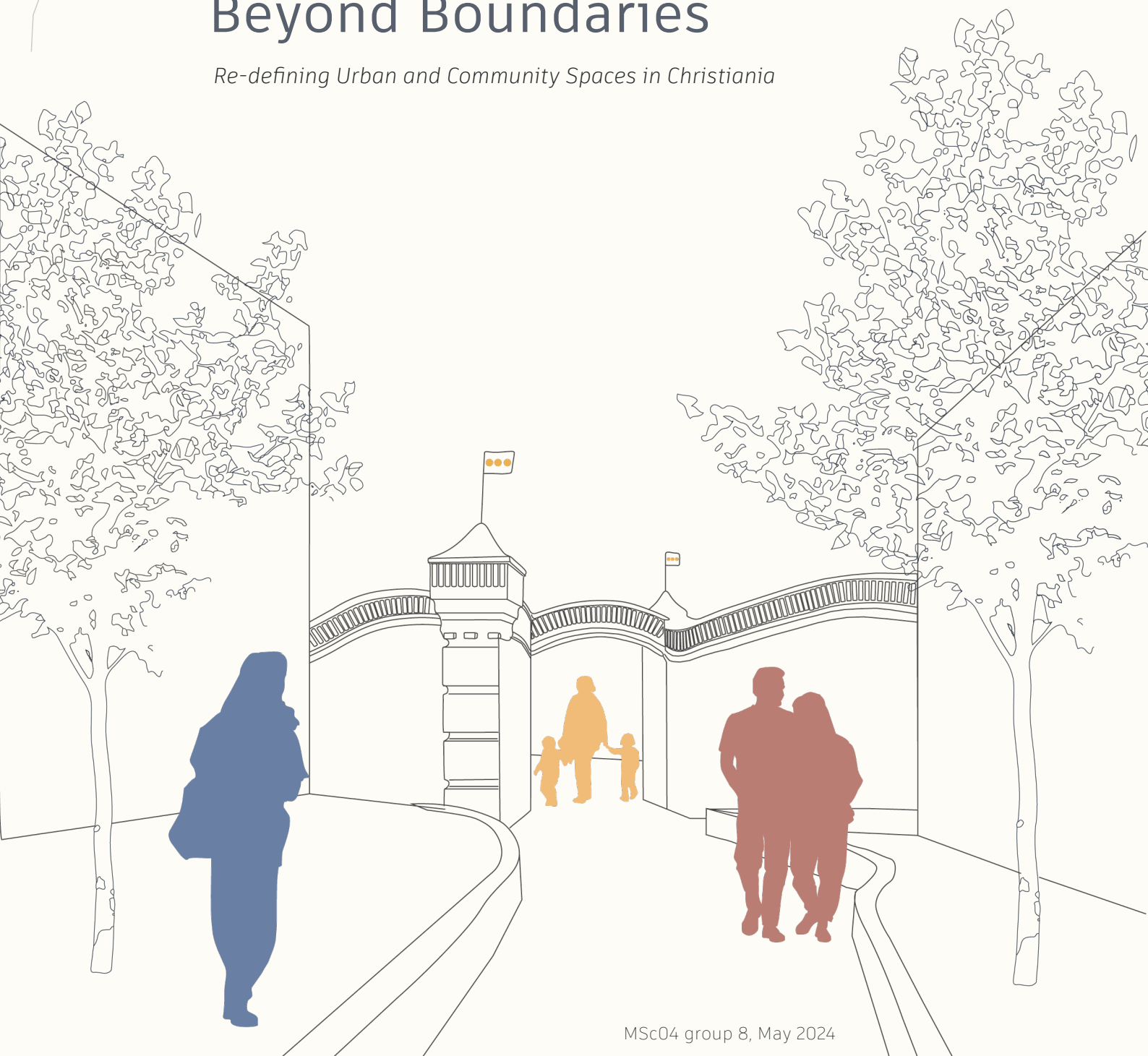


# Beyond Boundaries

*Re-defining Urban and Community Spaces in Christiania*



UNIVERSITY	Aalborg University
STUDY	Master in Urban Design
SEMESTER	MSc04 URB 2024
PROJECT	Beyond Boundaries - <i>Re-defining Urban and Community Spaces in Christiania</i>
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APPENDIX	5
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*You are now entering the thesis project...*





## Abstract

This thesis explores the integration of social housing, mixed-use buildings, and public spaces followed by a redefinition of existing boundaries within Christiania, a unique self-governing community inside Copenhagen. In the summer of 2022, an agreement between Christiania and the state was made to develop social housing throughout Christiania's area to accommodate 300 new residents by 2031.

Furthermore, this project focuses on a particular area at one of the main entrances of Christiania, covering about 16,000 sqm. The goal is to design a new entrance for visitors while serving as a public space for locals, maintaining private areas for Christianites and integrating new co-housing communities into the future building plots.

The design process considers the concept of boundaries utilizing mixed-use buildings, integrating housing with common facilities and other businesses, while preserving Christiania's identity.

Overall, this proposal contributes to connecting Copenhagen while integrating newcomers and preserve the identity of Christiania with a holistic approach that not only focuses on social housing but also on the distinct lifestyle and values of the community.

*Keywords: Social housing, mixed-use, public spaces, redefinition of boundaries, Christiania, co-housing, self-governing, community, preservation, identity.*



Illustration no. 1 6th April, 2024 - I



Illustration no. 2 6th April, 2024 - II



Illustration no. 3 12th February, 2024







Illustration no. 4 April 7th, 2024

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## Reading Guide

The title of this master thesis is “Beyond Boundaries - Re-defining Urban and Community Spaces in Christiania” within the theme Social Housing in Christiania. This report consists of 9 chapters: Prologue, Introduction, Analysis, Theory, Design Framework, Design Proposal, Epilogue, References and Appendix.

Starting with Prologue where is setting the motivation and methodology of this thesis. The Introduction explores Christiania’s history, culture, and values, to bring the reader for deeper comprehension of the context. The Analysis section goes into many aspects of the site, including housing typologies, green spaces, building heights, and urban infrastructure, among others. This analytical work helps to identify challenges and opportunities to guide the project’s direction.

The Theory chapter presents the notion of boundaries and informal communities which serve as a solid foundation for the proposal. In the chapter Design Framework, the challenges and opportunities take place concluded by analyzing the site, where a problem statement, vision and concept have been formulated. Also, design strategies are shown to understand the focus of the site.

In the Design Proposal chapter, it shows the final design through masterplan, renderings, mappings, sections, isometric views as well as scenario drawings. The entire chapter is structured around the concept.

Lastly, the Epilogue offers a conclusion and a reflection, completing the project’s mission and final remarks.

Reference list is used in Harvard style and all illustrations, graphics and images are marked by numbers. All maps are in true north, unless otherwise stated. All illustrations and photos are ours unless otherwise stated.

We hope the reader will enjoy our thesis report.



# 1 Prologue

- Site location
- Motivation
- Initiating Thoughts
- Mission
- Methodology

## The site location

This project focuses on a particular site located in the heart of Copenhagen, Denmark, at one of the main entrances of Freetown Christiania, covering around 16.000 sqm.

Christiania is located in the city district Christianshavn, on the island of Amager. The site is located at the intersection between Prinsessegade and Bårdsmandsstræde.

The site is in the Urban part of Christiania, where according to the development plan for this area, the goal is to build mixed-used buildings and accommodate new residents. After a site visit, this location was chosen due to its potential for mixed functions and easy access for visitors, facilitating interaction and understanding between Copenhagen and Christiania. The location allows the site to serve as a gateway, introducing visitors to the values and culture of Christiania before they explore the entire area.

Another opportunity on this site is the public areas that will be better discussed under the analysis section of this report, which has potential for an urban project aimed at enhancing the quality of the existing space. This can facilitate interaction among different users, including future residents of Christiania, as well as Christianites and visitors. Different users, including future residents of Christiania, known as the Newcomers, as well as Christianites and visitors.

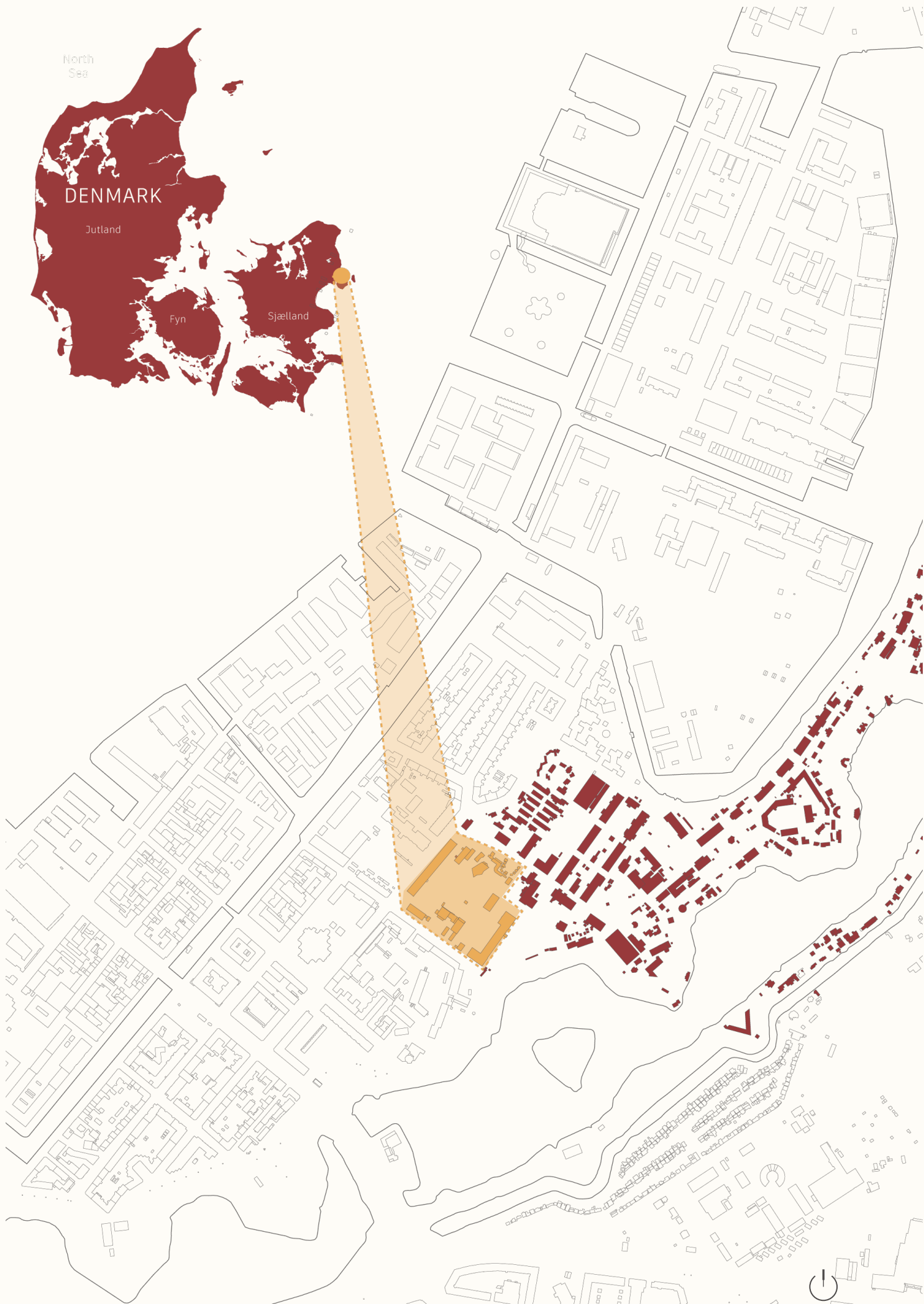


Illustration no. 5 Location map

# Motivation

The subject choice stemmed from a curiosity regarding the creation of new housing within Christiania, due to its unique character and rich historical background.

Christiania offers a way of living where people can speak up for themselves and shape their ideal community. In the past, Christiania was perceived as a provocation to the main society but evolved into a safe space for individuals neglected by mainstream society, where "...artists, hippies, builders, bakers, crazy people, hash dealers, romantics, candlestick, activists, inactivists, refugees, idealists, and those whose wound could not healed moved in" (Edwards M., 1979, pp 5). Over time, Christiania has faced various challenges regarding Pusher Street that brought violence through gangs. On the other hand, Christiania has also turned into a strong community with an environmental focus and preference for arts over material wealth.

Moreover, from a personal perspective, preserving Christiania extends beyond physical space; it means the preservation of diversity within urban life, history, culture and social justice. The idea of losing Christiania represents a concerning trend towards "normalizing" the area, which is a scenario that should be avoided.

In conclusion, the motivation of this study presents a unique opportunity to understand a chapter of Denmark's urban history while also exploring the dynamics of self-governance and counterculture communities. Beyond this historical context, this theme challenges design with coherence, study of the place's identity and integrating new residents into existing communities for a future where urban spaces are designed by inclusivity and respect for local identity.





Illustration no. 7 Kindergarden in Christiania by Mark Edwards.



Illustration no. 6 Seventh birthday party of Christiania by Mark Edwards.





*Illustration no. 8 Fifth Birthday of Christiania at Grey Hall by Mark Edwards.*



# Initiating Thoughts

Copenhagen is experiencing rapid growth, with a projected 20 percent increase in population by 2025. To address this surge, the city plans to construct 45,000 new housing units (City of Copenhagen, n.d). However, alongside urbanization comes a need for affordable housing options. Securing social housing in Copenhagen can be challenging, with waiting lists stretching up to 10 to 20 years. Presently, only about 20% of homes in Copenhagen are designated as social housing (Arrigoitia M. F., 2014). This shows a significant gap in affordable housing provision that needs attention to ensure accommodation for all residents as the city keeps growing.

Meanwhile, Christiania faces its challenges with ongoing discussions in the enhancement of the community's physical infrastructure, including building renovations, green space preservation, and infrastructure upgrades (Anon, 2006). On August 30, 2022, Christiania's residents said yes and agreed to government plans to develop social housing by 2031 for 300 new residents. This agreement includes state-provided loans to facilitate land acquisition, which will ultimately save Christiania money in the long term (Hamilton, 2022).

- "We say yes because we want to take social responsibility in Copenhagen and Denmark, aiming to construct affordable housing and foster inclusive communities within the Christiania community," Mette Prague, coordinator of Christiania's working group for public housing, reflecting the community's commitment of Christiania (Hamilton, 2022)

The challenge for this project is to implement social housing into Christiania, to combat the need for affordable housing in Copenhagen, while still fitting into Christiania's culture.

## Mission

Our **mission** is to **integrate new residents** into the community of Christiania while **preserving its unique identity and alternative lifestyle**, providing social housing, mixed-use buildings, and public spaces into the future areas.

Following the principles of **low-rise and co-housing typologies**, we aim to cultivate **emerging communities** with shared interest at their heart. This project works **against normalization** in Christiania to preserve their identity, while also wishing to **improve the connection** between the project site's entrance area and Copenhagen.

Furthermore, should there be established a balance between private and public spaces in Christiania, by **working with the boundary** between these two zones. The public zone should **welcome visitors** and give an insight into Christiania's community, while the private zone consequently **protects** said community from public eyes.

All in all, our mission is to **offer coherent use** by transforming existing boundaries and creating new mixed-use spaces within the three building plots inside the site, ensuring to **meet the needs** of existing residents, future residents and visitors of Christiania.





Illustration no. 9 Christiania's Bridge, 1970, by Mark Edwards



Illustration no. 10 6th of April, 2024, by the Author.



# Methodology

The methods used in this project have been based on experiences from prior design projects during our time on the MSc in Urban Design, where methods that have gained positive outcome have been implemented. The method section is divided into following components: Research, Analysis, Idea generating, Evaluation, Synthesis and presentation. It should be stated that the process, as shown on Ill. 11 have not been a linear path, but a journey with twist and turns, detours, and constantly going two steps forth and one step back.

**Research :** The knowledge collected in this project, originate from a variety of research methods and sources, such as books, interviews, web articles, news articles, academical journals, reports and publications from different Danish ministries.

The research helps give an understanding of Christiania, their future development plans, social housing, co-housing, as well as a theoretical framework built on the concept of boundaries and informal communities.

Qualitative studies through interviews were conducted with two individuals who have different ties to Christiania. First interviewee was Mette Prag, an architect and urban coordinator for Christiania, with knowledge regarding the future development plans for social housing. The other interviewee is a local Christianite, who goes by the name Joker, who works as a local guide in Christiania. These interviews gave a deeper understanding of the project site; while Mette served a top-down view of Christiania, Joker has helped giving a bottom-up view of the people living in Christiania.

**Analysis:** The analysis is conducted to gain a knowledge of the site itself and its context. This method includes site visits for a better understanding of the context and an immersive experience into Christiania with photo documentation at site. Mappings have been used to understand different of project site, such as connections, functions, greenery, sun and so forth. Furthermore, physical model studies as well as digital 3D models gave a spatial understanding of the area.

**Design process :** To generate ideas, we approach on sketching to quickly visualize our thoughts withing themes, the sketching rounds are free hand and helps to externalize the ideas and discuss about it. Also, map drawing is an idea generator on this project, because it involves creating visual material for connections, functions and distribution of the site. Physical model was yet again used to experiment with ideas of different shapes for both the buildings and spaces. Lastly, the discussions are relevant for constructive dialogues where different perspectives were explored, and different ideas was built upon.

**Evaluation:** While idea generating and coming up with design proposals, will the results be evaluated against the research and analysis components. This is done, to ensure the final design align with the outcomes from these components and resolve problems they might have highlighted.

**Presentation:** The presentation of the final design is mediated through maps, various illustrations, renders, models, and written descriptions. All these aspects are to give the reader the best comprehension of the final design and how it reflects the identified potentials and challenges in the project site.



*Illustration no. 11 Methodology*



## 2 Introduction

- What is Christiania?
- History
- Christiania vs. State
- Culture
- Demographic
- Social Housing
- Co-Housing

*"It's actually harmful to Christiania if you live here and you consider that 'this is a place only to live'. While you should, you know. it's an all package. It's a choice, it's a way of life."*

***"When we step into Christiania, we are met with hate. Unspeakable hatred."***

***"It is our impression that Christiania has been able to restore some of the most disadvantaged, including the mentally ill, their confidence, dignity and meaning to life..."***

*"My whole life, it's the worst fucking thing I've ever been through. [...] There are many good things about being here. I can be myself."*

***"Sometimes it was like a war zone..."***

*"You can't kill us/  
We are a part of you"*

***"Freetown is first and foremost a consequence of the authorities' almost criminal lack of imagination and planning."***

*"There lived a man called Rabbit, who is now dead.  
He called us all Rabbit."*

***"The fact that Christianites are in favour of legalized weed is completely irrelevant. You can also be in favour of shoplifting. That make it still illegal."***

*"I'm quite surprised. I thought they were all lying around smoking hash or doing drugs. It's much nicer than I imagined - there are kindergartens and nurseries and shops."*



# Welcome to Freetown Christiania

Christiania is world famous as an autonomous self-governing and free-spirited community, located in the heart of Copenhagen, and have fascinated its visitors since its formation in 1971. Residing in an abandon military base, this “city-in-a-city” is known for its alternative lifestyle, a welcoming and open atmosphere as well as its turbulent relationship with the government throughout the history (Christensen, 2022).

It has been known for its alternative lifestyle, where both individuality and community are highly prioritised. This results in a unique blend of individuals like activists, creatives, academics, criminals and mentally vulnerable all living together are caring for each other’s wellbeing (Christensen, 2022).

When walking through Christiania, can one not help noticing their love of art and creativity, reflected in the surroundings with their unique self-built homes, street art along their façade and handmade elements.

One of the backsides of Christiania have been their long history with drugs, with dealers residing in a designated green light district, famously known as “Pusher Street”. The openly purchase of drugs have caused tensions with law enforcement, gang conflicts and even casualties. However, on the 6th of April 2024 the Christianites cleared out and dug up Pusher Street, as an attempt to permanently close it down (Jensen & Bencke, 2024).

