

Copenhagen

DENMARK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009



Free
the Dane
in you

An exclusive
16-page guide
to Denmark's
free-spirited and
fun-loving capital



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Inside this Copenhagen guide

Get to know one of Europe's most forward-thinking and energetic capitals – and start planning your break in this captivating city

STAYING THERE

A selection of hotels **Page 4**

GOING FOR GREEN

An inspiring environment
Page 5

SHOPPING AND DESIGN

Stylish and imaginative
Pages 6-7

NIGHTLIFE AND FOOD

From the chic to the quirky
Pages 8-9

WATERFRONT AND ARCHITECTURE

Harbour life **Page 10**

EATING OUT GUIDE AND WHERE TO STAY FOR LESS

Pick a restaurant; plus budget hotels
Page 11

DAY TRIPS

Towns, castles and museums **Page 13**

GREAT EVENTS

Copenhagen's many events **Page 14**

Wonderful Copenhagen: the up-and-coming area of Islands Brygge; opposite page, Vesterbro at night, centre, and, far right, inside the Black Diamond



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'Free the Dane in You'

In 2009 the world is watching Copenhagen and for many good reasons. We expect world leaders, athletes and celebrities, when Copenhagen hosts high profile events such as the World Outgames in July, the CO2penhagen Festival in September and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December. There is an abundance of exciting cultural festivals and international sports events taking place in 2009. In fact, we offer you the biggest event year in Copenhagen ever.

Copenhagen is a city that sets the pace. It is clean, green and dynamic. It is casual, cosy and accessible – just like us Danes! It has got a flair for fashion, a fine eye for design and more than just a touch of style – like us Danes too! It is fun and fabulous with elegant bars, hip clubs, quirky cafés and one of Europe's hottest food scenes. There are a myriad ways to live it up in style in Copenhagen whilst simultaneously getting acquainted with the happiest people on earth. There is also the possibility of becoming a Guinea Pig and trying out a Danish holiday product – read more on page 15. Once experienced, it is easily understood – so do come visit our fun-loving and free-spirited capital and perhaps Free the Dane in You, too?

Denmark – FEEL FREE. Best wishes from a Happy man,

Henrik Kahn

Henrik Kahn – Director

WONDERFUL
COPENHAGEN



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Free-spirited

Clean, green, dynamic and fun, Copenhagen is an entrancing place that exudes an infectious energy – and it's full of the happiest people on earth

When global affairs magazine *Monocle* hailed Copenhagen as the world's most liveable city last summer, it's likely that the locals were pleased, but not overly surprised. Residents of the Danish capital enjoy a famously enviable quality of life – and one that visitors are very welcome to share.

Copenhagen is an enchanting mix of the old and the new. Walking around its medieval centre, it's easy to imagine that this was the city of Hans Christian Andersen.

There are the ornate royal palaces; steadfast landmarks such as the 17th-century Round Tower to take in; and waterside scenes that have changed little over the course of two centuries. A visit to Tivoli Gardens, now more than 150 years old, feels like a step back in time, despite its state-of-the-art rides and attractions.

Yet Copenhagen is no period piece – quite the reverse. Even by the standards of forward-thinking Scandinavia, it stands as a city on the cutting edge of art, design and architecture. Few places have such a capacity to surprise the visitor, with a concentration of avant-garde bars, an amazingly diverse restaurant scene and

shopping to rival that of European capitals of far greater size.

In recent years, a slew of grand building projects has transformed the harbour front, adding such buildings as the new Opera House, the Royal Danish Playhouse and the "Black Diamond" extension to the Royal Library. And the city has led the way in environmental tourism, with green initiatives reducing the carbon footprint of its hotels – of which there are examples to suit all tastes and budgets.

Although it is one of the Nordic countries' largest conurbations, Copenhagen is manageable in size. It is compact enough to see on foot – though public transport is clean and efficient – and, thanks to a network of dedicated cycle lanes, there are few better places to explore by bicycle.

Each of the central neighbourhoods has a distinct character. The City (also known as Indre By) is Copenhagen's commercial and political heart, with a chaotic maze of streets that bustle with energy after dark. West is smart Frederiksberg with its Parisian-esque, tree-lined avenues, green spaces and large townhouses. To the north of the City is Østerbro, a sprawling middle-class neighbourhood with noted shopping.

Some of the most interesting spots to check out are within the two former workers' areas of Vesterbro and Nørrebro. The former, once best-known as a rundown red-light district, has turned into the quarter with the city's edgiest nightlife. Multi-ethnic Nørrebro is the place to go for idiosyncratic antiques shops, quirky bars and boutiques.

Across the harbour, on the island of Amager, lies the gently bohemian area of Christianshavn, with its old canals and waterside bastions.

Here, also, is the "freetown" of Christiania, a controversial experiment to establish an alternative society. South is the up-and-coming area of Islands Brygge, already a haven of small galleries and boutiques.

Throughout, you can be sure of a warm welcome, and the chance to become acquainted with the state of contentment the Danes call "hygge". Most often translated as "cosiness" or "well-being", it has no exact equivalent in English – but once experienced, it's easily understood.

And the Danes should know something about contentment: according to poll after poll, they're the happiest people in the world. In this supplement, we present a selection of the best that Copenhagen has to offer.

TRAVEL TIPS

TOURIST INFORMATION

See www.visitcopenhagen.com and www.visitdenmark.com. The main tourist office is at Vesterbrogade 44A.

FLIGHTS

SAS Scandinavian Airlines flies to Copenhagen from Heathrow, London City, Birmingham, Manchester and Aberdeen. (0870 6072 7727, www.flysas.com). British Airways flies to Copenhagen from Heathrow (0870 850 9850, www.ba.com). EasyJet flies to Copenhagen from Stansted and Gatwick (0871 7500 100, www.easyjet.com). Bmi flies to Copenhagen from Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh (0870 6070 555, www.flybmi.com). Cimber Air flies to Copenhagen from Gatwick, Edinburgh and Newcastle (00 45 7010 1218, www.cimber.dk). From late March/early April Norwegian flies to Copenhagen from Gatwick and Edinburgh (020 8099 7254, www.norwegian.no).

