatorship over and above the classical stadiums and sports halls, thus animating and activating spaces where people can meet up in the urban realm.

The exhibition on “The City is Sport – Cities in Motion” presents 12 projects from Europe that integrate sports activities and movement in an innovative manner into the urban realm – from urban football pitches in a prime downtown location or riverside parks offering a host of different sports, to schoolyards that provide games and sports services which can be used by the neighborhood, too. The projects realized in the last 15 years range from ambitious makeovers or repurposing and reprogramming to minimal design interventions in the existing urban fabric.

All visitors are encouraged to discover the exhibition for themselves – as a sports and fitness space: There's a zone with mats, a playfully design minigolf station, a skittles alley, and much more besides where people are welcome to work out together. Exciting workshops and sports courses organized in cooperation with Sportkreis Frankfurt regularly get the DAM moving.

The importance of sport and exercise as a unifying element in urban society and urban spaces is also emphasized by Mike Josef, Lord Mayor of Frankfurt am Main: *“Social cohesion is particularly important in these challenging times. Sport brings people together. Culture also creates places for exchange. With the exhibition “The City is Sports” at Deutsches Architekturmuseum, these two socially highly relevant pillars cooperate directly with each other. And in doing so, they focus on the city as a living space. Outstandingly designed projects such as Superkilen in Copenhagen show how beneficial sport can be for urban spaces and how lively, diverse, colorful places can be created for everyone.”*

Andrea Jürges, Deputy Director, adds: *“Our cooperation with Sportkreis Frankfurt – which has been in place in public urban spaces for several years now – is now also enriching the museum exhibition with events featuring various sports. We are looking forward to using our auditorium as a sports arena.”*

Roland Frischkorn, Chairman of the Sportkreis Frankfurt, says, *“Sport connects people across age, performance levels, and backgrounds. Sport is the backbone of our society. Sport creates integration and conveys values such as respect, fairness, and team spirit. With its exercise stations, the exhibition at Deutsches Architekturmuseum offers something for everyone.”*



PROJECTS ON SHOW

The Urban Sport Zone (Sportheldenbuurt)

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2020

Landscape architecture: Iris van der Helm, landscape architect, City of Amsterdam Municipal Dept. of Urban Planning and Sustainability

Cooperation partners: Glyffberg Lykke/Denmark (skatepark), Arno Coenen and Iris Roskam (tiles)

Client: City of Amsterdam

“Sportheldenbuurt”, or “sports heroes district”, is the first residential quarter built on Zeeburgereiland, an island on the east side of Amsterdam. The Urban Sport Zone forms the heart of the neighborhood, which features 2,500 apartments and three schools. The zone boasts a fitness trail, playgrounds, sports pitches, and the Netherlands’ largest skatepark. The name says it all: The Skatepark is perfect for all sports heroes, meaning skaters, BMX and scooter riders, as well as inline or roller skaters, be they beginners or experts. The land around the park has been landscaped so that you get a view of both the skatepark and the surrounding parkland from any point in the park.

The park is the outcome of an inclusion process in which the opinions of the future inhabitants and users were polled. The key criterion they gave was integration of the zone into its green surroundings. Seats and play options for non-skaters were thus a must, and the paths round the skatepark were made unappealing for the skaters to ensure everyone else would enjoy an uninterrupted peaceful walk. Skating is an urban lifestyle, and the Urban Sport Zone has thus evolved into a diverse, integrative public space that also attracts users from other neighborhoods.

Israel Plads

Copenhagen, Denmark, 2014

Architecture: Cobe, Copenhagen

Cooperation partners: Sweco Architects, Niras, Professor Morten Stræde, Barslund

Client: City of Copenhagen

Israel Plads has quite literally swept the cars that have been parking there since the 1950s right under the carpet: Since its makeover, many vehicles have simply disappeared underneath it, with the result being the emergence of a vibrant, diverse leisure-time and sports zone. The plaza encourages both formal and informal movement and sports, or you can sit on a bench under the trees and simply observe the goings-on. Not to forget, a modern urban square has to handle countless other functions, too – one of them being to absorb torrential rain in the case of extreme weather events: Here, the water is channeled into an artificial brook that runs to a large reservoir in the adjacent park. At all other times, the stream is simply a water feature. It’s not only the water that links the plaza and the next-door park, as circular clusters of trees also reference the park’s design and create an apt transition. During the day, Israel Plads is a schoolyard, in the afternoon a public basketball venue, and in the evening a dining hall; during the week it’s a skatepark, and at the weekend a flea market, thus ensuring a dense fabric of smart uses at all times of the day and week.

