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CREATIVE PLACEMAKING:
HOW TO ACHIEVE A SUSTIANABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN RINGSTED MUNICIPALITY

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Abstract

This master's thesis seeks to investigate how the urban planning strategy creative placemaking can impact neighborhoods in Danish municipalities to help them solve local problems. This was done by looking at six different neighborhoods in Denmark where creative placemaking or creative placemaking tools were deployed to then investigate how creative placemaking might help Ringsted Municipality solve their planning challenges. This was done by document analysis of municipal documents about the neighborhoods and municipal plans and strategies for Ringsted Municipality. This was followed up by interviews with stakeholders in the municipalities Esbjerg, Roskilde and Ringsted. To understand the overlaying landscape and regime that the municipalities must do urban planning in and understand the complexity, this report used Geels multi-level perspective. The analysis shows that creative placemaking can be effective in achieving sustainable transitions by engaging local actors, fostering community identity, and promoting innovative solutions. However, the study also notes that the effectiveness of creative placemaking strategies is influenced by various factors, including the level of municipal support, the presence of a clear vision, and the ability to balance top-down and bottom-up approaches. The thesis concludes that creative placemaking has the potential to contribute to sustainable urban development in Denmark. It recommends that municipalities adopt a multi-level perspective, incorporating both top-down and bottom-up strategies, to ensure the successful implementation of creative placemaking initiatives. Additionally, the study suggests that municipalities should prioritize community engagement, involve local actors in the planning process, and focus on creating inclusive and sustainable urban spaces. Overall, this thesis provides valuable insights into the role of creative placemaking in promoting sustainable urban development in Denmark and highlights the importance of a multi-level perspective in ensuring the success of such initiatives.

Acknowledgements

Creative Placemaking – Sustainable Development – Multi-level perspective – Urban Planning – Municipal planning – citizen involvement –

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ABBREVIATIONS

MLP – multi-level perspective
GHG – Greenhouse gasses

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Picture 1 Aarhus Harbor, around where the South Harbor Neighborhood is being developed (balipadma - stock.adobe.com)

1   INTRODUCTION OF THE PROBLEM FIELD

In 1933 the Athens Charter about urban planning was published where 'the functional city' was introduced. Here, planning would be done by dividing the city into zones by function: living, working, recreation and transport (Kristoffersen, 1985). This functional planning was meant to be effective and to cater to a need for housing in the big city where people were increasingly moving to. Simultaneously, there was a huge car expansion and the focus in planning became roads, concrete buildings and single-family detached houses. The way planning worked was by looking at it from the outside in an 'airplane perspective' and the focus between the houses disappeared. In 1998 the urban planning association gathered again to sign the second Athens Charter on Urban Planning. Now, separating living-, working- and recreational places should no longer be the norm, and the focus was on the people in the city (Gehl, 2013). Furthermore, climate change considerations have begun to factor into urban planning. Now, cities need to be walkable, safe and sustainable. Walking and biking are finally being focused on besides the car infrastructure and the focus on a livable city is growing (Gehl, 2013).

In Denmark, climate change is considered the most serious problem facing the world and over half of EU citizens think that national governments are responsible for tackling climate change (European Commission. Directorate-General for Climate Action., 2023). Whether they are responsible or not the public sector in Denmark is the developer for a large amount of the construction work either directly or through state owned companies. This makes them an important actor in decreasing the CO_2 emissions from the construction work in cities (Ea

Energy Analyses, 2023). And with cities accounting for more than 70 % of global CO_2 emissions and with an expectation of up to 80 % of people living in cities by 2050 (European Commission, 2020) urban planning has become a complex size that has come to include economic, social, cultural and environmental concerns. Urban planning has become a tool that can help give neighborhoods a lift and develop start developments. But this might be harder in practice than thought and there are many considerations to consider for planners, civil servants and politicians (Realdania By & Byg, 2016). Not only climate changes, but also a decline in biodiversity, growing social and economic inequality (Grandville & Damvad Analytics, 2021), an ageing population, immigration (Danmarks Statistik, 2023) and a higher level of inter-municipality relocation (Cowibyudvikling, 2022). The world is changing rapidly, as these developments show that there is a need to find new ways to plan to accommodate all these changes. Municipalities have over the last years tried different methods and models to respond to these changes and increasingly used more strategic working methods that often includes more actors than just the municipality itself (Realdania By & Byg, 2016).

In Ringsted Municipality, they are facing some of these challenges: a growing population and people moving to nearby cities (COWI, 2020). They have Ringsted Outlet pulling shoppers from the city center and thus creating an imbalance between two centers. And like all other municipalities, Ringsted have climate and environmental concerns to take into consideration in their urban planning. Ringsted then might be a municipality that could profit from using an innovative urban planning strategy. Such a planning strategy could be creative placemaking. Creative placemaking aim at reviving and engage urban spaces where art and culture is included to encapsule all the tools that are used to strategically shape the community around arts and cultural activities. These strategies demand a public participation and art and culture as process tools and when it is successful it can lead to the neighborhood being more desirable to live in, more active public places, walkability, safer public spaces as well as keeping and attracting young workers and increase tax revenue. (Loh et al., 2022)

Creative placemaking methods have been deployed in the innovative Neighborhood Musicon in Roskilde. Here, the neighborhood has been under development for around 20 years where the traditional ways of planning were thrown out the window and they let the entrepreneurs, associations and cultural actors be in charge of the development under the motto 'plan as little as possible and as much as needed' (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). Today, a vibrant neighborhood is standing with a Rock Museum, maker-workshop, Roskilde Festival Folk High Schools premises amongst leftover concrete, skate parks and halls, street art, creative housing and housing for all people (Fälling, n.d.). But other municipalities have made use of the planning method as well, in Esbjerg, Aarhus and Copenhagen in neighborhoods that were very different and yet, shared some parallels when looking at them more closely. Therefore, this report will investigate the six creative placemaking neighborhoods,

1. The South Harbor Neighborhood in Aarhus
2. The International Neighborhood in Esbjerg
3. Musicon in Roskilde
4. Refshaleøen in Copenhagen
5. The Meat Packing District in Copenhagen
6. Stejlepladsen in Copenhagen

Based on this, this report aims at understanding the specific factors and considerations that municipalities must plan with in mind and whether creative placemaking could help municipalities navigate and accommodate all these changes and developments. This has led to the following problem formulation and sub-questions.

1.1 PROBLEM FORMULATION

How can creative placemaking change neighborhoods to address local problems in Danish Municipalities and how can the learnings be deployed by Ringsted Municipality to address the problems they are facing, drawing on experiences from six Danish neighborhoods?

1.1.1 Sub-questions

1. Using the creative placemaking framework, how and why has the strategy been applied in neighborhoods in different Danish municipalities?
2. Based on these findings, would it be beneficial for Ringsted Municipality to use creative placemaking to address some of their challenges?
3. What specific creative placemaking strategies can be tailored to address the unique challenges of Ringsted Municipality, and how can these strategies be effectively implemented to foster sustainable urban development?

The overall aim of the problem formulation and sub-questions is to create a comprehensive understanding of how creative placemaking can be a valuable tool for urban development and problem-solving in Danish municipalities, with a specific focus on applying these insights to Ringsted Municipality. The research seeks to bridge theory and practice by analyzing real-world examples and proposing actionable strategies tailored to the needs of Ringsted.

This analysis will use creative placemaking and its framework to investigate how it can be used to solve different challenges in similar ways or solve similar challenges in different ways and how this can be transferred to Ringsted Municipality. This leads to the research design.

1.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

This model shows the structure of this thesis to give an overview of what this report will go through. After the research question and sub questions are presented, the theoretical framework will be presented. First creative placemaking will be introduced to give the reader an

understanding of this planning strategy that is in the center of this report. This will be followed by the multi-level perspective which will be used to understand how creative placemaking can affect the regime configuration in municipal urban planning. Then the methodology will be presented to give an overview of the methods used in this report and how they have been used in connection with the theory and to explore that. Here the concept clarification and de-limitation will also be found to set the scope of this thesis. Following will be the chapter where the scene will be set for the following analysis and an overview of the different factors that play into municipal planning will be presented to understand the landscape that munici-pal planning takes place in.

This will then lead to the analysis of the three sub questions that will lead to the answer to the research questions. In the first sub question it is largely document analysis that will be used to fill out the practices and functions of creative placemaking combined with the multi-level perspective. The second sub question then seeks to understand how these learnings can be transferred to Ringsted municipality and whether creative placemaking makes sense for them to use. This will be done with document analysis and interviews thought into the creative placemaking framework and again with a multi-level perspective to gain an understanding of how creative placemaking could help change the regime configurations. This all leads to the third sub question that will try to give insights into how Ringsted Municipality can more specif-ically incorporate creative placemaking into one of their neighborhoods that are planned for development.

This will be followed by a discussion that dives into the choice of theory, methods and the an-alytical outcome. This will end with a conclusion to this thesis. The research design can be seen as a table on the next page on table 1.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Research question:
How can creative placemaking change neighborhoods to address local problems in Danish Municipalities and how can the learnings be deployed by Ringsted Municipality to address the problems they are facing, drawing on experiences from six Danish neighborhoods?

Theoretical framework

Socio-techincal transitions

Creative placemaking

Methodology

Document analysis

Interviews

Setting the scene

Sub-question 1

Using the creative placemaking framework, how and why has the strategy been applied in neighborhoods in different Danish municipalities?

Sub-question 2

Based on the learning from other neighborhoods, would it be beneficial for Ringsted Municipality to use creative placemaking to address some of their challenges?

Sub-question 3

What specific creative placemaking strategies can be tailored to address the unique challenges of Ringsted Municipality, and how can these strategies be effectively implemented to foster sustainable urban development?

Discussion and conclusion

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Table 1 of own creation

2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter will introduce the theoretical framework that will be used in the coming analysis. Firstly, it will introduce the planning strategy creative placemaking by introducing the functions of the strategy and then an overview of how it can be used in practice. This will be followed by the multi-level perspective (MLP) from transition theory and an explanation of how it will be used in this project followed by a presentation of the MLP in relation to municipal urban planning.

2.1 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Before the mid-twentieth century the buildings that were built gave a sense of place to the city and a sense of safety, sociability and it was walkable with buildings in human scale. But the postwar modernist rejected this style in favor of concrete, glass and metal and often demolished these old neighborhoods and instead built freeways, parking lots, public housing projects and stadiums that were all but human scale. Furthermore, the city became separated in zones that had specific purposes, where housing and working was separated (Loh et al., 2022).

Placemaking can thus be seen as a response to this modernistic planning that has taken away the sense of place. It is a way to try and restore the city and understand what it is missing, it might feel safe but lack human scale buildings or mixed use and can help attract tourists and companies (Loh et al., 2022).

Creative placemaking is an add-on to the planning method placemaking. Creative placemaking is where the culture, art and creativity leads the way in creating a place and shaping not only the physical but also the social, cultural and economic identity of a place. Because of this focus, all creative placemaking projects are different (Urban Land Institute, 2021). In creative placemaking the use of art is an intentional part of the planning of a place-based community. However, this does not mean that it is the end goal or outcome to have a creative community but rather that the culture and art is used to create a place-based change throughout the process.

There has been conducted several projects that try to understand what is done in practice when creative placemaking is deployed (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014; Loh et al., 2022). In a 10-year project by ArtPlace America 189 creative placemaking projects in the United States have been supported. They found that, in all these projects four things were done:

'(1) defined a community based in geography, such as a block, neighborhood, city, or even a county; (2) articulated a change the group of people living and working in that community want; (3) proposed an arts-based intervention to help achieve that change; and (4) developed a way to know whether the change occurred (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014, p. 77).'

To use creative placemaking effectively there is a need to include actors from different sectors and people with different backgrounds in planning processes. This helps keeping the planning diverse and creates space for the actors to create synergies, boost innovation and become a catalyst for social, environmental and economic development. Including community engagement as an integrated part of the creative placemaking process can help overcome barriers by including the local stakeholders to include them in the planning (Urban Land Institute, 2021).

2.1.1 Functions and benefits of creative placemaking

Though each creative placemaking project is different, there are still some general parameters that should be considered throughout the process. In the early planning phases, it is important to define and agree upon what success and the vision looks like. As creative placemaking processes entail a large group of different actors and stakeholders that would not necessarily be involved in a normal planning process, it is important to create a joint vision from the start (Urban Land Institute, 2021).

When examining the 189 projects several functions that have come from creative placemaking in communities were defined (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014). These functions are based on communities in the United States, which are very different from Danish communities and thus there are some aspects that do not fit entirely on the Danish Society. However, it is in large parts functions that can be transferred but where the specifics of the factors might need to be changed a bit to fit the Danish society. This could for example be community through church and extracurricular activities or transforming from hard environments that we do not have to the same extent in Denmark.

One such function is that it helped **strengthen diverse economic development**. A reason for this, is the art and culture in the communities, as these are often consumed in person. This leads to more foot traffic and associated benefits from the people they attract. Museums for example attract people in mainly the daytime hours and rehearsal or art studios for artists attract people at any time of the day. This both increases the level of foot traffic at on the streets evenly and thus increase public safety and the neighborhoods economy by people shopping and dining (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014).

Another function is that it **encourages and increases public engagement**. The use of informal arts in the communities increases the level of community identity and connects the community members (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014). The examples given in the text mentions church related activities and extra-curricular activities, both are not that common in Denmark. Here, the focus will instead be on investigating how the neighborhoods have made the spaces inviting and how they have used public engagement.

A third function that is increasingly relevant with the changes we are facing with climate changes and having to adapt is that creative placemaking can help **build resilience** in a community both physically and mentally in the community. Creative placemaking can increase the long-term investments in communities, like securing from cloud burst of floods in creative ways that's part of the community. Community wise, social stability and collective identity were two aspects that were found to increase resilience. For citizens to feel social stability they need social offerings, like entertainment venues and meeting places, openness and to enjoy the area's aesthetic. By incorporating art in planning, often all three factors are met. Collective identity, like public engagement, can be created using informal arts (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014).

Lastly, creative placemaking can help **increase the quality of life** for the community. The planning method helps create more vibrant neighborhoods with social activities and improved aesthetics that improve how people feel being in the neighborhood and health if it promotes walking and biking (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014).