BUSES, METRO AND TRAINS

An extensive bus network serves much of Copenhagen. The Metro is normally open from about 5am to midnight, and from Thursday to Sunday, services carry on around the clock. "S-Trains" serve a local network. A CPH Card grants free travel by train, Metro and bus, plus free entry to 60 museums and attractions, and discounts in some restaurants and shops. Available in tourist offices, the airport, and major train stations and online, it costs Kr 199 (£24*) for 24 hours or Kr 429 (£51*) for 72 hours. See www.visitcopenhagen.com for details and conditions.

*Prices based on an exchange rate of £1 = Kr 8.33 at time of press. Rates change daily

'Hotels in Copenhagen'

Copenhagen has a wealth of hotels to choose from, to suit all budgets and tastes. Here are just a few to inspire you.



ARP-Hansen Hotel Group

When visiting Copenhagen why not stay in the absolute centre of the city. The Arp-Hansen Hotel Group has 9 distinctive, exclusive and individual hotels located on the most central corners of Copenhagen. Stay right next to Tivoli, wake up to a view of the harbour or take a stroll down the pedestrian street "Strøget" – all in the city centre. The nine different hotels offer something for everyone, ranging from brand new minimalistic design hotels to hotels with several hundred years of history. For more information about the hotels call +45 80 30 30 45 or book online at www.arp-hansen.com

Copenhagen Admiral Hotel

Experience Danish quality and 200 years' history when you stay at the Copenhagen Admiral Hotel.

This uniquely designed hotel is housed in a converted 18th century warehouse building, located near Copenhagen's best shopping and cultural attractions, and neighbouring the Royal Palace and the recently opened Royal Playhouse.

This prizewinning hotel features a Conran-designed restaurant, SALT Bar and Restaurant, serving Nordic cuisine, and a waterside location facing the new Opera House. Here the best products and a great atmosphere are key ingredients in every course.



For more information about the hotel and restaurant visit www.admiralhotel.dk and www.salt.dk or call 0045 33 74 14 14



Hilton Copenhagen Airport

The Hilton Copenhagen Airport hotel is just 15 minutes away from the wonderful Copenhagen city centre. The spacious Guest Rooms are the city's largest standard rooms and give you the chance to experience unique Scandinavian design. The possibility of access to the Executive Lounge offers you an exclusive feeling. Our fantastic Ni'mat Spa is the ultimate luxury for those who desire extraordinary relaxation, a dip in the salt water pool or various Asian inspired treatments. If you wish to find out more please visit www.hilton.co.uk or email us at res.copenhagen-airport@hilton.com

NP Hotels

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Reservation: sleep@front.dk / Tel: +45 3337 0656.

Check our website for information about FRONT and other NP Hotels www.FRONT.dk or www.nphotels.dk



Scandic Hotels

The three Scandic hotels in central Copenhagen offer comfortable accommodation at reasonable prices. Scandic Copenhagen and Scandic Webers Hotels are located within easy reach of Tivoli Gardens, the central station and many attractions. Scandic Sydhavnen is the latest addition to the group, and conveniently placed both for the airport and the city centre.

Take a break from everyday life and enjoy a weekend at a Scandic Hotel in Denmark. Wherever you choose to go we offer affordable accommodation.

For more information about our hotels see www.scandichotels.com

CHOICE Hotels

Choice have several hotels in Copenhagen, from bed & breakfast Comfort hotels to first class Clarion Collection hotels. See our ad on page 9 or visit our website www.choice.dk

For special offers at hotels in Copenhagen see page 10. For more information about hotels in Copenhagen see also www.visitcopenhagen.com and www.visitdenmark.com/booking

Naturally green

Copenhagen is making its mark on the world map with many innovative answers to climate change



Two wheels good: free bikes are available in Copenhagen, which also boasts hotels and delis with the highest green and organic standards. Its harbour is clean enough to swim in

Visit Tivoli Gardens, and you'll notice an unusual vending machine near the exits. On receipt of a recyclable cup, it dispenses the five kroner deposit that is added to the price of all drinks bought within the park.

A larger statement of the Gardens' eco intent will be a wind turbine, set to provide all the power requirements for the park from 2010. But wherever you go in the city, good green practice is a part of everyday life.

GET IN THE SADDLE

Copenhagen is one of the world's most bike-friendly cities, with dedicated cycle lanes between pavement and carriageway. (This has even given rise to a word used by planners – to "Copenhagenise", meaning to make the environment more amenable to cycling.) One warning: pedestrians should take care never to wander into the unmarked bicycle lanes.

More than a third of locals use bikes as their main way to get around, and visitors can easily do so, too. Between April and November, City Bike Copenhagen keeps cycle racks, with bikes that can be borrowed free and taken anywhere in a central city zone (go to www.bycyklen.dk). Many hotels also have bikes for guests.

TAKE A DIP

Cleansing Copenhagen's once-polluted harbour has been so successful that the water is pure enough to swim in, and in summer, many do. Next to Langebro, the main bridge into Islands Brygge, is the Havnebadet, a complex of five pools, which is a great place to meet the locals.

DREAMS OF GREEN

Efforts to make guest accommodation more environmentally friendly have come to

fruition with the award of the Green Key to 13 hotels, including all nine in the capital's biggest hotel group, Arp-Hansen, as well as the Hotel Alexandra. Now operating in 38 countries, such accreditation is awarded only to hotels meeting more than 50 criteria.

Scandic group, which has six hotels in the city, also operates a thorough ecological policy. All its hotels have been awarded the Swan, a mark of environmental excellence recognised throughout the Nordic countries. This winter's COP15 summit is providing the impetus for hotels to work even harder on their environmental policy (see below).

NATURALLY BETTER

Organic is big in Copenhagen. Of all Europe's capitals, it is the one with the greatest uptake of

organic food – in part thanks to a proactive stance by city authorities that are encouraging businesses and individuals to aim for 20pc of food consumption to be organic by 2015.

Before it was in vogue, many city cafés and restaurants had adopted a policy of serving organic products wherever possible. At one pioneer, Restaurant Cap Horn on Nyhavn, the beverages and almost all the food ingredients are certified organic, while the Michelin-starred Restaurant Geranium (see page 11) uses only biodynamic and organic ingredients.

It's possible Copenhagen has the greatest concentration of organic delis east of New York. Østerbro is particularly well served; one of the best, Gourmanderiet, supplies organic ready meals plus confectionery and wines.