Quais de Seine

Rouen, France, 2017

Landscape architecture: IN SITU Paysages + urbanisme, Lyon, FHY architects, ARTELIA + SOL PAYSAGE (vegetation experts), Les Eclaireurs (lighting concept), BMF (business engineers)

Client: City of Rouen



Rouen's old town lies directly on the banks of the Seine opposite the former port. In recent decades, the port area was simply used as a carpark and once a year as a fairground. The zone is 1.2 km long and located between two bridges and has therefore been converted into a riverside park. As a green leisure-time site adjacent to the river, a network of rest, sports, and play zones has been created, into which the historical railroad line has been integrated. Upstream, spacious lawns and grass for ball games open onto the river and also offer a painterly vista of Rouen Cathedral. Downstream, one row back between stretches of grass and beds of shrubs are playgrounds, pétanque pitches, and fitness zones. Further on downstream are the volleyball, basketball, and football pitches; lines on the ground also mark out a bike and rollerblade course on the blacktop. The promenade and its side paths run parallel to the river, offering alternating views of those doing sports and the spectators. Moreover, playground equipment such as swings and large slides lock onto the bridges' existing built structures, encouraging playful movement with a typically French light touch and forging a close link between the park and the location.

PARK 'N' Play (P-HUS + KONDITAGET LÜDERS)

Copenhagen, Denmark, 2016

Architecture: JAJA Architects, Copenhagen

Cooperation partners: Søren Jensen Ingeniør, RAMA Studio, LOA, DGI, 5e byg, Aarstiderne Arkitekter, Ingeniør'ne

Client: CPH City & Port Development, Copenhagen

How can a multistory carpark be functional, but also an appealing public location and exercise space all rolled into one? The basic idea was to provide a rooftop world open to everyone that offered both leisure-time and physical-activity areas. From planters positioned along the façade, greenery grows upwards and enlivens the brick-red walls. On the square in front, a staircase invites you to ascend. A red banister rail quite literally takes visitors by the hand and invites them to take a trip to the roof world to enjoy the breathtaking view of Copenhagen harbor. The railing runs across the entire roof and transforms into swings, cages for ball games, climbing frames, and much more besides. Along this "common thread" there are also architectural elements such as fences and plants that delimit spaces and also offer protection against the elements. The path of the "common thread" continues without interruption across the roof until it leads down a second staircase back to the street and thus links up the entire project.

Bellahøj School

Copenhagen, Denmark, 2020

Open-space planning: Kragh&Berglund, Copenhagen

Building design: KANT arkitekter (now SWECO Denmark) and EFFEKT, Copenhagen

Client: Copenhagen Properties – KEJD

In Bellahøj, a district in northwest Copenhagen, the general modernization and expansion of a primary school was taken as the occasion to completely redesign the schoolyard, taking the pupil's wishes and ideas into account. The Bellahøj School, where the curriculum attaches great importance to sports and health, now boasts an innovative learning and playground world that wraps around all the old and new buildings as a blue "sports delta". An astroturf pitch, a 100-meter running track, and various sports pitches and zones for physical activity combine around resting islands that can be used for outdoor lessons, for learning and break times, and for open-air exhibitions by the pupils. Worthy of note is that all fences and borders have been removed from round the school: The buildings, the schoolyard, the residential neighborhood round it, and an adjacent park now meld to form an open, intermingling landscape that offers pupils plenty of leisure-time options outside school hours, too.



Bekkelagsbadet / Bekkelaget Harbor Baths

Oslo, Norway, 2019

Landscape architecture: bar bakke landscape architects, Oslo

Cooperation partners: Mikkel Rugaard Studio (parkour design), Léva Urban Design (participation process), Fabel Architects (service building), WSP engineering, Tanaquil Enzensberger (botanist)

Client: Oslo Harbour KF

For decades, large parts of Oslo's coastline were the preserve of the harbor industry. After the turn of the new millennium, the city launched the idea of a "Fjord City", whereby the intention was for the harbor industry to give way to modern urban development featuring residential areas, offices, and public spaces, and the city as a whole was to open out to the fjord again. Originally, the idea was simply to create a visual buffer zone between the housing districts and the harbor, but on the heels of an extensive civic participation process, local inhabitants' wishes for parkland, sports grounds, a parkour hall, and a BMX track were included in the planning. The buffer zone grew into a large public park, the main attraction of which is an eye-catching diving board clad in the characteristic orange of Oslo Harbor. The steps up to it and the platform itself encourage people to dip their feet in the water or to brave the dive into the fjord. The harbor and park are separated by a high wall of shuttering that is covered with eucalyptus-wood railway sleepers, while low supporting walls made of local granite subdivide the greened area and create seating surfaces. A little hilltop features steps and a brazier, enabling people to barbecue outdoors and enjoy the view of the fjord. The Bekkelaget harbor baths thus offer something for everyone, irrespective of whether you want tough physical activity, to meet friends, or simply to take a break from city life and inhale the salty air of the fjord.