The success criteria will likely differ from stakeholder to stakeholder The private developers and investors will probably measure success based on economic returns whereas the local community stakeholders will focus on the social and environmental values. But although the values aren't the same, they might still complement each other in the long run. The time frame for creative placemaking can likewise vary a lot. Sometimes it can be a short-term project with a somewhat certain end date and other project are taking place over decades (Urban Land Institute, 2021).

2.1.2 creative placemaking in practice

Now that the functions of creative placemaking have been described it is then important to focus on how this transformation of a community comes about in practice.

One such way is to **anchor** artists and cultural organizations in and to the community. By anchoring them as a stable part of the community they help create a neighborhood identity, attracting patrons and create jobs. This can for example be museums or other art organizations that bring in diverse foot traffic, employ community members, a certain aesthetic and social offerings and cohesion.

A vital part of creative placemaking is also to **activate** the community. To bring participatory activities to public spaces can help make the community more attractive and safer. This could for example be temporary art exhibitions, flea markets and open concerts.

Creative placemaking can help with **'fixing'** structural design problems. This should be based on what the community finds as its most pressing concerns. It can be creating more safety or create a more pleasing look for the community. Creative processes and collaboration in the community can help find new solutions to old problems, like how to use old industry buildings for something new and creative (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014).

When deploying creative placemaking a large part of the process is to involve the citizens in the development. To include the community in the early stages of **planning** a project can increase the understanding of how the spaces are used and how they are likely to be used in the future. By including the residents, the feeling of solidarity and individual identity can be fostered and prevent fixing later in the process when large steps have already been made (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014).

How creative placemaking can do it	What creative placemaking can do
Anchoring	Strengthen economic development
Activating	Seeding civic engagement
"Fixing"	Building resiliency
Planning	Contributing to quality of life

Table 2 of own creation from (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014).

According to the ULI report on creative placemaking in Denmark, there are several characteristics that influence the creative placemaking process, although it is also influenced by the specific problem. In Denmark they mention a low hierarchical society, cross-sector collaboration, early stakeholder engagement, trust between people, tradition for communal life and activities and holistic thinking and social responsibility as factors that play into the way creative placemaking is used in Denmark (Rambøll & Volcano, 2021).

Even though placemaking and creative placemaking might sound like the ideal solution to create vibrant and active places where people want to live, there are still some challenges and pitfalls that the planners should be aware of or try to steer clear off. Over the years, since creative placemaking's arrival, there has been concerns that the planners decide what cultural values to implement based on economic gains and investments and to promote tourism in the neighborhood rather than benefitting the locals. A general approach in placemaking is to keep it process-oriented and ensure the participation of the locals if you want to create a sense of place. In municipal led placemaking, if outside actors impose their ideas of the neighborhood the locals can end up with a lack of connection to the place and new business and citizens can end up upping the price and pushing the original citizens out of the neighborhood. Top-down placemaking often leads to some of these struggles and there is a push to move away from this form of placemaking and be more inclusive (Loh et al., 2022). This can arguably be seen as an indicator that municipalities that have a stronger culture for bottom-up decision making and a flatter structure have a bigger chance of succeeding with placemaking or creative placemaking strategies in local communities (Loh et al., 2022).

It is difficult to measure how well placemaking and creative placemaking has worked in a neighborhood. The context in each neighborhood is different and needs context specific measuring assessments. Studies have, however, shown that placemaking does not always

boost local economies due to several factors. The size of the city or neighborhood has an impact as well as who the placemaking is for (Loh et al., 2022).

2.1.3 Creative Placemaking in Denmark

In Denmark, several places have already used creative placemaking, like the Meat Packing District, Stejlepladsen and Refshaleøen in Copenhagen, Musicon in Roskilde, the South Harbor Neighborhood in Aarhus (Urban Land Institute, 2021) and Esbjerg Municipality is currently using it as part of their planning process for the International Neighborhood (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.).

All these neighborhoods will be used later in the analysis to gain an understanding of the different ways you can use creative placemaking, both why you would decide to use it and how you have used it. However, some of these neighborhoods have not actively used creative placemaking but have rather used explorative urban planning processes in some way or another and have later been 'declared' as having used creative placemaking due to the similarity in planning (Annex E). This is at least the case for Musicon. The neighborhoods Refshaleøen and the Meat Packing District also does not mention anywhere that they have used creative placemaking but are mentioned in other texts as examples of creative placemaking (cirkelingelyngso, 2022; Rambøll & Volcano, 2021).

2.2 THE MULTI-LEVEL PERSPECTIVE AND ITS DIMENSIONS

This thesis employs a theoretical framework using the multi-level perspective (MLP) to understand the dynamics of sustainable urban planning and the role of creative placemaking. This theoretical approach allows for a detailed exploration of the factors influencing municipal decision-making and the potential for creative placemaking to help achieve sustainability and local goals. Through the lens of MLP and transition theory, the thesis identifies key barriers that prevent Ringsted from adopting creative placemaking and proposes potential solutions.

The multi-level perspective as presented by Geels & Schot (2007) describes technical transitions as taking place across three levels. These levels are not, 'ontological descriptions of reality, but analytical and heuristic concepts to understand the complex dynamics of sociotechnical change (Geels, 2002, p. 1259)'. On the micro level are the niche innovations, the meso levels present the sociotechnical regimes and the macro level the sociotechnical landscape (Næss & Vogel, 2012).

Geels (2002) explains that the sociotechnical regime builds on the concept technological regimes developed by Nelson and Winther (1982) that focused on the practices of engineers. Because of the social groups, policy makers, scientists, suppliers, banks and society that also influence technical trajectories as well as engineering practices Geels developed the term sociotechnical regime. Sociotechnical regimes are a semi-coherent set of rules that guide social groups (Geels, 2002). The sociotechnical regime is a mix of different actors, policymakers, scientists, citizens, users, engineers, interest groups and others all involved by

their cognitive routines that result in a continuing development of the technological trajectories (Næss & Vogel, 2012). The alignment of activities in these coherent social groups can stabilize existing trajectories and make it hard to include technologies or innovations outside the trajectory. This can be seen in the urban planning sector, where there are many actors that have an interest and opinion. When planning a new area, the citizens want it to match their expectations of a good city and personal needs, like space for them to park their car after work, or a green area for recreational use. The policymakers have economic incentives to think about, more unsustainable construction solutions are often cheaper, and they must accommodate the citizens. Interest groups want to have more biodiversity or keep the city center car free or have more renewable energy. Meanwhile, engineers and construction workers need to learn new techniques, tools and programs to make use or build in a new innovative way and might need to be re-educated in sustainable methods. Trajectories can be changed in several ways, like 'regulations and standards, adaptation of lifestyles to technical systems, sunk investments in machines, infrastructures and competencies (Nelson & Winter, 1982, p. 400)'.

The niche innovation level is then where new inventions and small groups of dedicated people promote their radical innovations on the verge of the sociotechnical regime (Næss & Vogel, 2012). Niches are protected from the normal market selection and thus has the function of an incubation room, where the radical innovations can develop (Geels, 2002). These innovations are often unstable sociotechnical configurations that does not perform well and are often carried forward by outside actors in small networks (Geels & Schot, 2007). Often, they are expensive and have a low performance but are important for learning processes and creating a space where social networks can build around the innovation. This is most likely also the case with innovative planning methods, that must be tested on actual planning projects, and one must be the first. The use of creative placemaking in Esbjerg Municipality is, for example, planned to take a long time with little idea of how well it will perform (Annex F).

The sociotechnical landscape is the external environment that changes slowly and cannot be directly influenced by actors in neither the niche nor regime level (Næss & Vogel, 2012). This is where the sociotechnical regime and niches are situated. It contains several heterogenous factors that usually takes decades to change, like economic growth, emigration, violent conflicts, cultural and normative values, environmental problems and political coalitions. This sits as a backdrop to the configuration of actors in the regime level (Geels, 2002). A version of the landscape for municipal urban planning can be seen in figure 1.

Municipal Urban Planning Socio-Technical Landscape
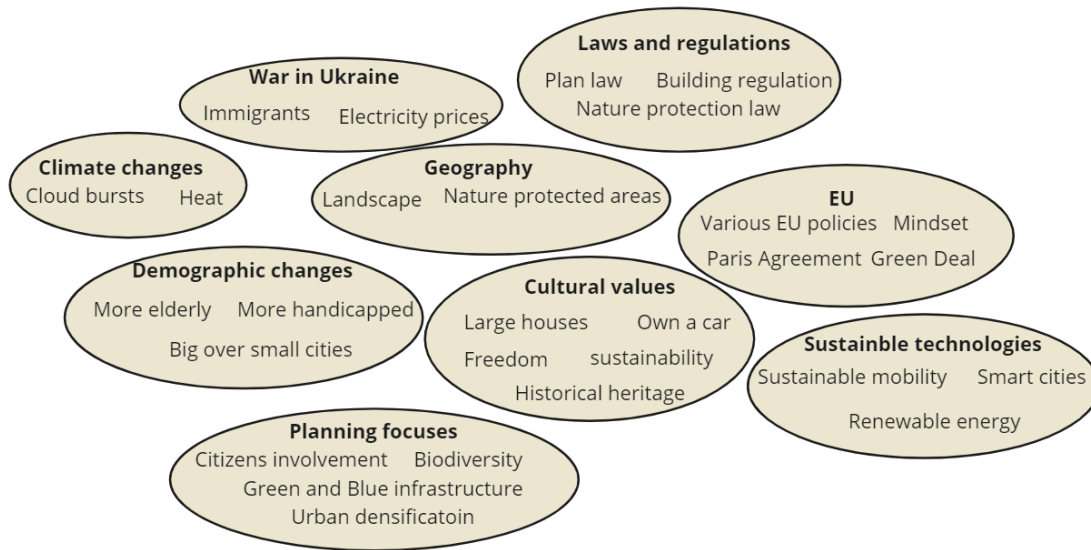
Figure 1 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

Between these three levels, transitions take place. The regime can be changed from both above and below. By the niche innovations if they build momentum and manage to challenge the regime, this can happen if the niche innovation improves in price or performance or if it
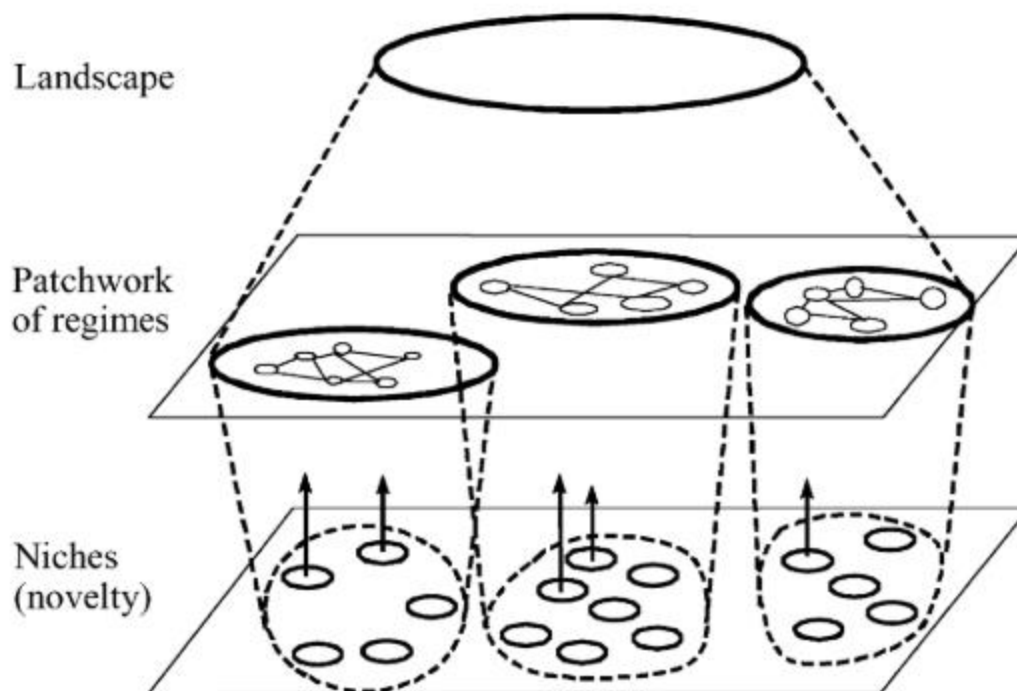
Figure 2 (Geels, 2002, p. 1261)

gains attraction or support from powerful groups. Changes in the landscape can also put pressure on the regime, this happens if large disruptions take place like a natural disaster or economic crisis. The regime itself can also become unstable by internal tensions or pressure

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from the outside which creates openings for niche innovations (Næss & Vogel, 2012). In figure 2 it can be seen how the three levels influence each other. In the niche levels a large amount of individual radical innovations try to work itself into the regime that consists of a connected set of social groups within a certain trajectory all overlaid by the landscape. This also shows how the landscape sets the framework for the regime level that simultaneously work as the framework that niches work and are influenced within (Geels, 2002).