Emmery's, with branches throughout

Copenhagen, is good for organic bread on the go and Egefield, on Gammel Kongevej, is the city's first all-organic supermarket.

The city is also known for its "considerate shopping" stores. Boutique Mode med Mening ("clear-conscience fashion") creates fair-trade handbags and accessories, CommonZenz, an organic lifestyle shop, sells environmentally conscious fashion and jewellery and Aniel sells organic and natural baby and children's clothes, toys and home accessories. Pureshop, Denmark's first organic perfumery, sells beauty care goods (For details go to the Considerate Shopping link at www.visitcopenhagen.com).

If that's not enough, there's even a permanent, sustainable-energy exhibition at Experimentarium, at Hellerup, just outside Copenhagen (go to www.experimentarium.dk).

UN CONFERENCE TO LEAVE LASTING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

The 15th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – popularly known as COP15 – will take place in Copenhagen between November 30 and December 11.

Its aim is to establish a binding global climate agreement to apply to the period after 2012, when the commitment period of the current Kyoto Protocol expires.

Ministers and officials from at least 189 countries are expected to attend the conference.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was initiated in 1990, and signed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Today, 192 nations have ratified the

convention. Its overall goal is "to stabilise the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous man-made changes. This stabilisation must occur in such a way as to give the ecosystems the opportunity to adapt naturally."

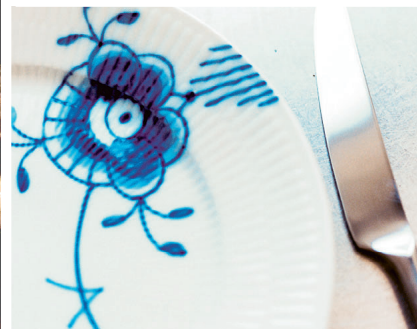
The main events will be in the Bella Centre, south of central Copenhagen on the island of Amager. This autumn, before the COP15 delegates arrive, the centre will also be the setting for the XIII International Olympic Committee Congress.

Finding accommodation for all the people attending the conference will be a huge task for Copenhagen. It is estimated that 10,000 rooms will be needed to house

the delegates and NHG, the conference organiser, has committed to evaluating the green credentials of all of the city's hotels, so that a lasting legacy for Copenhagen will be that its accommodation will be more environmentally friendly than ever before.

- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs website on COP15 www.cop15.dk
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change www.unfccc.int
- Official Copenhagen meetings and conventions www.meetingcopenhagen.com
- VisitDenmark's websites promoting green holidays and meetings www.visitdenmark.com/green-denmark; www.visitdenmark.com/sust-dane-able-meetings

Hot, hot, hot



Famous names, chic fashion, great glassware, hand-painted porcelain... it's the place for retail therapy

Stretching between the two main squares, Raadhuspladsen and Kongens Nytorv, Strøget is Europe's longest pedestrianised shopping street. Many of the shop fronts will be familiar – most of the international chains have their flagships here – but there are some shopping experiences particular to Copenhagen, too. Outlets of most prominent Danish brands, including Bodum, Bang & Olufsen and Sand, are nearby, as are a duo of upmarket department stores, Illum and Magasin du Nord.

The "royal shops" of Royal Copenhagen, Illums Bolighus and Georg Jensen, sit next to each other on Strøget, and are linked by internal walkways. There's the chance to see the famous Royal Copenhagen porcelain being hand-painted inside its shop, and to view exhibits from the brand's illustrious history. Illums Bolighus is the place to go for all manner of designer goods – including classic Danish modernist cutlery – while Georg Jensen is known for elegant, expensive jewellery.

These are not the only shops to display the royal warrant of Queen Margrethe II. CE Fritzsche – "as far as we know, the oldest glass shop in the world" – stocks fine crystal and glassware at its green-fronted store on



Smart stuff: Copenhagen offers a rich seam for serious shoppers, from high fashion, main picture and bottom right, to flea markets, above, fine antiques, top right, and Royal Copenhagen porcelain, top centre

Kompagnistræde. Peter Hertz is jeweller to the royal house, having crafted the rings for the current Crown Prince's wedding. His premises are on Købmagergade.

The right-angle formed by the two traffic-free streets of Strøget and Købmagergade marks downtown Copenhagen's main

shopping area. About a third of the way up the latter is Kronprinsensgade, known as the fashion street, where several designer boutiques are to be found – among them Stig P, Flying A and both the menswear and womenswear outlets of Bruuns Bazaar.

Other streets to check out for designer clothes are Silkegade and Grønnegade, which feature Helena Christensen's favourite brand, Munthe plus Simonsen, and the shoe emporium Cassandra.

Fashionistas should also take a peek at the new upmarket shopping district, Galleri K, which has recently opened on Pilestræde. The internationally successful Danish fashion label Day Birger et Mikkelsen has a "concept store" here, which is certainly worth a look. It stocks clothing for men, women and children, as well as homeware. On the same street is Designers Remix, with chic, streetwise womenswear.

One of the most enjoyable ways of discovering downtown Copenhagen's shops is to meander around the side streets that come off Strøget, looping back and forth.

The area around the junction with Nørregade attracts a younger set with its streetwear and music shops. South of the main shopping drag are quieter streets, with small independent booksellers, antiques shops and boutiques.

Further east, just off Kongens Nytorv, is the quite remarkable Tage Andersen. To simply call it a flower shop would do the place a disservice: it is just as much a gallery (you have to pay to go in). Inside, Andersen's horticultural arrangements vie for space with exotic *objets d'art* and caged songbirds.

Vesterbro is becoming a magnet for those seeking quirkier fashion and accessories. Istedgade, once notorious as the epicentre of Copenhagen's red-light district, is now worth a trip by daylight to check out the increasing number of one-off boutiques and other new ventures – as is Vesterbrogade, which runs parallel to it. Likewise, Nørrebro is the place to go for second-hand clothing and bric-a-brac, with shops concentrated around the side streets off the bottom end of Nørrebrogade.