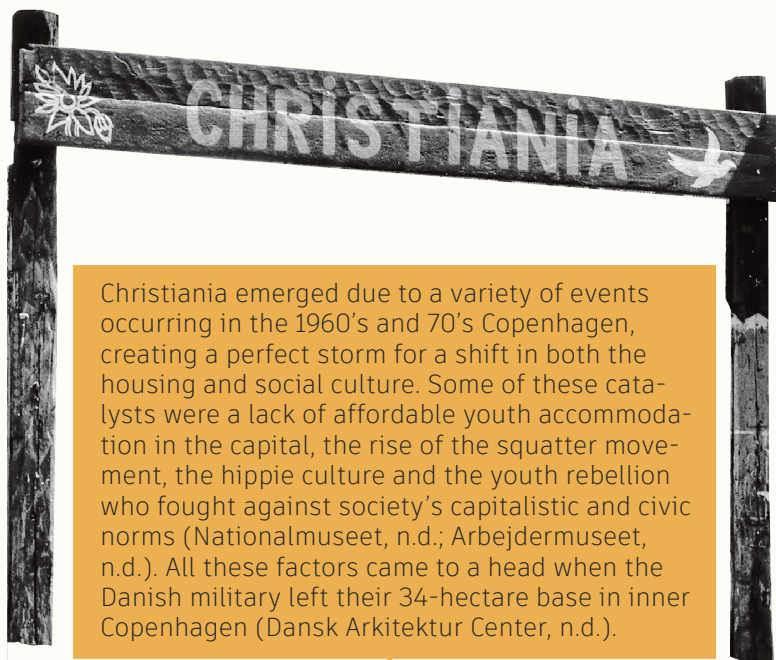
Another future plan currently in the works, is the development of social housing on Christiania’s grounds as part of an agreement with the State (Social- og Boligstyrelsen, A., n.d.). Interviews with Mette and Joker were conducted during one of the first site visits to Christiania, give an insight to the agreement. The discussion revolved around about Christiania’s history and background, their own experiences, its future plans regarding the development of new social housing, as well as their opinions and expectations for the developments.



Illustration no. 12 Collage Christiania's flag



# History



Christiania emerged due to a variety of events occurring in the 1960's and 70's Copenhagen, creating a perfect storm for a shift in both the housing and social culture. Some of these catalysts were a lack of affordable youth accommodation in the capital, the rise of the squatter movement, the hippie culture and the youth rebellion who fought against society's capitalistic and civic norms (Nationalmuseet, n.d.; Arbejdmuseet, n.d.). All these factors came to a head when the Danish military left their 34-hectare base in inner Copenhagen (Dansk Arkitektur Center, n.d.).

1971

The military left the base in the summer of 1971, with no plans for the use of the area from the city council. In May neighbours to the now abandoned base broke down a fence and made a "junk playground" to the neighbourhood's kids, while squatters began to occupy the base by the 26th of September. (Social- og Boligstyrelsen, B., n.d.) The first squatters wrote the time and date of the occupation on one of the houses, signing it off with "Long live Christiania – A free state" (Christensen, 2022, p. 13).

Squatters, hippies, and artists along with homeless people and drug addicts moved into the military base, which unfortunately also started Christiania's lifelong conflict with drugs. When all military buildings got occupied, began new occupants arriving with trailers, and later began building their own houses (Dansk Arkitektur Center, n.d.; Christensen, 2022).

The occupation left some mixed feelings among the politicians, where some wanted Christiania cleared out while others found the engagement among residents positive (Christensen, 2022).



1975

The parliament announced the clearing of Christiania on the 1st of April 1976. This led Christiania taking the decision to court, planning peaceful and non-violent protests as well as receiving 14.000 supportive signatures (Christensen, 2022).



1973

Christiania received an official status from the reigning government at the time as a social experiment which would last till 1976. Part of this deal included the residents had to pay for their electricity and water, as well as being cooperative with the ministry of renovation and maintenance. However, this status was not recognized after a governmental shift, while the deal of Christiania's existence till 1976 were accepted (Christensen, 2022).



1972

A contact group containing government official and representatives from Christiania was established to avoid unnecessary conflicts (Christensen, 2022).



1976

Parliament postponed the clearing due to protests and court proceedings, leading to a 4 day celebration in Christiania with estimated 30.000 attendees (Christensen, 2022).



1978

Supreme court ruling in favour for the government, though the parliament had decided to create a local plan for the area and let Christiania stay for the time being (Christensen, 2022)

Issues with drug sales, pushers and junkies have transformed Christiania's peaceful environment into a more rugged space, and many of the original hippies move out (Nielsen, 2016)

1979



The Christianites had enough of the hard drugs and creates the "junk blockade" banning all hard drugs in the Freetown and gives junkies and ultimatum to cut down their usage or move out. The sale of hash is still allowed and attract gangs, who are more willing to use violence and start gang wars (Nielsen, 2016; Joker, 2024).

1987

The Christianites were able to force the gangs out after years of violence (Joker, 2024).



1989

The State wish to normalize and legalize Christiania, with the first milestone where the passing of the "Christiania law", to legalize certain exceptional rules for the Freetown (Christensen, 2022). Further was this passed through to stop illegal construction projects (Social- og Boligstyrelsen, C., n.d.).

2004

Christiania law was revised, with the focus of further development, while also revise the type of ownership over the area, affecting the system put in place by the Christianites (Social- og Boligstyrelsen, C., n.d.; Christensen, 2022).

2011

The State and Christiania reached an agreement of the ownership of Christiania will be given to the newly created foundation "Fonden Fristaden" (The Freetown Foundation). This agreement involved five purchase and rental agreements (Social- og Boligstyrelsen, C., n.d.).



2022

The State and Christiania integrated a supplemental agreement to the 2011 agreement, where Christiania can buy the land around the embankments including the buildings if they agree to build 15.000 square meters of social housing (Social- og Boligstyrelsen, A., n.d.).

## Summary

Christiania has through its 53 years of existence battled with conflicts from both the outside as well as the inside. While the State has first tried to tear down and then normalize Christiania, the use and sale of drugs also created challenges among the Christianites. Christiania still stands thanks to their non-violent solutions, a massive support from the public, and through their own community working together to tackled ongoing issues within. According to Dobraszczyk, for Christiania to be able to survive, they must keep fighting against normalization and keep have the support from the public to help them during hard times (Dobraszczyk, 2021). Today Christiania is faced with a new risk of becoming "too normalized", with now having to build social housing on their land and must be approach with a focus on Christiania's history and culture.

# Culture

"Christiania's objective is to create a self-governing society, whereby each and every individual can thrive under the responsibility for the entire community. This society must economically rest in itself, and the joint efforts must continue to be about showing that psychological and physical destitution can be diverted". This is how it was formulated by Sven, Kim, Ole and Jacob with the right to improvements. 13.11.1971." - (Christensen, 2022, p. 16)

Christianites believe that society too often focuses on efficiency, materialism and uniform behaviour among citizens (Christensen, 2022).

At Christiania, individuality is highly valued, along with the right to live your life the way you want without anyone interfering. It is up to the individual to create their life and not be controlled by surrounding societal norms. At Christiania, individuals can build their own life based on their values, whether those values are having a 9-5 job or being a drug dealer down by the street corner (Christensen, 2022).

'It's about the greatest possible personal freedom and includes the right to be drunk or extremely stoned in the morning and the right to run around naked.' - s. 35-36

Although individuality is important among the Christianites, as can be read in the quote about Christiania's goal, a responsibility for the community is also prioritised. The openness to all individuals has led to Christiania's residents coming from all social classes, where the only thing they may have in common is that they either don't fit in or don't want to live under the general social norms. For Christianites, it's simply a matter of wanting to participate and contribute to communal life. An important part of their communal life is their 'consensus democracy' where everyone must reach an agreement. Major decisions regarding Christiania are made at community meetings, while smaller decisions regarding the individual sub-areas of Christiania are made at area meetings (Christensen, 2022). Joker expressed his

opinion during the interview about how he saw the area meetings, where practical decisions such as maintenance and allocation of housing, were the democratic foundation of Christiania (Joker, 2024).

Christiania's openness and strong community also means that they take care of the weakest in society who find it difficult to fit into mainstream society. The Christianites believe in second chances, where Joker expressed that they would rather bend the rules to the individual than bend the individual to the rules (Joker, 2024).

A unique characteristic of the community, is the structure regarding ownership in Christiania, known as common ownership. The idea behind the structure, is no one is owning anything, but only use it. For example, when assigned into a housing, a Christianite can make modifications and invest in the housing, but cannot sell or earn anything from the house, if they decide to move. This has caused some issues, since some people cannot sell their houses to buy a new one, and therefore feel bound to the place (Christensen, 2022; Joker, 2024).

The self-built culture in Christiania, is a part of the place's identity that contributes to the creative spirit of the community. This culture is so strong, Christiania has established a "building office" to guide residents on proper construction methods, such as the correct mixture of cement (Joker, 2024).





*Illustration no. 14 The Smithy - Jesper, by Mark Edwards.*





*Illustration no. 15 Winter, 1977 by Mark Edwards.*

# Demographic

When Christiania first started in the 70's, it was primarily youth who moved into the empty barracks (Christensen, 2022). In 1973, was it estimated around 1.200 – 1.500, where “The majority of residents are between 16 and 20 years old. There are some younger ones, as well as some families and single parents with children from 2 to 10 years old.” – Danish Ministry of Justice, 1973 (Justitsministeriet, 1973). Today, Christiania's population has decreased to around 900 people, split into around 700 adults and 200 children (Joker, 2024).

Christiania is experiencing a rise in the average age due to a minimum amount of Christianites move out of the Freetown. It has been registered the average age has risen from 28,8 years in 1990 to 42 years in 2021, resulting in 23,3% of all Christianites were over the age of 60. One of the reasons that many elderly Christianites stay is because of the common ownership do not permit them to sell their house and use the money to move out. (Christensen, 2022).

Both Mette and Joker expressed during their interviews a wish for new designated elder dwellings for their rising elderly population. Not only to open up available housing for new members, but also because many elders live in dwellings with bad accessibility or have to move out of Christiania – the place they have lived their whole lives - and into retirement homes. (Joker, 2024; Prag, 2024)

With the new agreement for development in the area, Christiania in the future will receive 300 new residents into their community. Some Christianites have been skeptical for this new arrangement and fear it will further dilute Christiania's value and culture, however, both Mette

and Joker look forward to welcome more people into their community. Mette do express a need for the newcomers to be properly integrated into Christiania's culture, where they will attend meetings, working days and community days. For them, the newcomers should not just have residency in Christiania, but commit to their lifestyle, and be part of the community. To make the integration process smoother, had they demanded that all new social housing should be co-housing communities. (Joker, 2024; Prag, 2024)

Except for the current and future residents who live in Christiania, they also experience a large amount of tourist and visitors passing by. Every year Christiania receive around 500.000 visitors, making it one of the biggest tourist attractions in Copenhagen (Christensen, 2022). While this is a big source of income for Christiania, it is not always seen as a positive experience by the Christianites. During one of the site visits, one Christianite, when being informed of the intention for the visit, went on a minor rant of how tired he was of the constant visits from researchers and students. He was quite fed up with how many wanted to interview locals who were minding their own business and ended the rant with he how he wished all these researchers (with an implication to us) would “fuck of” and leave the locals alone. Many Christianites have also experienced visitors treating Christiania as branch of the National Museum and walk into their gardens and homes. Even though they appreciate the outsiders interest in their culture, they feel a need for some boundaries between the public and private spaces to protect their private life, and avoid it become “tivolised” (Drivsholm, 2017). As one Christianites stated:

“Tourism is killing Christiania. [...] The sheer amount of tourism and not wanting to learn but instead only needing to have a different background for your selfie kills the surroundings.” – Emmerik Warburg, 44 years old, to the CNN, 2019 (Calderon, 2019)

## The roles

From the knowledge gained in the Demographic section, it has been possible to categorize the users into three roles: The Christianite, The Visitor and The Newcomers.

It should be noted that these roles should not be seen as fixed. Christianites can move out but still visit, Visitors can be inspired to move in and become a Newcomer, and Newcomers is only a temporally while they get integrated as a Christianite. The roles are a helping tool to understand the different users in Christiania, what their needs are and their relationship between each other.

Christianites, also known as the locals, are established residents of Christiania who have lived in the community for a considerable period. They are familiar with its history,

culture, and governance. Christianites are typically integrated into the community and are open to share their lifestyle with others.

Visitors are individuals who come to Christiania for short periods, such as tourists or people attending specific events. They are not residents but are interested in experiencing what Christiania has to offer or perhaps they know Christianites and are there to visit one of them.

Newcomers are the individuals who will move into the new social housing, and includes families, singles, and couples. They can become a Christianite, if they commit to be part of the community, as well as share their culture and values.

# Christiania vs. the state

Throughout the history of Christiania, its relationship with the State has been turbulent. While some reigning government or politicians has viewed Christiania as an interesting case or as an “social experiment”, others viewed it for the better to clear out the Freetown. As seen in the History section, when it became evident that clearing out Christiania wouldn’t become an option, the state opted for normalizing the Freetown instead.

However doing the research of normalizing of Christiania, no official plans or a list of specific criteria could be found. The word “normalization” has been found in various separated articles or texts, as an afterthought rather than a focus. The Danish meaning of the word itself is “to return to a normal, desirable state, function, etc.” or “to bring it into compliance with a norm” (Den Danske Ordbog, n.d.). One article from the newspaper Information states how the word itself is seen as an offence in Christiania – and it should continue to be viewed that way (Villesen, 2022).

Normalization has so far been done through making them pay for their water and electricity, legalize their pubs, making them follow the building regulations, as well as other regulations the rest of society follows (Christensen, 2022). Some view and fear the new agreement are another ploy to normalize the Freetown (Villesen, 2022).

## Future plans

The agreement revolves around the purchase of land areas that so far have been rented by the state, in exchange for 15.000 sqm of social housing for 300 new residents on Christiania’s property (Bolig- og planstyrelsen, 2022).

- Some of the expectations from the agreement is (Bolig- og planstyrelsen, 2022):
- Wish to the continuation of developing the area with benefits for both Christiania and Copenhagen.
- Ensure Christianites keep their way of living while still welcome new residents to Christiania.
- Continue the close collaboration with the police to combat the crime rate and support the notion for Christiania as a safe district for all citizens.
- The general construction of the new buildings should fit Christiania’s philosophy about sustainability.
- Separate the development plans into 3 phases:
  - Phase 1, 2027: 7.500 sqm should be built.
  - Phase 2, 2029: 3500 sqm should be built.
  - Phase 3, 2031: the last 4.000 sqm should be built.
- A balanced resident composition
- All social housing should be separated into co-housing communities.

As seen on Ill. 16, the 15.000 sqm have been spread out across Christiania (Københavns Kommune, 2024).





Illustration no. 16 1:10.000, Christiania map

# Social Housing

Social housing has been part of Danish welfare system since 1880, when the working class began to organize themselves into building associations, to gain better housing conditions for the lower class. These associations gained the first – though small – economical contribution by the State. (Nielsen, 2019)

This economical contribution is still one of three characteristics for social housings today, where both the State and the municipalities give a contribution for the construction of social housing (BL - Danmarks Almene Boliger, 2015).

The other characteristics is that the social housing sector is non-profit, where the rent only cover the cost for maintenance, taxes, and fees. Being non-profit and receive financial support from the State, results in social housing organisations can offer affordable housings across social classes and ages. However, the financial support from the State gives the municipality the right to a quarter of all available social houses, to help citizens who have become homeless or are socially vulnerable (BL - Danmarks Almene Boliger, 2015).

The last characteristic of social housings in Denmark is residents' democracy, where residents can get influence for the management in their housing organization (BL - Danmarks Almene Boliger, 2015).

The social housing sector is heavily regulated, with municipal supervision for all social housing organizations. To be able to move into a social housing must the citizen be written up on a waiting list, which is open for all (BL - Danmarks Almene Boliger, 2015).

Around 1 million of the Danish population lives in one of the 550.000 social houses across the country. It is estimated that 20% of all housing in Denmark is social housing. Around 210.000 of all social housing located in the capital region (BL - Danmarks Almene Boliger, n.d.).

Even with this high percentage of social housing in the region, the housing mass in Copenhagen itself is barely 20% (BL - Danmarks Almene Boliger, Updated in 2023). Recently, a political majority voted in favour of a requirement that at least 25% of housing in all new local plans should be social housing in order to maintain Copenhagen's diversity (Københavns Kommune, B, 2024).

# Cohousing

Cohousing represents a transformative approach to living that emphasizes community, shared resources, and collaborative design, originating in Denmark in the late 1960s. This text is under a theoretical background from "The Cohousing Handbook, Building a Place for Community, authored by Scotthanson & Scotthanson (2004).

## What is Cohousing?

Originating in Denmark in the late 1960s, cohousing emerged from the needs of families seeking better childcare and shared meal preparation. Co-housing communities has risen from 300 communities in 2004 to around 416 communities in 2021. Cohousing projects have flourished in Denmark, evolving to include a diverse mix of family types. According to TV2, co-housing communities have become a growing trend in Denmark (Larsen, 2024).

**"They can make us less lonely, give us more community, but also make our lives easier" - Julia Lahme, 2024 (Larsen, 2024).**

Cohousing offers a range of benefits, including a safe and supportive environment, increased social interaction, shared resources, and a sense of contribution. It provides a nurturing space for raising children, promotes environmental sustainability, reduces living costs, and saves time through shared responsibilities.

## Design Considerations

Optimal community size for cohousing typically falls between 12 and 36 dwelling units. Smaller communities may feel too intimate, while larger ones can become administratively complex. Learning from past projects,

certain planning and spatial patterns have emerged, contributing to the evolution of cohousing designs.

Affordability is a key consideration in cohousing design. Strategies such as increasing the number of private units, reducing unit size, and keeping designs simple can help make projects more affordable. The common house plays a central role in community life, providing essential functions like dining, socializing, and shared activities.

In conclusion, cohousing offers a pathway to building meaningful connections and affordable living within a supportive community environment. Through thoughtful design and a shared vision, cohousing communities continue to thrive, offering a model for sustainable and fulfilling living.

## Why Co-housing in Christiania?

As Christiania evolves and Newcomers arrives, there is a need to integrate into the current residents of Christiania. During the meeting with Mette, she mentioned that Christiania desires all the new social housing as a co-housing to help the integration of the Newcomers into Christiania. Co-housing can help establish a communal lifestyle among the Newcomers, ensuring a mixed and diverse community, and addressing the evolving needs of its residents.



## 3 Analysis

- Site
- Functions
- Active facades
- Flow
- Atmosphere
- A self-built culture
- An urban contrast
- Barriers
- Bluespot
- Greenery
- Sections (A-A, B-B)



# Site

The chosen site is located at the southern border of Christiania. In Ill. 16, building plots according to the future development plan, road names, the two iconic buildings “Loppen” and “Fredens Ark” as well as the project site’s border. This analysis provides initial thoughts from the site visit.

The site, covering approximately 16.000 sqm, is located at the intersection of Prinsessegade and Bådsmadsstræde and serves as an urban node. During the site visit the first impression at the entrance, it is quite obscured by a dense vegetation of trees and bushes, creating a hidden access point giving the feeling of not welcoming. On the other hand, an art wall at the entrance building captures the second impression, encouraging visitors to pause and appreciate the artwork upon arrival. This feature sets a creative tone for the site, enhancing the visitor experience from the beginning.

The path from start of the entrance through its archway into Christiania and along the street by Loppen felt quite narrow, especially by the archway leading to congestion among bikers and pedestrians. This is particularly noticeable, creating a challenge for smooth movement through the area.

In the middle of the site, recede a big green recreational area, containing some of the biggest tree in Christiania. It is next to the green area, a troll sculpture called Green George is located, where tourist often stop to admire him.

Fredens Ark street feel a quieter and have more of a residential atmosphere, with a private entrance through Bådsmadsstræde accessible only to locals. This restricted access provides residents a less congested and private option to access Christiania.

During the site visit, barriers, flows, functions and active façade where mapped, while typologies and atmosphere was photo documented or noted down.

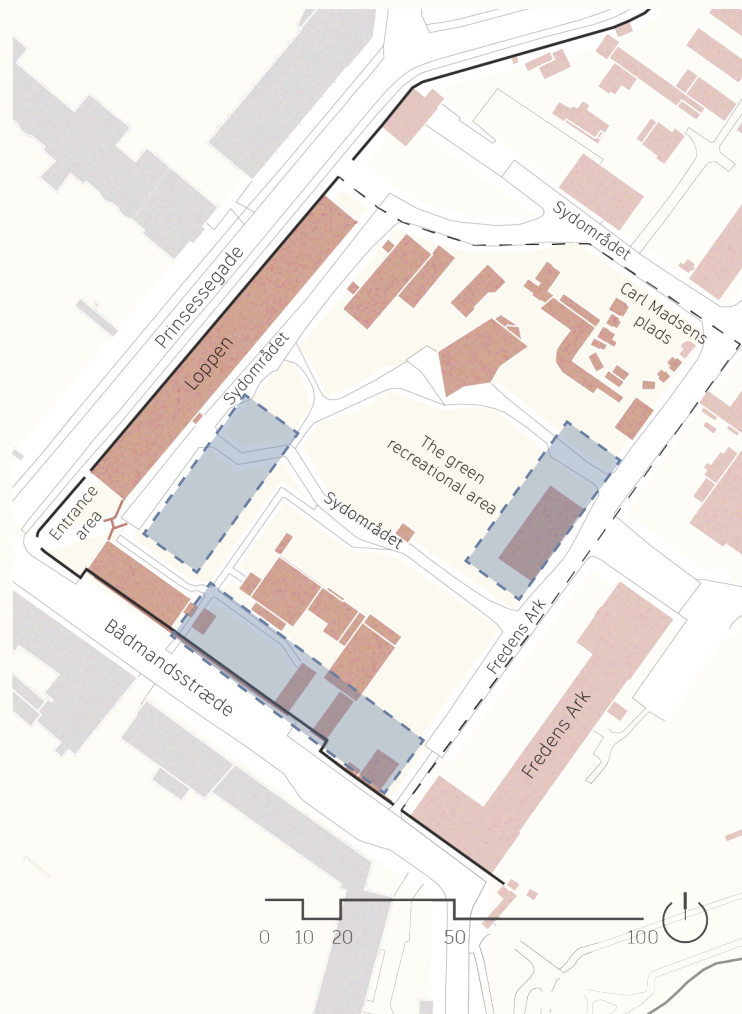


Illustration no. 17 1:2.000, Site map





Illustration no. 18 Main Entrance



Illustration no. 19 Art wall



Illustration no. 22 Barrier



Illustration no. 20 The troll Green George



Illustration no. 21 Fredens Ark street



Illustration no. 24 Greenery I



Illustration no. 23 Bådsmundsstræde



Illustration no. 25 Private entrance at Bådsmundsstræde



# Functions

The functions analysis started during the site visit, afterwards discussions and synthetizing the collected information made it possible to find the main potential qualities and relevant functions for this project.