Sociotechnical transitions are not happening based on niches that come up with solutions to a problem but rather a simultaneous development in all three levels. The change in the soci-

The multi-level perspective for urban planning in Ringsted Municipality
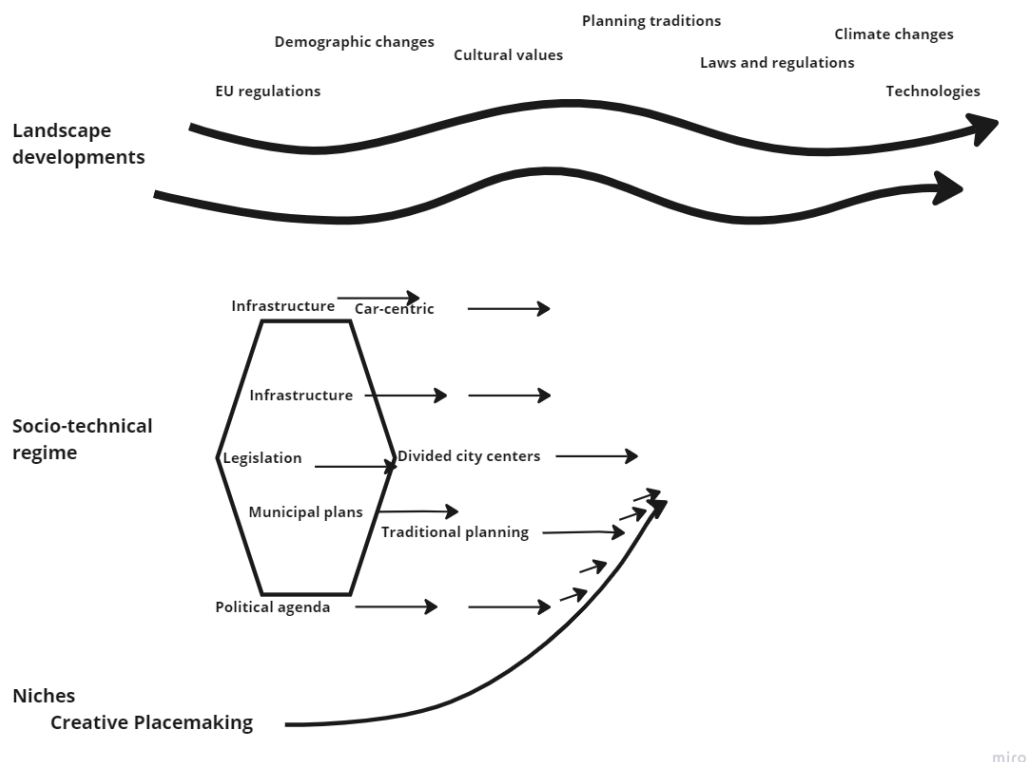
Figure 3 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002)

otechnical regime over time is shown in figure 3. This shows how, over time, radical innovations can move from niche all the way to the landscape level. This happens in so-called 'windows of opportunity' where processes in the regime and landscape create tension and put pressure on the regime. When radical innovations are established in the sociotechnical regime it can create changes in the landscape as well.

2.2.1 How do radical innovations move into the regime level

In Geels (2002) paper on technological transitions, several aspects were pointed out as important configurations in the transportation sector, that Geels investigated. These are in the left column of the below table 3.

Geels configurations in transportation (Geels, 2002)	Examples municipal urban planning
Culture and symbolic meaning	Cultural meaning in neighborhoods, preserving old buildings
Finance rules, interest rates, insurance premiums	Fire safety demands, insurance incentives, EU funding programs
Regulations and policies	Buildings regulation, municipal plans, plan law, zoning laws, sustainable building codes
Infrastructure	Existing buildings in the city, parking places, roads, public transportation systems
Vehicle/artefact	Machines for construction, charging infrastructure, smart city technologies
Markets and user practices	Drives cars in rural municipalities, Aalborg Portland (build with concrete), gentrification
Maintenance and distribution networks	Cloudburst protection, integrated waste management system,
Industry structure	Public-private partnerships, renewable energy, sustainable building sector

Table 3 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

This list can be transferred to urban planning in municipalities as well and examples of the individual configuration is shown in the right column of table 3. This sociotechnical configuration makes up a societal function, where the function in society is fulfilled due to several heterogeneous functions that work together. When sociotechnical transitions take place, it is not only new radical technologies that emerge but also a change in the other configuration elements. The elements in the sociotechnical configuration are aligned to each other and if only one of the elements change it is hard for the change to stick if it does not fit into the existing framework. These sociotechnical configurations are stable because social groups reproduce them (Geels, 2002). For example, here in Denmark, the average parcel house is 154,5 m2 per

person according to Denmark's Statistics[1]. This means that the users want a house in approximately this size when looking or building a new house and thus that the developers want to accommodate their wishes to sell the houses.

Geels argue that radical innovations break out when niche cumulation occurs. This is when several radical innovations have tried to break through within a specific market and thus a cumulation of radical innovations that try to solve or innovate a problem occur. To change a technology in an established regime is done by experimenting, learning, adjusting and reconfigure the innovation. This often happens as a technological add-on, meaning that the radical innovation is an add-on to an already existing invention in the regime. An example could be hybrid cars that is a mix of 'regular' gasoline motors as well as an 'add-on' in the form of an electrical motor. In this way it does not directly compete against the established invention and can slowly move into the regime. Another factor that can influence how well radical innovations take off is if there is growth in the specific market that the innovation is in. Sociotechnical transitions do not happen overnight but is a stepwise transition that has taken place over time (Geels, 2002). In the case of planning, it might help to create planning practices that fit into the everyday tasks of the planners or create products or solutions that can directly take over or play into a certain existing product, like finding a sustainable variant of concrete.

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[1] https://statistikbanken.dk/bol106.

Picture 3: the characteristic buildings in the Meat Packing District (Peeradontax - stock.adobe.com)

3 METHODOLOGY

This chapter will start by giving an overview of the research design of this thesis and an explanation for this design. This will be followed by a walk-through of the methodological devices that has been deployed in this report starting with interviews as a starting point for finding the direction of the analysis leading to explaining how semi-structured interviews and document analysis have been used in this report.

The data for the municipalities will be based on quantitative data, like demographic numbers from the Danish statistics bank on age, income and population. This will be supported by qualitative data from interviews, newspaper articles and municipal plans and strategies.

3.1 SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS AT DIFFERENT STAGES

Interviews were used in different ways in this project. When the research for this thesis was in its early stages the approach was to have some investigative and preliminary interviews with actors that were directly involved in the planning of urban places that had a focus on sustainability. Some of the interviewees were found by contacting planners involved in projects that were aiming to get DGNB urban area certified. Others were chosen because of previous

knowledge of the project they were involved in. These interviews were done as semi-structured interviews. Although the interviewer had an interview guide the interviewee often had a lot of free space to speak about their project or company. This was done to get a clearer understanding of what the actors involved in the planning process found interesting or challenging in their projects and base this research on something that is a problem in the field.

The first three interviews led to a focus on creative placemaking that was used in Esbjerg Municipality and a wondering of what it would take to get such an urban planning strategy implemented into municipal urban planning projects and if it was worth it.

Later in the process, when there was a clearer understanding of where the project was headed, there were interviews with employees and politicians that work with urban planning in Ringsted and Roskilde Municipality or have worked on a specific project in the municipalities. This helped gain an understanding of the challenges that the urban planners and politicians are facing and what they experienced in their work. These interviews used a similar interview guide, adapted to whether it was in Ringsted or Roskilde or was a planner or a politician. Many of the questions were asked to gain a larger understanding of the factors and challenges that the actors in the municipality meet in their daily planning or with specific projects. The interviews from Roskilde focused on the neighborhood Musicon, as the focus is creative placemaking which the area has used the same strategies as. This was then followed by questions about how the area have rubbed off on the urban planning in the rest of the municipality. With the Ringsted interviews the focus was broader and not on a specific neighborhood, to understand the general challenges and opportunities they face and where it might be rewarding to use creative placemaking.

In this report the interviews used are from:

Ringsted Municipality:

- Andreas Karlsen – City Council member
- Nicholas Durin – Senior Project leader in Center for Climate and Growth
- Kristian Funk Lønborg – Teamleader of the Plan Department

Roskilde Municipality:

- Trine Borre – City Council member
- Andreas Høegh – former head of project development in the Musicon Secretariat

Esbjerg Municipality:

- Christina Olsen - Secretariat leader for the International Neighborhood

These interviews helped gain an understanding of what happens in the day-to-day planning and what is the actual challenges that are met when planning, that are not written down in any municipal plans or papers. Although many of the challenges mentioned in either plans or visible in inhabitant forecasts the interviews gave an extra dimension of understanding for these problems and explained how much they filled in the everyday planning.

The transcriptions of the interviews will be found in the Annex's where they will appear on the language they were undertaken in, Danish. They have not been translated as the meaning of sentences would too often have to be translated in an unfulfilling manner and it did not have any impact on the use in the analysis. When quotes from the interviews are used in the analysis, they will have been translated by the author. The transcriptions have been altered for reading purposes, this means that sentences have been changed to make sense in a written language and interjections have been filtered out to the best abilities.

3.2 CHOICE OF LITERATURE

This report has also made use of a lot of different literature from theoretical reports to Municipal plans to newspaper articles. To lay the groundwork of this thesis there has been used and read many reports and articles on theory and methodology from experts in their field.

The multi-level perspective is a well-used and known theory when it comes to sustainable transitions and there are many documents on this field. Here, it was decided to use the reports from Geels to lay the groundwork and look for reports that are in the same line as this thesis to explain further in depth on how it can be used in connection to Municipalities and urban planning. The same process has been made with creative placemaking. Many of the documents explaining creative placemaking are from the United States and gives examples from that context. Therefore, the theoretical framework and how to use creative placemaking in practice was found from these documents and supplied with Danish reports that gave Danish examples and explained how it was use in a Danish context.

In the analysis, six municipalities that have used or are using creative placemaking are being analyzed through using the multi-level perspective and the framework of creative placemaking. To understand the plans from the neighborhoods, there has been used unified plans, strategies, experience papers and websites about the projects. Some of the neighborhoods have a specific website for their neighborhood, where there was a lot of information about the projects. Some of the projects are, however, not very far along and the information about specifics on the neighborhood was thus limited. In the case of Stejlepladsen, information was found in a competition paper for building on Stejlepladsen and in an application form for Copenhagen Municipality looking for funds for using creative placemaking in the South Harbor Neighborhood in Copenhagen. There is both a South Harbor Neighborhood in Aarhus and Copenhagen. However, the development and use of creative placemaking is at Stejlepladsen, and this is the neighborhood that will be referred to. Although the application for funds for

creative placemaking is made for the South Harbor, one of the applicants is the firm Ejendomsselskabet Stejlepladsen P/S (Trifolium, n.d.).

Later in the analysis the focus will be primarily on Ringsted Municipality where it is the municipal plan, climate strategies, plan strategies and their webpage that information will be drawn from to understand what their overlaying strategi and goals are for the municipality.

The amount of documentation and information about the six neighborhoods was varying. Some because it is early in the process, as with Stejlepladsen, Refshaleøen and to some extent The International Neighborhood. Others because the actual transition from an industry neighborhood started in the early 2000's as with the Meat Packing District. However, The South Harbor Neighborhood and Musicon have several plans, reports and other forms of documentation where there is information about the projects. This also means, that there will be drawn examples to a higher extent from the cases where the information is available.

In the analysis there will also be used newspaper articles to gain an understanding of how the public have reacted to specific planning decisions or which problems had arisen surrounding the city center development in Ringsted. These articles are to give an indication of the public opinion, but it is not a representation of the whole population in Ringsted and will not be used as such.

To understand the demography in the municipalities, different graphs, prognosis, statistics and the likes were used to see how the population is divided. This gave an indication of which challenges they face today and what they might face in the future, this could be a lot of young people moving from the municipality or/and the older generation increasing over the next years. This is mainly used in the chapter 'setting the scene', where the landscape surrounding municipal decision making is explained.

3.3 CONCEPT CLARIFICATION

Here, some of the concepts used in this report that might have several definitions or have a specific meaning in this report, are listed and the definition or use is explained.

3.3.1 Traditional planning

The term traditional planning is used both by Jan Gehl and by some of the interviewees when describing the form of planning that focuses on effectiveness and cost efficiency. Due to the focus on citizen involvement in creative placemaking, traditional planning is also meant to entail a form of planning, where citizen involvement is limited, like kept to public hearings when it is legally demanded. Traditional planning is not used that much in this report but it is used as a contrast to more 'modern' planning practices, like creative placemaking.

3.3.2 Sustainability in this report

Sustainability is a complex size and holds different meanings and ways of measuring. From the Brundtland report sustainable development is defined as a development that 'meets the

needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development., 1987, p. 16).

Sustainable development is divided into three, social inclusion, economic growth and environmental protection. The one cannot prosper for long without the others following. Economic growth can only go on for so long if most of the population remains poor and the resources are depleted. Unsustainable development happens when short term benefits are pursued without thinking of the harm it does elsewhere, people or the planet. These three aspects of sustainable development have been translated into targets by the UN Member States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where they introduce the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations, 2023).

A study by KL (KL, 2024a) shows that 80 % of Danish municipalities work with the SDGs. The 17 goals were adopted in 2015 by the United Nations. This Agenda was a 'plan of action for people, planet and prosperity' (United Nations, n.d.) with the goal to increase action until 2030. The 17 goals and 169 associated targets are interconnected and cannot be solved alone. Each goal is global and universally applicable with the individual governments in charge of setting national targets (United Nations, n.d.). In Denmark, the government have made an action plan for the UN SDGs (Finansministeriet, 2021).

For this report many of the goals can be argued to be relevant, however, the focus will be on a few that are particularly relevant for this specific thesis. These are goal 11, goal 13.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable is arguably the most important SDG for this thesis. The use of creative placemaking is to reach this SDG of making cities and local societies inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable (Finansministeriet, 2021; United Nations, n.d.). This SDG entails several targets that are relevant to this thesis, like, ensure access to safe and affordable housing, to sustainable transport systems, protect the worlds cultural heritage, reduce the per capita environmental impact and in particular, '11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries' (United Nations, n.d.).

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts is a big factor in urban planning. Municipal planning is increasingly focusing on climate change adaptation for especially floods and cloudbursts to solve target 13.1. Climate change measures are often part of innovative and creative solutions in creative placemaking and can be seen in many ways in urban planning (Finansministeriet, 2021; United Nations, n.d.).

Sustainable transition is also a concept that have a big meaning in this thesis. Though this concept has been explained in the theoretical framework chapter previously, it does appear often in this report. When a sustainable transition is mentioned, it will thus mean the sustainable transition in Ringsted Municipality. For the sake of there being a more finite end goal

when it comes to a sustainable transition, this will come to mean the goals that the municipalities have. Both municipalities have different goals focusing on growth, more nature, more biodiversity and many more. But the meaning of their municipal plans, frameworks and strategies is to follow the Paris agreement and stay within 1.5°. This goal is hard to measure and will not be tried in this report. However, Ringsted does have a goal to be CO^2 neutral by 2045 in Ringsted (Ringsted Kommune, 2024).

3.4 SCOPE AND DELIMITATION

The scope of this research is focusing mainly on the six neighborhoods in Esbjerg, Roskilde, Aarhus and Copenhagen that use creative placemaking. Furthermore, Ringsted Municipality is the focus as a case that draws inspiration from the six neighborhoods. This is done by looking at challenges within the framework of creative placemaking. Creative placemaking has specific functions and practices which the analyses take point of departure from and from which challenges and opportunities are found through. This is meant to lead to implementation recommendations for Ringsted Municipality based on the learnings from the six neighborhoods.