And don't forget the markets. Between May and September, Copenhagen's most famous flea market is held every Friday and Saturday on the canalside at Gammel Strand. You'll need to get there early in the morning for the chance of a true bargain, but the standard of goods is high. Less exclusive, and just as much fun, are the market in the upscale neighbourhood of Fredriksberg, at the City Hall (Saturdays, mid-April to late October) and the one at Israels Plads, near Nørreport Station (Saturdays, mid-April to early October).



Classic look: the store Mads Lang, left, specialises in second-hand Danish designs; Arne Jacobsen's iconic Egg chair, below left

An eye for design with more than a touch of style

Walk the streets for modern and classical ideas

Danish design is famous the world over – in part thanks to 20th-century masters such as Arne Jacobsen, Hans J Wegner and Finn Juhl. For a crash course in their works and influence, go to the **Danish Design Centre** (www.ddc.dk) at HC Andersens Boulevard, or the **Danish Museum of Decorative Art** (www.kunstindustrimuseet.dk).

The museum is on Sredgade, where you'll find many collectors' stores and auction showrooms. It's possible to spend any amount of money on original 20th-century examples of Danish furniture. Fortunately, Copenhagen is blessed with plenty of places to browse and buy the works of present-day designers, as well.

The largest design store is **Paustian** (www.paustian.dk) in the docklands, where just about any fixtures or fittings for the home are available.

Also operating on a large scale is **Normann** (www.normann-copenhagen.com), whose flagship showroom is in an old cinema in Østerbrogade. Normann's mission is to make

workaday objects special, using wit and innovation. **Hay** (www.hay.dk) sells functionalist furniture very much in the classic Danish mould, and has recently opened a new showroom, Hay House, in an Art-Nouveau building just off Strøget.

CasaShop (www.casashop.dk) is more eclectic in its collections, gathering examples of both international and domestic trends at its shop in Store Regnegade. A community of eight designers work at **Designer Zoo** (www.dzoo.dk), turning out original creations of furniture, glassware, jewellery and knitwear.

The store, in Vesterbro, also sells handcrafted goods by other up-and-coming Danish designers.

For second-hand and collectors' pieces, go to Nørrebro. The neighbourhood immediately over Dronning Louises Bro – particularly around Ravnsborggade and Blaagaardsgade – is a treasure-trove of small dealers' shops. Don't be surprised to see a note on the door, asking customers to fetch the proprietor from a nearby bar.



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Party time

Elegant bars, hip clubs and extraordinary cafés – the city offers myriad ways to live it up in style

Follow directions to Copenhagen's hottest nightlife quarter – the meatpacking district at Vesterbro – and you may find yourself thinking you've taken a wrong turn. A neon hoarding, advertising spark plugs, marks the entrance to a bleak industrial estate of anonymous low-rise units. But press on, and you'll discover a clutch of hip bars, nose-to-tail with the still-functioning meat warehouses.

Karriere is the place that kicked off the area's trendification. The former slaughterhouse is crammed with look-at-me design flourishes including a slowly moving bar and light sculptures. A café and restaurant by day, it serves beers and cocktails to self-consciously stylish types after sundown, often with live music, DJs or performance art.

Louder, darker and ruder is **Jolene**, a truly fantastic bar and club just across the way. Named for the Dolly Parton song, it attracts a less dressy but more authentically arty crowd. What's more, if you make friends with the locals, you may find word of nearby parties to enjoy after the bars shut in the early hours.

Vesterbro, once a working-class quarter and red-light district, can also boast Copenhagen's most famous club complex, **Vega**. It is vast, taking in two main rooms ("big" and "little" Vega), a more relaxed lounge bar, and an attached pre-club haunt, the **Ideal Bar**. It lures top-drawer DJs and live acts from around the world – see the website, www.vega.dk, for what's forthcoming – and clubbing magazines have frequently placed it in their top 10s of world dance venues.

Copenhagen's nightlife has some surprises up its sleeve. Bang in the centre of town, just



In the mix: popular café Pussy Galore; below, a Copenhagen Pride festival reveller

north of Christiansborg Palace, is **Ruby**, though you would have no chance of finding it without knowing it is there. Pass through the unmarked door, and you'll enter what would feel like a private apartment – all high ceilings, wainscoted walls and polished floors – if not for the imaginative cocktail list and welcoming vibe. As its website, www.ruby.dk, states, "Uptown socialites as well as downtown

socialisers: everyone is welcome." Almost as tricky to find is **Bar 1105**, even though it is just one street away from Strøget, the main shopping drag. Here, behind dark windows, is an elegant asylum from the bustle of the city, with cocktails from famed Copenhagen mixologist Gromit Eduardsen.

If Ruby and Bar 1105 are places for the select few, **Dalle Valle** is quite the opposite:

everyone ends up here at some point. Occupying the former premises of the Daells Varehus department store, and taking its affectionate moniker – along the lines of "Marks and Sparks" – this central café and restaurant turns into a DJ bar until 3am at weekends. Its mix of the industrial (bare walls and pipes) and the opulent (swishing drapes and chandeliers) have set a template for Copenhagen's style bars. Next door, and also part of the old store building, is the Hotel Skt Petri and its **Bar Rouge**: a scarlet cocktail lounge that's as sharp as its designer-clad clientele. Those who prefer honest-to-God rock 'n' roll will be happier at raucous **Isola Rock Music Club** near Nørreport station.

The other hotspot outside the City is Nørrebro, a short hop north-west. Like Vesterbro, it represents the regeneration of a formerly down-at-heel quarter. Clubbers flock to **Dust**, second only to Vega in terms of size, and probably its equal in popularity. But the real individuality of Nørrebro is expressed in its places to go earlier in the evening.

Props Coffee Shop, a bona-fide bar despite the name, is a charming, ramshackle little place with regulars from all walks of life and an unusual house rule: if you like any of the fixtures or fittings, you can pay for them and take them home. Also worth a visit is the **Nørrebro Bryghus** microbrewery, and the **Laundromat Café** – a real one-off where you can sip a beer, browse the library of 4,000 books and watch people's clothes go round on spin cycle.

Then there's Sankt Hans Torv, with two of Copenhagen's best-known cafés, **Pussy Galore's Flying Circus** and **Sebastopol**. The former boasts stark white walls, picture windows overlooking the square, and the occasional visit from members of Denmark's royal family. The latter is a student haunt.

