

11.027 City to City

Session 6 Notes

PART I: Trip Preparation:

1. Reimbursement
2. Hostel Details (Handout)
3. Itinerary (Handout)
4. Things to Bring (Handout)

PART II: Guest Presentation by Thomas Oles – “A Tourist in Denmark”

History of Danish City Planning: *Dansk Byplanlaegning 1938-1992*. Arne Gaardmand. Arkitektens Forlag, 1993. ISBN: 8774071297, 8774071327

1. Thomas's Danish Experience
 - a. Spent 1.5 years of professional education at 2 big landscape architecture schools in Copenhagen
 - b. Lived in dormitory with other Danish students (as a guest student)
 - i. Very easy to do: free tuition for Danish and foreign students
2. Observations
 - a. Transportation is expensive
 - b. The bus system is constantly losing market share to bicycles
 - i. Bicycles are faster and cheaper
 - c. Importance of social ritual/togetherness
 - i. Denmark is a very small society
 - ii. Ritualized togetherness is very important
 - iii. Speaking Danish is very important to being part of the society
3. Danish Politics
 - a. Center/right coalition came to power promising radical reforms in the area of immigration
 - i. Put a lot of pressure on government to restrict privileges to Danes
 - ii. Political Parties:
 1. Two Opposite Parties:
 - a. Liberal Party (very right)
 - b. Conservative Party (left)
 2. Social democrats are in perennial decline
 3. 10 major parties
 - a. The radical left is actually centrist by United States standards
 4. Immigration
 - a. Subject driving the entire political debate

- b. Current government has initiated very stringent immigration policies
 - i. Nearly impossible to emigrate to Denmark now
 - c. Most critical voice toward government's policies in immigrant debate is Marianne Jelved
 - i. Outspoken against the Prime Minister on the "Mohammad Crisis"
 - ii. Such criticism is highly unusual in Danish politics to this point
 - 1. Work is usually driven by consensus
 - d. Evidence of these conflicts in the physical form of the city:
 - i. Immigrant ghettos (less desirable neighborhoods)
 - e. Political conflict mostly about religion
 - i. Struggle between Christianity and Islam
 - ii. Danish People's Party (nationalist): "Islam is a plague on Europe"
 - 1. Membership has been increasing
 - iii. Concerted effort by Radical Left Party to diffuse the situation in Denmark
 - 1. Some smaller demonstrations in Copenhagen
 - a. Nothing violent
4. Visiting Copenhagen
 - a. Walk as much as you can
 - i. Biking is not as good for sightseeing
 - 1. Difficult to see much
 - 2. Aggressive bike culture
 - a. Familiarize yourself with the traffic rules
 - ii. Buses don't work well in the medieval city
 - b. Neighborhoods
 - i. Medieval City
 - 1. Typical European city
 - 2. Successful pedestrian streets
 - 3. Does not represent the daily experience of most people in Copenhagen
 - ii. "Beyond the Lakes"
 - 1. 19th century tenement quarters
 - 2. Neighborhoods
 - a. Vesterbro "Westbridge"
 - b. Norrebro "Northbridge"
 - i. Immigrants mostly in Norrebro

1. Turkish
 2. Pakistani
 3. Indian
 - c. Osterbro "Eastbridge"
3. Character
 - a. Mostly single-family homes
 - b. Not unlike American suburbs built in the same time
 - c. Suburbanization wave in 1960s and 1970s
- iii. Geographies of wealth
 1. North: Wealthy
 - a. North Coast: "Danish Riviera"
 - i. Degree of wealth fades back from the shoreline
 2. West: Mixed
 3. South: poor (immigrant and Dane)
 - a. Modern Art museum deliberately located to the south to balance the presence of a famous museum to the north.
- c. Public Housing
 - i. Stages of development
 - ii. Rich tradition of public housing
 1. Cooperative still the standard of housing delivery in Copenhagen
 2. 60% of apartments in Copenhagen are cooperatives.
 3. Recently it has fallen out of favor as preferred model
- d. Transportation
 - i. Finger Plan
 1. Radial system going into the suburbs
 2. Metro is now connecting the inner part of the fingers
 - a. First light-rail train
 3. Major planning armature for the city since the 1940s
- e. Places to go
 - i. Jazz: Student House (Studento Huse) by the Round Tower
 1. hygge: coziness, warmth, almost always refers to indoor conditions
 - a. hyggelig: complimentary adjective
 2. astonishing level of sophistication and attention paid to creating good indoor spaces
 - ii. Suburbs to Visit
 1. Suburbs start at the end of the Brokvarter
 - a. Easy to walk through the transitions between different stages of development.
 - b. Higher degree of interest of younger and older people in the center of cities

- c. Families move to the suburbs primarily because it is very expensive to live in the city
- d. Copenhagen has a great housing shortage
 - i. Schools are not as large an impact
 - 1. Financing is different, not as tied to geography