

Christiania and the creative city

Thesis project by Malin Markkanen

The following project is an urban design proposal for the future development of Christiania, a squatters commune in Copenhagen.

Once an abandoned military outpost, Christiania evolved into a hideout for those who were discontent with Danish society. Since its birth in the early seventies, the district been a hot subject of debate. In the collective conscience, Christiania is associated with creativity and counter-culture, as well as marijuana and altercations with authorities. Nowadays, it's also a popular destination for tourists.

In recent years, the inhabitants of Christiania were suddenly standing at the crossroads, after buying the location from the state. With this shift in ownership, the community is now having unprecedented power over the growth and development of their home-environment.

In search of a development strategy for a new Christiania, the project discusses the issue of creativity in urban space, the conditions of the creative city, and how to plan for it to occur. What started as a critique of modern day trends in urban planning and the theories of Richard Florida, grew into a discussion on how to combine social and ecological sustainability with good planning-practices. Every design decision relies on a theoretical framework that I have constructed for this project. Hopefully, it will also call for a re-evaluation of the concept of the creative city.

Tutor: Ida Sandström

Examiner: Mattias Kärrholm

Language for presentation: English