It's difficult to offer more than a snapshot of Copenhagen's nightlife, so varied are the many scenes to be discovered – and they change fast. But it's worth remembering that the locals like to arrive late, with many clubs opening up only at midnight. It can be very late (or early) before you make it to your bed!

2009 FESTIVALS IN THE CITY

DISTORTION

June 3-7

The focus of this event – which sees more than 50 parties take place in five different neighbourhoods, with more than 30,000 participants – is on club culture and music. www.cphdistortion.dk

COPENHAGEN JAZZ FESTIVAL

July 3-12

Premier Danish jazz acts and top international artists converge on the city. Many concerts are free. www.jazzfestival.dk

COPENHAGEN PRIDE

July 25-August 2

A week-long annual event, celebrating Denmark's gay, lesbian and bisexual community. Includes the World Outgames and Cityparade on Saturday, August 1. www.copenhagenpride.dk

CO2

September 4-6

For the first time ever an art and music festival is fuelled entirely by renewable energy sources. www.co2penhagen.com



STRØM

August 10-16

An electronic-music festival held throughout the city. It brings together Copenhagen's foremost promoters and venues. www.stromcph.com

ROSKILDE FESTIVAL

July 2-5

One of the most famous events in Europe's rock calendar, this takes place just half an hour's train ride from the city. Tickets sell out quickly. www.roskilde-festival.dk

Eat your heart out

The city's dynamic chefs offer a fresh spin on popular dishes, creating a foodie revolution

The past decade has seen Copenhagen become a true star in Europe's gastronomic flag. Throughout the city, a new cuisine has emerged: eclectic and experimental, yet respectful of Danish culinary tradition.

And it's a measure of its success that the latest Michelin Red Guide awarded no fewer than 12 stars to Copenhagen restaurants – more than it lavished upon Rome, Madrid, Berlin, Milan or Vienna.

One man, Torben Olsen, is widely credited with sparking Copenhagen's foodie revolution, in a series of phenomenally successful restaurant openings. His protégés – known as the Olsen Gang, after the robbers in a series of popular Danish heist movies – retain charge of many of the top eateries.

In keeping with Copenhagen's status as Europe's greenest capital, many of its restaurants source organic produce as a matter of course, and take their environmental responsibilities very seriously (see page 5).

In Copenhagen, a café may be a place to chat with friends over coffee and pastry, take time out for a light lunch, or linger over something more substantial. There's no such thing as a typical café – and some establishments are very distinctive indeed.

The **Royal Café**, found in a small courtyard annexe of the Royal Copenhagen store, certainly falls into this category. The interior is jaw-dropping, with its glass-bead chandeliers, herringbone floor and wittily faked old masters on the walls. But it's the smushis that are the talk of the town: sushi-style renditions of smørrebrød, the famous Danish open sandwich. The Royal Café has become a popular Sunday brunch spot, and there are sometimes DJ sessions later on weeknight evenings.

Café a Porta, a venerable institution once patronised by Hans Christian Andersen, is now in the Olsen Gang's hands. The menu has been updated with a modern fusion twist (though it is still possible to get a simple trio of smørrebrød at lunch), but the lavish interior, with its acres of wood panelling, has been preserved.

Within the Danish Film Institute, **Sult**, named after the novel by Knut Hamsun (or more likely, its movie adaptation) is another Olsen outpost. Appropriately, the high-ceilinged dining room has a filmic, larger-than-life feel to it, and the menu is primarily Mediterranean.

Back in town, the **Grill Bar** has proved to be one of the city's buzziest launches: a restaurant and cocktail-lounge complex

spread over two floors, linked by a spiral staircase. The cuisine is Mediterranean with a hint of the Orient.

Cofoco (Copenhagen Food Consulting) is another group to have imprinted its personality on the city's food scene. Its original restaurant in Vesterbro, **Cofoco**, offers a sophisticated three-course menu that's incredibly good value, as well as the chance to meet new dining companions at its long communal table. Other restaurants in the group – **Les Trois Cochons**, the upmarket **Auberge** and the centrally located **Vespa** – also warrant a visit.

Amid all the revolutionary fervour, there's still a place for more traditional restaurants. A good example is **Peder Oxe**, a veteran that offers old-style Danish food and hospitality in a cosy dining room just around the corner from the famous Round Tower. Expect native oysters, large steaks and friendly, uniformed staff.

At the other end of the spectrum, the most talked-about project in Copenhagen is the revamp of Nimb, the world-famous pavilion at Tivoli Gardens. As well as a deli (see below), chocolate factory and wine merchant, the hotel has two restaurants.

The more formal **Herman**, named for chef Thomas Herman, serves radical interpretations of traditional Danish dishes, such as the bacon-and-potato staple of brændende kærlighed.

Simpler, brasserie-style dining is available in **Nimb Restaurant** – and the theatre kitchen means diners can witness the staff perform their nightly conjuring act.

Non-European cuisines are well represented in Copenhagen, too. **Umami** offers up delectable Japanese dishes “accentuated by the substance and tradition of French cuisine” in a futuristic cuboid dining space.

Looking over the Jewish Cemetery in Nørrebro, **Kiin Kiin** is a Thai restaurant that has swiftly gained a reputation as one of Scandinavia's best.

You don't have to eat out to eat well in Copenhagen – few cities are as well served for specialist delis and food shops.

Løgismose, inside Nimb, sells many of the ingredients used in its restaurants, as well as wines, fresh cheeses and ready-made dishes. You can even leave with what has been hailed as the world's best hot dog – garnished with onions fried in duck fat and rosemary.

But for the biggest concentration of high-end delis selling artisan products and organic brands, head to Østerbrogade, the main artery of the Østerbro district.