Ill. 26, showcase the location for different in the project site. The functions have been categorized as:



Information, administration and service



Food and drink



Workshops



Shops



Art/Culture



Residents

Starting at the Free Library located by Carl Madsens Plads, the library is an outdoor facility where people can borrow books freely. But has inadequate protection against weather conditions, as the books are only sheltered by a half roof, putting them at risk of damage, as well as the location is hidden for a visible access. There is pontential to keep its function but improve its current state for protecting the books.

The Historical Archive is dedicated to containing, registering, and mediating Christiania's history and cultural heritage. An existing challenge is the archive's location in the eastern corner of the site in Fredens Ark building. Additionally, there is a lack of historical mediation in public spaces, which difficult visitors access to historical knowledge.

The administration hosts existing administrative functions, such as the building office on ground level, and secretary, social office and contact office on 1st floor. During the meeting with Mette Prag, she described the place as a "city hall" of Christiania and expressed a wish for it to be ground floor accessible. Since the administration building is in a residential area, the replacement of the administration to a central location is a coherent choice to align the needs mentioned during the meeting,.

Wonderland it is a dedicated indoor space for skateboarding, attracting youth and promoting physical activity. The indoor setting ensures year-round usability regardless of weather.

However, the outdoor facilities are run-down reduces the overall appeal and usability. Investing in renovating and maintaining the outdoor facilities to complement the indoor skate hall will enhance the overall experience.

The marketplace is an outdoor function at Carls Madsens Plads with shopping stands and a food all ran by locals and is open throughout the year.

Bøjlen started in 2018 and operates as a safe space for the mentally vulnerable in Christiania, where they get security, peace, and a break from the from the challenges that fills their everyday life. This function promotes inclusivity and social support within the community and its function should be preserved.

In summary, the project site contains a variety of functions, all caring certain potentials that can be enhanced or re-used for the final design. These functions, can serve as important elements in a community, protecting the local culture, enhancing social interactions and providing essential services.



Illustration no. 26 1:1000, Functions map

# Active facades

Active facades in this analysis are to shows the type of interaction with the buildings' facades.

According to Jan Gehl's in "Cities for People" (2010), the book emphasizes the importance of the front facade, particularly in buildings where it faces the street and sidewalk.

In essence, an active facade refers to the frontside of a building that is actively utilized and interacts with its surrounding environment. This interaction by facades was categorized in this report into private, public, or semi-public use, each serving a distinct purpose. Semi-public use in this context, is public functions directed mainly to the residents such as the administration or Bøjlen.

The analysis of active facades involves an understanding of spatial relationships between the buildings guiding decisions related to spatial layout and facade articulation, helping to create a more coherent interplay between active facades in their urban context.

In Ill 27. can it be observed how the project site is almost separated into a public or residential zone. While the western to northern side only contain public facades, the southern and eastern side contains either private or semi-public facades. This co-relates with the existing entry points, where the one at the intersection is a public entrance, while the one by Bådmandsstræde is a private entrance.

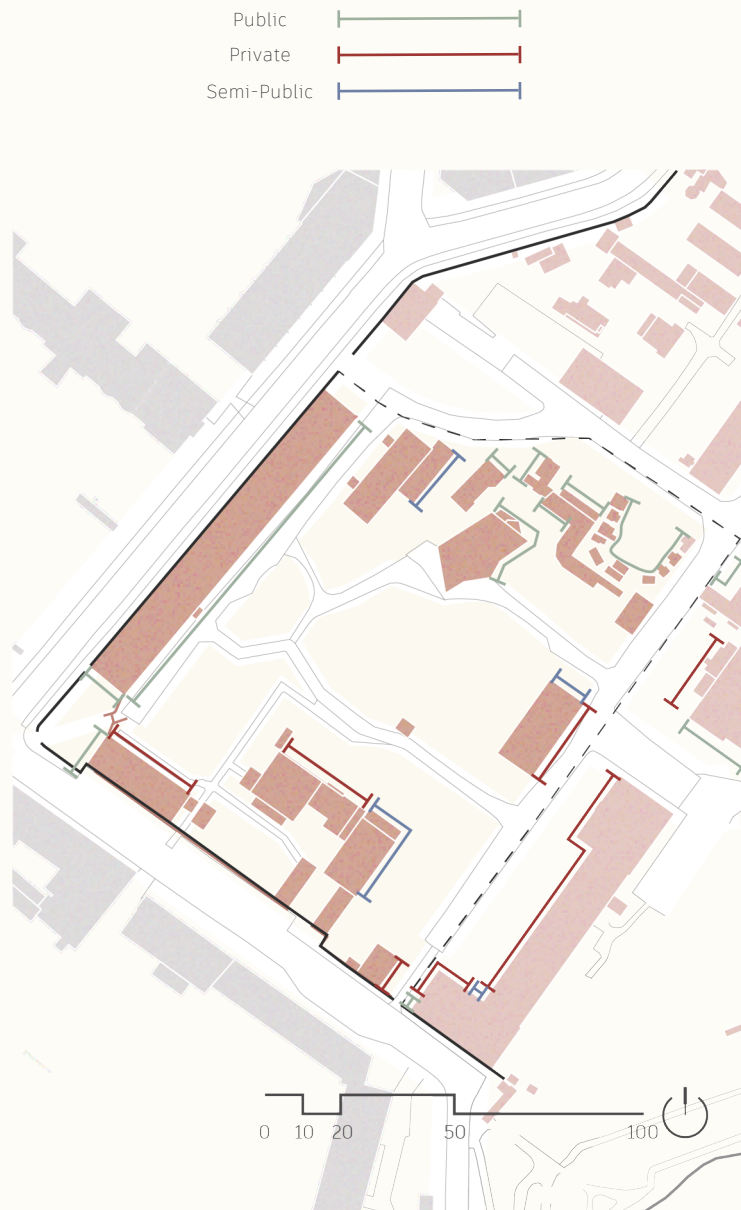


Illustration no. 27 1:2.000, Active facade map



# Flow

This analysis aims to provide flows of people through different areas, which can be observed at Ill 28.

By categorizing the flows is possible to understand the movements and identify areas for potential improvement, enhancing accessibility, managing congestion, and redefine the paths that accommodates both residents and visitors.

The highest flow (red paths) areas include Prinssesegade, and the path by Carl Madsens Plads that goes towards Pusher Street. The medium flow (yellow paths) areas encompass the path in front of Loppen and peripheral paths leading to the main entrance, which experience steady but less intense soft road user traffic. The lowest flow (green paths) areas, recipes around residential areas such as Fredens Ark and the green recreational area, provide quieter and more private environments, mainly to locals and offering a break from the busier parts of the site.

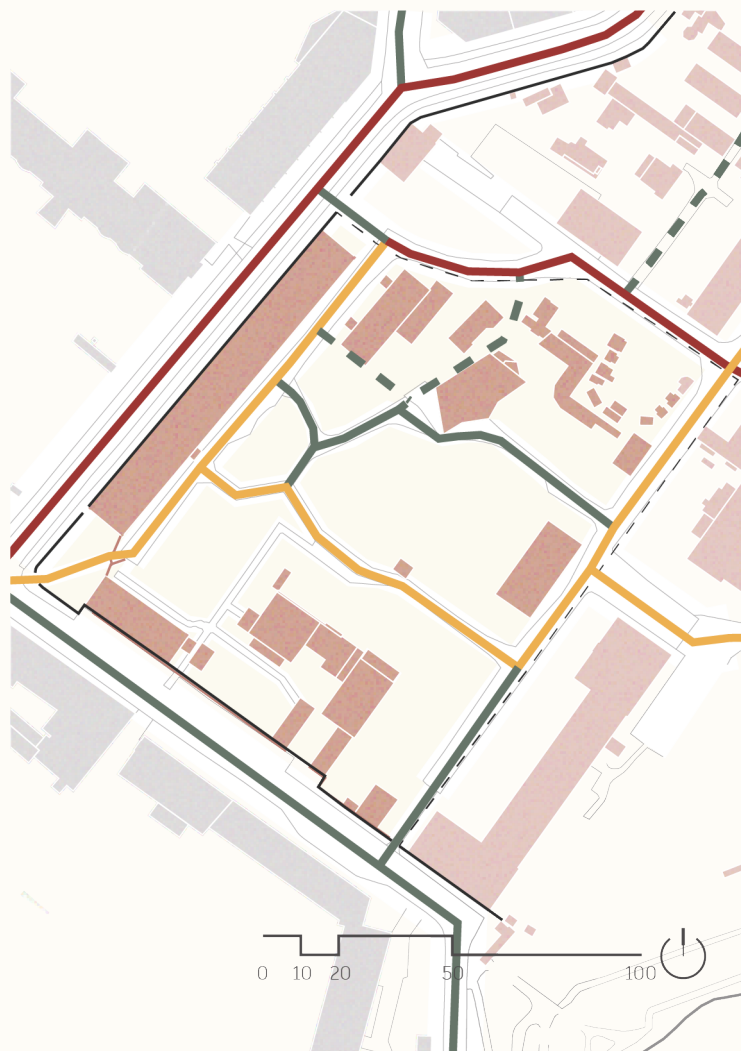


Illustration no. 28 1:2.000, Flow map

# Atmosphere

This analysis into Christiania's atmosphere utilizes photographs in a collage Ill. 29, reflecting its autonomy and freedom and the present aesthetic and understand its identity.

The Christiania creative spirit permeates every aspect of daily life, from the art walls decorating building facades to the sculptures crafted from repurposed materials, for example the colourful boots, where art serves as both a means of expression and a manifestation of the community. The greenery shown at the ill. X and the tradition of self-building construction this symbolizes a commitment to the environment such as the presence of the Christiania bike exemplifies the community's dedication to alternative modes of transportation, sustainable living and the tradition to build their own homes according to their preferences and needs.

Furthermore, Christiania main entrances serve as gateways to the community and are typically marked by symbolic structures, telling visitors that they are entering a distinct and autonomous space reflecting the values and identity of the community and creating a sense of curiosity for those passing through.

In the other hand, there's an underlying tension between Christiania and the outside world. The constant presence of police patrols serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle with Pusher Street and the residents feeling of living under the shadow, Christianites are looking for a change that would alleviate the strain on their community, they are tired of feeling pressured and look for a resolution that respects their autonomy.

In conclusion, Christiania atmosphere is about a creative expression, a dedication to sustainability and a tradition of reutilizing materials giving a new purpose for it. The community can show its identity, values and strength inside an environment that is under tension.







## A self-built culture

The culture of self-built in Christiania shows a degree of autonomy in shaping their built environment. Over time, this culture has evolved into a creative expression through architecture, resulting in a diverse arrangement of building styles and structures.

One of the defining characteristics of Christiania's building typologies is the freedom afforded to its residents in constructing their homes and communal spaces. Unlike traditional urban planning frameworks that impose regulations and zoning laws, Christiania operates under a more fluid and decentralized system of governance, allowing residents greater flexibility in the design and construction of their dwellings.

Furthermore, freedom has given rise to a culture of creativity and innovation in building practices where residents of Christiania can apply a diversification of construction methods, materials, and architectural styles. This spirit of experimentation has led to a more sustainable construction, including the use of recycled and reclaimed materials and communal building projects.

To conclude, the building typologies within Christiania offer a self-built culture, freedom for construction, and low-rise development. By analyzing the typologies, this project aims to follow a low-rise development for a more coherent space within Christiania that has created a built environment that not only reflects the values and aspirations of its residents but also serves as an inspiration for alternative modes of urban living. more coherent space within Christiania that has created a built environment that not only reflects the values and aspirations of its residents but also serves as an inspiration for alternative modes of urban living.

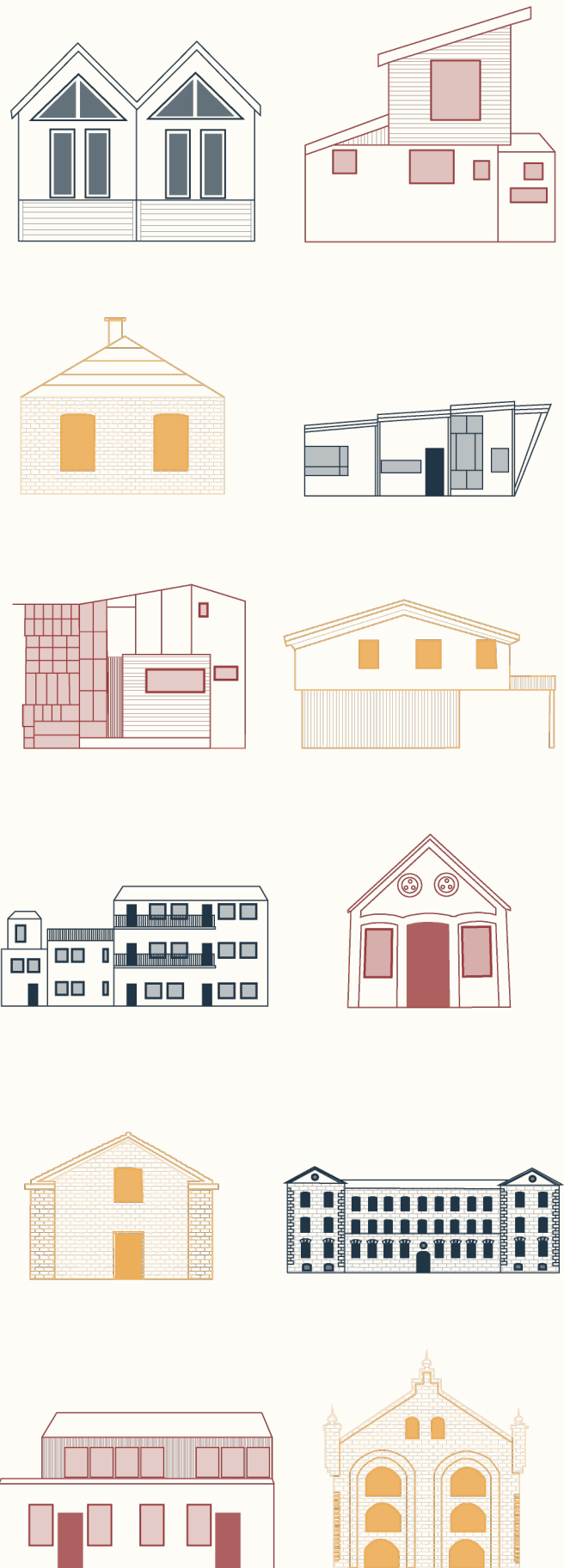


Illustration no. 30 Building typologies inside Christiania

## An urban contrast

While Christiania features low-rise buildings, its surroundings are characterized by a notable high-rise buildings, creating a contrast in building heights.

Christiania's build typologies are a diverse mixed of old historical, expressive and experimental buildings, mainly in a low-rise state, its context offer newer or more traditional built buildings, reaching between 4-6 floors high. This creates a contrast in both the heights and typologies between inside and outside of Christiania. A calculation of Christiania and the surrounding plots' building% (see Appendix I), further shows a stark difference in density between inside and outside of Christiania, cementing its contrast to the rest of Copenhagen.

This contrast in Copenhagen's urban landscape shows the idea that people can embrace alternative ways of living within large cities, with diversity of urban typologies and challenging conventional norms of urban development.

In Conclusion, Christiania shows to be against high-rise buildings in their territory, by analysing this contrast is possible to understand Christiania values and goals for the low-rise development.

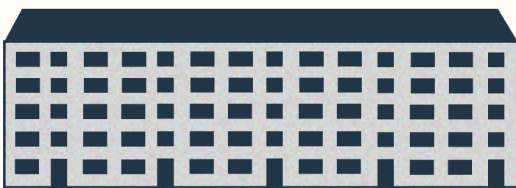
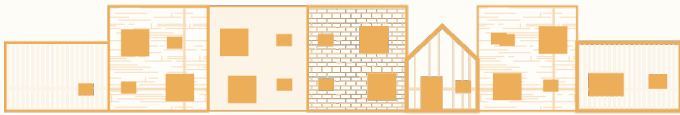
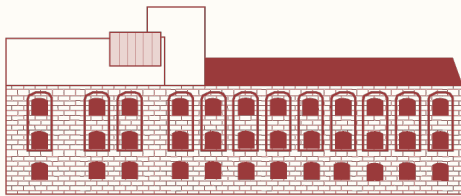
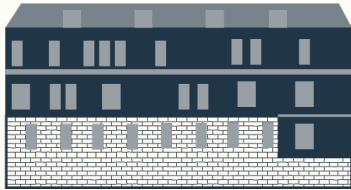


Illustration no. 31 Building typologies outside Christiania



# Barriers

## Physical barriers

Physical barriers are structural obstacles that can prevent people from moving freely. They can take many forms, including walls, fences, gates where the excessive use of physical barriers can lead to a lack of connection throughout the site.

Presently, access to the project site is primarily through the main entrance at Sydområdet, with an additional entry point located at Fredens Ark reserved exclusively for residents. This arrangement serves to manage the flow between visitors and residents. Furthermore, the main residential area within the southern part of the site is fortified with physical barriers, to enhance privacy. While the intention is understandable, this setup may lead to excessive enclosure, avoiding community integration.

Other identified barrier around the site is the old playground containing its original fence as well as the recycling centre separating Carl Madsens Plads from the rest of the project site. These barriers fragmentates the project site, creating small pockets with no connection to each other.

It can be an advantage to reconsider the placement of certain barriers, especially those facing the greenery. This strategic adjustment towards the greenery could improve connectivity and integration within the community. While some barriers are necessary to preserve the residents' privacy, it is essential to address where barriers may be excessively intrusive and find a balance between limits to promote a more welcoming atmosphere.

## Psychological barriers

Psychological barriers can avoid people from feeling welcome, included, and connected to a community. Understanding and transform psychological barriers is important when creating a more inclusive and welcoming community.

At the entrance, the presence of trees covering it creates a feeling of a barrier, making the entrance less inviting. This can make the access point seem hidden and unwelcoming. Addressing this issue could involve creating a more open and visible entrance.

Around the residential area and local services on the southeast following Fredens Ark Street, visitors may experience a sense of psychological barrier, perceiving certain areas as notably private. This feeling often arises during visits, where some sections of the community seem more secluded or restricted. This perception could be from the intentional design of the environment to prioritize residents' privacy and maintain a sense of exclusivity within their living spaces.

PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIER



PHYSICAL BARRIER



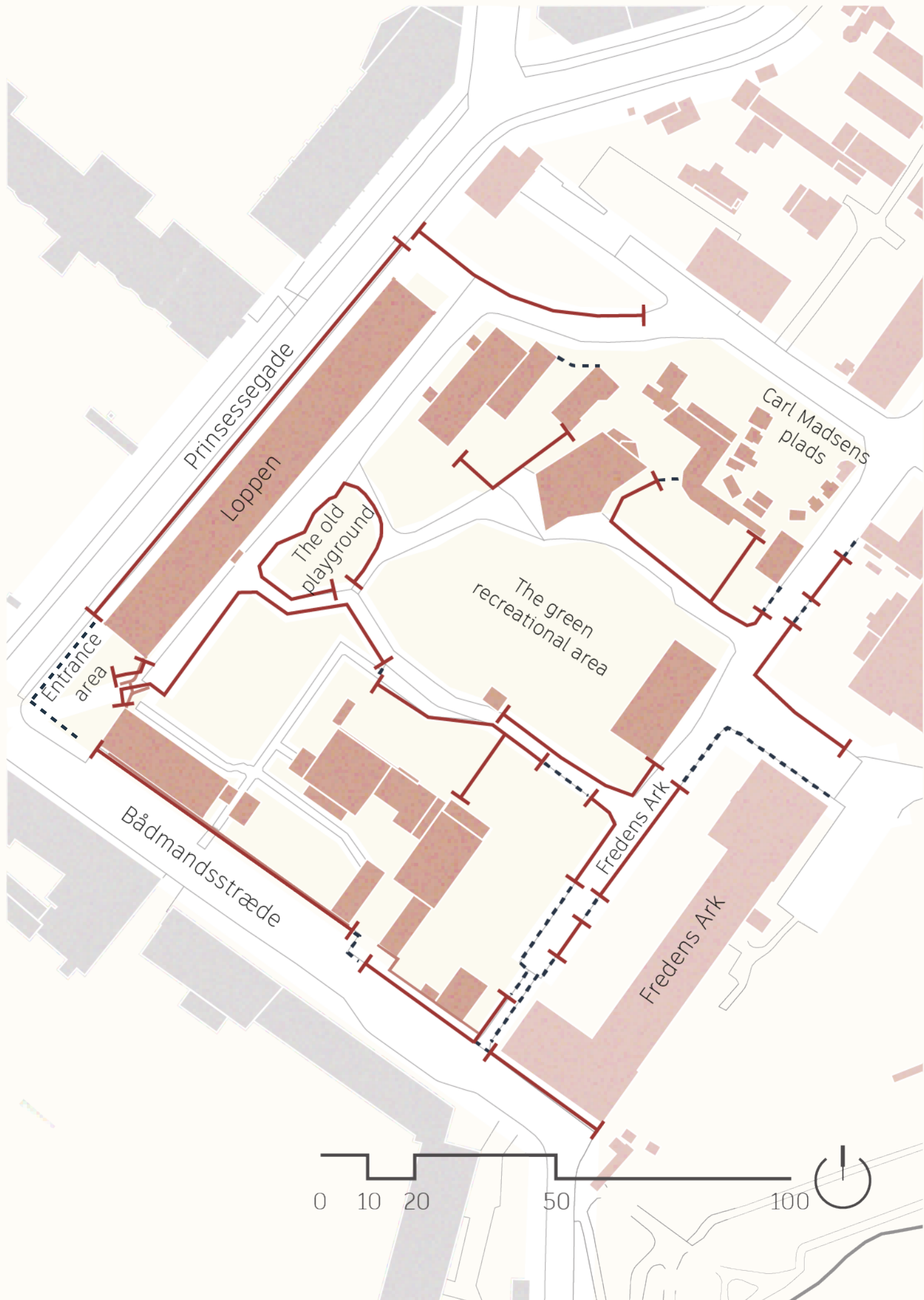


Illustration no. 32 1:1.000, Barrier map



*Illustration no. 33 Physical boundarie, 12th February 2024*





*Illustration no. 34 Psychological boundarie , 13th February 2024.*



## Bluespot

To understand how rain can affect the project site, data from the screening tool SCALGO Live has been extracted. The extracted data identifies depressions in the landscape where water collects and shows the flow paths of rainwater to these depressions. (Scalgo, n.d.)

In ill. 35, it can be observed that much of the project's site's and the surrounding area's rainwater runoff collects at the southeastern edge of the site, resulting in a large bluespot. Other affected area is the area along the building Lopen by the northwestern edge as well as the surroundings by the skating hall.

During the design process should possible areas be identified for detention ponds or work with integration porous surfaces in area's dominated by hard surface.

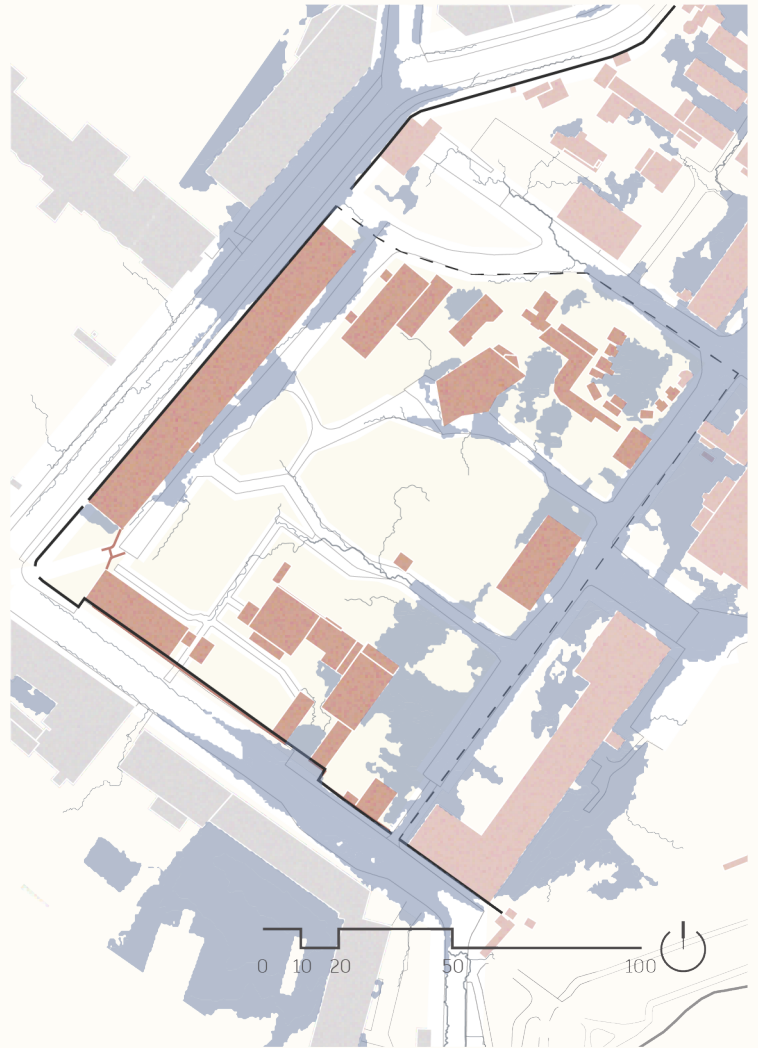


Illustration no. 35 1:2.000, Bluespot map

## Greenery

Christiania's land area comprises 36 ha. In addition, the water area in the Stadsgravens part, which is surrounded by Christiania, about 18.5 ha. The proximity to water, both in the form of freshwater holes (storage ponds), brackish water and salt water, results in a high natural content with great potential for natural wealth.

Christiania is predominantly green, with one public green space within the project site with a high potential for activities and recreation. Most of the green areas in Christiania serve as residential private spaces and are low maintenance, allowing nature to grow more naturally. Despite the limited amount of maintained green recreational spaces, the community is highly engaged in preserving as much natural greenery as possible (Prag, 2024).

According to "Christianias Grønne Plan 2023-32", Christiania boasts a high level of natural wealth and biodiversity, with various biotopes and microhabitats contributing to its ecological richness. The area serves as an important link in a green corridor and is recognized for its biodiversity. The community is committed to nature protection, working closely to ensure conservation during construction projects and conducting analyses to protect trees and natural features.

This project aims to preserve greenery while enhancing recreational functions within the green areas, however, challenges arise when building within these spaces while minimizing damage to the environment. Overall, the project seeks to balance preservation efforts with the development of both recreational and natural green spaces, maintaining Christiania's green character.

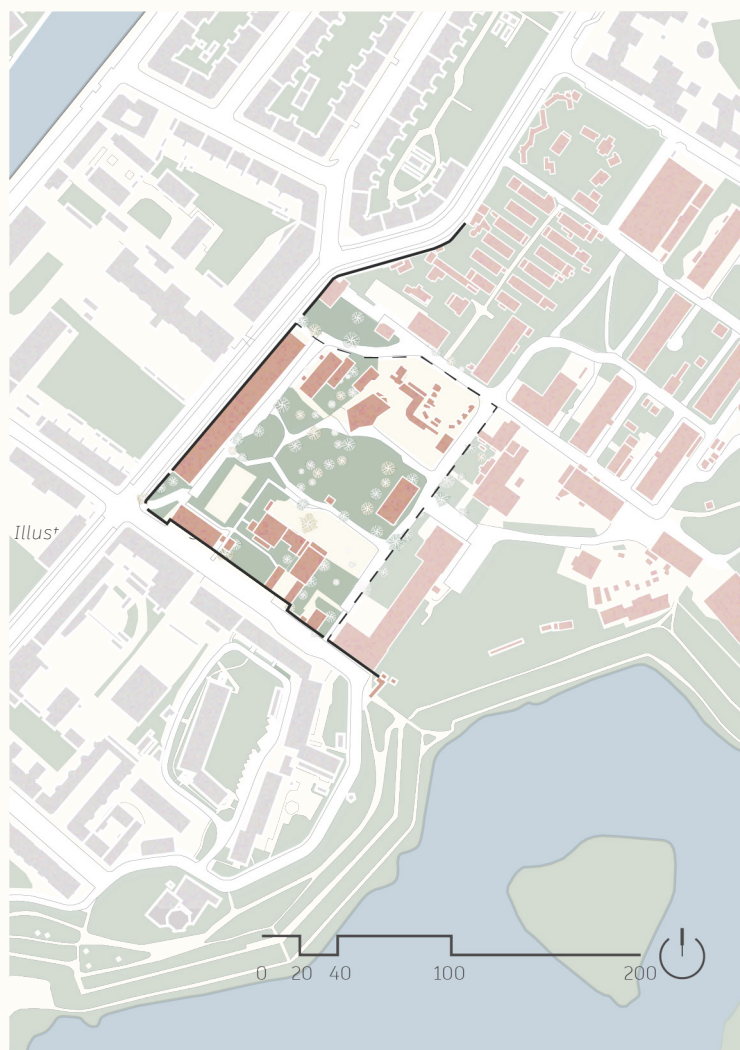


Illustration no. 37 1:8.000, Green and blue infrastructure map

## Section A-A

This section Ill.38 offers a comprehensive view of the architectural landscape of Christiania, accentuating the varied building heights and their integration with the environment. Notably, the section illustrates a gradual decrease in building heights as structures transition from the periphery towards the central green area.

The section illustrates the physical barriers between Christiania and Copenhagen, with a private entrance point for the locals, located in the left corner of the section.

In the middle of the section resides a residential area, as well as the central green area, with a prominent hill, enhancing the site's topographical diversity.

The building Loppern, serves as a protection and a barrier for external disturbances such as noise and visibility for high traffic road on Prinsessegade, contrasting with Christiania's car free district.

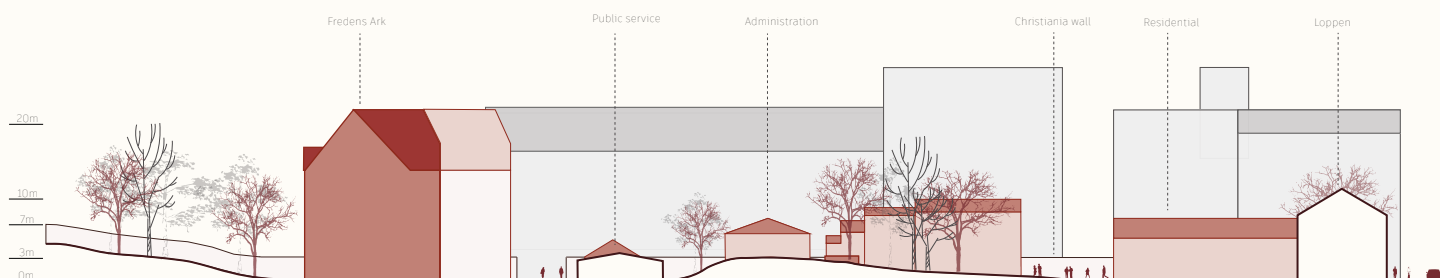
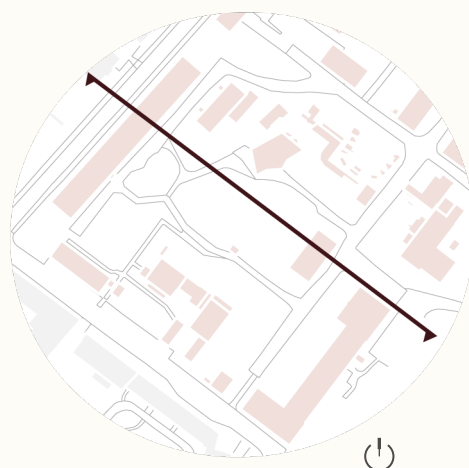
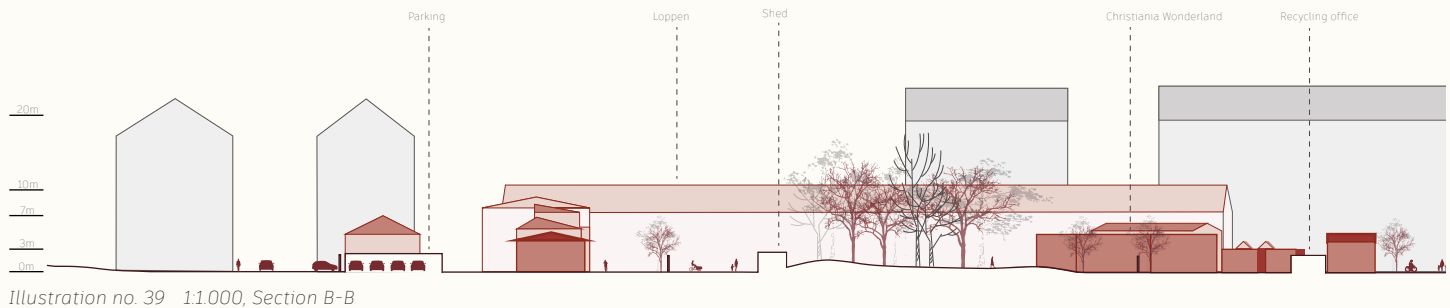


Illustration no. 38 1:1000, Section A-A



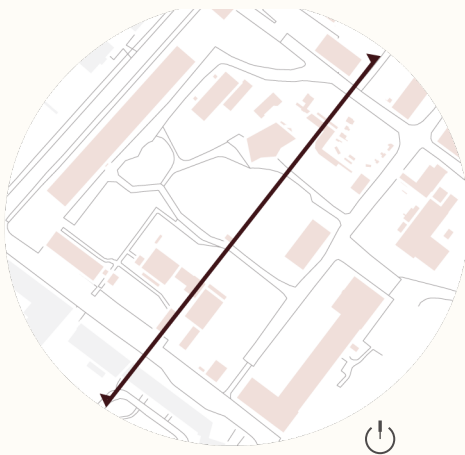
## Section B-B

This section Ill. 39 provides height variations around Christiania, showing a distinct contrast between the building heights outside the of Christiania and its majority of low-rise buildings within it. The section starts from the left side at Bådsmandsstræde, a lower traffic street transition into the Christiania area.

As the section progresses, it reveals a designated parking area for Christiania residents and workers, situated close to the Building Office. Following to the residential zone, characterized by a gradual decrease in building heights and a distinctive stair-like arrangement, is visible delineated by a barrier separating it from the public area in Christiania, where is possible to understand the need for more privacy into the residential area.

Further along, the section reveals spacious greenery, serving as a focal point within the community, contributing to the overall ambiance of the low-rise buildings in the site.

The section concludes by highlighting the contrast between building heights inside and outside of Christiania showing the community's commitment to maintaining a low-rise building character.







## 4 Theory

- Introduction
- The importance of boundaries
- Boundary Objects
- Informal communities



## Introduction

Through the site analysis as well as the research on communities and Christiania a pattern of different types of barriers, edges, and boundaries to emerge. While Christiania today collaborates with the state and municipality of Copenhagen, a physical barrier between them remains. In Christiania many physical barriers fragment the different areas. Other physical and psychological barriers is put up to shield residents' homes or private spaces from curious visitors. During the interview of Mette, she mentioned the wish for co-housing communities to better integrate newcomers into Christiania's community. In this case, there was a wish to prevent possible barriers between existing Christianites and the newcomers. The new residents should not only have their residences in Christiania but also be part of Christiania's culture and lifestyle.

There is a need to work on refining some existing barriers between Copenhagen and Christiania to create a stronger connection between each other. Additionally, the integration of newcomers into Christiania should be prioritized while also accommodating a new emerging community.

To gain a deeper understanding, three themes relating to boundaries is explored:

- The importance of creating boundary spaces between the residents and visitors.
- How to create these spaces through boundary objects.
- Creating boundary spaces between neighbors for informal communities.

## The importance of boundaries

To understand the importance of creating boundaries, there have been looked into Charles Vogl's book "The art of community: Seven Principles of Belonging".

In his book Vogl describes the importance to creating boundaries between the insiders (the residents) and the outsiders (the visitors). Strong communities have clear boundaries and know who is part of the community and who is not. (Vogl, 2016)

Communities become defined through shared values that can be easily identified so new potential members can figure out if they belong inside the community. The boundaries can be in multiple layers, that new members travel through when becoming part of a community. One layer can serve as an exploration zone for visitors, allowing them to learn and participate in activities within the community to see if they want to be part of it. The exploration zone also helps to protect members and their privacy, by clearly defining areas for exploration. Deeper layers offer privileges only for the members such as planning events, who to invite from the outside, or access to certain areas. (Vogl, 2016)

Vogl discusses the importance of maintaining a clear boundary for the sake of both the residents and the visitors. Visitors can calmly visit the community without worrying they unintentionally become a member. Meanwhile, the members will have a clear knowledge who is part of their community and share their values as well as a sense of security that they have spaces just for them to foster their community. (Vogl, 2016)

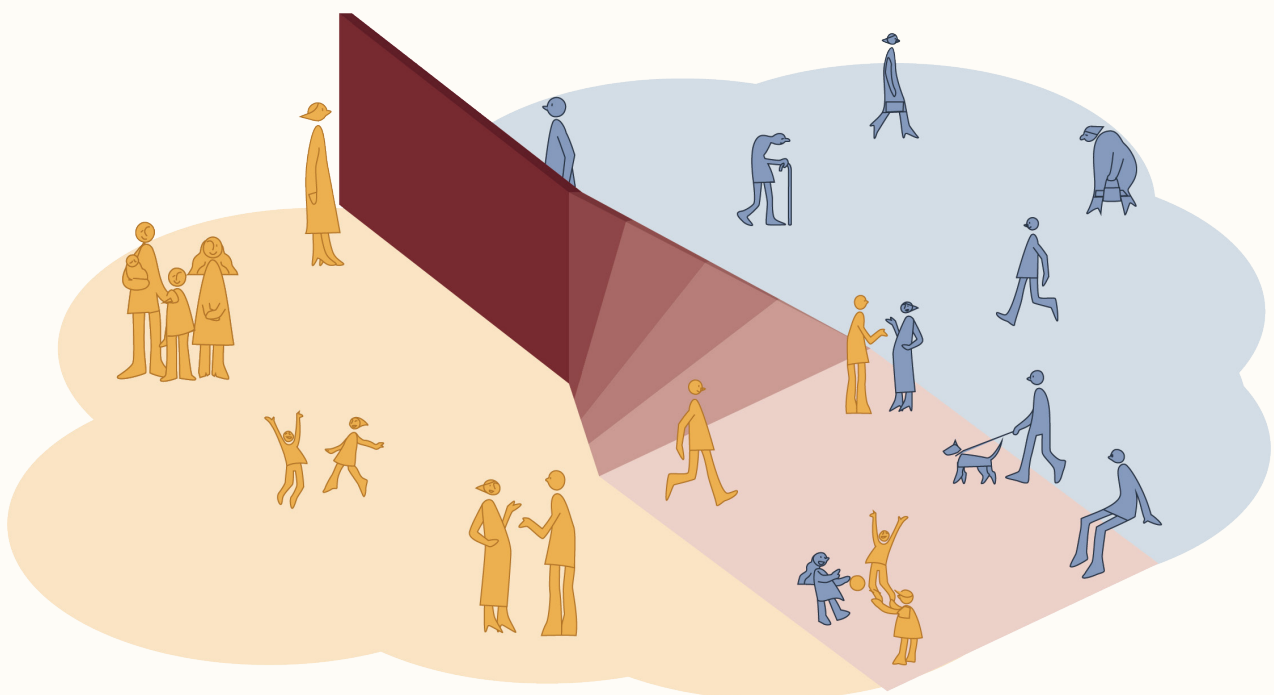


Illustration no. 40 From barrier to boundary



# Boundary Objects

Boundary object is a theoretical tool introduced in Susan Leigh Star and James R. Griesemer's 1989 article regarding the Museums of Vertebrate Zoology (Stoytcheva, 2015). The concept of boundary objects since has been adopted into many disciplines.

The article used the curation of the museum's specimens and research as a case study to show how actors from different "social worlds" (academic fields, communities, interest groups and so forth) are all involved in the project, despite their different interests. The actors' interests in the project work can vary from gaining a greater scientific understanding to merely be there for the monetary value. (Stoytcheva, 2015; Star & Griesemer, 1989)

The different actors might share the same goal, but their reasons and interests differ.