3.4.1 Why in municipalities?

Municipalities are combined the largest developer in Denmark (KL, 2024b). This means, that they have a huge influence on the building projects that take place in Denmark and the level of sustainability that these contain. Furthermore, for urban development to be successful, both economic, social, cultural and environmental concerns must be thought in. This involves a string of important actors that all needs to be involved, policy makers, local citizens, industry and civil society. All this needs to be considered when Municipalities are urban planning and the complexity keeps rising with environmental-, legislative-, social-, economic- and cultural considerations. This is the reasoning behind looking into urban planning practices that can help accommodate all of these concerns and make urban planning a tool to help reach the municipality's sustainability goals.

3.4.2 Geographical scope

Municipalities are large and complex sizes and contain very different cities, villages and neighborhoods. Because it would not make sense to compare a village with 500 inhabitants with a neighborhood with 1000 inhabitants in a larger city, this report will focus on municipally owned neighborhoods where they have decided to develop. Musicon is, however, a special case where the municipality functioned as the developer throughout the whole process. This means that they have more space and opportunity to be creative and innovative when they are the developer, as they do not have to be limited by legislation on tender processes. Most of the examples of creative placemaking that will be used in the analysis will be neighborhoods where the smaller areas will be put out to tender. These examples are chosen to

give an indication of the many ways creative placemaking can be used and which problems it can help solving.

3.4.3   Delimitation

This thesis is focusing entirely on Danish municipalities despite the knowledge, experiences and learnings from creative placemaking are larger in the United States. The challenges that they face in the United States are too different from the ones in Denmark and therefore it did not make sense to compare or draw inspiration from such cases.

While creative placemaking can encompass a wide range of activities, this study focuses on those strategies that directly address urban development challenges. Other aspects like purely artistic interventions without a direct urban planning impact are not covered. The focus has also been more on the overall effect of creative placemaking than on one specific intervention or a specific way to implement.

The cases used in this report is also limited to cases that are recent, which is also the only way as creative placemaking was defined in 2010 (Bennett & ArtPlace America, 2014). The cases were also chosen by how far they were in their implementation process as well as also having to choose enough that there were several cases to learn from.

While the study touches on the role of policy and political will in implementing creative placemaking, it does not provide a detailed political analysis. The focus remains on practical strategies and their urban planning implications. Beginning to look at the policy and political will could have been a project in itself and would have demanded a larger focus on the political plays and meanings as well as legislation, which has not been the focus of this report.

These scope and delimitation elements ensure that the project remains focused, manageable, and relevant to the research objectives, providing actionable insights for Ringsted Municipality based on the experiences of other Danish neighborhoods.

Picture 5: nature in Esbjerg (Frankix - stock.adobe.com)

4 SETTING THE SCENE

This chapter will help the reader understand the different aspects and developments that have taken place in Danish Urban planning. Here, some of the factors from the landscape and regime level will be explained to give a framework for the analysis further down.

Throughout the 90's, culture creeps in on the European big cities, Copenhagen amongst them. This was done by focusing on activities rather than the physical city. Here, pedestrian streets in the city center gets renovated, events pop up and cultural centers get built. However, the understanding of the city is lacking. Up until the 90's the planning was two-dimensional, and the city is not seen as a space but rather organized based on economic, technical and functional considerations. Up through the 2000's several plans and changes occurred that put a larger focus on the urban environment. Furthermore, the planning field changes as strategic elements, cultural interests and language becomes a more integrated part of planning and the field gets more generalists and humanist instead of the traditional planning types (Lund, 2016).

4.1 Demographic considerations in urban planning

Today there is several demographic challenges that are putting pressure on the municipalities and which they must take into consideration when decisions are made in urban planning.

Age	2021	2033	Development (abs)	Development (pct)
0-2 years	1.044	1.277	233	22,4%
3-5 years	1-144	1.363	219	19,1%
6-16 years	4.510	4.656	146	3,2%
17-24 years	3.052	2.878	-174	-5,7%
25-64 years	18.618	19.645	1.027	5,5%
65-79 years	4.944	5.886	942	19,1%
80-89 years	1.302	2.159	857	65,8%
90+ years	233	2.159	160	68,6%
Total	34.847	38.258	3.411	9,8%

Table 4 translated from (COWI, 2020).

For one, the number of elderly people in Denmark is rising as the average expected age is increasing. This is also the case in Ringsted Municipality. In 2021 they created a forecast for the citizen development based on age and subareas from 2021-2033. The expectation is that there will be an increase in citizens above the national average. However, the expectation is that most of that increase will be in citizens in the age group above 80 years old. The age group 80-89 is expected to grow with 65,8 % and the age group of 90+ to rise with 68,6 % as seen in table 4. Combined this is an increase just above 1000 people (COWI, 2020).

		Average (2016-2020)			2020		
Nr	Municipality	Newcomers	Movers	Netto	Newcomers	Movers	Netto
1	Copenhagen	326	291	35	346	299	47
2	Næstved	168	225	-57	154	283	-129
3	Sorø	136	166	-30	122	190	-68
4	Slagelse	117	151	-35	122	164	-42
5	Roskilde	134	124	11	111	129	-18
Total		881	957	-76	855	1065	-210

Table 5 translated from (COWI, 2020).

A demographic development that is also taking place is the depopulation of rural districts and the immigration to the big cities and larger towns. In Ringsted the 17–24-year-olds are the only group that decreases in numbers in the 2030 projection. This is also mainly the age

where young people move away from home and start on a higher education or work. The population prognosis (COWI, 2020) shows that the top three cities that citizens in Ringsted are moving to the most are 1. Copenhagen, 2. Næstved and 3. Sorø in 2020 (table 5).

4.1.1 Climate and environmental considerations

Climate changes are an often-mentioned example of landscape changes that can create windows of opportunity for niches into the regime or even landscape level. In Denmark the effects of climate changes have also been felt. In 2011 Copenhagen and surrounding municipalities were hit by a heavy cloudburst that led to a paralyzed traffic and cost billions in insurance payouts and cleanup. This has led to a focus on cloudburst protection as part of urban development (HOFOR, n.d.). In Ringsted this is also a focus, rainwater management and mapping potential risk areas and are currently working on climate adaptation project several places in the municipality (Ringsted Kommune, n.d.-b). Furthermore, Ringsted Municipality is expecting to experience a variety of effects from climate changes, for example waterlogging, summer droughts, higher wind force and generally higher temperatures (Ringsted Kommune, n.d.-c). The temperature in Denmark has risen, with 1.5°C over a 150-year period. This largely follows the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG). This means, that it will keep rising in accordance with the level of GHG emissions and it is difficult to plan for a specific scenario (Olesen, 2023).

4.1.2 Sustainability in the EU

The ongoing and oncoming challenges we're facing from climate changes has led to many changes and decisions being made in governments and international organizations. Some of these, that have had an impact on decision making in Danish Municipalities will be described below.

In a 2023 Eurobarometer survey they found that over three quarters of EU citizens agree that climate change is currently a very serious problem. Over 80 % think that it is important that their national government and the European Union take action to improve energy efficiency. Over half of EU citizens also think that national governments are responsible for tackling climate change. In Denmark, climate change is considered the most serious problem facing the world (European Commission. Directorate-General for Climate Action., 2023). Overall, this survey shows a clear indication, on different parameters, that the EU citizens are ready to be a part of sustainable transitions.

There are also several EU policies that have an impact on the planning in Danish Municipalities. There are a well of plans and strategies that aim at creating a more sustainable development to accomplish the UN 2030 agenda. This entails plans on biodiversity, circular economy, sustainable growth, climate neutrality, migration, education and several other areas (Europa Kommissionen, n.d.). In a 2022 analysis of EU's influence on Danish Municipalities, it showed that 40 % of the agenda is affected by the EU. 76 % of the influence is legal influence as opposed to 24 % being political influence. This means, that 76 % of the influence is due to

binding EU-legislative measures. 52 % of assignments in municipalities environmental administrations is legally affected by EU. The municipalities, for example, have certain demands that they must comply with when putting out tender material for construction projects or different standards that must be complied with (KL, 2022). Furthermore, the use of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is, as mentioned previously, used by around 80 % of Danish Municipalities (KL, 2024a).

4.1.3   Shifts in the construction industry

On a national level there has been some shifts in the construction regime through stricter regulations, for example, through the building regulation (BR18). From 1st January 2023 new demands for buildings climate footprint would be implemented. These were a limit value for CO^2-emissions on 12 kg CO_2e. /m^2/year and requirements for a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for new buildings (Social- og Boligstyrelsen, n.d.). However, the construction sector seems to have higher ambitions as shown by Reduction Roadmap. The goal of the roadmap is to stay within a safe operating space as defined by the planetary boundaries and translates these global CO^2 budgets into national Danish data. The roadmap shows that the construction sector needs to stay under 5,8 kg CO_2e. /m2/year in 2025 if the CO^2 budget is to stay within the Paris Agreement goals. The threshold value of 5,8 kg CO_2e. /m2/year is well below the current threshold value for new buildings climate burden in the Building Regulation of 2018 on 12,0 kg CO_2e. /m2/year. Despite the average building has a climate burden on 9.5 kg CO2-equ. /m2/year the proposal for a new threshold value from 2025 is on 10,5 kg CO_2e. /m2/year (Reduction Roadmap, 2023). As Reduction Roadmap write in their background paper (Reduction Roadmap, 2023), the construction sector differs from many other sectors by having the industry actually moving past the threshold values the government has set and support the threshold value from Reduction Roadmap and have gained the support of over 630 companies and organizations since its launch (Reduction Roadmap, n.d.). This list contains some large actors in the construction field in Denmark, like PensionDanmark, Danish Chamber of Commerce, NCC, Rambøll, several municipalities, public housing companies, architectural firms, developer firms and so on.

According to the multi-level perspective it can arguably be seen as an indication that there is being put pressure on the landscape. To agree to stay below 5,8 kg CO_2e. /m2/year by so many of the fields' actors indicates that they are ready to change their 'business-as-usual' practices and find new ways to build that would stay within the threshold value. When the team behind Reduction Roadmap won the price 'little Arne' (lille Arne) by the Danish Architects' Association, the reasoning for their win was that they 'achieved to assemble the entire building sector with their appeal that no company can commit to build within the framework of the Paris-Agreement alone. It demands a combined effort, a combined legislation and some ambitious combined goals. (own translation of Møller, 2024)'. This further underlines the argument that there is support of Reduction Roadmaps goal from the industry. This could potentially help put pressure on the regime or even landscape and create space for new

radical innovations to break through. This quote further underlines the MLP notion that a change does not happen alone but through a transition on all three levels and through the different configurations in the construction regime.

Picture 6: Houses in the South Harbor in Copenhagen (Alexander fromn (Alexander - stock.adobe.com)

5 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN DANISH MUNICIPALITIES – FUNCTIONS AND BENEFITS

This chapter will focus on different neighborhoods in Danish municipalities where creative placemaking has been used or is planned on being used. These cases will be analyzed using the terms defined in chapter *3.1 creative placemaking*. The neighborhoods analyzed will be the South Harbor neighborhood in Aarhus, The International Neighborhood in Esbjerg, Musicon in Roskilde and Refshaleøen, the Meat Packing District and Stejlepladsen all in Copenhagen. The multi-level perspective will be used to understand why the reason for using creative placemaking occurred and how they plan to fix it, and whether it was due to landscape or regime changes.

5.1 EXPECTED BENEFITS OF CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS

As explained in chapter *3.1.1 Functions and benefits of creative placemaking* creative placemaking projects all differ and are very circumstantial. However, there are some parameters that have shown to be important for the planning to succeed. There are four functions that were defined when examining 189 projects who used creative placemaking, these were:

strengthen economic development, seeding civic engagement, building resilience and contributing to quality of life. However, due to the difference in how far along these projects are and the difficulty in measuring how much of the progress resulted from creative placemaking, this has not been the focus but rather to understand how the neighborhoods plan to try and achieve these benefits.

Some of the neighborhoods are in the very early stages or are located where there is only industry, making examples to some of the functions quite different from case to case. Throughout this chapter, it will be visible how each neighborhood has indicated they focus on these benefits and purposes in the tables. This is not an exhaustive list but is rather made to give an idea of the different ways creative placemaking can be used to reach some overall goals.

Looking at *strengthen economic development* this is done by helping art and culture in the neighborhood as it is often consumed in person and pulls tourists and local foot traffic to the area, see examples in table 6[2]. Furthermore, these businesses or industry have differing opening hours that can help keep a neighborhood safe and vibrant at all hours. In the six neighborhoods the differences are most likely based on how far they are in their process. Most of the areas are either almost 'finished' and have different forms of art incorporated like museums and art studios as well as cafés, shops and restaurants. Others, like Stejlepladsen and the International Neighborhood are in the early stages and focus on laying a good foundation by creating good transportation options, both public, biking and walking, as well as creating a green identity that will attract investors or businesses. This 'benefit' is mainly focusing on changing the cultural and symbolic meaning of the

	Strengthen economic development
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	Nightlife, culture, art and stores – life after the normal opening hours
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Green boost will get private investors to build in the area
Musicon (Roskilde)	- cafés, museums, Roskilde Festival Folk High School, esport, skate hall
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	Mixed business life with differential renting prices, sizes and for different purposes
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Gastronomic, creative and food production industry - Focus on diverse use that has life all hours
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- Close to future metro station - div. craftsman businesses in line with the fishing harbor - Small industry and a good café

Table 6 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejlepladsen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

regime in the neighborhood. By strengthening the economic development with creative and innovative businesses and developing a reputation as a creative neighborhood the cultural meaning of the neighborhood will shift as has been seen in both Musicon, the Meath Packing District and Refshaleøen. Likewise, by trying to build up a 'green' identity it might help changing the cultural meaning behind the neighborhood as hoped in the International Neighborhood. Furthermore, developing such an identity can help change the user practices in the neighborhood, again, this is what the International Neighborhood is counting on, that the locals will begin to use the neighborhood in a different way.