Nike Experience Hub

Berlin, Germany, 2022

Landscape architecture: capattistaubach urbane landschaften, Berlin

Cooperation: Blossity Urban Strategy Consultancy, Rotterdam

Client: Oxford Properties Group, Toronto

The former Sony Center on Potsdamer Platz in Berlin is a landmark that can be seen from afar and, above all, a popular tourist attraction. Twenty years after its completion and after a change in ownership, it was time to give the ensemble a makeover, outdoor areas included. These spaces were perfectly designed with box-tree hedges and a few poplar trees, but the monumental glass façades that reach as high as 40 meters suggested that a new sense of intimacy on a human scale was required. Greater vibrancy, biological diversity, and resilience to climate change were other key objectives behind repurposing the outdoor zones. In cooperation with sports corporation Nike, one section was rededicated and made into a colorful training zone using Nike Grind – a granulate from recycled shoe soles coated in epoxy resin. At the same time, a mirror cube was installed as an eye-catcher and toolbox. Today, sports services are regularly offered in the zone, such as guided workouts. Various seating areas made of steel and natural stone also enable spectators to participate, but can also be used for the sports training sessions. A dense forest of sculpture-like and sturdy shad bushes have been added to the existing trees, while oak sleepers provide seats for relaxation.

Hafenpark

Frankfurt/Main, Germany, 2015

Landscape architecture: SINAI Gesellschaft von Landschaftsarchitekten, Berlin & Frankfurt/Main

Completion: 2015



Client: City of Frankfurt

The Hafenpark in east Frankfurt forms the end of the green promenade along the northern riverside and connects up to the city's greenbelt trail. The park was designed as a sports and games park in response to the findings of an online survey the City of Frankfurt conducted among citizens. As a 21st-century people's park, it integrates a striking "sports strip" that fosters lines of sight to the city's skyline and the neighboring ECB building. This clear structure, conceptualized on a large scale, gives rise to a sequence of contrasting park spheres: The "concrete jungle" along Eyssenstrasse is 5,000 m² in size and thus one of Europe's largest skate and bike parks while at the same time an open element of the overall park, with the incorporation of grass and hackberry trees giving it a special green feel. By contrast, the surrounding steel fencing gives the ball pitches for ball games the feel of real sports arenas, while the plants added to all the other games and fitness areas likewise embed them in the overall structure. Towards the riverside promenade, a set of terraced meadow plateaus create quiet recreational zones and areas where nature can take its course.

Wonder Wood

Skørping, Denmark, 2016/2022

Landscape architecture: VEGA landskab, Aarhus/Copenhagen

Cooperation partners: Skælskør landscaping, Hede Danmark, KKK Kvalitetsbyg, Skørping School

Client: Skørping School, Rebuild Municipality

This schoolyard is a place for everyone and activates even couch potatoes. The adjacent woods forms not only the parkland context for Skørping School, which is located in the rural region of Jutland, but also plays an active part in school life. The "Wonder Wood" project relies on three elements in this regard: First, more "good space" was created on the verge of the woods through the expansion of the forest edge by means of careful felling and reforestation. The second element is the "wood loop," which is almost 500 meters long and serves both as a path and as a spatial element. It takes students once round the grounds, through the woods. En route, they pass various exercise stations that invite them to walk, run, climb, or sit. The play stations form the third element of the project, providing pitches for ball games, swings, and a new skatepark. Moreover, there is a "lounge" that can be used for group work, as well as a large screen and seating for lessons outdoors.

Parc Rives de Seine

Paris, France, 2017 / 2024–5

Developer: Mairie de Paris

Partners: APUR et al.

As of the end of the 1960s, large parts of the downtown Seine riverbank were exclusively the preserve of road traffic. On the back of the success of the first car-free Sundays in the mid-1990s, after the turn of the millennium the policymakers started to rethink things: During the summer months parts of the two-lane expressway running along the river were each year transformed into a slow-go urban beach promenade for the popular "Paris Plages" festival. From 2017 onwards, along the seven-kilometer-long section between Canal Saint-Martin and the Eiffel Tower a car-free stretch arose where people could wander or cycle, with zones for games, recreation, and also various sports activities. The historical surroundings of the quays, bridges, and riverbank reinforcements that since 1991 have formed the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site "Paris - Rives de la Seine", and the flood protection facilities, were both factored into the redesign, which carefully and caringly addresses the existing structures. The inclusion of public



lawns, temporary outdoor hospitality zones, faster and slower lanes, as well as various sports stations along the way (e.g., for calisthenics) has given rise to a vibrant public space with spectacular views of the historical city fabric. Parts of it were used to host 2024 Olympic Games and Paralympics events. In the summer of 2025, several public swimming areas were added in the River Seine.

