Freetown Christiania: Radical re-imaginings in Copenhagen

Christiania is a 40-year-old experiment that offers a radical challenge to life in post-industrialised capitalist society by using urban public space for the benefit of all.

A 30 ha alternative public area in the middle of the Danish capital, Christiania is home to 800 citizens and a realm of offices, historical sites and green spaces. Located in the grounds of a former military barracks, Christiania prioritises resident self-governance, equality and freedom. It also cultivates respect for natural and cultural values through sustainable and organic development. This approach affects the construction, decoration and function of the buildings, as well as plans and conservation efforts related to the site’s natural areas.

Christiania is a car-free oasis that offers a nesting and resting place for waterfowl, and provides a wildlife corridor for small birds and habitats for a wealth of biodiversity. The nightingale and cuckoo breed in proximity to Copenhagen City Hall Square. Ponds and reed beds serve as a sanctuary for many varieties of breeding birds, and hundreds of birds rest here in the winter and during migration.

Through its “ecological stewardship” plan, Christiania is at the forefront in terms of setting a proactive and successful example of biodiversity management and protection in an urban setting. At least half a million people visit Christiania every year, and each guest can take home some valuable lessons to their own community.

Sources: www.urbia.me/projects-3/?lang=en