Fine dining: the stunning interior of the Royal Café, where the smushi, below left, is the talk of the town

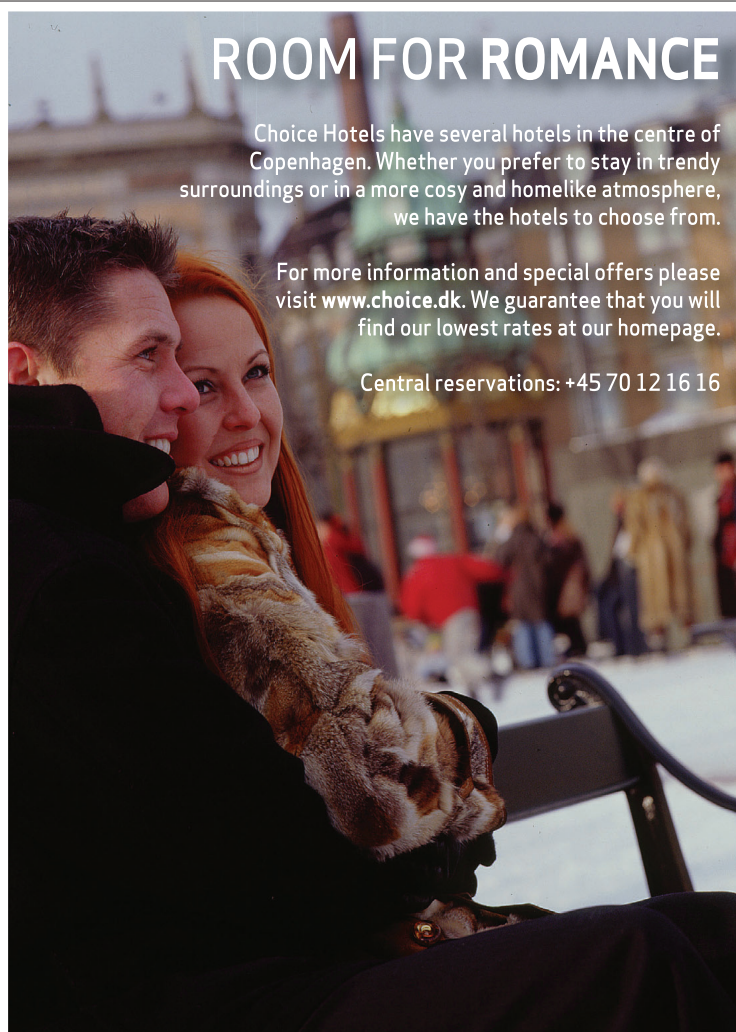


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Waterside culture

From its past as a port, Copenhagen has grown into a watery city full of avant-garde architecture

Copenhagen is a city defined by water. Its very name derives from the Old Danish for "merchants' harbour", and its growth has depended upon its value as a port. Today, that harbour remains the artery of the modern city, with locals and visitors alike still drawn to the waterside – though nowadays it is for enjoyment, rather than for the purposes of commerce.

What's more, travelling by water grants a unique perspective on some of the city's most notable architecture – and it's easy in Copenhagen. Regular river bus services run between Søren Kierkegaards Plads and the citadel, Kastellet. However, to see Copenhagen's symbol, the Little Mermaid, from the water, you will need to take a proper tour boat – DFDS and Netto-Baadene are the main operators. It's worth knowing, though,

that the Little Mermaid really is little (just over 5ft tall) and it's possible to get a far closer look from dry land.

Travelling south from the citadel, the first landmark to come into view is the Opera House – built on the former naval base of Holmen – which celebrated its fourth birthday in January. Like Sydney's iconic Opera House, this is an architectural masterpiece that is best seen from the water; and the approach by boat, finally drawing up in the shadow of its soaring, cantilevered roof, sends shivers down the spine. As, indeed, does the cost of its construction: about £300m, making it one of the most expensive opera houses ever built. The alignment of the building is no accident – look out over the harbour from the steel-and-glass foyer and you can see straight between the wings of Amalienborg Palace to the dome of Frederik's Church.



Nordic style: clockwise from opposite page, Custom House, formerly owned by Conran; yachts docked in the picturesque Nyhavn; art in progress

Just south of the Palace is the Royal Danish Playhouse, set to become Denmark's new national theatre. Inaugurated in February 2008, the squat, cuboid building is intended to invoke the idea of a moored liner. Its character changes according to light conditions: in sunny weather, the copper-clad tower sparkles, and evening sees the glass facade of the top storey glow in the soft light. The complex contains three stages, a restaurant and café, and a large waterfront terrace.

Beyond the playhouse is Nyhavn, a slim finger of water that is one of Copenhagen's most famous waterside sights. Its pastel-coloured buildings are second in popularity only to the Little Mermaid on postcards of the city, and fine weather brings locals out in their droves to the waterside cafés and bars. Opposite the harbour from the entrance to Nyhavn is North Atlantic House – a warehouse that contains Noma restaurant (see panel, right), the diplomatic representations of Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, and a centre for North Atlantic culture.

Another warehouse conversion, sited a little way south on Gammel Dok, is the site of the Centre for Danish Architecture, which shares a building with the Royal Danish School of Architecture. The Centre is a must for anyone with an interest in Nordic style, and hosts frequently changing exhibitions, debates and talks.

Along the promenade (Havnegade) from Nyhavn is the old hydrofoil ferry terminal, now transformed into Custom House, a bar and restaurant complex formerly owned by Sir Terence Conran. The Art Deco building lends

itself well to its new use, with a clean, open-plan interior that is typically Conran. The three restaurants, now operated by different owners – Bacino, the Bar & Grill and Ebisu – provide diners with a choice of Italian, Danish-European and Japanese cuisine.

In terms of contemporary architecture, though, the past decade's most talked-about addition to the waterfront is the extension to the Royal Library. It is known as the Black Diamond, though this is something of a misnomer: it actually consists of two monolithic blocks of dark glass, linked by a transparent atrium. Designed by Aarhus-based architects Schmidt Hammer Lassen, the Black Diamond houses a concert hall, gallery spaces and shops as well as reading rooms. It's also home to a café – well used by students – and the acclaimed Søren K restaurant.

The harbour isn't the only place to enjoy waterside life. Everyone's first visit to Copenhagen should include a look around Christianshavn, which has the feel of a city within a city. Its canal, lined by tall 19th-century houses in the Dutch style, is an excellent place to tarry for an afternoon, with lively neighbourhood cafés nearby. And across

town, there are the five Copenhagen lakes, marking the border between the City on one side and Fredriksberg and Nørrebro on the other. There are plenty of places to stop for a coffee or a bite along their banks, particularly around the west side of Dronning Louises Bro.

