



Case 60 Copenhagen, Denmark Kvarterloeft initiative

Problem to resolve

Older popular neighbourhoods with predominantly rented accommodation easily lose their good reputation when a large proportion of the houses are badly maintained and due repairs and modernizations are not carried out. They become citywide recognized as 'problem' areas with a self-perpetuating effect of the better-off residents moving out of the neighbourhood.

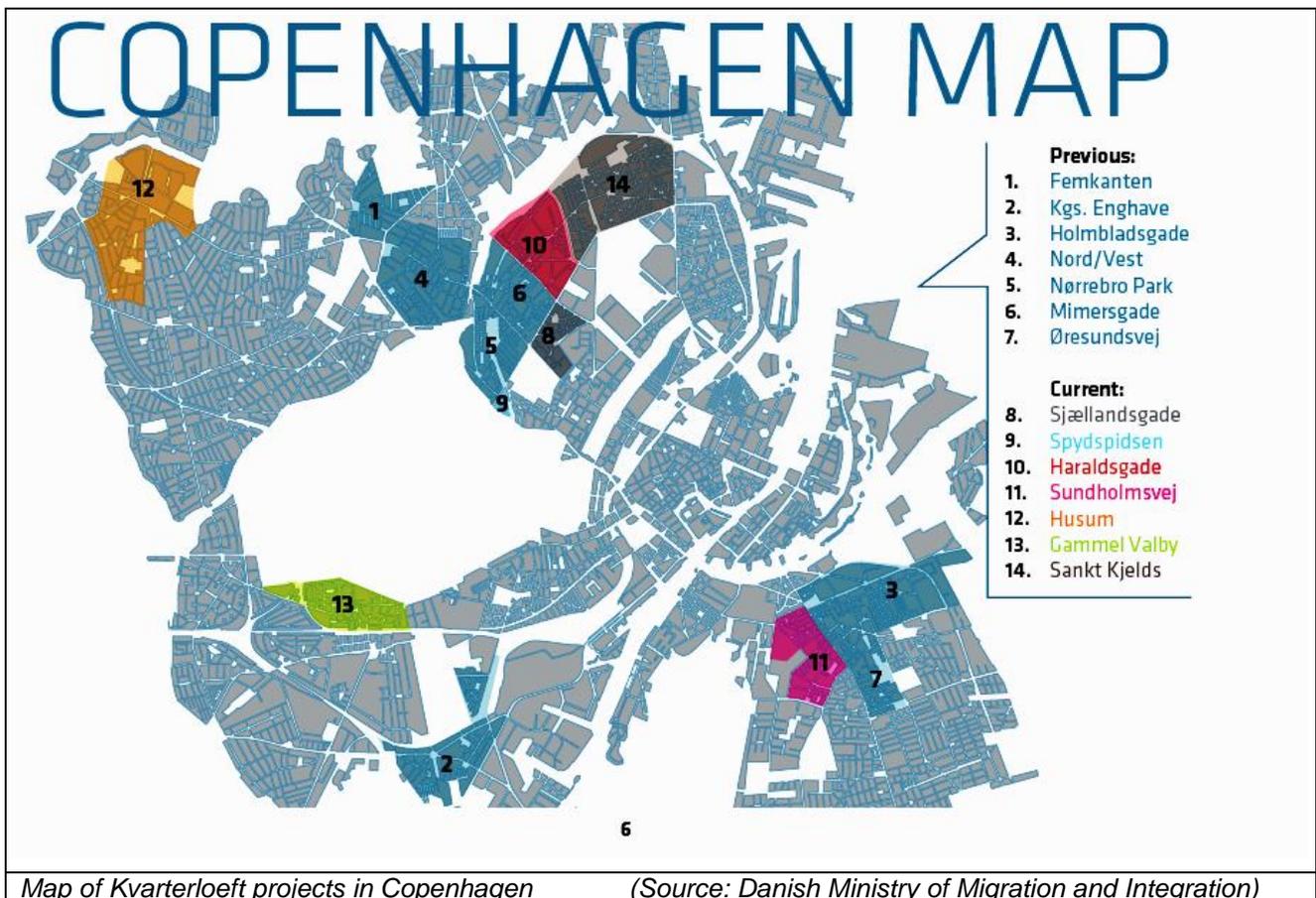
Approach: Participation

The concept of sustainability implies the survival and stable operation of a project after its formal ending – when a project turns into a practice. In urban regeneration this requires that the local population identify itself with the project which is best achieved through active participation in the planning and decision making right from the beginning. This is part of community building and contributes to the formation of neighbourhood identity. →Tool URR 3

