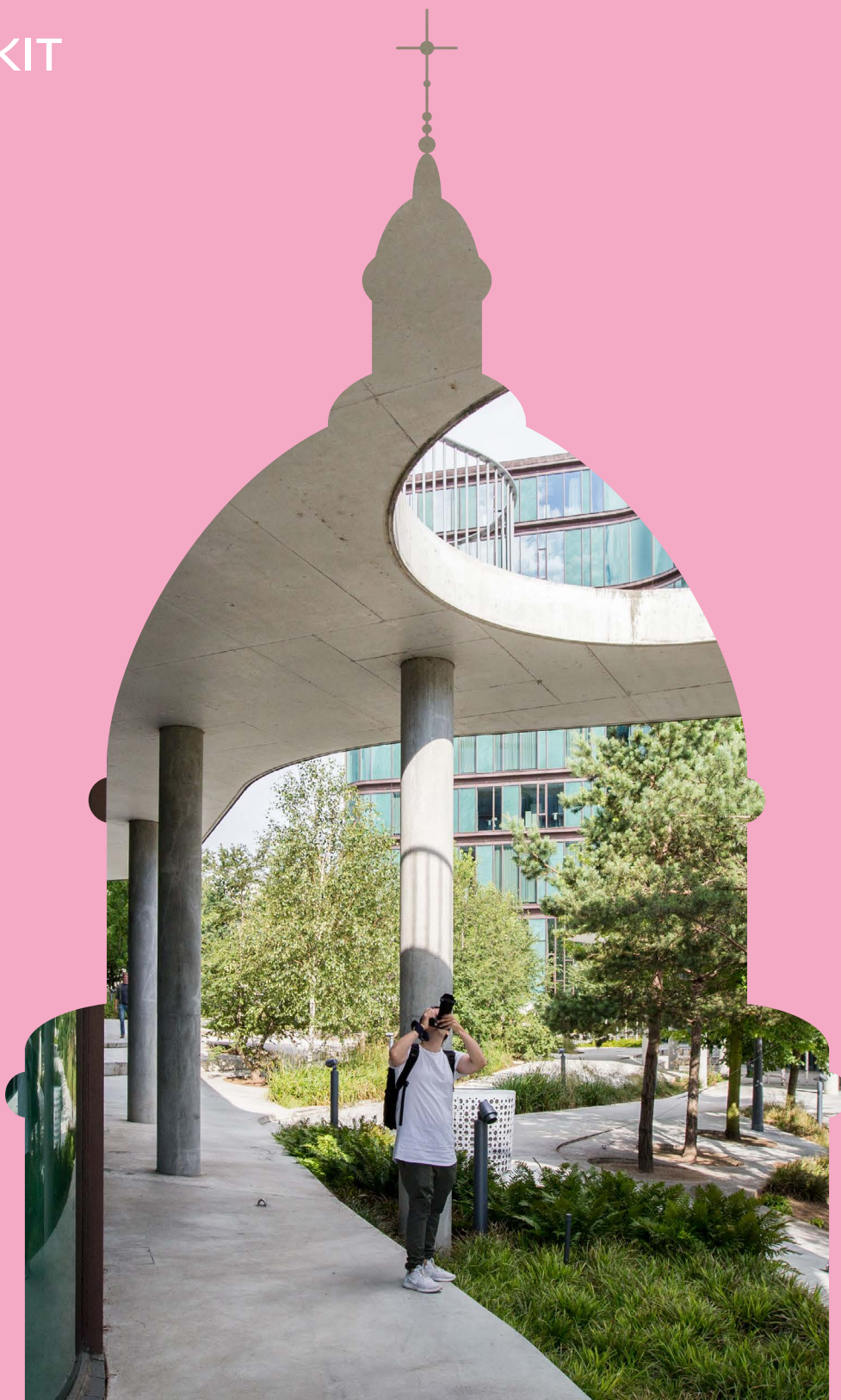


UNESCO - UIA  
World Capital of Architecture  
COPENHAGEN 2023



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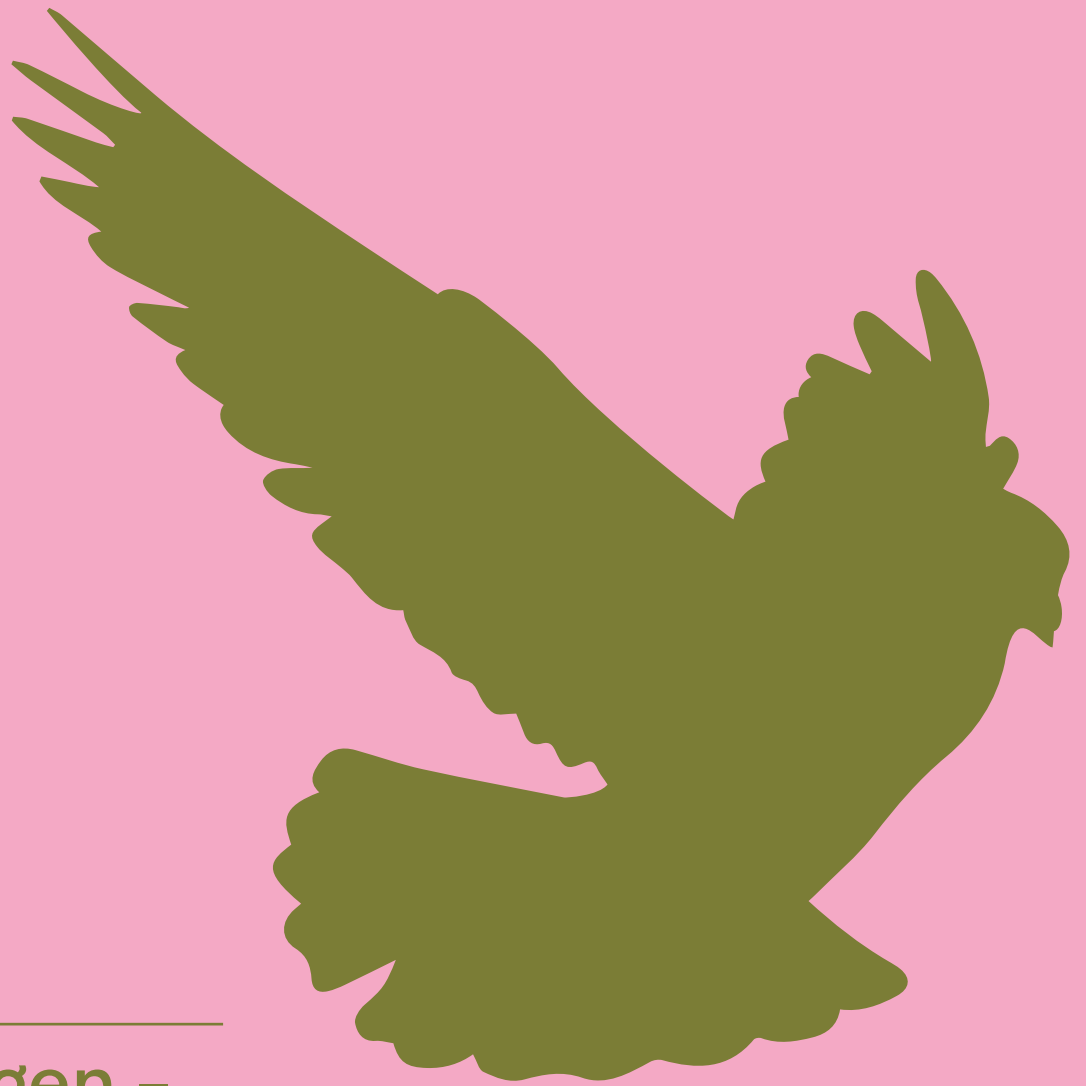
# Copenhagen announced World Capital of Architecture 2023

**Copenhagen - the capital city of Denmark has been announced World Capital of Architecture in 2023. Join us for a whole year of events and debates on architecture within sustainable urban development.**

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Copenhagen has won the title of UNESCO International Union of Architects (UIA) World Capital of Architecture in 2023. The Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro was the first to be designated World Capital of Architecture in 2020/2021 and is passing on the prestigious nomination to the capital of Denmark. The title will tour the world every three years and grace the most prominent and world-leading cities within architecture.

UNESCO and the UIA have initiated a whole year focusing on architecture to underscore and demonstrate the crucial role of architecture and culture in sustainable urban development. The city designated World Capital of Architecture will become a global forum for discussions on the world's most pressing challenges through the prisms of culture, heritage, urban planning, and architecture. Through this initiative, UNESCO and the UIA have joint forces to develop sustainable urban solutions to the benefit of our future generations.