With *seeding civic engagement, table 7[3],* there is a focus on engaging the community and connect them as well as creating a collective identity. This is often done by using informal arts to connect people. As some of the neighborhoods are based on industrial buildings and other projects are barely started, the focus is on how they have tried to bring people together for a common project or goal as a way of seeding civic engagement. In some cases, this can be seen in bringing people together to help with the development of the neighborhood itself, as seen in Musicon, the International Neighborhood, the South Harbor Neighborhood and Stejlepladsen. In others

	Seeding civic engagement
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	- Art to activate the public space - citizens and actors as part of development of Neighborhood Square
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Neighborhood Loop – local actors help choose the art they want - Kids Environmental Ambassadors
Musicon (Roskilde)	- Citizens and companies are to develop the neighborhood - Festivals and performances - Pixl park
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	- Green community - Sports and movement activities as part of climate adaptation and the neighborhoods qualities
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Art exhibitions - Musical events - Festivals - Markets
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- Bottom-up urban spaces - DIY

Table 7 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

there is used art, festivals, music and leisure activities to bring people together for things they enjoy, like gardening or outdoors sports, like in Refshaleøen. This follows in line with *strengthen economic development* when looking at how it influences the configurations in

[3] The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejlepladsen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

the regime, as it also seeks to strengthen the cultural meaning the neighborhood have. By engaging the local citizens, they help build the kind of cultural meaning they want in the community and help further the meaning when engaging in public activities. This has especially been done in Musicon, where the local actors were part of deciding and thus developing the neighborhood (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). By creating a stronger culture for civic engagement in the community it might influence the politicians to have a larger focus on civic engagement and thus influence the industry structure in the municipality. However, looking at Musicon again this might not have been the case for the whole municipality, where civic involvement has not been done to the same extent as in Musicon in other development projects (Annex D). Furthermore, it can change the user practices in the regime, if civic engagement becomes a more normalized practice for citizens, planners and politicians in the municipality. Thus, *seeding civic engagement* can impact three aspects of the regime in municipal urban planning, user practices, cultural meaning and industry structure. In Musicon, all three configurations have been altered, however, it might be hard to see the influence outside the neighborhood.

	Building resiliency
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	- Room for socially marginalized – and include them in the planning
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Better connections to get the residents to know the area - Gain many neighborhood ambassadors to spread the positive story
Musicon (Roskilde)	- Skate parks as water drainages - Houses and halls for multiple art forms and events
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	- Community around a green and blue neighborhood - Support social diversity
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Give the neighborhood a lift - industrial character identity
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- Two communal houses near the water - common courtyard areas

Table 8 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

When *building resilience* in a neighborhood it is to create a community that is mentally and physically resilient, as exemplified in table 8[4]. An attractive environment attracts long-term investments and mentality wise; it has been found that social stability and collective identity can help create resilience in a neighborhood. The focus here, when looking into the six neighborhoods has been more physical in what the neighborhoods have done to make it more accessible and pleasant to be in. This is because 'creating a collective identity' was touched upon in the previous function *seeding civic engagement*. So

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[4] The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejlepladsen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

here, some of the neighborhoods have tried to create a community around common areas, Musicon, Refshaleøen and Stejlepladsen, and create spaces for a socially diverse people, South Harbor Neighborhood, Refshaleøen and the International Neighborhood. As for attracting long-term investments, much of it comes from the municipality, when it comes to climate change adaptations. In Musicon, rainwater is thought into the structure of the neighborhood as a recreative element (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). Furthermore, making the neighborhood more inclusive is a part of changing user practices, that more people feel inclined or able to use an area or common spaces, which is, again, the hope in the International Neighborhood and in the South Harbor Neighborhood.

Lastly, there is *contributing to quality of life, table 9*[5]. In all the areas they have, in some way or another, a focus on limiting car infrastructure and focus on improving the environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. This creates changes in the infrastructure configuration in the regime, both with more parking spots for bikes, the Meat Packing District (Kødbyen, n.d.), and a focus on new pathways to connect the neighborhoods, the International Neighborhood and the South Harbor Neighborhood (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018). In the latter, they also have a focus on the people who are socially marginalized and giving them a space to be without feeling in the way as

	Contributing to quality of life
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	- Urban life before urban spaces and urban spaces before buildings - safe spaces for socially marginalized people
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Attractive streets for walking and biking in a safe environment - New attractive housing to lift the area - Improves educational facilities
Musicon (Roskilde)	- Trusted local actors to build the neighborhood and aesthetic they wanted
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	- history as shipyard to build on - Promote walking and biking over cars
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Maintaining old industry buildings – aesthetic of the neighborhood – part of Danish industrial history
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- Green and sustainable buildings of reused materials in different colors - 800 trees in the neighborhood and a focus on flora and fauna

Table 9 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

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[5] The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejlepladsen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

well as including them in the development of the neighborhood (Teknik og Miljø, 2018), which is aiming at changing the user practices for the socially marginalized in the area. And in Musicon they have trusted the local actors to know best what would improve their quality of life, so to say, as the municipality believes that the locals are able to build a community in a way the municipality would not be able to (Roskilde Kommune, 2022).

As mentioned in the theoretical chapter, the configurations are the interaction between different elements within a socio-technical system (Geels, 2002), here the urban planning in Danish municipalities system, and how there needs to be a change in all the configurations. Meaning that one niche innovation cannot create a socio-technical transition in itself. Here, it shows that several of the configurations will be influenced by using creative placemaking, culture and symbolic meaning, infrastructure, markets and user practices and industry structure. The lack of finance rules and regulations and policies might be explained by the information is found in plans and strategies from the Municipalities, which are made for the public to read and therefore might not include stuff and how it will be insured or funded or how the policies affect the planning.

5.2 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN PRACTICE IN DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS

Now that the functions and benefits for the neighborhoods has been detailed it is time to look at how the neighborhoods has gotten there or are planning to get there in practice. The four ways of transforming a community in practice, as described in chapter *3.1.2 creative placemaking in practice* are *anchoring, activating, 'fixing'* and *planning*. Similarly to the previous section, the six neighborhoods will be examined with these four practices in mind to understand how they plan to achieve their goals.

First, there is *anchoring* wanted organizations and actors to the community to help create a neighborhood identity, attract investments and create jobs, exemplified in table 10[6]. Musicon and the South Harbor Neighborhood are working very specifically with this. The latter work actively with engaging the local businesses as part of the development of the area and offering a place in a unique neighborhood in return of being deeply involved in the neighborhood's future and life (Teknik og Miljø, 2018). In Musicon they decided to have music as the central theme and had the opportunity to get a national rock museum to the neighborhood. The decentral secretariat that was made used the first phase of the project to find actors to take ownership of parts of the neighborhood simultaneously, like e-sport, skaters, artists, dancers and other creative entrepreneurs who then attached themselves to the area (Roskilde

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[6] The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejlepladsen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

Kommune, 2022). This can be said to change the 'normal' industry structure in the regime, where a local plan with experts would likely have been the way to go. But here, the local ac-tors were a part of the development. In Stejlepladsen there has been a focus on dialogue and mapping of creative and cultural actors (Trifolium, n.d.). The meatpacking District and Refshaleøen are rather established neighborhoods in Copenhagen by now. Refshaleøen is planning on transforming the neighborhood, which already have creative business, art and culture, which they want to maintain (Refshaleøen, n.d.-b). The Meat Packing District have attracted artists and entrepreneurs by selling themselves on characteristic buildings and a unique atmosphere. This was created through a decision from Copenhagen Municipality to restore parts of the Meat Packing District and open up

	Anchoring
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	- Invite urban companies to dialogue about being part of the community - Company analysis - Boost existing environment of small innovative companies - personal conversations with potential establishers
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Create a green neighborhood that will later attract investors
Musicon (Roskilde)	- Rockmuseum, Roskilde Festival and Roskilde Festival Folk High School, - Entrepreneur nesting box
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	- Street food - Event halls - Contemporary art
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Renting policy – open for innovative companies - Appointed as a creative zone in the 2009 Municipal plan - Educational institutions
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- Mapping and dialogue with the cultural actors and environments

Table 10 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

to the neighborhood to cultural industry (Københavns Kommune, 2011). The Meat Packing District also try to regulate and secure the rent to keep the creative and innovative businesses in the neighborhood. Here, we can see the finance rule configuration in the regime being af-fected and not run with the market prices as usual to keep a specific type in the neighbor-hood. *Anchoring* can thus help create changes in cultural meanings by anchoring the type of businesses the neighborhoods want, in these cases often entrepreneurial, artistic and cultur-ally benefitting businesses that help transform the neighborhood to a more creative space.

Activating the community by participatory events and activities in public spaces is done with a strong focus on the neighborhood's identity, see table 11[7]. The International Neighborhood has a strong international focus and want to bring the neighborhood closer together and have events such as bazar days, bloc beats, kids' ambassadors and bingo. They also have running events for cross-national women's community. This indicates that they try to know the local citizens and creative *activating* events that fit them (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.).

	Activating
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	- A neighborhood council in charge of high-quality art and culture production - activities where socially marginalized are included - Collaboration with DGI (SHN in movement)
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Bazar day, Bloc Beats, Reunion Day, bingo, children's ambassadors (Teknik & Miljø, n.d.) - BYSTART (day of architecture) - Calendar for public events
Musicon (Roskilde)	- Free zone – entrepreneur- and innovation house and hall for events - Art box - Flea markets - Experiments with light - Quarterpipe wall
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	- Green society in the Islands Garden - Festivals - Photo Festival
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Copenhagen Cooking - Jazz Festival - Meat Packing District Festival - Art Market - Food market - Pop-up events
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- City tours - South Harbor Symposium

Table 11 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

Here, they try to change the cultural meaning in the regime by trying to create a more positive image and a more community centered neighborhood while keeping the identity of the neighborhood. The same can be seen in Musicon, who brands themselves on being a neighborhood of music, which can be seen in the events from Roskilde Festival Folk High School and the Musicon Festival (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). With their long history of Roskilde Festival being held close by, it makes sense to further develop on this identity and make events in that line. Likewise, the Meat Packing District have food and cooking festivals and events as well as a history of meat distribution (Kødbyen, n.d.). For all the neighborhoods it is also clear that they have a large focus on creating a creative and innovative neighborhood and translated in their events and activities, whether it be a big festival, small local art installations or local communities for marginalized groups.

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[7] The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejleplad-sen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

	'Fixing'
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	- Include socially marginalized - create a connection between the harbor, city center and bay - 'Kulkransporet'
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Stengårdsvej has a status as a conversion area - the other half is 60% elderly living alone - Create better connections to Jerne - Create a positive image
Musicon (Roskilde)	- Make use of an area that are contaminated or could not otherwise be built on - Testing ground for urban development and circular economy in Roskilde Municipality - Build bridge between Roskilde Festival and city center
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	- Industrial neighborhood that needed transformation
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Transform part of the socially exposed Vesterbro to a culture center and give it a lift
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- In need of more housing in Copenhagen

Table 12 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

The *'fixing'* category is where you really see what the purpose and reason was for using creative placemaking to solve local problems. Examples are given in table 12[8]. This is very space specific but there are some 'problems' that are recurring. Transforming a previous industrial neighborhood into a new, trendy and creative neighborhood is one that is seen in Musicon, the Meat Packing District, the South Harbor Neighborhood and Refshaleøen. Like the with *Activating*, there is changes in the cultural meaning that is still attached to the DNA of the neighborhood, and here the old industry that is still visible in the neighborhood's has been made part of their branding. Another way of '*fixing*' that also relates to changing the cultural meaning in the regime is to lift a neighborhood socioeconomically, like the International Neighborhood that is a conversion area or the Meat Packing District that was part of a Vesterbro that was socially exposed. In both the International Neighborhood, the South Harbor Neighborhood and Musicon the development was also part of a plan to tie two areas together, often to the city center. This makes changes in the regime in the infrastructure configuration by tying two or more neighborhoods together as well as user practices, as it is also a way to encourage biking and walking.

Some, however, are specific to the individual creative placemaking project. In Musicon there was a desire to use the neighborhood as a testing ground for circular economy and urban development for the whole municipality (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). Similarly, in the

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[8] The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejlepladsen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

International Neighborhood the goal is to spread out the learnings from this one neighborhood (Annex F). This can arguably be seen as a change in the regulations and policies configuration as there is a wish to transfer the new experiences and knowledge onto other urban planning projects and thus influence local plans, perhaps municipal plans down the line. The South Harbor Neighborhood also has a very specific goal to be accessible and involve socially marginalized people, which, as mentioned earlier is aiming at changing the user practice configuration in the regime.

Lastly, there is the planning aspect of creative placemaking and how this is done in practice, see table 13[9]. Here, early citizen involvement is importatant to increase understanding and support of the development in the area. In several of the neighborhoods this is seen done by involving the citizens in picking names for streets, decide what art they want and being part of committees where they have a say in the development. Inviting to hearings and citizen meetings is also common as well as going on walks in the neighborhood to see it and have the citizens ask questions.

In Musicon they went the extra step and let the local actors oversee the development and the events they want while the secretariat mainly stood for the physical planning (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). In the International Neighborhood they made use of the dialogue tool BYSTART to involve the citizens and politicians and create a common language to have a like-minded discussion of what citizens want from the neighborhood (Annex F). Contemporality is also a way of planning that is used in

	Planning
South Harbor Neighborhood (Aarhus)	- Establishing a neighborhood council to start urban life activities - Advisory board of national experts on urban planning - Analyze needs of companies to understand what the area should include
International Neighborhood (Esbjerg)	- Part of committee on choosing a name for a park - Walk the Loop
Musicon (Roskilde)	- Temporary projects by actors in Musicon - Actors oversee development and events - Neighborhood as game board
Refshaleøen (Copenhagen)	- Vision and idea phase with citizens and experts - Open idea competition - workshop meetings
Meat Packing District (Copenhagen)	- Meetings with the Meat Packing Districts tenant association - Meetings and input from Vesterbro's Neighborhood Committee - Hearings
Stejleplasen (Copenhagen)	- Deploy local creative and cultural engaged people - South Harbor Symposium with keynotes, panel and workshop

Table 13 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002).

[9] The table information was found in: (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.; Fälling, n.d.; Københavns Kommune, 2011, 2019; Kødbyen, n.d.; PFA & BY&HAVN, 2019; Refshaleøen, n.d.-a, n.d.-c, n.d.-b; Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Stejlepladsen Sydhavn, n.d.; Teknik & Miljø, n.d.; Teknik og Miljø, 2018; Trifolium, n.d.)

several of the neighborhoods, Musicon, the South Harbor Neighborhood and the International Neighborhood where art, events, buildings and ideas are often contemporary and where they can be replaced if that is the wish.