Copenhagen, Denmark: Kvarterloeft initiative 1997-2007^{1,2,3}

Kvarterloeft (Uplifting of urban Quarters) was a large scale initiative to revitalize deprived urban areas and to improve their public image through a holistic initiative based on public participation and through public-private partnership. It began in 1997 and concluded in 2007 reaching a total population of about 120,000 people in two types of problematic situation: One were large non-profit housing estates mostly built in the period 1960-80 and the other were older parts of the bigger cities (especially in Copenhagen) with low housing standards, traffic problems or with industrial sites that can be used for new functions. →Tool URR 3





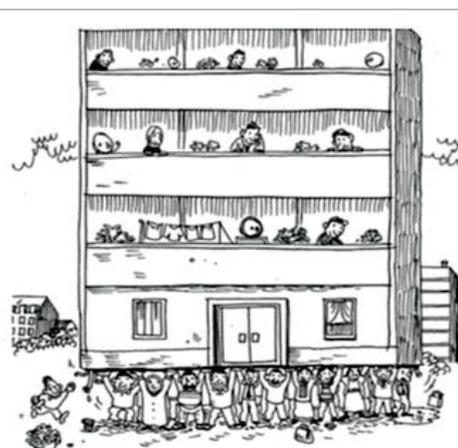
In the selection of the projects there was an increasing focus on urban competition. Each urban community is positioning itself, striving for growth and attracting residents with strong resources. This not only mirrors global competition trends but also explains the big differences between the goals set up in the plan for each area and the social composition of the same.

An important feature was the institutional set-up and community participation. The funding came from the Dutch government and was administered by the Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs. Local municipalities identified the quarters and made bids for funding which were granted under the condition that the local authority was providing matching funds. Each scheme had a local operational office staffed by the municipality and supervised by a steering committee of 20 to 25 people representing local bodies and resident initiatives. Public meetings were held regularly and individual projects were prepared by working groups including the residents.⁴

Although it is not easy to change a negative stigma, a survey of the 50 projects shows that the previously negative image of most of the involved neighbourhoods was improved. The conclusion is that participation and transparent processes play important roles. Another survey shows that the Kvarterloeft projects have helped to reduce the scope of vandalism – especially graffiti – and to some extent violence and burglaries in houses. The list of reported program achievements is impressive:⁵

- a reduction in the scope of vandalism
- an improvement of residents' perception of each other and the areas
- a strengthening of society cohesion through the formation of traditional societies and networks
- evolution of cross-neighbourhood networks
- a strengthening of social capital in the areas
- development of attractive district plans with residents and experts which have been successfully implemented with a high rate of completion

- the projects were appreciated to be of high quality by residents and experts alike
- successful regeneration of large recreational areas
- increased familiarity with and participation in resident-led initiatives
- a holistic approach has been adopted by various administrations
- involvement of universities in terms of advice, research and publications
- creation of a lively debate about the initiative among professionals
- innovation Danish urban planning practice
- mainstreaming of the kvarterloeft concept in urban renewal legislation and social housing programs
- a new and more user-friendly attitude has evolved in the relation between government and local communities. →Tool URR 3



Maritime Youth House renewal project, Sundby Harbour, Copenhagen⁶

Community building in the Kvarterloeft urban renewal program⁷

Credentials

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References

¹ http://www.byplanlab.dk/sites/default/files/10_years_of_urban_regeneration.pdf (most complete documentation, seen 8/4/2015)

² http://webhost.ua.ac.be/ugis/results/udps/DK_kvarterloft.pdf seen 02/06/2015

³ http://www.geography.dur.ac.uk/conferences/Urban_Conference/Programme/pdf_files/Annika%20Agger.pdf, visited 02/06/2015

⁴ https://books.google.de/books?id=3sLudUajwTcC&pg=PA48&lpg=PA48&dq=Kvarterloeft&source=bl&ots=OKf_baDdhl&sig=4rdl4i1sGgK5mNsXnPu8y7pkeYU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CFUQ6AEwCGoVChMIItDLwYaPwIVTAYsCh2Srw7#v=onepage&q=Kvarterloeft&f=false seen 8/4/2015

⁵ <http://sampac.nl/EUKN2015/www.eukn.org/dsresource9c82.html?objectid=96971> seen 8/4/2015

⁶ Source: <https://redchalksketch.wordpress.com/2011/04/10/%20aritime-youth-house-denmark-jds-architects/>

⁷ Source: <http://imaginehorsens.dk/projekter/ord-og-billeder-konkurrence/>