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## Copenhagen – city of sustainability and quality of life

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**The City of Copenhagen is world-famous for its sustainable urban development which is vital to the nomination as UNESCO and UIA World Capital of Architecture in 2023.**

The City aims to become carbon neutral by 2025 and boasts many green initiatives to reach its goal: Green public transport, thousands of kilometers of bicycle lanes, zero-emission machinery on construction sites, environmentally friendly district heating - just to mention a few of the City's solutions to ensure clean air and a sustainable urban environment.

Cycling is the core to the city's unmistakable brand, and Copenhagen has several times been voted the world's best city for cyclists. As a result of a bike orientated infrastructure, 42 percent of Copenhagengers commute to work or studies daily. Encouraging cycling goes hand in hand with the City's major focus on green transportation where zero-emission buses and a driverless metro are central elements. And not to forget - Copenhagen has a waterfront so clean that you can take a plunge in the harbour!

Join us for a whole year of activities and events where Copenhagen aims to inspire and be inspired beyond its borders!

# Copenhagen world-famous for legendary and innovative architecture

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**Copenhagen carries a strong legacy within architecture, historic buildings and palaces. From King Christian 4th of Denmark who erected many of the city's historic buildings, to prominent, modernist Danish architects and designers such as Arne Jacobsen, Hans J. Wegner, and Georg Jensen. Pioneers of their time and fathers of the innovation and design which have put Denmark on the world map of architecture.**

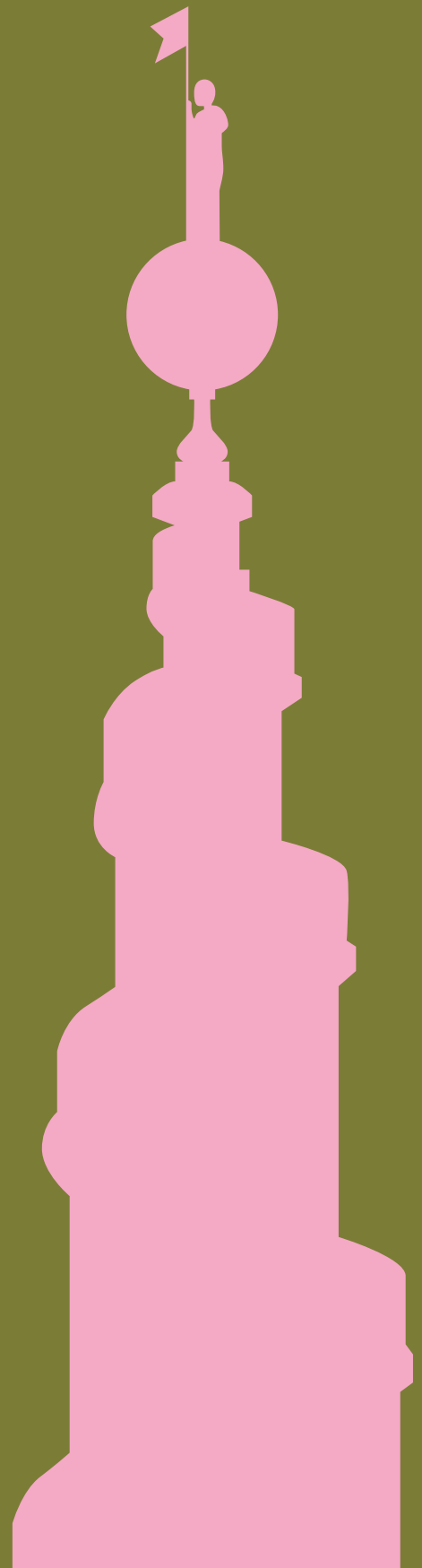
This legacy has been carried on by innovative, contemporary Danish architects and designers such as Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), Vilhelm Lauritzen Architects, Henning Larsen, HAY, etc.

World-class Danish architects like Jørn Utzon have designed places like the iconic Sydney

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Opera House, and Arne Jacobsen has designed the functionalistic Bellavista houses north of Copenhagen.