Boundary objects are introduced as scientific objects that can inhabit different intersecting social worlds and facilitate a communication between them. An important characteristic for boundary objects is their ability to switch between being abstract and concrete. They need to be abstract enough for common use across actors, yet concrete enough when examined by one specific perspective. (Star & Griesemer, 1989; Stoytcheva, 2015)

In the case of the museum, the boundary object are the specimens. The common goal is to collect specimens for the curation of the museum, while, as mentioned earlier, differ the interests and reasons of the collection between actors.

In the case of design, boundary objects can be used as a tool to create more diverse public spaces or meeting points where actors can interact with each other. To design such spaces, there should be a good understanding of the interests of the different actors intended to use the space, integrating relevant functions. While the same function might not attract all actors, they are coinciding in the same defined space. An example of how boundary objects work in the urban context is looking into an ordinary café. The common goal for all actors could be ordering a coffee, however the reasons behind are different. Some might order a coffee to be able to sit in the café and work, while other might do it for social purposes such as talking with a friend.

The concept of boundary objects can help identify possible spaces and functions that can serve as a common goal across the different identified roles in Christiania. It can help create a stronger connection between Christiania and Copenhagen by creating spaces that both locals and visitors want to use. Furthermore, it can assist in the integration process of newcomers, by identifying functions the existing and new community uses in their everyday life, becoming a meeting point between the two.



Illustration no. 41 A cafe as a boundary object

## Informal Communities

Communities do not spontaneously emerge through shared activities and formal spaces such as common houses and communal dinners. Shared facilities are important to maintain a strong community; however, the foundation lies within the informal meetings among residents. These meetings occur in common spaces such as by the laundry room and the staircases, or in semi-private spaces like the front garden and the balcony. (Jensen, et al., 2022)

Informal meetings happen in the boundary between a resident's private space and the public space, where spontaneous interaction between neighbours can occur. However, the individual is in control to choose to be social or not. One survey showed how residents value the ability to choose the level of participation in the community and to withdraw to the private sphere. (Jensen, et al., 2022)

Semi-private spaces help residents extend their home life from the private space of their home into the public realm of their community. From their own space they can take the decision how much they want to participate socially with their community. Additionally, studies have shown that offering a space for residents to decorate and personalize their entries assists in informal communities. Through the usage and interaction with things, residents not only learn about their neighbours from a distance, but also become inspired to decorate themselves. (Madsen, 2023)

Common spaces, though normally reserved for formal activities, can also become a boundary space for informal

ones. Maja Hojer Brrun's text "Space for community: Space and sociality in an anthropological perspective" shows the importance of flexible common spaces. These spaces should function as a place for big communal gatherings as well as a space for people to extend their home life out to and experience casual encounters.

Furthermore, it is in common or shared spaces that the concept of negotiation comes into play. In Stine Krøijer and Inger Sjørsløv's case of the prior self-managed community centre "Ungdomshuset", one way the centre maintained a strong community was through their weekly meetings. The centres limited space and diverse users led to different groups having to negotiate to give room for each other. (Krøijer & Sjørsløv, 2011) Shared spaces act as a boundary between neighbours, encouraging them to negotiate among one another to respect each resident's right to the space. Informal negotiations can be verbally, such as discussions about the upkeep of a common spaces, or non-verbally, like being considerate of noise levels when others are using the space simultaneously.

The presented studies show the importance of designing spaces with informal communities in mind, when planning the new residential area. They demonstrate how these types of communities can arise in different kinds of settings, in the boundary between the private and public. They arise on the balconies, in the laundry room, through one's choice of décor, on the shared grass lawn, and through verbal or non-verbal negotiation.



Illustration no. 42 A cafe as a boundary object



# 5 Design Framework

- Highlights
- Problem Statement
- Concept
- Vision
- Design Strategies



# Highlights

This section highlights the key potentials and challenges identified during the analysis and research. The potential is illustrated in yellow boxes, while the challenges are shown in red boxes.



Potentials



Challenges

**7 Empty Playground:** This space presents opportunities for redevelopment and increased community use.

**3 Barrier Between Copenhagen and Christiania:** Existing barriers create a sense of separation and hinder integration.

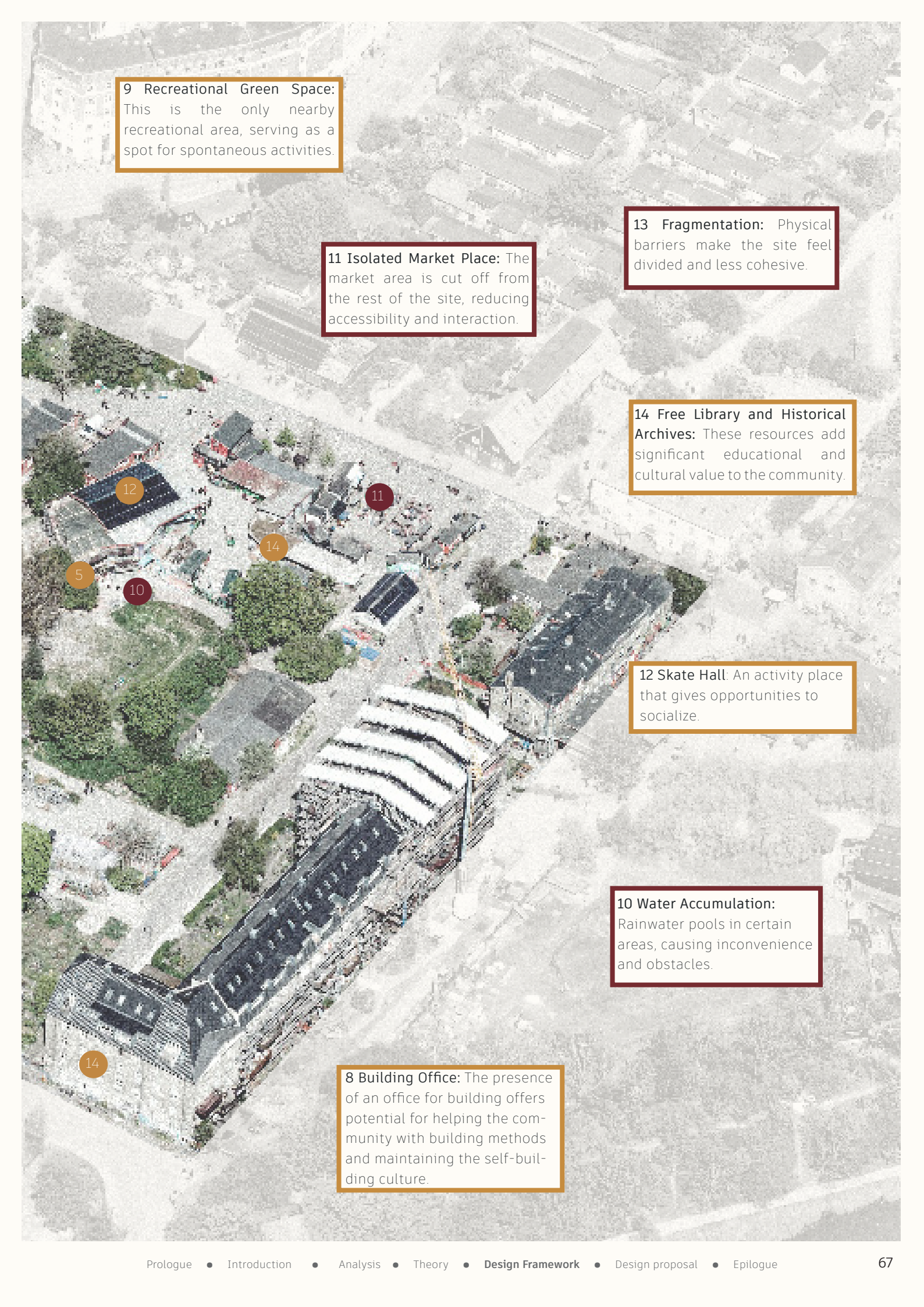
**5 Landmarks:** The Art Wall and Green George highlight the area's unique identity.

**1 Entrance Space:** The site forms part of Christiania's main entrance, presenting an opportunity to enhance the initial experience for visitors.

**2 Narrow Entrance:** A narrow entrance limits accessibility and ease of entry.

**4 Obscured Entrance:** Trees at the entrance hide it from view, making navigation difficult for visitors.

**6 Car Parking:** Parking areas block pedestrian pathways, disrupting the flow of movement.



**9 Recreational Green Space:** This is the only nearby recreational area, serving as a spot for spontaneous activities.

**11 Isolated Market Place:** The market area is cut off from the rest of the site, reducing accessibility and interaction.

**13 Fragmentation:** Physical barriers make the site feel divided and less cohesive.

**14 Free Library and Historical Archives:** These resources add significant educational and cultural value to the community.

**12 Skate Hall:** An activity place that gives opportunities to socialize.

**10 Water Accumulation:** Rainwater pools in certain areas, causing inconvenience and obstacles.

**8 Building Office:** The presence of an office for building offers potential for helping the community with building methods and maintaining the self-building culture.



## Problem statement

*How can design strategies be utilized to refine boundaries that facilitate a balance between private spaces to integrate developing communities, and public spaces that reflect Christiania's evolving identity and their ties to Copenhagen?*



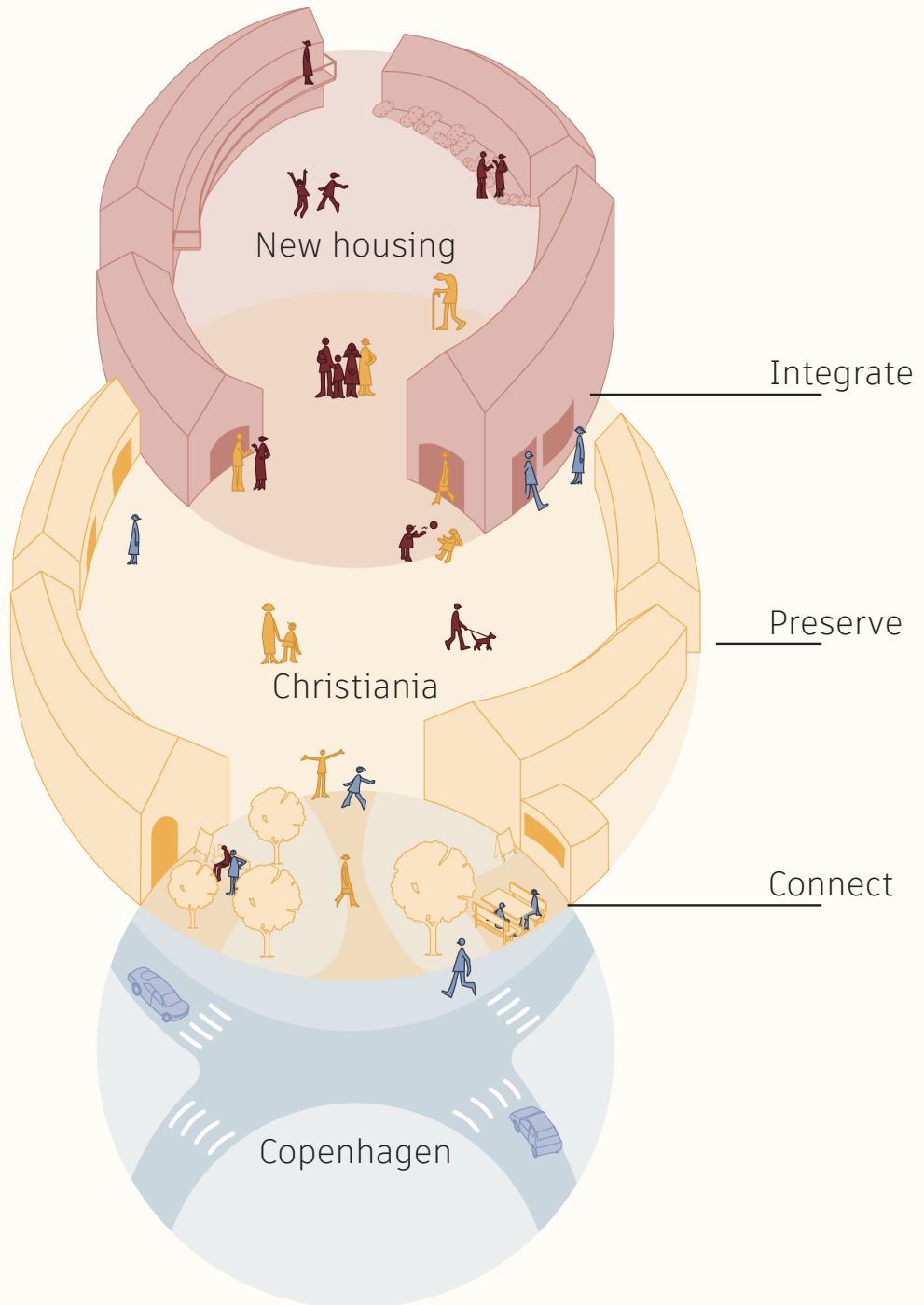


Illustration no. 44 Concept illustration

## Concept

This project's concept is made by the intersection of three areas that represent boundaries, not only physical but also on the social aspect. These boundaries reside between the new social housing, Christiania, and Copenhagen. Each area is represented by a circle in the ill. 44 where each of it is designated for the three roles. The social housing is the newcomer's area, Christiania is the home of the current Christianites, and Copenhagen represents both its residents and visitors from around the world.

In this project's perspective, the points where these circles intersect become areas for integration and connection. These intersections serve as transition zones, acting as boundary objects where individuals from distinct roles can interact.

While the concept emphasizes the integration and connection between different roles, it is also recognized the significance of providing private spaces for the local community within Christiania. To find a balance between integration, connection and privacy, our concept helps to use design strategies for a coherent environment where individuals can strength the ties of community.

In summary, the transition zones will be designed as public or semi-public spaces to offer integration and connection between the diverse roles while also recognizing the importance of private spaces for residents.



Newcomers



Christianites



Visitors

# Vision

Our vision is to re-define existing boundaries to accommodate the roles – Newcomers, Christianites and Visitors.

This proposal is committed to preserving the essence of Christiania – its identity, greenery spaces, and building typologies, integrating newcomers and strengthening the connection to Copenhagen.

The balance between the diverse needs of the roles is settled by creating boundary zones, ensuring that Christiania remains a welcoming space while still protecting their privacy. This project aims to redefine boundaries as an opportunity for communal living thereby shaping a future for Christiania that embraces its potential for evolution.



# Design Strategies

Design strategies serve as the guiding framework that shapes the overall vision of the proposal, providing clear guidelines for decision-making and consistency throughout the design process. These strategies are from the conclusions of the research that identifies the project's priorities and perspectives, resulting on the main points of focus to implement and achieve the project's goals

Preservation of Christiania's culture and identity

Adapting to evolving Christiania

Integrating new community

Create boundary zones between the private and public spaces

Providing the roles' needs

Strengthen connection to the surroundings.

Enhancing quality of existing public spaces





The presentation of the project will first demonstrate a simplified version of the design process. The process itself have been a journey with a lot of forward and backwards steps, twist, turns and detours, when new knowledge arrived along the process. While working with Christiania, who is currently doing renovations on their own with the closing of Pusher Street and opening of the entrance way, did one had to be adaptable for change.

After the process is a formal introduction to the site with a detailed masterplan, as well as an overview of the different zonings in the project site.

The detailed descriptions for the different design interventions are categorized within the three themes presented in the concept: Preservation, Connection, and Integration.

## 6 Design Proposal

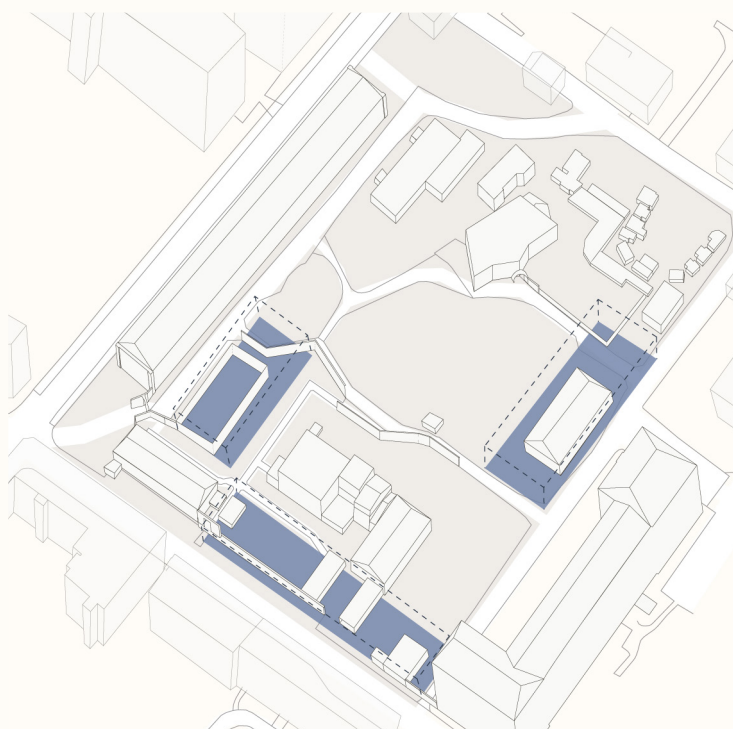
- Steps
- Site Presentation
- Zones
- Functions
- Preservation
- Connection
- Integration

# Steps

## 1

### Building plots

The building plots are marked in blue on the chosen site, based on the development plan on the agreement between Christiania and the State.



*Illustration no. 45 Step 1*

## 2

### Demolish

Buildings and structures were evaluated for demolition, focusing on negative barriers and the building in a bad structural condition.

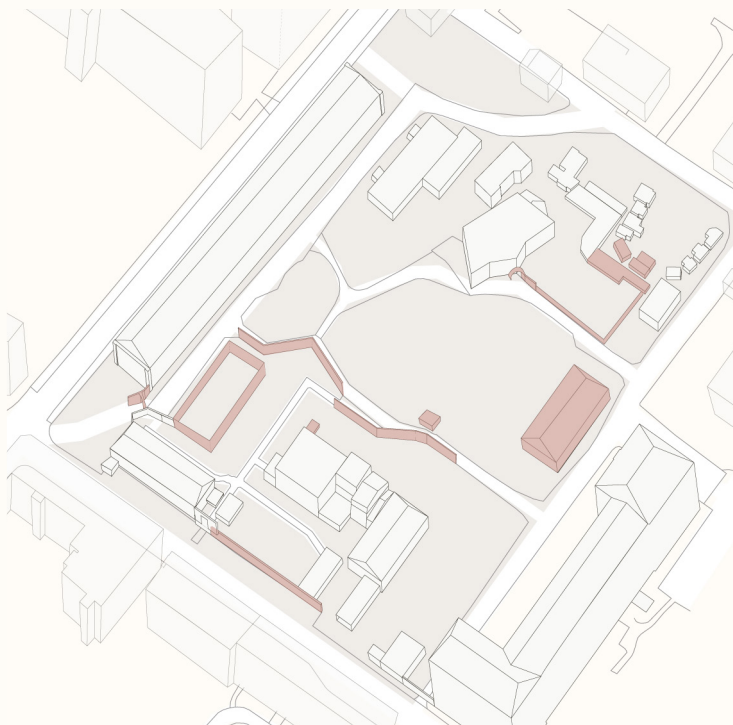


Illustration no. 46 Step 2

## 3

### Placing the volumes

Simple shapes were used to visualize and understand the spatial layout. The goal is to double the current floor area, accommodating Newcomers, Christianites and public areas.

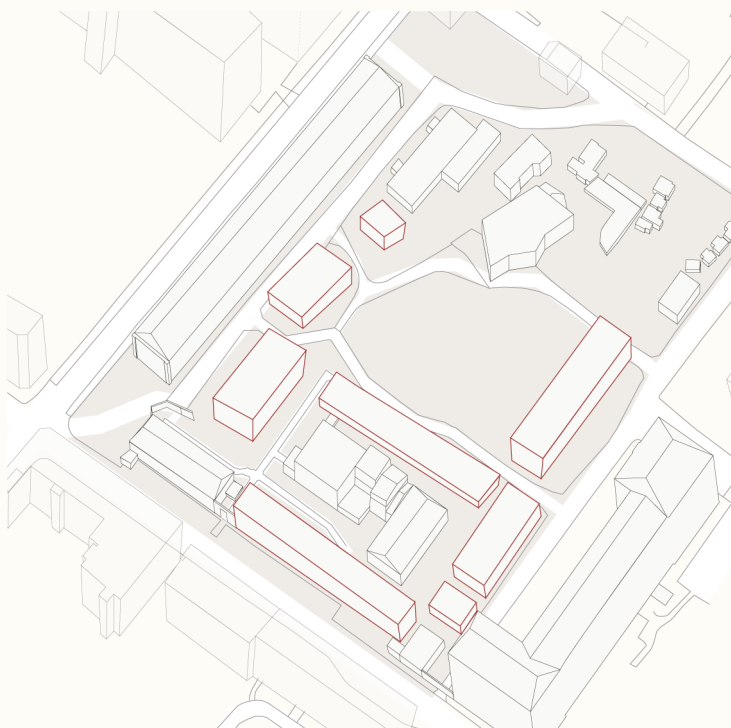


Illustration no. 47 Step 3



## 4

### Initial Zoning

The general zoning layout was established, with green zones for predominantly public spaces and red zones for predominantly private spaces.