RiFo10

Rotterdam, Netherlands, 2024

Developer: Stichting RiFo10

Design: Surf Loch in cooperation with TU Delft (Wave Pool), Morfis Architecture (hospitality, changing facilities)

The green Eisbach wave channel in Munich's Englischer Garten which caught the headlines last year with a tragic, fatal accident and then its sudden disappearance after the riverbed was cleaned up, has been cult among surf riders for over 40 years now. In the Netherlands, a rival to the unique surf spot recently opened: In an abandoned arm of the Steigersgracht canal in the middle of downtown Rotterdam, after almost ten years of planning, in 2024 the new wave pool was ready for public use. Depending on your skill level (there are wave riding sets for pros, advanced, intermediate and novice surfers), you can ride waves here that are up to 1.60 meters high. Unlike in Munich's Eisbach, the waves are not created by current ramps and gravel deposits, but artificially by a pneumatic mechanism. In addition to the commercial surf offerings (a session of just short of an hour at present costs about € 50), you can rent a canoe or an SUP, or even sign up for a diving workshop. In the winter months, there's artificial underwater lighting as an added attraction in the wave pool. The Steigersgracht canal is naturally fed by the River Rotte and is kept permanently clean by a filter system so that the water is completely renewed every seven hours. With the exception of the timber building with the surf bar, changing rooms, and showers, very few structural additions were needed to create a surf arena open on all sides in a prime downtown location. It's an urban sports spectacle in which not only the athletes but also the local inhabitants and passers-by participate.



COINCIDING PROGRAMME

Event and practical modules by Sportkreis Frankfurt

As part of the exhibition, Sportkreis Frankfurt is putting the idea of an active city into practice with sports formats, hands-on activities, and action days in and around the DAM.

Urban Sports & Club Sports

- Calisthenics Battle by Flythenics (May 2, 2026)

Strength, body control, and creativity come together.

A special highlight: an inclusive part for wheelchair users, which impressively demonstrates how diverse and accessible modern forms of exercise can be in urban spaces.

- 1vs1 Streetball by BeatsnBuckets (May 9/10, 2026)

Exciting head-to-head duels in the women's and men's categories. The format stands for urban basketball culture, fairness, and athletic dynamism in public spaces.

- Neighborhood Jam for Kids – Verein Kutamu e.V. (May 23, 2026)

An open exercise and social format for children with a focus on community, urban exercise culture, and low-threshold participation.

Action days organized by Frankfurt sports clubs

The event formats are complemented by action days and hands-on activities offered by member clubs of Sportkreis Frankfurt, including:

- Eintracht Frankfurt Fencing
- TSG Oberrad – Table Tennis
- FTG Frankfurt with various courses on offer
- SC 1880 Frankfurt – Rugby
- Cricket Frankfurt – Women

as well as other participating clubs

Visitors are invited to get to know different sports, try them out, and talk to the clubs.

Guided tours through the exhibition

On Saturdays and Sundays, 3 p.m.

Afterwork guided tours with Anna Scheuermann:
February 25 / March 11 / April 15 / May 13, 5 p.m.

Guided tours for families with Ruth Schlögl:
March 15 / March 22 / May 3, 1 p.m.



IMPRINT

THE CITY IS SPORTS - Cities in motion: European projects

February 21 – June 7, 2026

at Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM), Frankfurt am Main

Director DAM: Peter Cachola Schmal

Coordinator and Deputy Director DAM: Andrea Jürges

Curators: Karen Jung und Paul Andreas, Jung + Andreas

Curatorial assistance: Stefanie Lampe

Exhibition design: deserve - Mario Lorenz, Katrin Mueller Andree, Laura Risse

Exhibition set-up and production: Inditec GmbH, Bad Camberg

Translations: James Lyons Gaines Translations

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Design print media: Ammon Studio

Technicians: Daniel Sarvari, Giancarlo Rossano

Administration: Inka Plechaty, Victoria Morhard

Education: Confiyet Aydin, Nienke Wüst, Anneke Winkler, Lukas Ranze

Guided tours: Anna Scheuermann, Yorck Förster and the education team

Front desk: Ieva Paegle

Sportkreis Frankfurt am Main e.V.

Chairman: Roland Frischkorn

Management: Amir Jemour

Project team #beactive / Social Media: Thanh Nguyen

Press & PR: Sina Schwarz

City Crocket

Design and production: Christian Mentzel, cmuk.de

In cooperation with:



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DEUTSCHES ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM

Press & PR

Schaumainkai 43 \ 60596 Frankfurt\Main \ Germany
presse.dam@stadt-frankfurt.de \ dam-online.de

Brita Köhler

Head of Press & PR

T +49 (0)69 212 36318 \ M +49 (0)151 50921704 \ brita.koehler@stadt-frankfurt.de

Anna Wegmann

T +49 (0)69 212 36318 \ presse.dam@stadt-frankfurt.de