All these planning strategies and tools foster a change in the cultural meaning and symbolic configuration in the regime by making the local actors be part of deciding parts of the neighborhood they live in and foster discussion and dialogue between citizens. The cultural meaning of the neighborhood then becomes something the citizens are a part of creating. Furthermore, these strategies might influence the industry structure if they are proven successful and be transferred to other urban planning projects in the municipality or even other municipalities, as we have seen others be inspired by Musicon.

5.3 SUB-CONCLUSION

To sum up, this chapter has given an overview of how and why creative placemaking is being used as part of urban planning in municipalities. The functions that can come from using creative placemaking were also visible in these six neighborhoods, though some of them are only in the early planning phase. Furthermore, they also address several of the regime configurations from Geels multi-level perspective, especially changing user practices, cultural meaning and industry structures. By looking at the 'fixing' practice in creative placemaking, the six neighborhoods had different challenges they needed to address, from rebranding the neighborhood to create connection between neighborhoods in the municipality. Some also used creative placemaking as a 'guinea pig' for circular economy and other sustainable solutions that could potentially be transferred to planning practices in other urban planning projects. When it comes to how, there were different approaches to using creative placemaking in practice. Civic involvement was a part of all plans, some to a very high extent and others less so. Climate change adaptation and infrastructure were also a topic in all the plans, again with varying degrees. With the effect these practices have on the configurations in the municipal urban planning sector there is a potential for it to influence sustainable transitions.

Picture 7: Sct. Bendt Church (mariahvid - stock.adobe.com)

6 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN RINGSTED MUNICIPALITY – BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

This chapter aims at understanding the biggest challenges that Ringsted Municipality is facing by looking at interviews with municipal workers and politicians in the municipality as well as municipal plans and strategies. This will be done through the lens of the multi-level perspective to understand the framework and connections. Furthermore, there will be drawn on learnings from other municipalities in chapter 5, based on the creative placemaking functions to see, which problems Ringsted Municipality can gain inspiration for from other neighborhoods and what they have in common and as well as where they differ.

6.1 CHALLENGES IN RINGSTED MUNICIPALITY

The municipal plans and strategies are the groundwork for decision-making in Municipalities and therefore they are important to understanding how decision-making is prioritized and what the goal is with their decisions. Furthermore, plans and strategies in municipalities are also telling of what needs to be addressed in the future and therefore telling of current and future challenges the municipality is facing.

Ringsted Municipality have made several plans to outline the development of their municipality in the future. Ringsted have a Plan Strategy 'connection in possibilities' (Ringsted Kommune, 2019a), a Municipal Plan 2021-2033 (Ringsted Kommune, 2021) and a climate plan, 'in the middle of a green transformation' (Ringsted Kommune, 2024) amongst others and information on their website.

Ringsted faces many of the same challenges in the '*fixing*' category from creative placemaking that we also see in the other municipalities from the previous chapter as well as some, that are their own. They want to create better connections between the two centers in Ringsted city and strengthen the city center (Annex B), to build more houses in the city center and outskirts of the city, to develop a stronger blue and green structure (Ringsted Kommune, 2021) and strengthen their position as a municipality you settle in (Ringsted Kommune, n.d.-a).

According to Ringsted Municipality's plan strategy 2019-2031 (Ringsted Kommune, 2019a) collaboration between citizens, community groups and interest groups is going to be an important part of the development of Ringsted Municipality. They also have a focus on cross sectoral collaboration to get all relevant actors involved to secure a connected and holistic approach. The plan strategy has three main focus points, 1. Settlement and Urban Growth, 2. The Blue and the Green and 3.

Based on these plans and strategies from Ringsted the challenges they are facing on the landscape and regime level are showed in figure 4 using the figure from Geels (2002). It is attempted to give an implication of creative placemaking on its way up in the regime, with the regime configurations, like traditional planning and the political agenda, still contrasting it before it can be an integrated part of the regime.

The multi-level perspective for urban planning in Ringsted Municipality
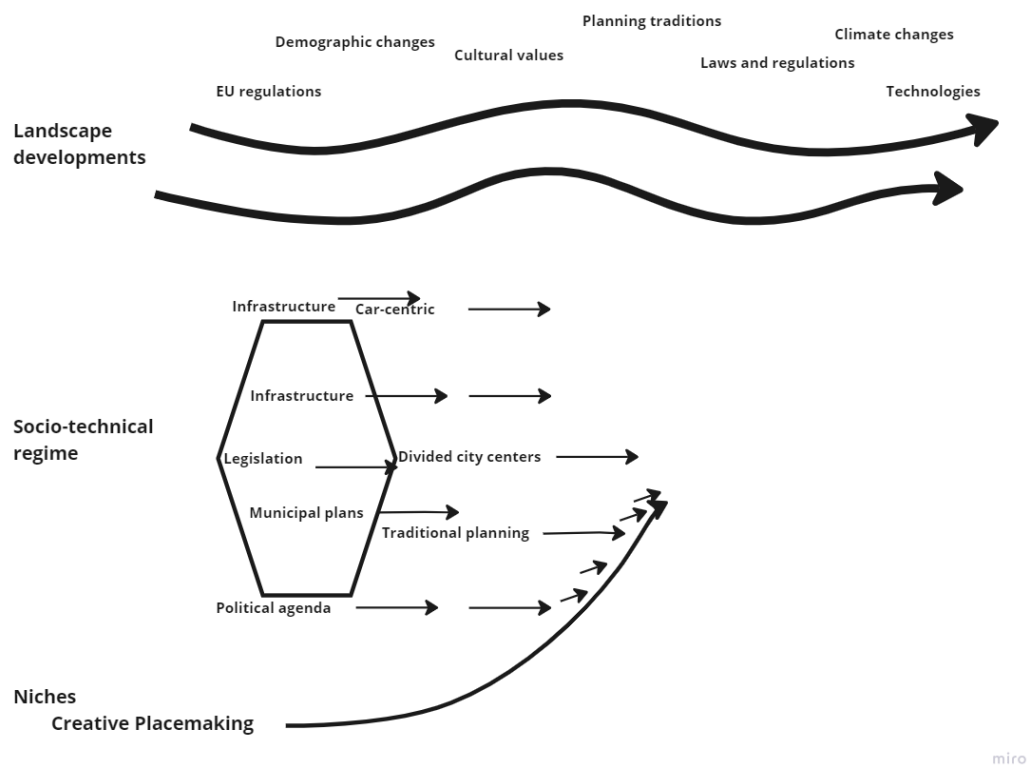
Figure 4 of own creation based on (Geels, 2002)

These challenges will be described for Ringsted Municipality and followed by learnings from the other six municipalities. Musicon will particularly be pulled upon as they are one of the neighborhoods that have created the most reading material combined with interviews and the fact that they are almost finished.

6.1.1 Climate change adaptation

There is a growing focus on climate adaptation in urban planning, especially on rainwater. As mentioned in chapter 4. Setting the scene Ringsted Municipality is expecting to experience summer droughts, ground water floods, higher wind strengths and generally higher temperatures, but the biggest focus in the Municipal Plan 2021-2033 is on extreme rainfall and flooding (Ringsted Kommune, n.d.-c).

Since the last election for city council there has been a larger focus on sustainable urban planning. Maybe because they are a bit younger. There has been a big shift over the last ten years, seen by the willingness to have wind turbines and the energy plant (Annex B).

Henrik Rasmussen mentions in an interview he did for the experience catalogue for Musicon (Roskilde Kommune, 2022) that they were lucky, that there had been mayors throughout the process that supported the innovative project. This same notion is shared by Høegh in his interview, he expressed that it was his experience as well, that there had been a good political support from the mayors (Annex E).

Both Nicholas Durin, senior Project leader in Center for Climate and Growth and Kristian Lønborg, the leader of the plan team in Ringsted Municipality (Annex B & C) agree that the 'new' city council have had a large influence on the focus in the decisions that are being made. The people who sit in the city council have a big influence on the amount of focus there is on sustainability and they both see the general regulations in the building sector, like the building regulation, as lacking political will and in need of improving (Annex B & C).

6.1.2 Demographic changes
In Ringsted Municipality they expect the number of inhabitants to increase with 9,8 % from 2021 until 2033 (COWI, 2020). This means that there is a need for new housing for different needs. There is a focus on larger variation in housing to further social balance. The strategy is to maintain a strong center and give the villages their own strategy (Roskilde Kommune, n.d.). As a general tendency in Denmark the population is also getting older, this is also the case in Ringsted. Here, the number of elders is assumed to rise by around 1000 people until 2033 (COWI, 2020), which is explained more in depth in chapter 5.1. One of the challenges that follows that in urban planning is, that many of the elders still live in the houses they have lived in all their lives, which is big villas that are a low degree of energy efficient (Annex A).

One of the functions or benefits of creative placemaking is, that it can help build resilience in a neighborhood. By making use of creative placemaking tactics the citizens could potentially become part of the planning and begin creating a neighborhood that caters to the needs that Ringsted is facing. This way, by focusing on planning through early citizen involvement for example, the planners can figure out, in collaboration with the citizens, what kind of housing they are looking for and want to live in.
Furthermore, there is a challenge in trusting the population forecast too much as it can always change and then you are left with construction that no one needs or want to live in (Annex B). There is also a tendency for old single people to keep staying in their old big houses because there is no alternative close by and they want to stay near where they have lived all their life. Here, the same planning method as just mentioned could potentially help figure out what it would take for the elderly to move out (Annex C). Potentially, Activating could help

involving the elders more in a neighborhood and get to know others to help them take the step to move into something new.

Both climate changes and demographic changes are happening in the landscape that cannot be directly influenced by one municipality. They cannot change the amount of rainwater or level of floodings that happens in within the municipal limits nor change the number of kids people get or what age people live to. When handling these challenges directly is it thus about adapting to the circumstances while still 'doing your part' in minimizing climate changes. These two challenges are national challenges on the landscape level that can be assumed to affect every municipality. However, though climate change adaptation and demographic concerns are arguably also a part of the considerations when looking at the whole municipalities where these neighborhoods are located, they might not have been the carrying problem that needed *'fixing'* in the specific neighborhood.

6.1.3   Infrastructure

Durin, from Ringsted Municipality, mentions that Ringsted is divided into three centers, one by the train station, one by Skt. Bendts church which is the old neighborhood, and lastly the center around the outlet that is located by the highway. This has led to the city center being drained a bit for stores and shops (Annex B). Even though there is not that far between the two centers, the connection between the historical city center and the outlet are not great at the moment. The municipality wants to create better pedestrian and bike connections between the two to help create a greater connection between the two centers (Ringsted Kommune, 2019a). The city center is also marked by the large spaces that are taken up by parking that is not used (Annex B). Ringsted is a country municipality where it is the norm for people to drive their cars, and when people drive to the outlet, they can get what they need from the different stores and something to eat. Then it is not that compelling to walk into the city (Annex B). In their plan strategy they are already planning on developing both the city center and the outlet. In their city center plan (Ringsted Kommune, 2023) they explain that several functions have moved out from the center, others have been replaced by digital solutions and the center is structured to make it easily accessible by car, fix your errand and drive out again. Ringsted Municipality is already planning on making the city center a more slow-paced, recreative space with events, experiences and life (Ringsted Kommune, 2023). The benefits of creative placemaking are similar to the wishes for the city center and the ideas fits with *Activating*, by creating space for events, and want to place new cultural and social welfare functions in the center. There are already some similarities between the planning in Ringsted Municipality for the city center and creative placemaking. However, a practice like early citizen involvement and efforts to attract creative and cultural innovators could perhaps strengthen Ringsted's efforts to make the city center more attractive. As the municipality already have some of the creative placemaking ideas incorporated or at least accepted, creative placemaking practices might be easier to implement than if there were none. As the MLP explains, it is easier to implement an innovation when it is an add-on to an already established practice in the

regime. The steps toward including more sustainability and a focus on creating culture and an urban life can be seen as signs that the municipality is slowly moving in the 'right' direction.

6.1.4 More sustainable development

Ringsted have three neighborhoods that are being developed, Hulemarken, Torpet and the Odinsvejs Neighborhood. The strategy for these areas is to become the flagships for sustainable development and hopefully a catalysator for more sustainability in other projects. Durin would like for Ringsted to be able to compete with surrounding municipalities, like Køge, Roskilde and Næstved, but there is still a long way to go. However, as Lønholt mentions there is a difference between building a sustainable house in Roskilde, Næstved, Køge or Valby for example. Here, the house prices are higher than in Ringsted but building the house still costs the same. Quoting Andreas Karlsen from Ringsted city council,

'whether you build 60 sqm apartment in Copenhagen or you do it in Ringsted, it costs the same to build, but you will probably get significantly more out of it in Copenhagen and that's why it is easier to think more sustainable than it would be here, because it have to make sense and there needs to be some economics in it and there we have to be honest and say we are another place than Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense (Annex A).'

This means that there is a limit to how much the developer is willing to use on a sustainable building to still gain profit. This can make it hard to get investors involved (Annex C). The politicians also need to come onboard as they are a bit behind, but they are on their way (Annex B). Lønborg, would like to find a better way to introduce sustainability to the politicians. The politicians are not experts on the field of the committee they sit in. He hopes that they can find a better way to prepare the politicians to take decisions on sustainability and are working on improving this already (Annex C). In Esbjerg Municipality they use a dialogue tool called BYSTART as part of their planning. This tool has been used both in connection with the locals and internally in the municipality. The dialogue tool helped make something very complex, like what is a sustainable city, into something tangible with the topics that are physically a part of the tool and the excel sheet that makes it possible to save your answers. It was easy to introduce to the young people and they were engaged in using it to make projects about two specific development areas of the neighborhood. Christina Olsen, secretariat leader for the International Neighborhood, has found it such a success that they have made it part of the criteria for advisors to use as part of the overall plan (Annex F). Furthermore, they are making a procedure where BYSTART is the framework for creating dialogue across sectors and create a common language. First to be tried in the Technical and Environmental department and then later all the way to the top (Annex F).