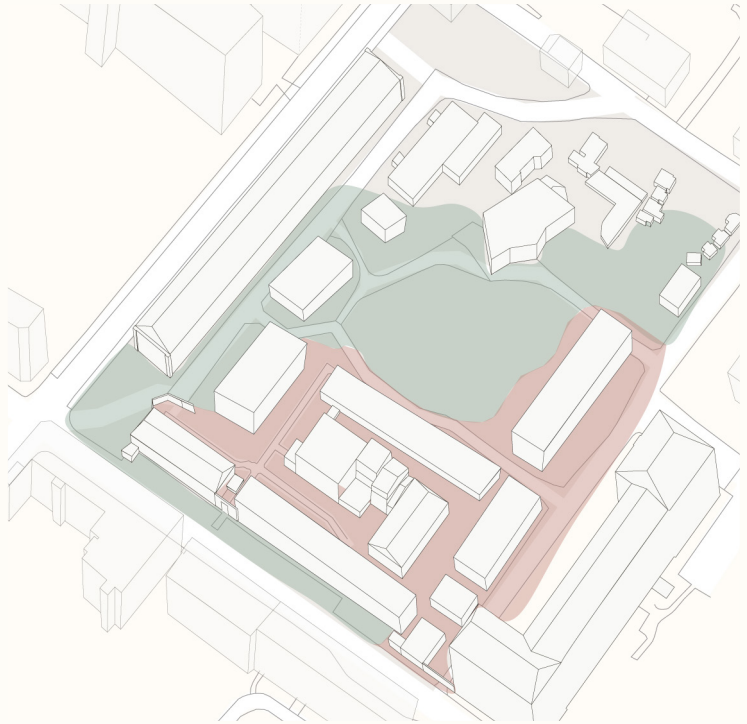


Illustration no. 48 Step 4

## 5

### Shaping

Building shapes were developed and refined, along with a comprehensive network of pathways and greenery to enhance connectivity throughout the site.

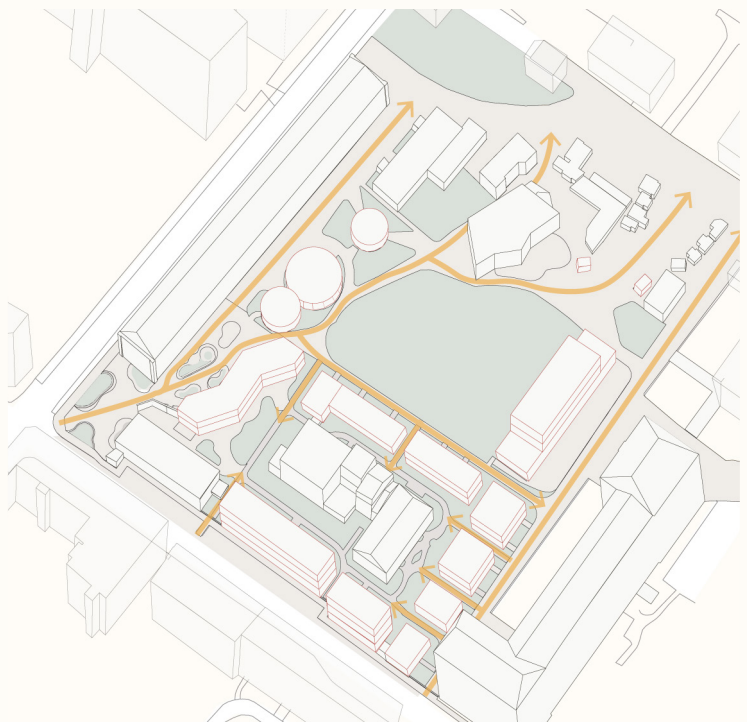


Illustration no. 49 Step 5

# 6

## Finalizing

Building heights and roof shapes is detailed. Facades is designed to show entrances, and functions added where the colours are indicating public (blue), semi-public (yellow), and private (red) functions.

*Illustration no. 50 Step 6*

# Site Presentation

"Beyond Boundaries" is a design proposal that aims to refine the boundaries on the chosen site of Christiania with a development plan that enhances both connection to Copenhagen and integration with the Newcomers. Key elements of the proposal include preservation of greenery, coherent building shapes, well-connected paths, new public spaces and integration of social housing.

The shapes of the new buildings are designed to be both functional and harmonious with the existing urban fabric, while introducing coherent typologies that complement the existing structures. Each building is placed to optimize spatial use and give a better continuity of the site. The design proposal aims to double the current floor area, accommodating and integrating an evolving community and its new functions.

A new network of pathways ensures connectivity across the site, these paths are designed to facilitate easy movement for pedestrians and cyclists, linking residential areas with public spaces.

Through this project, the aim is to transform the site preserving and enhancing its existing functions. while adding new functions and social housing, this reflects a commitment to preserve the identity of Christiania, balancing the needs of its residents while accommodating newcomers and offering better opportunities for visitors to understand the community's values.

## Amenities

**Paths:** The paths network is designed to balance the need for connection with the desire for privacy. The paths vary in size and width, gradually increasing from intimate routes near private areas to wider path, in more public and communal spaces. This intentional design creates a spatial hierarchy, allowing roles to navigate while maintaining the privacy where desired

**Rain:** The project incorporates catchment areas to reduce the risk of flooding, this includes permeable paths on the residential zone and a skatepark on the recreational zone, facilitating on urban drainage systems.

**Urban Furnitures:** Urban furniture designed to enhance the aesthetic and functional experience of the public space. This includes benches, streetlights and bins that provide an inviting atmosphere for users.

**Parking:** Accessible bike parking options located near greenery and Pavilion. Meanwhile, the existing car parking at facilities are repurposed to create a new pedestrian path.

**Sheds:** The sheds and storage facilities are in the residential area and provides a storage for bicycles and trash collection. These sheds are designed to be accessible for the residents providing practical solution for their daily needs.





Illustration no. 51 Masterplan



# Zones

The site is divided into four well-connected zones, each having unique elements designed to enhance the overall functionality and connection of area. These zones work together to create a cohesive plan for the community space that aligns with the values and needs of Christiania.

## Zone 1: Entrance Zone

The existing entrance to the site, providing a more welcoming entry point with an entrance plaza designed for interactions, embracing the city hall and shops on the ground floor and guiding visitors into the other public areas. The mixed-used building where is located the City Hall, has also residential units on second floor. Further, the Pavillion structure host the Free Library, Historical Archive and Exhibitions of Christianias, giving an opportunity for providing knowledge for visitors and the community.

## Zone 2: Residential Zone

The Residential zone integrates the Common House as a common facility for residents, as well as diversity of residence typologies, including rowhouses, two-floor houses, single-floor houses, single units, and a collective, promoting different ways of living according to the resident's needs. On the residential zone there are also semi-public functions designated for locals, functions as the Building Office are designed to support Christianites on construction methods. Lastly, a smaller plaza in front of the Building Office, provides an open space for the local community interaction.

## Zone 3: Carls Madsens Plads

An existing plaza that serves as a local market on the extension of the site, this zone is designed to improve the connection of the site and refining the boundaries, giving an opportunity for users at the plaza feel invited to the recreational green area.

## Zone 4: Recreational Zone

The recreational green area connects all other zones. This area is dedicated to preserving and enhancing natural elements, offering a common recreational for spontaneous activities that all zones can access. On the side, the new outdoor skatepark with also a recreational purpose linking the existing indoor Wonderland skatepark.

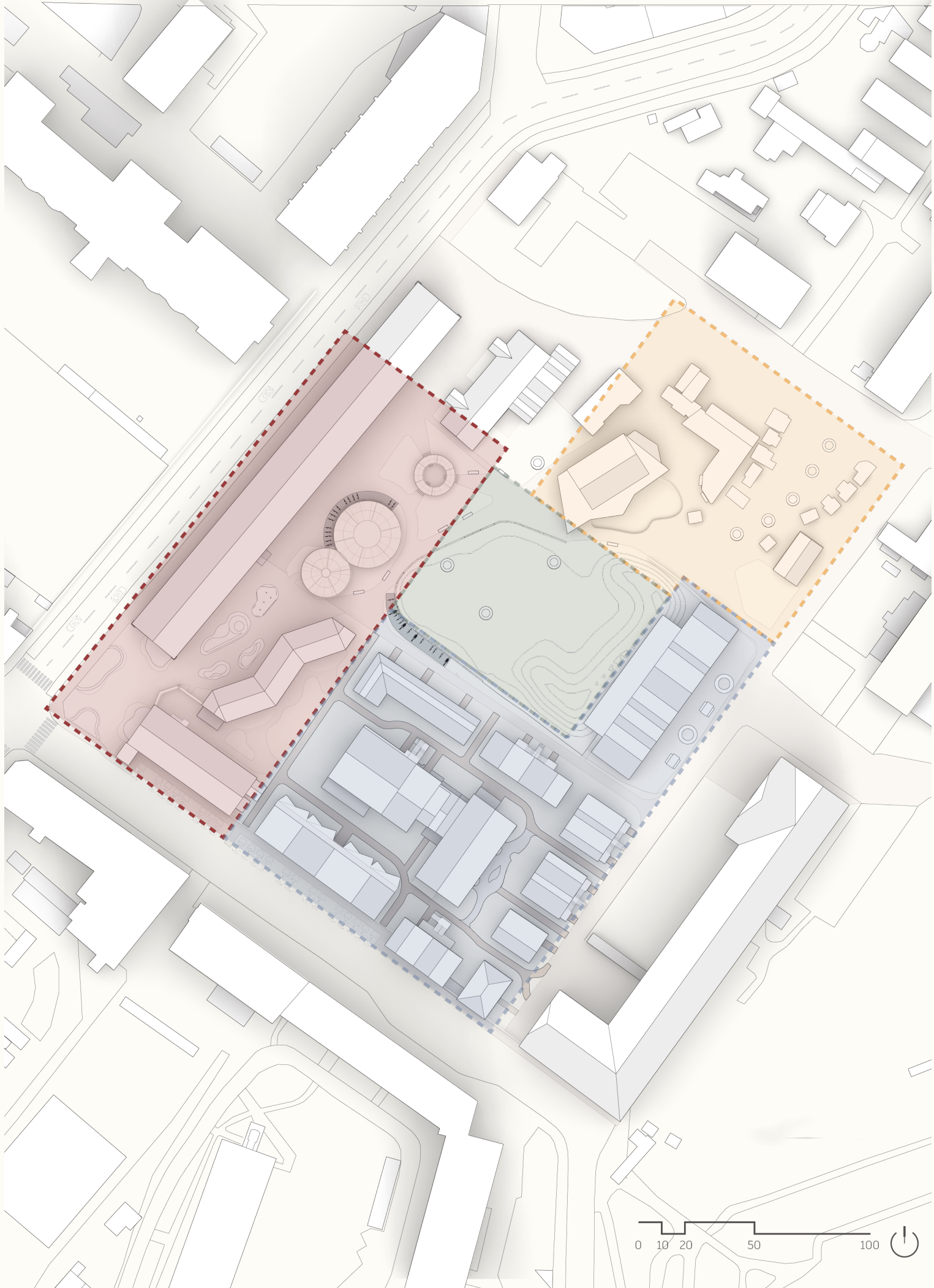


Illustration no. 52 Zones

# Functions

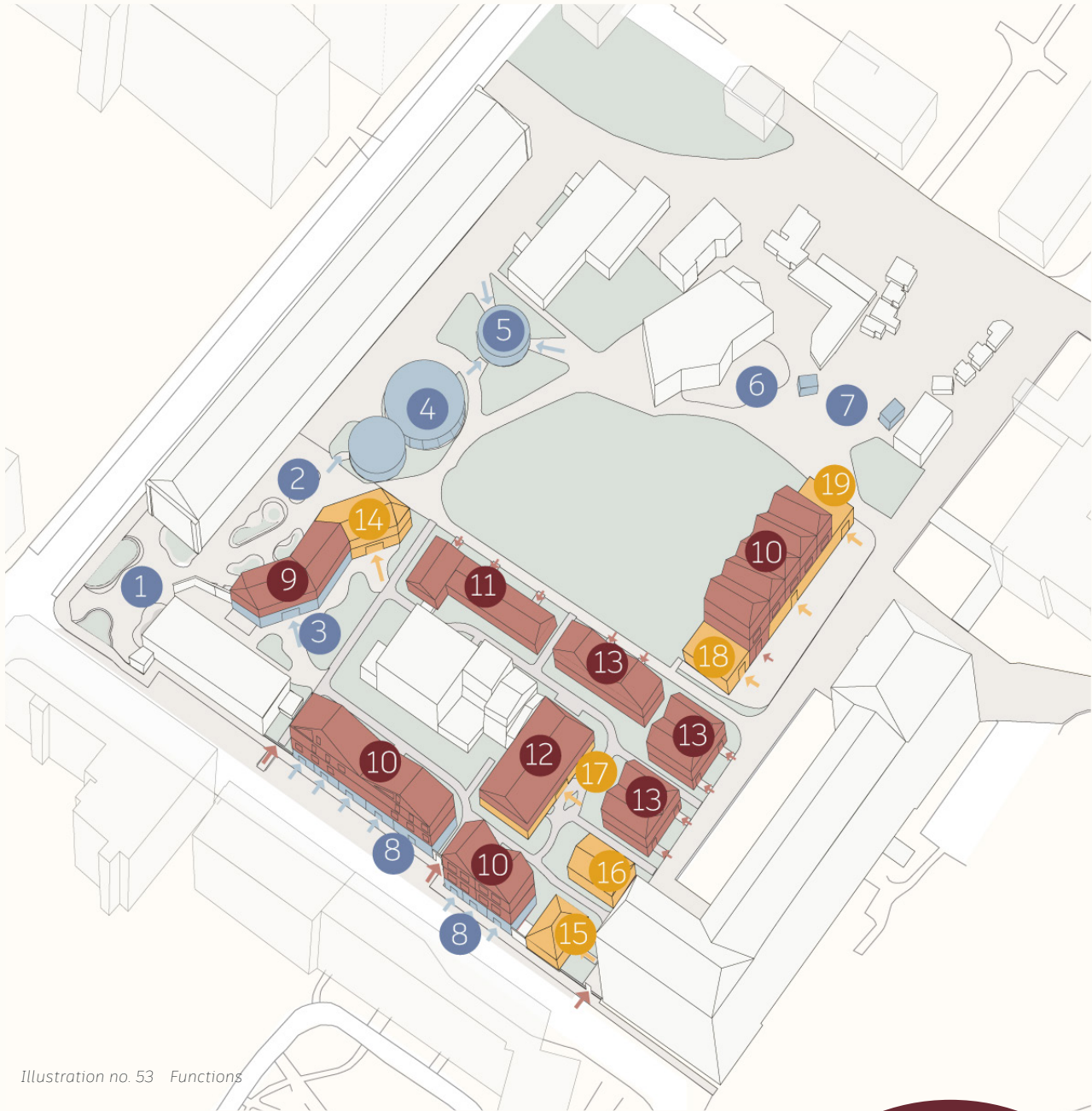


Illustration no. 53 Functions

## Public

- 1. Entrance
- 2. Plaza
- 3. Shops
- 4. Pavilion
- 5. Exhibition
- 6. Outdoor skatepark
- 7. Carls Madsens Plads
- 8. Commercial/Offices

## Semi-Public

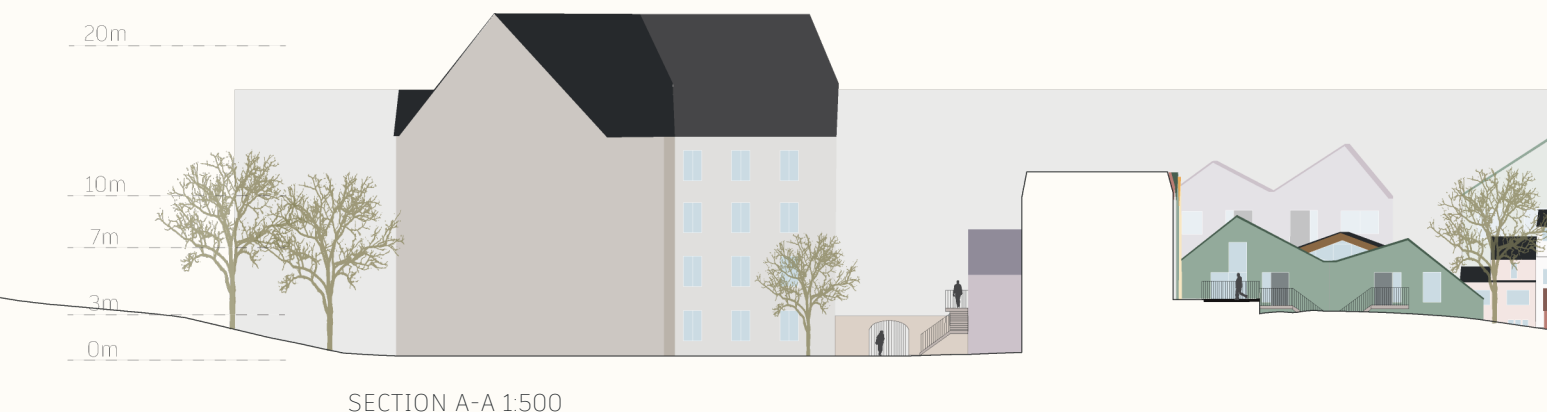
- 14. City-hall
- 15. Bøjlen
- 16. Social office
- 17. Common house
- 18. Deposit
- 19. Building office and Workshop

## Private (Residential)

- 9. Single
- 10. Single and Families
- 11. Elderly
- 12. Youth
- 13. Families and Elderly

Site area	:	16.000 sqm
Green area	:	4.200 sqm
Built area	:	9.562 sqm
Existing building	:	6.102 sqm
New building	:	3460 sqm
New Housing area	:	2373 sqm
Housing number	:	40
Elder	:	9
Youth	:	8
Single	:	13
Families	:	10
Commercial area	:	620 sqm
Commercial Number	:	12
Administration and services area	:	746,5 sqm





## Sections

To conduct how the project maintains the low-rise development that aligns with the identity of Christiania, two sections A-A Ill 55 and section B-B Ill 56 are illustrated.

The sections are showing the heights of buildings and how they fit within the existing urban fabric while highlights the proposed buildings within the project.

Both sections include elements such as trees, urban furnitures and people for providing a scale and clearly show the heights of new buildings relative to existing structures in Christiania previously showed in the analysis section. The sections illustrate how the buildings sit within the topography reflecting one of the main goas of this project of preserving the site's natural landscape.



