



Refkløver

Refshaleøen, Copenhagen

The veins found in the red clover plant act as highways for photosynthetic processes, transporting energy and sugars to the rest of the plant. The design of Refkløver acts in a similar way. As the botanic inspiration is integral to the design, an extensive native plant palette has been selected to complement sculptural structures.

Plants were selected based on their flowering season and relevance to local ecosystems, as well as references in Norse mythology. Freya, the Norse goddess of love, beauty and war, is said to have flowers falling from her hair. Species mentioned in the mythology that are used in the planting selection for Refkløver include milkwort (Polygala vulgaris), cowslip (Primula veris) and sea aster (Aster tripolium). The key plant species in the planting scheme is the red clover (Trifolium pratense), Denmark's national flower. The red clover is known to have healing properties for soil, agricultural utility and humans. The importance of the planting design is integral to the concept of the site design, as the form of the energy-generating structures is botanic in nature, and the entire site mimics the natural processes found in the plant kingdom. Vegetation also provides critical habitat for pollinators, such as butterflies and bees. The variety of species ensures seasonal change and cover throughout the year, providing an aesthetic environment and healthy ecology in all twelve months.

Species Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Trifolium pratense (red clover)

Trifolium repens (white clover)

Aster Tripolium (Sea Aster)

Crocus tommasinianus (crocus Bulbs)

Hypericum perforatum (St Johns Wort)

Galanthus nivalis (Snowdrops)

Jasione montana (Sheep's bit scabious)

Matricaria recutita (Chamomile)

Agrostis capillaris (Common bent)

Milium effusum-L (Wood Millet)

Triumph tulips (Tulip Bulbs)

Polygala vulgaris (Milkwort)

Primula veris (Cowslip)