In 2023, Copenhagen will set off from its all-pervading legacy and continuous booms of innovative buildings and urban spaces with an ever-increasing focus on combining architecture with sustainability and liveability. Throughout the year, you will get the chance to visit architectural masterpieces such as the emerging new districts in Copenhagen, Nordhavn and Ørestad. Or CopenHill by BIG Architects which is a 41,000 m<sup>2</sup> waste-to-energy plant with an urban recreation center on the roof. 70,000 tons of waste are burnt every hour producing heat for 60,000 families. Last but not least, you will discover the city's bike bridges such as the Bicycle Snake and the Circle Bridge. Join us for much more in Copenhagen!



# Copenhagen announced World Capital of Architecture in 2023

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**In 2023, Copenhagen will dress up for a whole year of events, activities, exhibitions, debates, etc. within architecture and design. The city will carry on the baton from Rio de Janeiro and will also be hosting the UIA World Congress from 2 to 7 July 2023.**

With the overall narrative "Copenhagen in Common", Copenhagen will address the common urban issues such as history, nature, everyday life - and how architecture can support building a more sustainable future in our cities. A city for everyone. A city embracing diversity and different ways of housing and living. A city that takes pride in putting sustainable solutions first. The Copenhagen in Common theme will celebrate communities, dialogue, and quality of life, and the whole year will be a lever to creating awareness of a democratic and sustainable urban environment.

In Copenhagen, there is e.g. a political focus on creating a socially sustainable city with social housing.

In collaboration with partners, the City of Copenhagen will invite cultural organizations, architects, private businesses, local startups, experts, educational institutions, tourism organizations, Copenhageners, etc. to join the programme of the year. The call for applications will open soon.

Welcome to Copenhagen - World Capital of Architecture 2023!



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## About the World Capital of Architecture

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- The Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro was the first to be designated World Capital of Architecture in 2020/2021. The Danish capital city, Copenhagen, will be the second to carry the prestigious title.
- Copenhagen has been designated World Capital of Architecture in 2023 because of its strong legacy within architecture and innovative urban development. The City's high ambitions on climate, sustainable solutions and liveability have been key to the nomination.
- Call for applications to join the official programme of the year in Copenhagen 2023 will be launched soon.



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## About the Union of Architects (UIA) World Congress

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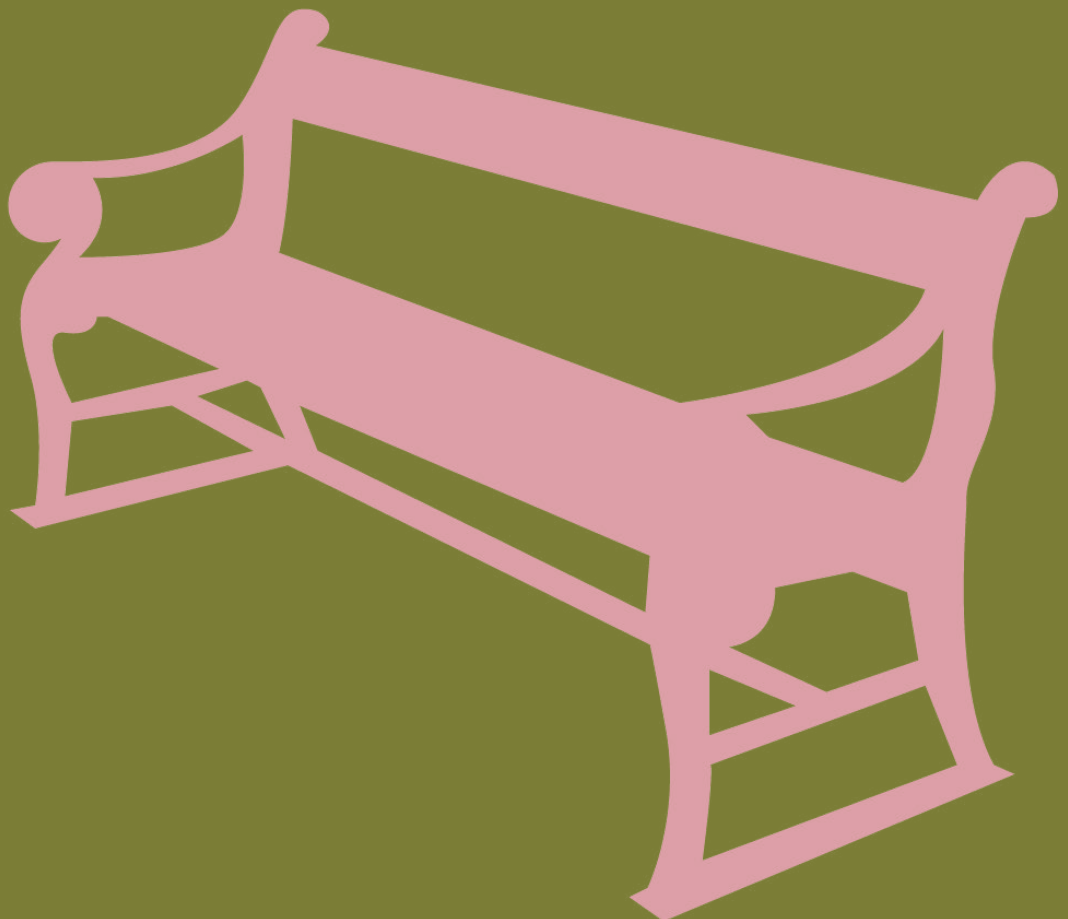
- The UIA World Congress is the world's leading event within architecture and is held every three years. Copenhagen was selected host in 2017 in Seoul and for the first time ever, the Congress will visit the Nordics.
- The UIA World Congress in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil takes place from 18 to 22 July 2021. Copenhagen will host the Congress from 2 to 7 July 2023. In Rio de Janeiro, the World Capital of Architecture in 2026 will be announced.
- The UIA Congress in Copenhagen has chosen the theme "Sustainable Futures – Leave No One Behind". The Congress will focus on architecture as the lever to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Around 10,000 to 15,000 participants are expected from every corner of the world.