● Boat tour operators: DFDS (www.canaltours.com) and Netto-Baadene (www.netto-baadene.dk)



WHERE TO EAT

NOMA

Copenhagen's finest. Chef René Redzepi, who has previously spent time in the kitchen of El Bulli in Spain, creates masterpieces of Nordic cuisine. Booking in good time is essential. Nordatlantisk Brygge; www.noma.dk

ERA ORA

A well-loved Italian restaurant that cleaves to the principles of Slow Food: "era ora" means "about time" in Italian. The freshest ingredients are flown over from Umbria each week. Overgaden Neden Vandet 33B; www.era-ora.dk

ENSEMBLE

Simplicity to the point of minimalism is the ethos in this small, central restaurant. The single tasting menu changes fortnightly, and marries French technique with locally sourced ingredients. Tordenskjoldsgade 11; www.restaurantensemble.dk

FORMEL B

A well-established restaurant in Vesterbro that first earned its Michelin star in 2004. The cuisine is Danish-French fusion, with fanatical attention to freshness and presentation. Vesterbrogade 182; www.formel-b.dk

GERANIUM

"Respect for nature" is the philosophy here, so Geranium's Nordic-fusion dishes use organic, seasonal meat, vegetables and dairy produce. Kronprinsessegade 13; www.restaurantgeranium.dk

KIIN KIIN

Copenhagen's top ethnic restaurant, serving a refined take on Thai cuisine. Table



number nine, the most romantic spot in the house, is often booked up weeks in advance. Guldbergsgade 21; www.kiin.dk

KONG HANS KÆLDER

Classic French-Danish cuisine served in a stone-vaulted dining room within Copenhagen's oldest building. Vingaardsstræde 6; www.konghans.dk

THE PAUL

Inside a greenhouse-like building in Tivoli Gardens, British-born chef Paul Cunningham (top) masterminds a restaurant that's sophisticated, but also playful and fun. Vesterbrogade 3; www.thepaul.dk

MR

The initials are those of Mads Reflund, who worked in many of Denmark's most famous kitchens before branching out on his own. The style is modern European. Kultorvet 5; www.mr-restaurant.dk

PAUSTIAN (above)

Danish cuisine at its most experimental. Chef Bo Bech allows his imagination free rein in themed menus such as "Alchemist" – a selection of signature dishes – and the whimsically named "Chlorophyll" for vegetarians. Kalkbrænderiløbskaj 2; www.restaurantpaustian.dk

SØLLERØD KRO

Simple dishes, immaculately executed, are what bring aficionados to this coaching inn in Holte, north of central Copenhagen. Søllerødvej 53, Holte; www.soellerod-kro.dk

WHERE TO STAY ON A BUDGET

HOSTELS

There are several comfortable Danhostels in the Greater Copenhagen area and they are ideal for couples, families and groups. The most central is **Danhostel Copenhagen City** with more than 1,000 beds. HC Andersens Boulevard 50, (0045 3318 8332). www.danhostel.dk/copenhagencity

BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION

This offers good value for money, and an

opportunity to get to know Danish people in their homes a bit better. Bookings can be made online, or at the Wonderful Copenhagen Tourist Information office on Gammel Kongevej 1. (0045 3325 7400).

For additional information on hostels and bed and breakfast accommodation go to www.visitcopenhagen.com or www.visitdenmark.com

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Treat yourself to a break in the Øresund region and be inspired by fascinating culture and breathtaking scenery. With Denmark's cosmopolitan capital, Copenhagen, on one side and the beautiful and rugged nature in Sweden on the other, there are almost endless possibilities for exciting days of exploration.

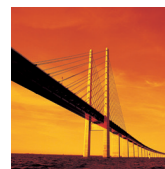
The region is surrounded by water and the Øresund Bridge that makes it possible to travel between Copenhagen and Malmö in just 35 minutes, is not only a stunning architectural monument but also a vital transport link.

Øresund offers something for everyone – dynamic cities, beautiful beaches, wonderful scenery, fabulous art and much more, in fact it's the perfect place to be whether you are looking for innovative design, excellent shopping or historic towns and cities. Everything is within easy reach here, and the region offers ideal combinations of city break exploration and relaxation in tranquil countryside.

After a day exploring the sights, enjoy the culinary delights at the numerous eateries on both sides of the Sound - from cosy country inns to Copenhagen's 11 Michelin-starred restaurants; or retreat to one of the many excellent spas and wellness centres for a bit of pampering.

Make the most of your visit with a two-day 'Around the Sound' ticket. Valid on the efficient local transport system it also gives you reduced entrance fees to many attractions, such as art galleries and museums.

Scandinavian Airlines have several daily flights from Heathrow, London City, Birmingham, Manchester and Aberdeen to Copenhagen.





At the sharp end: Arken Museum of Modern Art, on the outskirts of the city, is eye-catching – both inside and out

Trips to make your day

Not far from the central areas are some fascinating and beautiful places well worth seeking out

ARKEN MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A short journey south of downtown Copenhagen brings you to the suburb of Ishøj, and a museum where the architecture is as striking as the exhibits. Opened in 1996, Arken's soaring, angular buildings are home to travelling exhibitions and a permanent collection of more than 300 works of modern art. Danish, Nordic and international artists are represented, including Wolfgang Tillmans, Olafur Eliasson and Marc Quinn, with an emphasis on pieces produced after 1990. After a recent refurbishment, all Arken's Damien Hirst exhibits – 10 in total – are collected in a single room.

Until June 7, the museum is presenting a collection of 53 works of Impressionist

artists (including Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh and Gauguin) on loan from the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

Suburban trains (lines A and E) run to Ishøj from Copenhagen Central station; bus 128 then runs directly to the museum. For more information, see www.arken.dk

HELSINGØR

To the English-speaking world, the city of Helsingør is better known as Elsinore – setting for the tragedy of Hamlet. Its castle, known as Kronborg, guards the narrowest part of the Øresund strait, and is now Unesco World Heritage-listed. It's become a cultural hotspot, with theatre, ballet and concerts taking place in the castle and its courtyard. Each August, the Hamlet Summer



Costume drama: Michael Redgrave as Hamlet and Yvonne Mitchell as Ophelia at Kronborg Castle in Helsingør in 1950

Festival arrives at the castle, with both Danish and English-language performances of Shakespeare's masterpiece. Sir Laurence Olivier, Sir Derek Jacobi, Sir Michael Redgrave, Richard Burton and Kenneth Branagh have all played the Dane there (go to www.hamletssommer.dk for details of this summer's events).

