

Transcript of the video 'Copenhagen Solutions'

My name is Camilla Van Deurs and I am the city architect of Copenhagen.

The one thing visitors to Copenhagen comment on the most, is the cities' many many bicycles.

You see the fast rolling spinners pacing in to work overtaking families on cargobikes. Kids cycle with their parents, and both the young and the more mature, use bikes to get around the city. And actually, half the trips to work and school in Copenhagen are done by bike. This could of course sound rather chaotic, but actually it's quite the opposite. Copenhagen ranks as the best bicycle city in the world, due to our extensive infrastructure, making cycling both convenient, safe, and fast.

Copenhageners love to be active and exercise. And cycling plays an important part in our everyday life. However, we don't choose the bicycle because we are different than people in New York, Paris or Beijing. We do it because the city is designed for it. We say, that it is 'designed for life'. In Copenhagen you find cycle super highways, leading people into the city on dedicated cycle paths where the cycle commuters need to be given the highest priority. They offer a amenities such as airpumps, safer intersections, green waves with traffic lights timed to average cycle speeds, instead of car speeds.

We have built dedicated cycle and walking bridges across the harbour basin. These are not only conveniently tying the city together, but they also offer beautiful architecture and allows everyone to take in the views of the harbour, and much more.

We even have a playground where kids can learn the rules of traffic and how to balance on two wheels.

But why is that we don't just take the car like they do in other great cities? Well, first of all, cycling is clean mean of transportation, helping us to realize the goal of a carbon neutral Copenhagen by 2025. It's also the fastest way to get around and it is much easier to find parking compared to cars. On top of all of this, cycling is a great way to exercise and for those who prefer running or walking it's also much more pleasant to be around bikes compared to noisy and polluting cars.

Copenhagen is also not only the city of commuter bikes, but it's also an arena for some of the world's top athletes. Denmark has some of the best cycle athletes in the world, and having already hosted the UCI world championships, we are now looking forward to welcoming the Tour de France grand depart next year. As the greatest cycling race in the world has decided to start in the worlds best cycle city.

Copenhagen is however much more than a city of bikes. As I mentioned, Copenhagen is designed for living, but when we plan the city we think about what it's going to look like and

commercial opportunities, but mostly we consider those who will be using it, both locals and visitors.

One thing we are particularly proud of is our clean water. Copenhagen's harbor used to be polluted and industrial, and today it's a haven for safe and fun water activities.

People fish in the water and you can actually eat fish caught in the very heart of the city. Many people choose to get their exercise kayaking in some of the many canals in the harbor and getting a new perspective on the city or making the most of the beautiful waterways going through both new and old parts of our city.

Another perspective can be found from the top of the Copenhagen Opera House. Which has been used as a diving platform when Copenhagen hosted the cliff diving tournaments with elite athletes looking over the Queen's castle before jumping the 27 meters down and disappearing into the harbor basin. And just like those divers, the rest of Copenhagen also loves to take a dip in the harbor. We have created many swim zones round the city, where it's possible to get a refreshing dip during lunchbreak, or to use for actual training. Actually, Copenhagen ranked first on CNN's list of best swimming cities, something that was quite unthinkable just a few years back.

Another rather unthinkable Copenhagen activity is skiing.

Copenhagen is a very flat city. There are no mountains and really not that much snow either. Being a city that always tries to consider how it can offer more to its people, we decided to do something about this. Or rather, when building a new waste-to-energy plant, we decided that this new grand project should offer more.

The world famous architect Bjarke Ingels won the task with his vision of a ski slope on top of the plant. And today it's possible to ski down our very first mountain, CopenHill. Just as the facility offers the world's tallest climbing wall and green paths for those out on a hilly walk, with stunning views of the city from the top.

This focus on double functionality is not new to Copenhagen. Other great examples of creating a space for sport and exercise is Konditaget Lùders. A car parking facility with a training ground and play area on the roof.

You can time your run up the outdoor staircase, before joining a yoga or cross-training class on top of the roof. And you can bring your kids to jump on the trampolines while everyone enjoys the view of the city and Sweden on the other side of the Øresund.

To the Copenhagen Municipality it is an active choice to develop a city where it's easy for everyone to engage in physical activities, despite living very many people, in close proximity.

New football fields are created in parks in between buildings, and we make sure to develop and protect the nature in the city, so that many locals can use it. An example of this, is the

harbor basin, where you can run and cycle around as the waterfront has been kept free for everyone to use.

Another example is that the city often lends its streets to events like marathons and triathlons and actually invites sports events to take place in our beautiful and historic city center.

Copenhagen is a generous city, designed for life and designed for Copenhageners to live active and healthy lives