6.1.5 Legislation

Durin believes that one of the largest challenges that Ringsted Municipality is facing is the legislation. The plan law is setting some limits to what they can ask when it is not the municipality's property. How private actors, investors and developers act when it comes to

sustainability is hard to manage and they can decide to go with a more traditional construction than a sustainable one. It is much easier to regulate when the municipality owns the land and when the municipality is the developer (Annex B). Lønborg agrees that the legislation is not following the needs that exist now. In Musicon we saw how the area was developed while having the municipality as the developer throughout the process. This is, however, not the norm and other neighborhoods are planning on doing tender processes in different ways (Annex F; Teknik og Miljø, 2018). However, these are landscape configurations, it is national legislations, and the plan law sets some boundaries in what you can ask, which the individual municipality cannot go in and change. However, they can, like tried in Musicon, push the limits of the legislations (Annex E). In Esbjerg they invited developers to give an offer to develop in a part of the neighborhood where they had to include BYSTART as a planning tool (Annex F) and in the South Harbor Neighborhood they have 'open calls' that works as invitations to co-create in the neighborhood in collaboration with local artists, entrepreneurs and socially marginalized people (Teknik og Miljø, 2018) In a way, they have combined *Anchoring* and *Planning* with their tender process. However, Lønborg does not see the plan law as a problem, as it has opened for setting demands for sustainability and biodiversity. Although it needs to be possible to secure the use of reused and recycled materials (Annex C). Nonetheless, it would still be a possibility for Ringsted to look to other municipalities for inspiration on how to use tender processes in a way that secures the plans and strategies for the area are abided by.

6.1.6   Planning and dialogue

In Ringsted Municipality, the citizen involvement is consisting of public hearings in connection with new local plans where there has already been a sketch to talk from and not in the early phases of planning. When planning the city center there has been some lecture days and city walks where the citizens could talk and ask questions of the politicians, the administration and the local industry. Durin believes that there isn't a big culture for citizen involvement in Ringsted Municipality. There has been some workshops and public hearings and especially with the new renewable energy facility there has been several citizen hearings. This has, according to Durin, opened the eyes of the politicians that it gives something to listen to the citizens and prompt some ideas. The planning department also have freedom to do citizen involvement as they like from the administration (Annex B). The regime for civic engagement might be ready to change, with the recognition of its abilities from the politicians. And as Durin mentions, there is already happening a shift with the newly educated having sustainability as part of their education when they come to work in the municipality (Annex B). They can help create a transition in the regime by slowly transitioning from a mindset that focuses on traditional planning methods and more strategic or creative planning methods and especially planning that is first and foremost based on creating a sustainable society. And there is plenty of ideas and experiences to steal and learn from. In the International Neighborhood the use of BYSTART has also been used in connection with citizen involvement. Students from the local educations were working with the dialogue tool for a presentation on the Day of

Architecture, which they presented for local politicians and the mayor (Annex F). In the South Harbor Neighborhood, they set down neighborhood councils (Teknik og Miljø, 2018) and in Musicon they let the local actors oversee which projects, events and developments they wanted in the neighborhood (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). In Esbjerg Municipality, they also found that it was important to find the people who were engaged in the specific topics and get them engaged. For each event or each topic, a group of invested people needs to be included instead of having one big, centralized group. They had more success with having a network approach than a centralized one (Annex F). Several of the neighborhoods set down councils, held idea competitions, went on city walks and held hearings. Some of these are also done in Ringsted, the walks and hearings, and them seem to have been successful according to municipal workers in the interviews (Annex B). And, as the planning department have free range in how they do civic engagement, there might be a possibility for them to implement earlier and more civic engagement (Annex B).

The political aspect fills a lot in Ringsted Municipality and has a large influence on how easily the planning happens. The collaboration between the planning department and the politicians in city council has a big effect on how fast local plans go through. Durin explains that there can be long periods where the communication is going well and then at the last minute, before the local plan is going to public hearing, they backtrack. This was seen with the local plan for Hulemarken, where there was a new city council after three years. Then, the new city council had a lot of changes and they had to be convinced from scratch by the planning department of why certain decisions were made. This led the project to be late by around a year and a half. Luckily, it also led to some new ideas and new viewpoints, and it ended up with a good local plan (Annex B). Furthermore, there are municipal elections next year and according to Durin it can already be felt on the political level. There is a bigger nervousness when making decisions if they end up being part of the election campaign. But the two previous years the cooperation with the politicians has run smoothly and with good dialogue (Annex B). Lønborg also mentions that the journey to include the 'green' in more contexts has exploded over the last two-three years. He also believes that the city council is receptive to learning from the plan department. At city council meetings they have begun to have theme discussions where the departments explain why a certain decision or plan is important (Annex C). Based on this, it can be argued that there is beginning to open a window of opportunity in Ringsted, where the political side is more open to sustainable ideas and the two parties trust each other and engage in understanding one another. This might be closing soon, with the approaching election and there needs to be a focus on keeping the communication and collaboration between the politicians and planning department. However, it is highly dependable on who gets elected to the city council. Both Durin and Lønborg thinks that the city council is more focused on sustainability since the last municipal election, and they are very receptive (Annex B & C). How the city council will look after the election is, however, not possible to know.

Both in Esbjerg- and Roskilde Municipality the political will has played a role in the neighbor-hoods. In Esbjerg, the mayor, committee chairmen and directors have been completely on board with the creative placemaking project even though they need to be communicated with often (Annex F). In Roskilde, with Musicon, Høegh also felt that the different mayors have sup-ported the project all through the process (Annex E). It can be argued that these two munici-palities use creative placemaking in a form of incubation room, where, according to the MLP niches are protected from the normal market selection where the radical innovations can de-velop (Geels, 2002). The municipalities create special circumstances for this planning method although, as mentioned by Olsen, there was no assurance that the experiment would work (Annex F).

6.2 SUB-CONCLUSION

Ringsted Municipality can use creative placemaking to further several of the goals and strate-gies that they have. For example, their city center guidelines showed plans where some of the creative placemaking practices were alike. Here, creative placemaking could help take the plan a step further by incorporating more and earlier civic engagement. The politicians also seem open to civic engagement as the use has been done successfully so far. Here, there is plenty of inspiration to get from the other neighborhoods, the same with ideas for tender pro-cesses that incorporates more sustainability. Creative placemaking might help pull more people to the city center but it might show difficult to change the car centric regime, both in infrastructure and citizens behavior. There is also a big uncertainty in the upcoming municipal election that influences the politicians' decisions and willingness to go into big projects that are overlapping with the election.

Picture 8: bicycle parking (Zoran Djekic - stock.adobe.com)

7 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN RINGSTED MUNICIPALITY – INCORPORATION AND POSSIBILITIES

To try an investigate how specific creative placemaking strategies can be used in Ringsted Municipality it is necessary to narrow it to a specific neighborhood in the city. Based on the previous chapter it was made clear that a challenge Ringsted is facing is to get life back into the city center. As they already have a strategy for how they will do this, this chapter will focus on trying to implement creative placemaking into the existing plan.

This approach is chosen to accommodate the MLP to try and make creative placemaking an add-on to the planning regime to not directly compete against the established planning methods that are currently the norm in Ringsted Municipality.

7.1 HOW CAN RINGSTED'S CITY CENTER USE CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN PRACTICE TO ADDRESS SOME OF ITS CHALLENGES?

To understand some of the specific challenges the city center in Ringsted is facing, it has been tried to identify the public opinion using new paper articles. Here, it was clear that the city center has been the focal point of a lot of discussion. One challenge is the so called 'death' of the small stores in the center, when a public meeting was arranged the number of citizens that showed up gave a clear indication that this is a problem many are concerned about in Ringsted (Olling & Svingkær, 2023). This is partly due to a large amount of the shopping having moved to the outlet as well as online shopping (Ringsted Kommune, 2023). The citizens of Ringsted also voted a newly constructed pavilion located on the town square to be the 'worst construction of the year' and the city is nominated as the municipality that is the worst to administer its cultural heritage. This is despite the municipality using at least 55 million of the taxpayer's money on improvements to modernize the city center (Tiirikainen, 2024).

The current strategy for Ringsted city center is based on urban densification, functions, connections and beautification. Ringsted Municipality wish for a city center that can contain the recreational urban life where the pace is slower and the focus on the community grows. The focus is also on shifting the focus from cars to people and encourage the people to stay in the city when they have run their errands (Ringsted Kommune, 2023).

7.1.1 Urban densificaiton

The planning around urban densification is focused on figuring out which buildings should be demolished and be replaced as well as making the most of empty places. This is to get more people to work, visit and live in the city center. Some of the buildings in the center are in such a bad condition that they have to be demolished. The new buildings in their place will focus on 'giving something back' by giving the center a visual lift.

As Lønborg mentioned in his interview, there is not a big culture in Ringsted for civic engagement. However, it seems, based on the few articles mentioned above, that there is some unhappiness with the city center and some of the decisions that have been made and constructions that have been built. When the town square was being built, it caused some commotion and it has received hundreds of signatures against the project (Larsen, 2017). So even though the civic engagement might not be that high there is still an interest in the development of the city center. The integration of creative placemaking can help engage the local community in creating a neighborhood that they want to stay or even live in. The possible benefits of creative placemaking fits well with the goals of the planning that is taking place in the city center. To get more people to live, walk and visit the center is focuses seen in other creative placemaking projects by strengthening economic development. This can be done by Ringsted Municipality by several of the practices, *Anchoring, Activating* and *Planning*.

For example, by *Planning*, as they do in both the International Neighborhood and Musicon, where they create a critical mass, (only in Musicon), and have a long period where they focus on getting to know the neighborhood and creating life before they build anything. *Activating* can also be seen in both Esbjerg and Roskilde, where they have invited local actors to walk the neighborhood and get to know it in different ways (Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Annex F). Ringsted Municipality have already worked with city walks in the city center where local actors could interact and ask questions of the politicians (Annex B). The citizens that live in the neighborhood are the ones that knows it the best. It is a great way to prevent unnecessary conflicts and make the neighborhood more accommodating to the citizens to understand and not changing the things that they appreciate or value the most and gain a larger understanding of which part of the culture and values in the neighborhood that the citizens want to keep or enhance.

Karlsen (Annex A) explains that due to the age of many of the houses and apartments in the city center there is no elevator in most of them. This excludes the elderly people in the municipality from moving there into something smaller. Karlsen has an ambition to get some senior cohabitation built and is working on finding places where it could be built and get private investors on board (Annex A). Both Karlsen and Trine Borre, from Roskilde city council wants private actors to buy up some of the land and build instead of the municipality doing it (Annex A and D). One of the benefits of creative placemaking is, that by planning for a creative, innovative neighborhood it can help attract investors. Using *Activating* to hold events and include citizens, could help solve the challenge, mentioned by both Durin and Lønborg (Annex B & C), that elders are not moving out of their large houses, meaning they do not get an energy efficiency upgrade by the new owners and families might build a new house instead.

7.1.2 Functions
Ringsted Municipality plans for the city center to become a social and cultural meeting place where there is life all day to support businesses and attractive housing. The main attraction of

the city center is its historic meaning and the specific atmosphere created there. They also want to improve the route to Ringsted Outlet which is 800-1000 meter from the city center, by planting, benches and attractive urban spaces on bike or foot. This will hopefully benefit both the Outlet and the city center and tie them closer together. The plan for supporting the businesses is to gather them near the historical center and focus on liberal businesses in the rest of the center. The center also contains a shopping center that far from reaches its potential and has parking spots attached that is not used. The plan is to transform it into a place where there is a mix of cultural-, social- and commercial character (Ringsted Kommune, 2023).

By using *Anchoring* in the city center, the municipality could for example draw inspiration from the South Harbor Neighborhood in Aarhus, where they have invited companies to a dialogue about being part of the community and hold personal conversations with potential establishers (Teknik og Miljø, 2018). In Roskilde Municipality they have several cultural qualities that they can brand themselves on. Although Ringsted Municipality also have a festival and nature surrounding it as well as great infrastructural connections, they lack something that people know and want to travel for. One of the things that appears to have made the creation of the Musicon neighborhood possible is the connection to Roskilde Festival and a wish to further develop on their connection to music, Rock music in particular. In Ringsted they want to enhance the historical aspects and create an urban life that is connected to the history. By building on the historical aspects of the center they could potentially brand themselves on this in the future. However, as the newspaper articles showed, the pavilion constructed on the town square was met with a lot of opposition, so *Activating* and *Planning* could be used to decrease the risk of very unhappy citizens and a historical center that caters to the wishes of the local actors and help create a community feeling surrounding the development. In the International Neighborhood for example, they have let the citizens be included in deciding the art and the name they want in the neighborhood (Esbjerg Kommune, n.d.).

7.1.3 Connections

The city center is characterized by its small streets due to its old age, from before cars were the focus. However, as time has passed there has come more and more changes to accommodate the cars. Therefore, the municipality is planning to make transportation better for bikes and pedestrians. This also means creating better connections with areas outside the city center by making the path systems more active, with playgrounds for kids, spaces for sports and movement for elders and handicapped. Ringsted wants to develop the path system in collaboration with the citizens and users like Ringsted Outlet, the sports center, library users, private property owners and local schools. Unnecessary car traffic will be limited and thus increase the safety for pedestrians and bikes as well as kids, elders, handicapped and reduced mobility (Ringsted Kommune, 2023).

A big part of sustainable transitions and creative placemaking is including relevant and local actors. This follows in line with the way creative placemaking can help in the city center. By

Activating the local actors, it can help make the community feel safer and create more convenient and attractive path systems throughout the city and by *Planning* the municipality can make the local actors more understanding of the use and need of the spaces they create. As Ringsted Municipality is already planning on including the local actors, they could potentially draw on experiences from some of the other neighborhoods, maybe an idea could be to try more temporary solutions to see what the citizens will use along the paths, for example for outdoor exercise tools or art. Like the South Harbor Neighborhood there is also a focus on socially marginalized groups and to include them in the planning to understand their needs would also help create public spaces they would use and feel safe in.

7.1.4 Beautification

Ringsted already has a lot to offer, historical buildings like Sct. Bendts Church and a historical city center with buildings worth preserving, as well as a river valley and green parks. The municipality wants to make sure that the new buildings fit with the old historic houses. The artefacts, such as signs, lighting, benches and rubbish bins are replaced to make the historical center feel safe, exiting and easy to navigate. There are also plans to have events in the historical center in a way that invites guests to visit the rest of the city. The city center also houses an old grocery store that needs to be transformed in a way that promotes the cultural environment. Here, Ringsted Municipality have already looked at inspiration from other cities where old industry buildings have been transformed into cultural centers, like Maltfabrikken in Ebeltoft and Urenholdts Farm. A part of beautify the city center it is also the plan to incorporate more green, both by establish new green areas or attend to existing ones (Ringsted Kommune, 2023).