Helsingør boasts many other historic sites that warrant the trip from Copenhagen. There's the Carmelite Monastery, the remains of the medieval Gurre Castle and Saint Olai Church – and the narrow, cobbled streets of the old town are atmospheric places in themselves to spend an afternoon.

Coastal train services run from Copenhagen Central to Helsingør. For more information, see www.visithelsingor.dk

COPENHAGEN

LOUISIANA MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Located in its own sculpture park in Humlebæk, northern Zealand, looking across the Øresund to Sweden, Louisiana is one of Scandinavia's most acclaimed art spaces. Designed as "a totality – an interaction of art, architecture and landscape", it has a collection that includes paintings, installations and videos by many of the 20th century's acknowledged greats. Among the 3,000-plus pieces are works by Picasso, Giacometti, Yves Klein, Andy Warhol and Henry Moore.

Unique to Louisiana is the Children's Wing – a three-storey centre in which families can take part in a range of art-based activities, aimed at encouraging children to think about the exhibits they have seen in the gallery (pictured, far right). A supplemental attraction is the Lake Garden, which contains winding paths to explore and small cottages designed by five prominent architects. Stop by the museum café for a beautiful panoramic view of the Øresund.

Trains run to Humlebæk from Copenhagen Central; the museum is a 10-minute walk from the station. For more information, go to www.louisiana.dk

HILLERØD AND FREDERIKSBORG CASTLE

Few palaces could boast of a lovelier setting than Frederiksborg Castle. Its buildings sit on three islands in the middle of Palace Lake, beyond which are the extensive grounds of the Baroque Garden. Long a seat of the Danish royal family, the palace now houses



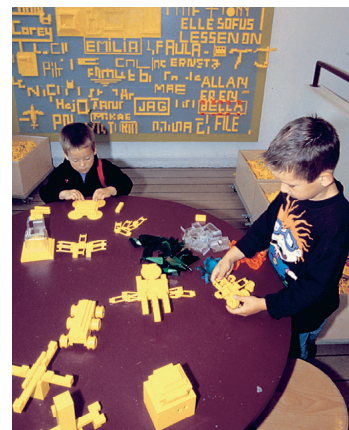
Fit for a king: Frederiksborg Castle, above; visitors at Louisiana's Children's Wing, right

Denmark's Museum of National History, containing the kingdom's most significant collection of portraiture. Frederiksborg stands as the symbol of Hillerød, a pretty market town in the middle of North Zealand. It abuts Gribskov forest, one of the largest woodland areas in Denmark, and one that is known for its excellent walking and biking opportunities.

Suburban trains (line E) run to Hillerød from Copenhagen Central. For more details, go to www.fredriksborgmuseet.dk

ROSKILDE

Situated at the end of its eponymous fjord, the ancient city of Roskilde is a popular destination. The unusual red-brick cathedral – a Unesco World Heritage Site – is one of



the region's biggest attractions. Its twin spires dominate the cityscape, as befits the final resting place of Danish royalty. There's also the Viking heritage to discover: five ships scuttled in the 11th century in the fjord, and raised from its depths in the Sixties, are now the main attractions of the Viking Ships Museum.

It's possible to take a trip up the picturesque fjord in a reconstructed longship or a modern vessel. On land, Roskilde offers good shopping opportunities, and it's worth exploring the harbour: a buzzing, modern district, with an art gallery and workshops on the site of a former gasworks.

● Direct trains operate from Copenhagen to Roskilde. For more information, go to www.visitroskilde.com

MAJOR EVENTS IN 2009

TIVOLI GARDENS

April 8-September 20;
October 9-18 (Halloween),
November 19-December 30
(Christmas), Copenhagen
Denmark's best-loved tourist
attraction – known for its ancient
wooden rollercoaster – and Walt
Disney's inspiration for Disneyland.
The world's oldest amusement
park (below, far left) is open at
various selected times of the
year. In December it becomes
a winter wonderland.
www.tivoli.dk

UCI BMX SUPERCROSS WORLD CUP

May 8-9, Copenhagen
Part of Bike City Copenhagen.
The best riders compete at one
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www.bmx copenhagen.com

FUTURE IS NOW: ARCHITECTURE FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

May 29-September 27, Louisiana
Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk
An exhibition focusing on new and
alternative architectural
movements of today.
www.louisiana.dk

COPENHAGEN MARATHON

May 24, Copenhagen
One of Europe's oldest city
marathons. Encouraged along the
route by entertainment and bands,
runners pound the streets of
Copenhagen, passing some of the
city's major attractions.
www.copenhagenmarathon.com

WHITSUN CARNIVAL OF COPENHAGEN

May 29-31, Copenhagen

The annual event – three days
of fun, music, workshops and
performances – attracts more
than 100,000 visitors and has
become a very popular festival.
www.karneval.dk

COPENHAGEN FASHION WEEK/ COPENHAGEN FASHION WEEKEND

August 5-9, Copenhagen
Copenhagen Fashion Weekend,
a series of public events – where

fashionistas and shoppers alike
can share the high-fashion vibe
– is being held in parallel with
Northern Europe's largest
fashion trade event.
www.copenhagenfashionweek.com; www.copenhagenfashionweekend.com

COPENHAGEN COOKING

August 21-30, Copenhagen
The city will be alive and cooking
with everything that Scandinavian

cuisine has to offer. Sample all the
best-quality ingredients at large
food expos all around the city.
www.copenhagencooking.com

DANISH DESIGN WEEK 2009/ COPENHAGEN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN DAYS

August 27-September 6,
Copenhagen
A variety of events, workshops
and exhibitions showcase the
country as a world leader in
sustainable design solutions.
Copenhagen Architecture and
Design Days offer a chance to
see exciting architecture and
craftsmanship, such as the
Opera House (right). At
the same time, the exhibition
for the world's largest design
awards, the INDEX: award
opens at the city's Kongens Nytorv.
www.seedesign.org;
www.ddc.dk; www.cphadd.com

KOPENHAGEN CONTEMPORARY

September 18-20, Copenhagen
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galleries, exhibition halls and
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