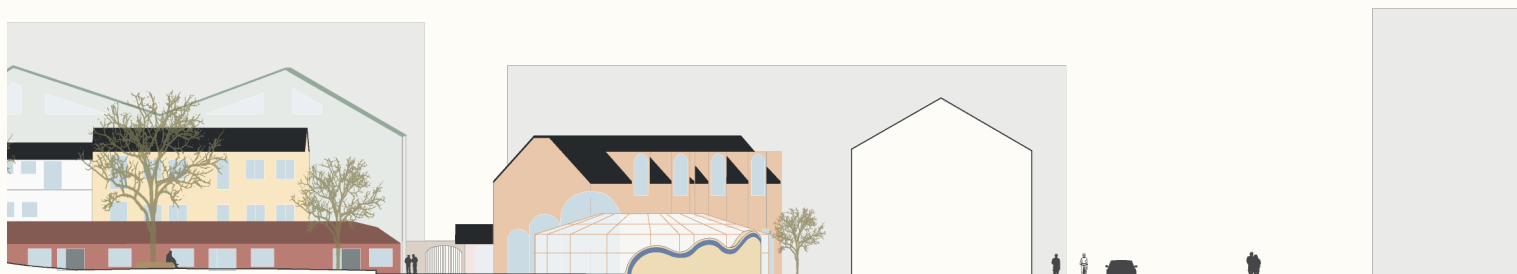


Illustration no. 54 Section A-A

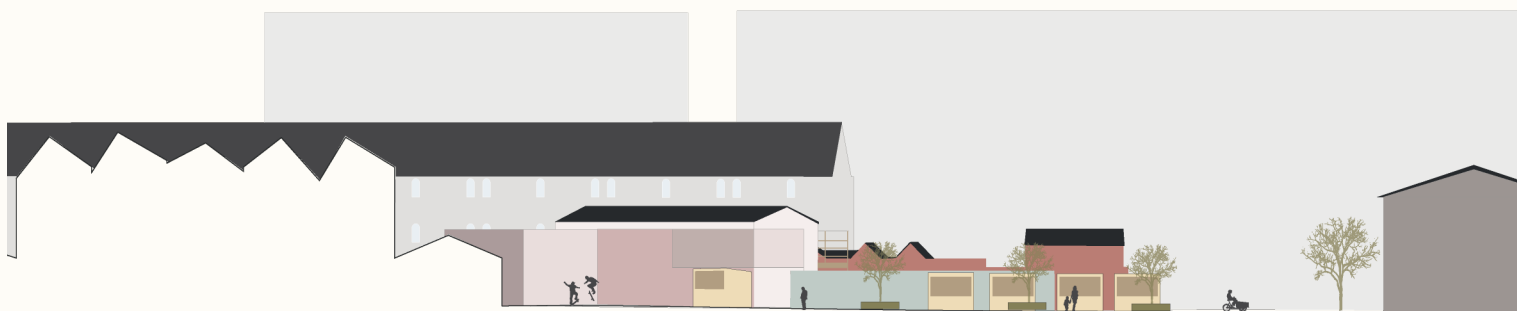
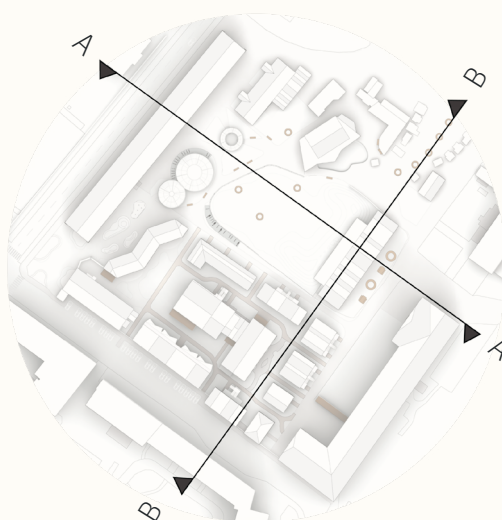


Illustration no. 55 Section B-B

## Preservation

Christiania serve as an important part of Danish history, where new social currents challenged the traditional ways of living and acting in society. Preserving as much of the existing elements and buildings of the project site or help enhancing the quality of existing functions was a way to both protect and highlight Christiania's identity.





Illustration no. 56 Recreational Render





Illustration no. 57 Keep, Move, Reuse

## Keep, Move, Reuse

**Keep:** It is relevant to keep Christiania's residential areas that are fundamental to its identity as a community that challenges conventional urban living. The self-built culture and communal living is part of the identity, protecting the residential areas ensures that the essence of Christiania and the creativity of this self-built culture is preserved.

**Move:** Relocating administrative functions, the building office, and the Bøjlen/social office to a different area can make these services on better shape and accommodate the square meter necessary for each space. By moving these functions, the space they previously occupied can be repurposed in a more coherent plan.

**Reuse:** Reusing the existing administration building to a residential area can show more coherence into the residential zone. This building is transformed into the Common House and single dwellings at the second floor with shared facilities. Reusing the administration building in this way not only preserves the structure but also accommodates its needs to the community by aligning it more closely within the residential zone.

## Green spaces

Christiania's green areas are important for the locals and preserving the natural terrain in the recreational greenery ensures that these areas remain vital for residents, preserving spaces for spontaneous recreation and connection with nature. This approach respects the existing environment, with minimal design intervention.

In Carls Madsens Plads, new trees have been planted, and bushes have been added around the residential area. Throughout the site, most of the green space has been preserved to maintain the ecological balance and uphold the principles outlined in Christiania's Green Plan. The preservation of green areas not only support biodiversity but also provide a comfortable space for community activities, with a better connection with nature.



Illustration no. 58 Green Spaces

## Enhance

Carls Madsens Plads is an existing central square in Christiania that serves as a market with local products, a welcome area for visitors and locals. Enhancing this area can involve improving its infrastructure, adding seating and green spaces, with demolishing the old physical barrier and opening to the greenery for a better connectivity. These changes can make Carls Madsens Plads a more inviting and functional space for the market, food trucks and social meetings.

The Free Library in Christiania is moved to the Pavillion where is enhancing for improving its facilities and creating spaces for reading and arts exhibitions. Additionally, hosting workshops and educational programs can increase the library's role as a centre for learning and cultural exchange for locals and visitors.

The Historical Archive is relevant for preserving the rich history and cultural heritage of Christiania. Enhancing this archive can involve making the collection more accessible to researchers and the public and having pictures and history exhibition. By doing so, Christiania can ensure that its unique history is documented and shared, providing a deeper experience for the visitor.



*Illustration no. 59 Carl Madsens Plads Isometric*





Illustration no. 60 Carl Madsens Plads Render







## Connection

For a big part of Christiania's history, there was a conflict with the state and the municipality for their right to live an alternative lifestyle. Today, not only is Christiania a well-established part of Copenhagen, but they have also gotten closer ties and collaborates more with the state and municipality. However, this cannot be seen due to the physical barriers around Christiania.





Illustration no. 61 Entrance Render



## Between Christiania and Copenhagen

To better reflect the growing ties with Copenhagen and give a stronger physical connection, it was decided to open Christiania's main entrance. The entrance has been expanded into Christiania to give a fluid boundary between Christiania and Copenhagen. The amount of greenery by the corner between Bådmandstræde and Prinsessegade had to be reduced, as well as removing the arch way to give an open view into the new entrance plaza.

Furthermore, offices are placed by Bådmandstræde to activate the facades towards Copenhagen where is currently the wall of Christiania. It was decided, the offices can be rented by Copenhageners. To make sure the renters' companies fits Christiania's value they will have go through an interview process.

The paths by the entrance have been widened to give more space for pedestrians and cyclist to pass each other and give a smoother flow through the area. Furthermore, gives the extra with more space for visitors to marvel at the preserved artwork by the entrance, without standing in the way for passerby as well as more space in front of the foodtruck for quests.

Benches have been implemented along the paths at the entrance corner, due it often functions as a meeting point between people who plans to visit Christiania. The benches further inside the plaza have been oriented facing a new main path across the plaza, with proper sun exposure in mind.

For the entrance Plaza, inspiration from Toldbodplads in Aalborg and Kultorvet in Copenhagen (appendix IV) has been used to design a new bench and art installation. From Kultorvet, inspiration was drawn from their alternative round "platform bench," which serves as an alternative and informal seating. In Toldbodplads is an interactive art installation where visitors can interact climbing on it, and during summer does it also functions as a fountain children play in. Not only do it this installation give an aesthetical quality to the place, but it also encourages to play and engagement. In the entrance plaza have been given space for a local artist to get the opportunity to create a piece that can give the same qualities to the plaza.

From being hidden away behind dense greenery and a narrow archway, the new entrance plaza has gained a stronger physical connection to Copenhagen, while also reflecting Christiania's open and welcoming nature to new people.



Illustration no. 62 Entrance Plaza Isometric

## Between the roles

The connection between different roles within a community is facilitated in public or semi-public spaces where interaction can naturally occur, promoting integration. These spaces often serve as boundary objects, places where diverse groups can come together and engage with one another.

The Pavilion Ill 64, for example, contains both seating spaces, the free library and exhibition space regarding Christiania's culture and history as well as exhibition curated by the locals, and will be open year long. This mix between functions for the locals and visitors makes the pavilion a boundary object, where different people come for different intentions.

The City Hall building, and entrance plaza also holds significant potential for fostering these meetings, providing a welcoming space with some local shops on the ground floor. Additionally, open areas such as Carls Madsens Plads and the skatepark serve as informal gathering spots where people from different backgrounds and roles can meet and connect. All these spaces are run by Christianites and is open to the public, and therefore all roles have access to them.

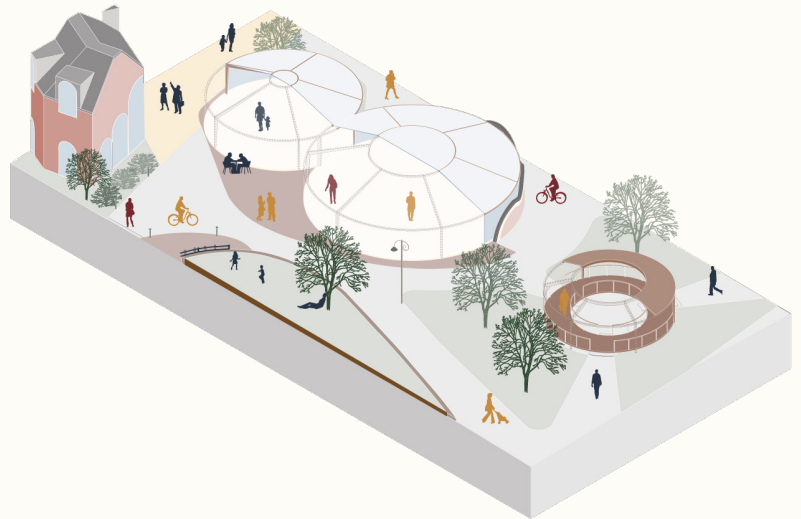


Illustration no. 63 Pavilion Isometric

## Between the zones

The connection between zones has significantly influenced the building's design, optimizing sightlines throughout the site. For instance, the shape of the City Hall was decided to provide a deeper view for visitors arriving on the site.

The relocation of the recycling building by Carls Madsens Pladsen has further improved connectivity between zones, offering direct access from the open market to the green recreational area. The greenery helps as a boundary, providing residents as buffer zone between public urban spaces and their privacy.

Additionally, access through the residential area has been settled to create a hierarchy of paths. The width of the paths delineates the different zones: public paths are 3 meters wide, semi-public paths are 2 meters wide, and private paths are 1.5 meters wide. This differentiation in path widths helps define the transition from public to private spaces, ensuring the desired flows in the site's layout.

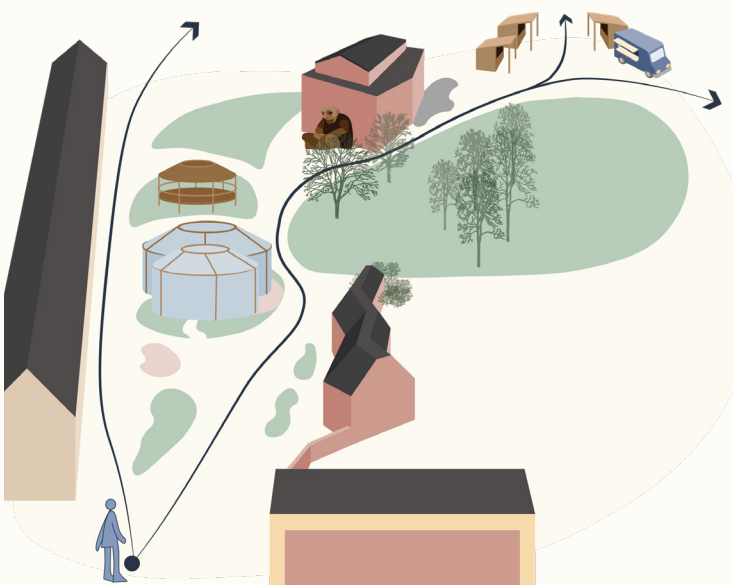


Illustration no. 64 Between zones scenario





Illustration no. 65 Entrance Plaza Render







## Integration

To be able for Christiania to maintain their identity and avoid normalization, it is important the new residents in the social housing gets fully integrated into Christiania's lifestyle. Christiania do not wish residents who only have their apartments in the area but want to have their life and joining the community as well. The proposal offer to type of integrations: the integration into Christiania and the integration into the co-housing community.







## To Christiania



*Illustration no. 67 Local plaza Isometric*

### The entrance

The integration process starts already at the entrance to the housing. Most entrances into the new social housing have been orientated outwards to the paths by the residential area at Fredens Ark and the green recreational area. While these paths are open access, they have been re-designed, to give a residential atmosphere. By facing the entrance outwards instead of inwards, will a higher interaction between Newcomers and Christianites happen.

### Workshops/building office/local plaza

Christiania has a strong self-building culture, they hope the Newcomers wants to be a part of. A new workshop has been established next to the building office, where Newcomers both can get the tools and guidance to work on their own homes. Outside the building office and workshop, a new local plaza has been constructed, for workshop users to move their activity outdoors, and spontaneous meetings with curious neighbours and building officers can occur.

### Connection to local neighbours

When the Newcomers move into the new social housing, is it not only with other Newcomers but also with existing Christianites. The original dwellings inside the social housing area have been kept, to respect the current residents, and not force them to move out. Furthermore the new housing offers ground floor elder dwellings, for Christiania's elderlies who can't live in their homes anymore. Living in a co-house community with existing Christianites, helps the Newcomers to easier learn about their new community, and gain new social circles.

## To community



Illustration no. 68 Dwellings Isometric

### Housing typologies

Many Christianites live their whole life in Christiania – from childhood to old age. The new social housing offers mixed types of housing typologies, to accommodate the changing needs for housing in a Christianite's life cycle. As a child they live with their family in one of the family housings, and can move out and into the youth collective, located on top of the common house. When the times is right, they can move into one of the single apartments, then back to the family housing, when they plan to start a family, and in the end into an elder dwelling. This example shows the flexibility the new social housings offers, where a wide range of individuals in different ages can move in and become part of the community.

### Informal communities

Creating a strong community among the residents in the social housing, is just as important as helping with the integration process for the Newcomers. As seen in the theory, new communities do not spring spontaneous up and take use of the shared facilities together. It needs to be built on a foundation of informal communities.

The design proposal works with several types of informal communities, to help speeding up the process. Firstly, all new dwellings have been given a boundary between the private and public, to extend their home life on to, in the shape of front gardens or terraces. This boundary gives them a space to choose the level of participation, an informal space for the spontaneous meetings with other neighbours, and a space to express themselves, inspire or be inspired by others to decorate.

All the housing blocks with direct access to greenery, offers a backyard that is shared with the among the block's residents. The garden nudges the residents to negotiate with each other on how to maintain it. It further has the flexibility as a common space to be used for private activities and bigger gatherings.

The new social housing further offers open green spaces inside the community, where the residents can come together and negotiate if they want to transform it to for example a playground, or let it stay in its original state.





Illustration no. 69 Dwellings at Fredens Ark Render











## 7 Epilogue

- Conclusion
- Reflection



Illustration no. 70 6th April, 2024 by the Author

# Conclusion

The problem statement for this thesis project stated:

*How can design strategies be utilized to refine boundaries that facilitate a balance between private spaces to integrate developing communities, and public spaces that reflect Christiania's evolving identity and their ties to Copenhagen?*

To address this, three focus points were established: Preservation, Connection, and Integration. These points became the steppingstones for the design strategies used in this project to refine the boundaries in the site.

Preserving Christiania's culture was prioritized, due to its unique alternative lifestyles, strong communities, but, and significance in Danish cultural history. To achieve this, almost all buildings were preserved, as along with green spaces, and the overall structure of the site. Other strategies included moving existing functions to spaces that enhanced their qualities and accessibilities such as the City Hall, the free library and the historical archives. All three functions were moved into the entrance plaza to also help heighten the quality of the plaza itself.

Christiania still stands due their ability to evolve and adapt to the changing times and challenges they experienced, exemplified with the agreement of 2011, as well as the new agreement regarding social housing. This project recognizes the natural changes which occur in Christiania and worked towards the future needs for the roles.

Christiania is no longer isolated or viewed as an outcast, but as an established city district, that has been accepted by the citizens and politicians, while also actively collaborating with the municipality. Nevertheless, it was discovered in the barrier analysis that the area still reflects this separation and underlying fragmentation of spaces in the site. This project worked towards re-defining boundaries for connection rather than division, by opening the entrance and letting it flow into Christiania.

Boundaries, in this project are not only a physical transition between two zones, but spaces, functions, or objects where different roles can meet, interact, and learn from each other. The redefined boundary between Christiania and Copenhagen aims to educate visitors about Christiania's culture in hopes of being inspired, while still being a public space relevant for the residents to use. This boundary creates a stronger and more fluid connection to Copenhagen, instead of its sharp barrier residing today. The new entrance plaza offers a clear overview of the public paths the Visitor can use, while hiding the more local pathways, helping to create a distinct boundary between the public and private.

The boundary between Christiania and the social housing focused on the integration of the Newcomers. Informal design strategies was used for the integration process, to help Newcomers slowly get accustomed to their new community from the safety of their personal boundary, or get to know their new neighbors through spontaneous meetings. These informal design strategies not only help to get them integrated into Christiania, but also help to strengthen their own mini community among the other Newcomers. Furthermore, physical and visual elements was used to create a boundary between the inside of the social housing area and the outside, to offer the Newcomers a private space to nurture their own community, away from public view.

In summary, the design strategies developed in this project successfully balance preserving Christiania's unique identity with integrating it into its evolving surroundings, creating a harmonious blend of public and private spaces.



# Reflection

The project had some challenges regarding the project management. While the idea for concept and design had a natural flow, the group could have been better at reevaluating the relevance of some ideas compared to the changes in the concept. For example, the group held onto the idea of working with different co-housing community types for too long, even after deciding to also focus on public spaces – and therefore not be able to take a deeper look into this topic.

Time management was also a challenge to maintain for the group. Too often did the group skip personal deadlines – especially when regarding the writing – that was put in place to make sure the project stayed on schedule. This has resulted in parts of the final report either having been rushed or compromised in quality.

One of the primary design challenges seen on this project is how to maintain Christiania's identity amidst growth and change. There is a tension between preserving the unique aspects that define Christiania as it is and adapting to new circumstances of an evolving community while avoiding normalizing Christiania. This project took this challenge by integrating new development in a way that preserves and enhances the existing community. While trying intensely to get an understanding of Christiania, the project might have had painted Christiania in a too positive light and could have been better to reflect on some of Christiania's backsides.

In the very start of the project, was there a wish to go more into depth with user participation, by interviewing the locals. However, after the experience with the Christianite who passively told us to “fuck off”, and another instance, where the locals seemed annoyed when told we were design students, was it decided not to go that route. Later on, was it discovered another group had better success with interviewing and engaging the locals. If we weren't discouraged from the two instances, we might have involved the locals more into the project, giving a better chance to design an area they want.

Integrating new residents and ensuring effective connection within the community presents uncertainty that depends on how it will unfold in practice. As a designer, one can put in an entire “checklist” of strategies to help facilitate community and connection, though in the end it is up to the users of the final proposal to engage with them. This is not to say, the designer is not responsible for a failed design, but that when it is given to the user, it is out of their control.

Furthermore, one of the observations during this project was the importance of preserving Christiania's greenery while avoiding overdesigning. It is recognized the need to maintain open space that allows spontaneous activities and natural interactions. These free areas are vital for the community, offering the residents the chance to engage in unplanned activities that contribute to the atmosphere of Christiania. From this project's perspective, leaving some spaces without extensive design is giving the community the freedom to express themselves and interact with their environment.

Even with the challenges, it has been a gratification working with Christiania and discovering a rich history, values and special people that make part of this community. We hope the best for the future of Christiania with adapting the new social housing into their community.



Illustration no. 71 6th April, 2024 by the Author





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## 9 Appendix

- Analysis
- Interview notes
- Sketches
- Case study
- Physical Model

# Appendix I - Analysis

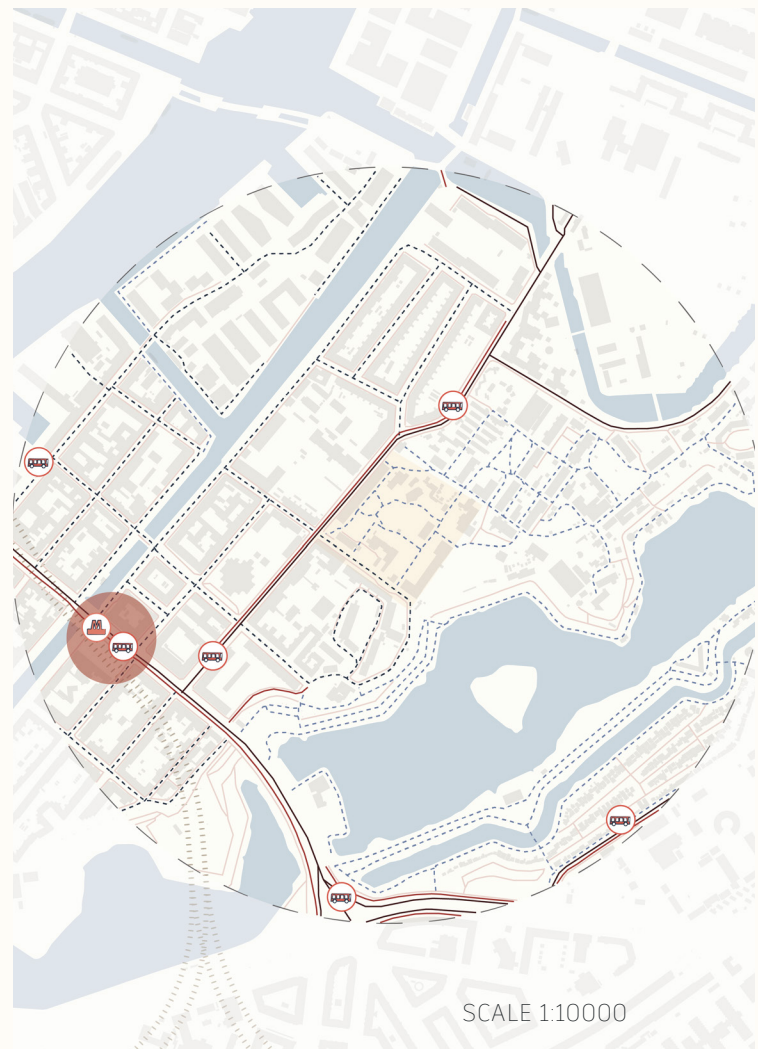
## Infrastructure

After a site visit and experiencing the area's infrastructure, it is evident that Christianshavn metro station serves as a vital transportation hub, connecting users to the M1 and M2 metro lines, as well as bus routes that cross the surrounding areas. The presence of bike lanes on collector roads like Torvegade and Prinsessegade facilitates safe cycling alongside vehicular traffic. Moreover, local streets are shared by bikes and cars.