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## About the UIA & UNESCO

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- The UIA, International Union of Architects, is based in Paris and is the only international organization of its kind representing architects on a global scale.
- UNESCO is the United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.
- The UIA and UNESCO have joint forces and founded the title of World Capital of Architecture to push forward and promote the development of sustainable urban planning and innovation in our cities.





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## Quotes for the press

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*“In Copenhagen historic buildings stand side by side new, innovative architecture. The City of Copenhagen is open to the diversity of urban development and takes great pride in creating a city for all Copenhageners. A city embracing different ways of living and with room for social housing, too”.*

*“Copenhagen is a green and liveable city. A city where we strive to put sustainable solutions first. We are therefore honoured to be appointed World Capital of Architecture in 2023 and look forward to sharing and discussing sustainable urban development and architecture with visitors from all over the world!”*

/ Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Lars Weiss

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*“In 2023, the eyes of the world will rest on Copenhagen when we celebrate the title World Capital of Architecture. It is an opportunity to share our city’s sustainable and livable architecture with the world. We are well advanced with sustainable and inclusive urban planning, and the ambition to become carbon neutral by 2025 has resonated internationally.*

*I hope that we can use 2023 to discuss how to make the cities of the future even stronger. How we combine sustainability with good housing without letting go of the city’s historic fabric. How we secure a city that has room for everyone, for a rich and varied urban nature, and where you don’t need to be a millionaire to afford good housing.”*

/ Mayor of the Technical and Environmental Administration,  
City of Copenhagen, Ninna Hedeager Olsen

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*“I hope that Copenhagen, World Capital of Architecture 2023, will encourage the building industry and all of us who are working to develop the city, to create beautiful and sustainable world-class buildings.”*

/ City Architect for Copenhagen, Camilla van Deurs





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## Press photos

Download press photos at  
[copenhagenincommon.kk.dk/pressphotos](http://copenhagenincommon.kk.dk/pressphotos)

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## Links

World Capital of Architecture 2023 -  
Copenhagen in Common  
[www.copenhagenincommon.kk.dk](http://www.copenhagenincommon.kk.dk)

UIA World Congress of Architects  
Copenhagen 2023  
[www.uia2023cph.org](http://www.uia2023cph.org)

UNESCO  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

UIA  
[www.uia-architectes.org](http://www.uia-architectes.org)

Danish Architecture Center (DAC)  
[www.dac.dk](http://www.dac.dk)

Wonderful Copenhagen  
[www.wonderfulcopenhagen.dk](http://www.wonderfulcopenhagen.dk)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark  
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