Ringsted have already transformed the town square in the city center to both accommodate cloudbursts as well as creating a more interesting square with trees and places to reside for a break. The town square even won the Pavor Price[10] for a project that shows innovative thinking and ideas in the pavement profession (Ringsted Kommune, 2019b). Again, it is shown that Ringsted Municipality is not new to innovative planning, and it has been done with success. The town square is, however, also where the pavilion that won the price for worst construction of the year in 2021 is located, so it is with varying success rates the area has been planned. This goes to show that it can be difficult to know what the citizens like in their city centers. As previously mentioned, this challenge has been approached by Esbjerg and Roskilde by using temporary building, objects and installations and by involving the citizens early in the process before anything is built (Roskilde Kommune, 2022; Annex F).

Both Refshaleøen, the Meat Packing District, Musicon and the South Harbor Neighborhood have incorporated the old industry from their neighborhoods and made it part of their DNA. Just as some of the examples that Ringsted Municipality mentions themselves in their city

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[10] Brolæggerpris

center framework, these areas have used some of the old industry building to create cultural centers, like in Musicon where the different old industry halls have been transformed to hold events, skaters, festivals, performances and much more (Roskilde Kommune, 2022). The Halls were inhabited by creative businesses, skaters, e-sport and the secretariat amongst others while the neighborhood was developed. Together with the local actors that they were in proximity too, the secretariat tried to find good matches between good ideas and development in the neighborhood. Ringsted Municipality might not want to have a decentralized department sitting in the city center but hearing ideas from local actors and together finding a good match for the property Nørregade 20 they are looking to transform.

7.2 PART-CONCLUSION

Ringsted Municipality have many plans and ideals for how they want the city center to appear and be in the near future. All these fit with the benefits that are possible to gain from creative placemaking, further the urban life, tie the city together, get more people to use the center, more focus on community and promoting people in front of cars. Some of the plans they have to achieve this are also in line with creative placemaking strategies, like using events, they use some civic engagement and include local actors. Furthermore, it has been showed that there are several of their focuses in the city center framework where they can get direct inspiration from the other neighborhoods. For example, in transforming the building on Nørregade 20 and expanding their path connections.

Picture 10: Bench by a green path (elenae333 - stock.adobe.com)

8 DISCUSSION

This chapter will discuss several things that have importance for this thesis. This will both be done to examine some of the decisions made throughout the process as well as to critically examine the theories used in this report, mostly by discussion creative placemaking, which is a newer and less know, and used, framework than the multi-level perspective.

8.1 ANALYTICAL AND OUTCOME DISCUSSION

The analytical framework of this report has different dimensions, a large part has been to put data from municipal plans and interviews into the framework of creative placemaking and then trying to understand how this fits with the multi-level perspective to further the process towards sustainable transitions. In this way it was possible to understand how the different neighborhoods deployed creative placemaking in specific neighborhoods and understand why it was used in different ways. However, the effectiveness of creative placemaking strategies implemented in Ringsted Municipality have some challenges. For one, the municipality contains a large amount of land with smaller villages and is not a limited geographical neighborhood, like the other six neighborhoods. This was tried to be remedied in chapter 8, where the geographical dimension was limited to the city center. This could, however, also have been done in another neighborhood in Ringsted. As Planner B mentions, the Odinsvej Neighborhood is located close to the train station and the municipality have made settlement analysis that showed that this kind of neighborhood, close to the station, is appealing to many. Combined with a clear identity and the opportunity to not own a car and live in something smaller than a parcel house, the neighborhood has good opportunities to attract new inhabitants (Annex C). As Planner A mentions, the neighborhood also already has some small industry and some old houses that are very decade specific from the 60's, 70's and 80's (Annex B). The Odinsvej Neighborhood could be an alternative for housing for the elders, that is still located close to the center and the station and creates an opportunity to get some of the elders relocated out of their large villas.

This neighborhood also has a similar foundation that the other creative placemaking neighborhoods had. Old industry buildings, a wish to tie it closer together with the city and train station, a solution for more housing, and history to build an image and culture around. However, the city center had a framework plan for the area to take as point of departure for the analysis and there had been used different planning previously. The city center of a town is, however, probably already a settled place, where there is many buildings, stores and culture. The need to start from the beginning, as in many of the neighborhoods, where they only have old industry to build on, have a bit more freedom in how they want to develop the area and the space they have to work with.

This process began by having an interest in the differences between municipalities that appeared to be more progressive with their planning strategies despite not being that

experienced in working with sustainability. This was after having an interview with a planner in Esbjerg. However, the information about the project was limited and it was therefore decided to take a further look at Musicon. This then developed to look at several cases where creative placemaking had been used. Simultaneously, there arose an interest in looking into municipalities that did not use creative placemaking or seemingly any other creative or strategic planning strategies. Here the choice fell on Ringsted Municipality, both due to its geographical location but also because of an understanding that they had some challenges that might benefit from creative placemaking. In hindsight, the challenges with creative placemaking, as mentioned previously, might have benefitted from being explored more in depth before it was tried analyzed on a neighborhood in a municipality. It might have been more giving to understand the planning strategy better and get an understanding of how the neighborhoods who have used it actually thought it worked and if it had any effect. To gain a larger understanding of creative placemaking in a Danish context would have helped future planners give a better indication of why the strategy should be used and what it can lead to. However, this report focused, instead, on the challenges that these different neighborhoods are or were facing and how they differ or align with those in Ringsted. Furthermore, it gave an insight into the landscape and regime in municipal urban planning and showed that, even though Ringsted Municipality does not actively deploy creative placemaking or a similar planning strategy they might not be that far behind as first expected and there are many shifts happening in and between the regime configurations.

8.2 THEORETICAL DISCUSSIONS

Creative placemaking is an urban planning strategy amongst many that have emerged as different innovative solutions to the same problem: the urban population keeps growing and cities are becoming increasingly more complex with environmental concerns, growing populations, wars as well as a focus on increasing the social welfare for the people in the cities. There is several to pick from, smart urban planning, where diverse stakeholder involvement, innovative technologies and a practical reference framework (IEC, 2024). Another is strategic spatial planning also focusing on including diverse actors, led by the public sector in co-production with people from diverse institutions, focuses on space specific qualities (Albrechts & Balducci, 2013). In many ways it has the same foundation and focuses as creative placemaking, with focus on many of the same stakeholders, social as well as economic and environmental concerns. Strategic spatial planning in practice includes, 'both in the short and the long term, focuses on results and implementation by framing decisions, actions, and projects, and it incorporates monitoring, evaluation, feedback, adjustment, and revision' (Albrechts & Balducci, 2013, p. 19). Strategic spatial planning also has roots back to the 1980's and have developed over the years to fit better with the current challenges (Albrechts & Balducci, 2013). Creative placemaking itself also comes from the planning practice placemaking, where the art and creative focus is lacking. This follows the critique that is also

mentioned in (Zitcer, 2020) that the creative placemaking interventions are derivative and un-original. But as these planning strategies are trying to solve largely the same problems and the planners, politicians and other relevant actors are influenced by each other so it makes sense that the planning strategies are also aligning (Zitcer, 2020). Furthermore, art is increasingly a part of urban planning in Denmark, as mentioned in Realdanias publication 'Art in urban development' (Realdania By&Byg, 2019). Here, the examples they use are Køge Coast and Fredericia Canal City, further underlining the point, that creative strategies are not limited to creative placemaking.

With all these other planning strategies that arguably have more documentation, research and experimentation behind it, why did it make sense to use creative placemaking in this project then? The decision was made because it is emerging and has taken its first steps into the Danish planning field these last few years. Furthermore, it was possible to find several specific cases where it had been used and several of them were neighborhoods that had popped up in the research in the early phase of the research for this project.

However, most reports and analysis there are on results by using creative placemaking are from the United States. But as they have widely different demographic, social, environmental and economic problems than in Denmark, the outcomes they have are also based on a very different foundation. In Denmark, there is limited documentation and reporting on the use of creative placemaking. Most of the material that can be found is from talks, debates or a very general description of it and where it is used in Danish companies (Building Green, 2022a, 2022b; Vida Loca, n.d.). The Urban Land Institute did, however, make a 'best practices and recommendations' (Rambøll & Volcano, 2021). But this report also ends by listing several areas that still needs to be examined more in depth. Like how to measure the impact and generally how to measure that it has a positive effect. It is difficult to measure how well placemaking and creative placemaking has worked in a neighborhood. The context in each neighborhood is different and needs context specific measuring assessments. Studies have, however, shown that placemaking does not always boost local economies due to several factors. The size of the city or neighborhood has an impact as well as who the placemaking is for (Loh et al., 2022).

One of the largest challenges creative placemaking is facing, is gentrification. Zitcer (2020) explains that interventions from creative placemaking match the wishes of the middle class, white consumer. Since creative placemaking arrived it has been a concern that planners decide which cultural values that are to be implemented often based on economic gains and investments. There is also a chance that the focus on enhancing tourism is greater than the focus on improving the neighborhood for the locals. This can lead to the locals losing the sense of connection they have to the place and in the worst case increase the rent prices, so the original inhabitants are forced out. This is often what happens if creative placemaking is done by a top-down process (Loh et al., 2022). In several of the six neighborhoods it is, luckily

it might seem, they have a focus on using bottom-up strategies. In the Meat Packing District they also have a specific focus on gentrification as a central challenge they are facing. Owner housing prices have risen with more than 50 % over the last five years (from 2019) and the municipality and local interest organizations are working on finding a solution (Kødbyen, n.d.).

The multi-level perspective has also had criticism thrown its way since it arrived. The historical example given by Geels on the transition from sailing ships to steamships (Geels, 2002, p. 1263) of multi-level interaction can be argued to be less complex than the urban planning of a new urban area. Cities vary a lot from each other and are influenced by their culture, economy, natural surroundings, social and political context as well as the size, social balance, ages, infrastructure to other cities and inside the city and much more (Næss & Vogel, 2012). Interestingly, with the MLP many of the key criticism points have been addressed directly by Geels in 'The multi-level perspective on sustainability transitions: Responses to seven criticisms. Another criticism that the MLP has met is that it lacks agency, particularly politics and power

In this report, however, the multi-level perspective will not be used to analyze how municipalities have or can become more sustainable; it is merely to understand the perspective and framework that they exist in. It has been decided to make use of the multi-level perspective as a framework to help investigate the given problem formulation. This has been done for several reasons. One, the MLP is supported by extensive literature, both by Geels but also many other researchers that has used, critiqued and applied the theory in many contexts over two decades. The theory is well regarded and used in the field of sustainable transitions. Secondly, the MLP is suitable to examine this thesis' purpose of sustainable transitions in municipal contexts. It provides a robust framework for understanding the complex and dynamic surroundings of municipalities and further analyze how Ringsted Municipality can implement more sustainable practices.

8.3 METHODOLOGICAL DISCUSSION

The methods used in this report mainly consist of document analysis and interviews. The interviews were focusing on gaining knowledge that are hard to know unless you have a more in depth and historical knowledge about the municipalities. The interviewees almost all lived or had lived in the municipality they worked in for most if not all their lives. This gave them a good understanding of the atmosphere and the challenges that have a historical meaning. They also gave an insight to what actually is the challenge when you are actively planning and not 'just' for the municipality which are the challenges mentioned in plans and strategies. In chapter 8 there is also used newspaper articles to help give an idea of which problems have been important to the citizens and what have they been unhappy with of planning decisions.

The citizens would have been an interesting group to gain a larger understanding of. Had the project focused on gaining a deeper knowledge of creative placemaking it would have made sense to interview or make a questionnaire for people living in neighborhoods where creative placemaking strategies had been used. Interviewing a person or several who live in creative placemaking neighborhoods could also have given the analysis in this report an extra dimension to understand the challenges they see in the municipality and the urban spaces in it. This would also have helped developing the understanding of how creative placemaking could be used with the citizens, as they are of great importance for creative placemaking.

However, both due to time restraints and a decision to have a focus on the planning departments, it was decided to interview the ones that do the planning. The five interviews that were made is arguably not enough to create a clear picture of the challenges and opportunities in the two municipalities. Many of their answers are based on their own subjective opinions and not telling for the whole municipality. However, it did give an indication of where to look and helped support some of the factors that are objective.

Picture 11: Bike lane in Denmark (Cavan - stock.adobe.com)

9   CONCLUSION

This thesis explores the application of creative placemaking in Danish municipalities, focusing on its functions and benefits, as well as the challenges and opportunities it presents. The research design involves a mixed-methods approach, combining document analysis and semi-structured interviews with municipal planners and politicians.

The study highlights the importance of creative placemaking in transforming urban spaces and promoting sustainable transitions. It identifies four key functions of creative placemaking: A*nchoring, Activating, "Fixing,"* and *Planning*. These functions are demonstrated through case studies of six neighborhoods in Danish municipalities, including the South Harbor neighborhood in Aarhus, the International Neighborhood in Esbjerg, Musicon in Roskilde, Refshaleøen, the Meat Packing District, and Stejlepladsen in Copenhagen.

The analysis shows that creative placemaking can be effective in achieving sustainable transitions by engaging local actors, fostering community identity, and promoting innovative solutions. However, the study also notes that the effectiveness of creative placemaking strategies is influenced by various factors, including the level of political support, the presence of a clear vision, and the ability to balance top-down and bottom-up approaches.

The thesis concludes that creative placemaking has the potential to contribute significantly to sustainable urban development in Denmark. It recommends that municipalities adopt a multi-level perspective, incorporating both top-down and bottom-up strategies, to ensure the successful implementation of creative placemaking initiatives. Additionally, the study suggests that municipalities should prioritize early community engagement, involve local actors in the planning process, and focus on creating inclusive and sustainable urban spaces.

Overall, this thesis provides valuable insights into the role of creative placemaking in promoting sustainable urban development in Denmark and highlights the importance of a multi-level perspective in ensuring the success of such initiatives.

As can be deducted from the above Ringsted Municipality is already taking steps toward more innovative solutions to some of the challenges the world is facing today. Following the MLP sociotechnical transitions take place, when there is a connected change in a regime configuration. Based on this and previous chapters there can be defined several changes that are already happening in the regime for municipal urban planning in Ringsted Municipality.

However, as demonstrated in the discussion, creative placemaking still must prove itself and needs more experience in neighborhoods especially in Danish municipalities.

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