

'tree of knowledge'

The proposed design draws on motifs found in 'The Garden of Paradise'- a fairytale by Danish writer H.C. Andersen. The electricity generating sculpture is 'The Tree of Knowledge' while 'The Four Winds of the World' are the source of renewable energy. 'In the center of the hall grew a large tree, with luxuriantly hanging branches. Golden apples large and small hung like oranges among the leaves. This was the Tree of Knowledge.'

The sculpture's roots wind their way through a wild and mystical landscape evoking an otherworldly image.

The proposed sculpture and undulating garden contrast with the industrial surroundings of Refshaleøen. Upon stepping into the garden, the visitor is transported from the urban reality of Copenhagen into another world, a world of fairytales. The tree is a symbol of nature and knowledge and the aim of this artificial landscape is to promote contemplation in the visitor on human's impact to nature.

The site is located on the waterfront, directly opposite 'The Little Mermaid' – the symbol of Copenhagen and one of the main tourist attractions in the city. The legacy of H.C. Andersen therefore spans across the water creating a visual and thematic bridge between the two land masses. 'The Tree of Knowledge' becomes the backdrop to tourist's photographs and an everyday visual landmark to Copenhageners walking the Kastellet and Langelinie. 70 metres in height, 'the Tree' sits comfortably, like a glowing shadow, in the industrial skyline of Refshaleøen. Its organic shape contrasts the rigid forms of chimneys, turbines and warehouses.

