

Sustainable Housing in Freetown Christiania

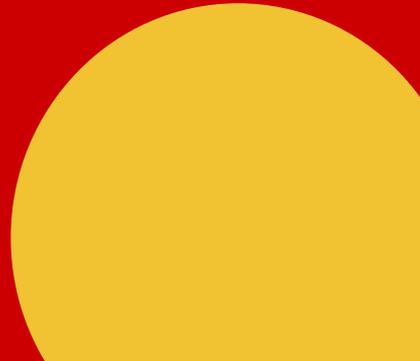
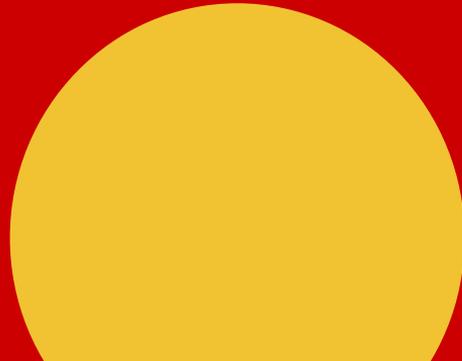
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Urban Development Solutions in Denmark

As part of exploring my own family's heritage this summer, I lived in Copenhagen, Denmark

While exploring the area of Christiania, I gained a first-hand account of the architectural features of residential housing

I was inspired by the reuse of materials and sustainable design building principles



Christiania Context

- Located on site of former military barracks
- In 1971, people moved into the abandoned area and claimed it as a “Freetown”
- 1972 it was granted semi-legal status—but required to pay a tax for city utilities
- Considered one of the largest and longest lasting autonomous communes
- In 2012, Copenhagen sold the 85 acres of land to the residents for \$13 million
- As of 2016 has approx. 900 residents





“Upcycling” and the Reuse of Military Barracks

- Bådsmandsstræde Barracks was the military site that dates back to the 17th century
- Many of the larger barracks were constructed in 1836 to house cannons and horses
- In 1916 the site was abandoned
- Adaptive reuse of historic buildings lowers the overall building stock
- Other advantages include: reduction in material waste during demolition & construction, energy saving, and fewer carbon emissions.
- Christiania’s method of combining adaptive reuse of historic buildings and reuse of scrap materials is a great example of sustainability within the built environment



Banana House

- Constructed by German volunteers who came to help build bridges; and in turn were allowed to develop their own structure
 - Elements of creativity with the curved A-frame roof, skylights that provide passive heating and cooling
- Constructed mainly from materials that were reclaimed at little or no cost, wood is the primary material used in the house
- New government law states that nothing new in Christiania can be built except for roofing



Glass House

- 100% reclaimed windows & recycled materials
- Eco-art
- Reusable kitchenware & minimalistic interior design
- Poor insulation



Takeaways



“Unintentional Eco-District”



Sustainability as a Lifestyle



United States Comparison

Works Cited

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