In contrast to the car streets of Christianshavn, Christiania is a car-free district, private vehicles are only allowed to park on the boundaries of the area, prioritizing soft road users. While exceptions are made for essential vehicles such as emergency and maintenance services, regulations ensure the safety of soft road users. Christiania's cargo bikes are rooted in the community's lifestyle, reflecting a sustainable approach to transportation.

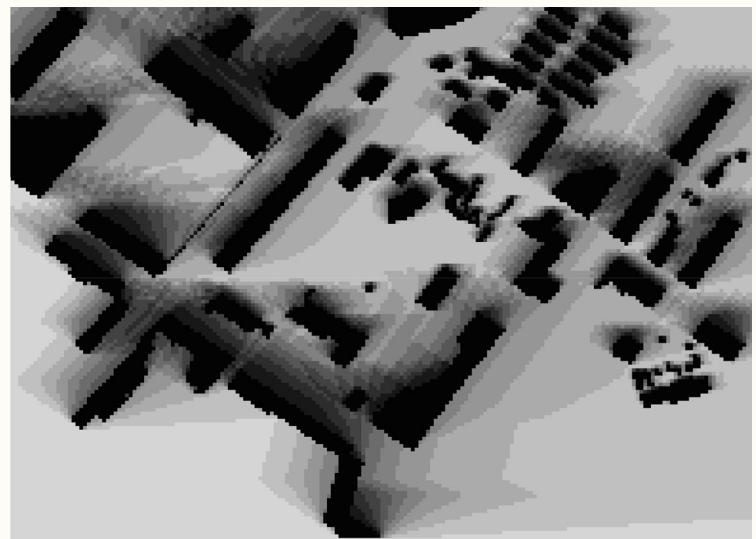
Furthermore, according to "Christianshavns Bydelsplan 2023-2026" the district's commitment plan for a healthier and more vibrant urban space by reducing car traffic and enhancing public transport options. With a target to reduce car usage to 25% of trips by 2025, the local committee is actively exploring solutions that prioritize the needs of pedestrians and cyclists while simultaneously alleviating heavy traffic and pollution.

In conclusion, the contrast between Christianshavn's bustling transportation and Christiania's car-free exemplifies the area's dedication to keep it pedestrian friendly for its residents and visitors.



## Sun

Sun analysis during March equinox at the site, This analysis shows how sunlight interacts with buildings and public spaces throughout the day and it was take into account in some of the buildings to provide a better bioclimatic do local. For example preserving the recreational green area that receives most of sunlight throughout the year.

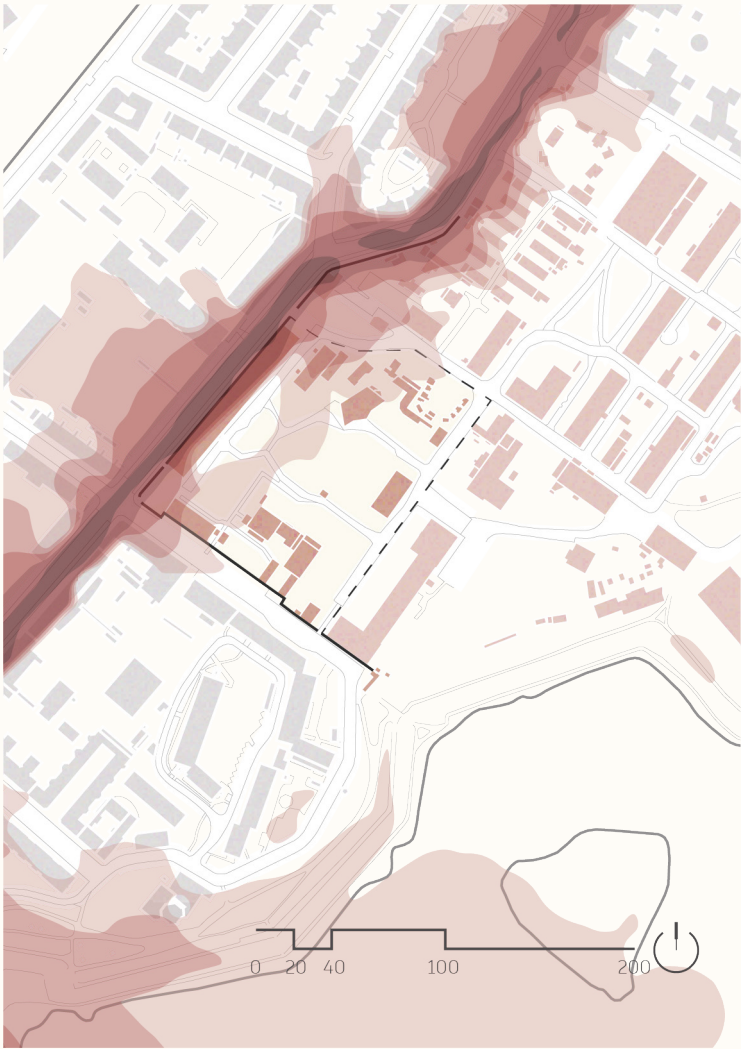
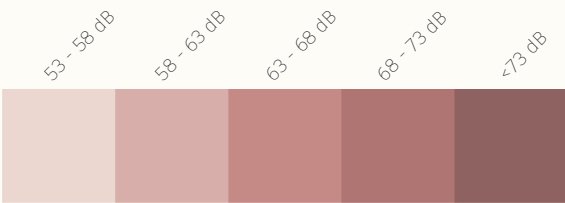


Noise

Data regarding road noise from Miljøministeriet (The Danish Ministry of Environment) have been sampled to investigate the exposure of noise towards the project site (Miljøministeriet, 2022). Christiania’s central location in Copenhagen as well as Prinsessegade being one of two main roads leading to the districts of Dokøen, Nyholm and Refshaleøen, creates a risk of high traffic noise pollution for residents. The Danish Ministry of Environment states on their website, the guidelines for exposure of road noise in residential areas should not be above 58 dB (Miljøministeriet, n.d.).

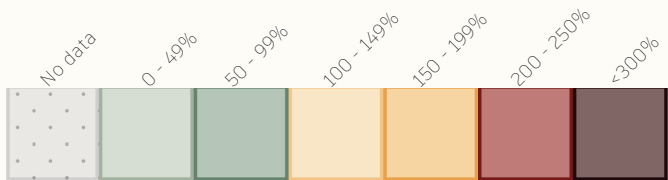
The visualization of the noise data can be seen in ill. XX, where it shows how the west facing building Loppen shields the project site from a high amount of road noise coming from Prinsessegade.

Based of the data, it appears that the project site is not affected by noise pollution from the road, and there is no need to take further action.



Build%

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# Appendix II - Interview notes

## Meeting with Mette Prag – Learning about Christiania's future plan

Meeting occurred at 13<sup>th</sup> of February

Mette Prag: Architect, founder of PLADS

- Work with the space and the social
- Work with the use involvement and deprived areas
- Works with the local plan for Christiania – Mette is the coordinator
- She is coordinator for projects in collaboration with the municipality
  - Christiania have agreed to 7 projects with the municipality

Is it compatible to have social housing in Christiania?

- Up till now it has been a lot of process and financial work
- Brainstormed different ways implementing social housing
  - "Fenced model": Build along the edge and move the border
  - Work with a housing organization
  - Create own organization:
    - More work for Christiania, though KAB will assist them
    - Best model, still has its challenges
    - Possibility to built own culture

New residents should be fully integrated

- Attend meeting, workdays and communal days
- Have same rights as other Christians
- Important they commit to become part of the community
- Today one have to get interviewed to move in
- Expects all new housing is co-housing community
- Each building plot is going to be co-housing

Choice of building areas

- On going process
- Looking into strategical planning and bottom up

Should the 15.000 sqm only be for dwellings or can it be used to other things

- Do some of the sqm already exist?
  - Currently a political discussion

People have different opinion regarding the chosen plots – many are waiting to see what happens

Many locals feel 15.000 sqm is too much and are sure if social housing can be integrated

View it as a clash with how they live in Christiania

- They have common ownership
- Can common ownership be transferred into the social housing?
- Almen Bolig+
  - Created by KAB in 2006 – 2007
  - Can it evolve even more
  - Expected to take care of own housing
- Right of control
  - Can work with their houses on the inside
  - Can it be transferred to the exterior?
  - Is it possible to experiment with simple startup houses and residents ad-on themselves?
    - Have done this with the barracks

See it as an opportunity to welcome 300 new Christians

The establishment of the foundation was a milestone – some saw it as a rupture

Not landed on the demographic, but there is a need for elder dwellings

- 25% are 60+ years old
- Many elders who live here have a hard time with the maintenance
- Need new members

Fearing to create new housing that doesn't fir the demographic

Want to find people for the community before the construction begin

- Kickstart the culture
- In the future it might only be 1 of the original group left
- Can work against the opposition for outsiders to move in
- Is more integrated

The most recent co-house community was established 7-8 years ago

- Youth collective
- The group changed a lot
- Is it possible to do in a bigger scale?
- "The doghouse"

- 5 dwellers

#### The local forces

- Could there be a local ambassador for future co-house communities?

#### Needs a localplan to dictate building plots

- Some placement are fixed, other are negotiable

#### “Grøntsagen” building

- Going to build on top
- Want to keep its original state
- Dwelling by “Fremtidsskoven” is a challenge
- Has a back and front side

Want to speed up the process for the red fields, to use as a reference project

Existing localplan do not work

- Copenhagen's localplan is often dictating

#### The initiating discussion

- The project group is on going
- Wednesday meetings can be excluding
- Creates presentations/essays to attendees bring to their area meeting
- Gives status meetings
- Gives status in the local newspaper

#### Mettes expectations

- Be interesting to get some highlights for certain topics
  - Maybe co-build, self-build, extension building
  - Different types of collaborations
  - Areas should be activated more
    - Discussion regarding the functions on the building plots

#### Prærien

- Should there be constructed a discreet building
- Should it be challenges

Giving back to Christiania?

- New residents/new members

- Develop construction concepts

- Workshops

- Atelier with residency on top

- Shopowners living on top of the shop

- Active ground floor

- Existing functions gets relocated

- Social housing is a robust financial model

- All though have a more strict jurisdiction

- Cityhall?

- Challenge the idea of Christiania's isolation

Any worries?

- The dilution of Christiania inside and outside

- Started when Christiania became a foundation

- Can no longer be fully isolated

- Wants to put a limit on things they can control

Energy renovation

- Christiania has its own infrastructure

- Want to collab with the municipality to upgrade the heating systems

- Wants a shared heating system

- Can be a bit of a challenged

The reason for the agreement

- 2002, Fogh government want to liquidate Christiania into small parts, Christiania didn't want to be individualized but remain a Freetown

- 2011, Didn't want individual ownership, created common ownership via the Foundation

- 2022, Agreement with the State

## Meeting with Joker – Guided tour Christiania

Meeting occurred at 13<sup>th</sup> of February

Christiania

- 34 hectar
- A defense against Sweeden
- Abandon after weapon development during the cold war and moved out of the city
- Urbanplanners wanted it to stay in its original state
- Was a barrack up till the 60's

First rule: Car free city – anything else got added later

Community meeting

Area meetings

- Sees it as the democratic foundation
- Assignment of housing and planning for maintenance happens in the meetings

70's: free game, weapons, drugs, experimentation with drugs, heroin changed people's view upon drugs

700 adults and 200 kids

Pay utility rent: 1.300 – 1.400 kr per person

- Pays 40 kr for each sqm used

Have a building office to help avoid construction fails, learn to mix concrete and installation of electricity

- The office is today also the utility service

Contact office: contact to the outside world

1979 – The hard drugs moved out, gangs moved in and created turmoil, the punked also moved in

1987 – A lot of conflict resulted in the rules: no weapon, no hard drugs, no bulletproof vests, no back labelling - some gang members moved, other stayed and followed the rules

Christiania is a different kind of occupation, due to people began to start families

Christiania don't want to be rich

- If individuals bought their lands, the could earn a lot money by reselling it
- They didn't wanted to

Everyone who works here earns the same

General income to Christiania goes to taxes and upkeep

Have daycares and schools

Social office: helps social vulnerable

Have 3 zones

- 1 zone: downtown
- 2 zone: ...
- 3 zone: Outskirts Christiania

Currently planning the development of the new buildings

- Wants to avoid high rise
- Try to spread out the construction

Wants to get new neighbors, that want to be part of the community

- Don't believer in A and B Christianities

Have common ownership – the right to use

Foundation is managed by common meetings – legal illusion to own the lands

Some people have a hard time being bound to Christiania

- Cant sell their property and use the money for a new house
- Some people feel they are trapped

Maybe in the future they will have cooperative housing

Experiments with alternative construction methods

- Mention an example with a screw base as an alternative to concrete foundation

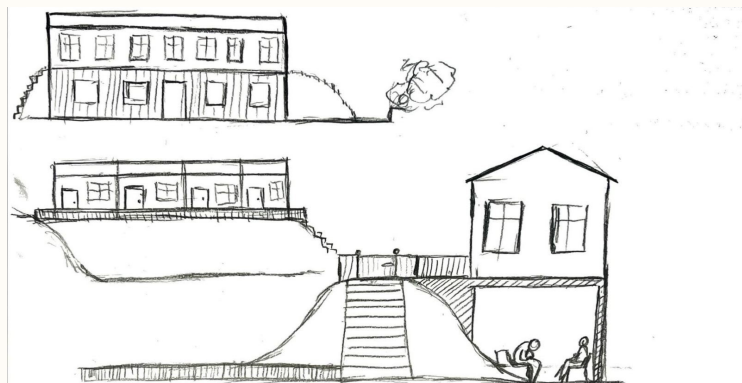
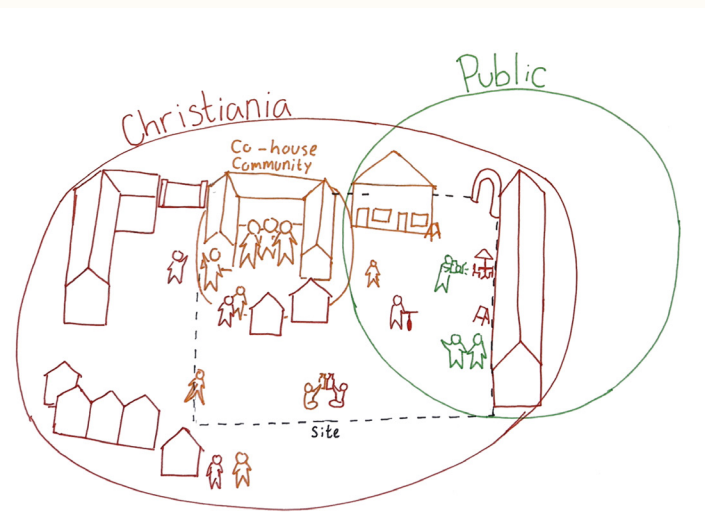
The best with Christiania

- Raising kids in a car free city with stables
- Become part of the community
- Don't run out of friends and babysitters
- Rather want to bend the rule to the individual than the individual to the rule



# Appendix III - Sketches

## Drawings



### Preservation

- Keep community center "Bøjlen" for the mentally ill
- Build residences on top of Bøjlen and use the terrain

15/02/2024



1:300



### Co-Building

- Start with shared, basic amenities
- Build the rest themselves or together

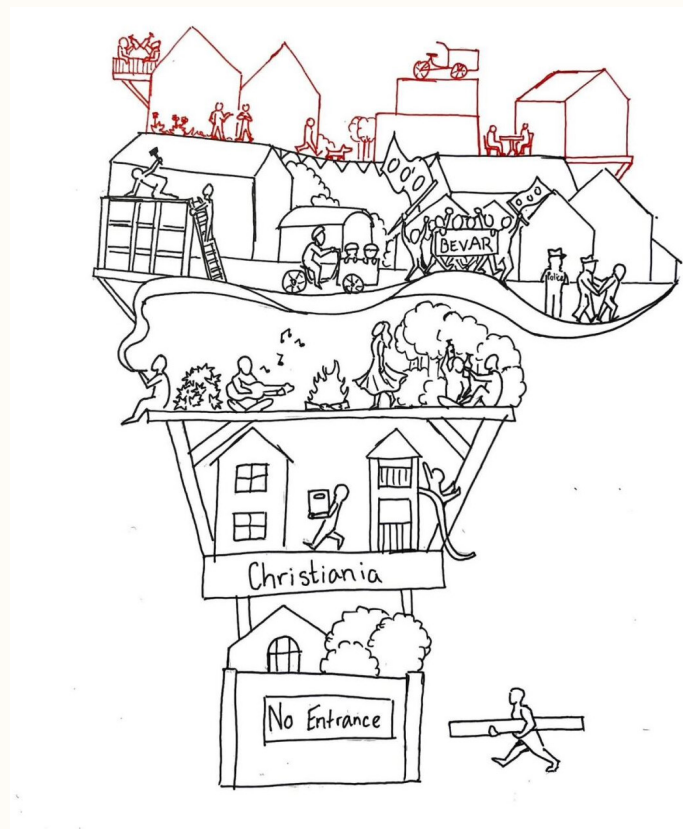
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### Living at their Shops

- Storefront at the street
- Shop owners living on top of their shops
- Give the opportunity to customize their building



15/02/2024



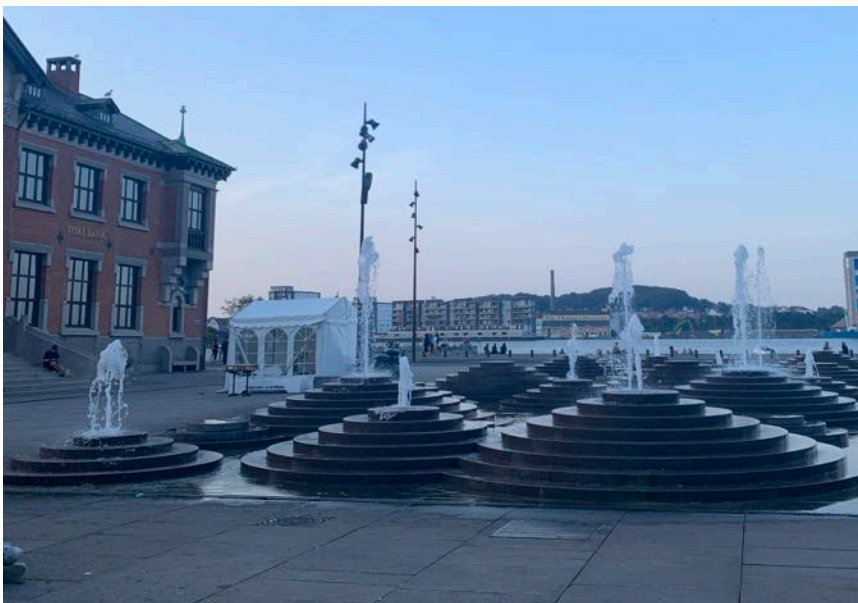
# Appendix IV - Inspiration

## Kultorvet in Copenhagen



Illustration no. 72 Kultorvet, Copenhagen by Caspar da Silva Buxbom

## Toldbodplads in Aalborg





## Appendix V - Physical Model

Physical model during the analysis phase, this model has helped to understand and give a spatial notion of the site.



Blocks of 5x5m and 10x5m cutted on foam for making different setups and shapes of the new buildings.

