

# Atlas of an Eco Island: Mapping Amager and Sharing Copenhagen

**International call for participation:  
Transects & seminars // Eco-creation Camp & Seminar // Publication**

Amager, Copenhagen

Aug 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> // Sept 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> // Oct 31<sup>st</sup>-Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

[Cultura21 Nordic](#), in collaboration with a number of partners, calls for presentations, texts, artistic interventions, and action-based reflections, linked to the events under the project Eco Island Amager (part of [Sharing Copenhagen](#)/Copenhagen as European Green Capital 2014).

We invite scholars, policy makers, urban planners, activists, artists, designers, transdisciplinaryists and action-researchers of all kinds, to take part in seminars, conversations and collaborative action around a series of 6 transects and an innovation camp.

Cultura21 Nordic is the Copenhagen-based branch of Cultura21 International, working with cultural approach to transition, ecologies, and sustainability, straddling research, art projects, activism and support for policy, entrepreneurship, and urbanism.

Please submit your proposals by **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**. Notification of acceptance by June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Field: urban living and change, mapping, cultures of sustainability**

The call invites experts and artists into a process that is in itself highly practice-oriented and experimenting. With this call, we wish to bring in voices and inspirations from other parts of the world, and from other actors, that may bring new reflections and creative wisdom to Amager. We hope their participation may add inspiration back to their own practices, and build strong meshworks across

localities and disciplines. We also wish to use this to further interaction between practitioners and experts in the relevant fields, in order to be able to call upon one another and strengthen the network of interventionists in urban ecologies. We wish to explore possibilities of developing common methods, and making use of one another, thus both drawing experience from the world onto Amager, and from Amager into the world.

The field of interventions and mapping in urban ecologies is a rich and complex one. Cities are at the core of the challenges of climate change and unsustainable patterns on a global, national, and local scale. The strongest financial, political, and scientific forces are investing and intervening, to secure that the turn taken within urban reactions to the eco-crises meets with already existing ideologies or interests. However, cities are also contexts in which it is practically impossible to oversee and control what goes on, making them the ideal sites for laboratories and experiments, for learning and activism, and for processes that just go on without actually seeking to be part of a global issue. In terms of issues of sustainability, resilience studies have proven themselves valuable to understanding the intricate webs of ecosystems / ecologies, across boundaries of the social, natural, cultural, technical, and economic realms. On the island of Amager and in Copenhagen, we find all types of approaches and actors dealing with these issues, calling for interpretation and reflected, critical, creative and innovative feedback.

## **Setting: The Eco island in the Green Capital**

In 2014, Copenhagen holds the title of [European Green Capital](#). Copenhagen is a city known widely for its work with a bicycle friendly strategy, with inclusion of citizens in democratic processes for sustainability, for active work on reducing CO2 emissions and increasing production of sustainable energy forms, and for a decade long plan for purification of the harbour water area, allowing today for numerous bathing sites within the inner harbour. All of this is by now widely known as the politics of [Copenhagenizing](#), and made famous by Time Magazine, CNN, [design companies](#), etc. [Sharing Copenhagen](#) is the name of the program for Copenhagen as Green Capital. Sharing is strategically seen as a form of promoting Copenhagen, as well as an invitation to take part, to give and receive, among agents in the city and inviting external agents.

The island of [Amager](#) has played a particular role in the history of the city: as its compost mound and dump, as its lung and food storage, as its landing strip through the Øresund bridge and Kastrup airport;

and recently, on top of all the rest, as a new epicentre of creativity, energy, and nature. Amager is in transition. With its 180 000 inhabitants on 96 km<sup>2</sup>, and at least as many commuters coming there to work every day, it represents many of the issues of the development of Copenhagen.

The [Eco Island Amager project](#) seeks to explore what it might imply being part of a capital with ambitions of sustainability, if you take it to a local and trans-local perspective. What if Amager were truly an eco-island? How does one define if it is one? And who holds the power to decide, to show, to map and to change the island and its status? We seek to investigate what that means, through a series of interventions. For example, by uncovering what it means to be an eco-island. An island, where ecosystems of all kinds influence each other through movements, places, and agents, that may remain invisible to one another. We look at Amager as a zone, where a multitude of actors work to shape the future – as ecosystems intertwining across humans, institutions, biotopes, traffic, diversity etc. Through this project, we try to build bridges and connect across disciplines, interests, initiatives, and people, whether civil servants and services, eco-garden enthusiasts, social entrepreneurs, (eco-)artists, real estate developers, or (action-) researchers.

#### *Method: 3 types of interventions*

The primary goal of the project is to make way for new or strengthened innovative projects on the island of Amager. These will be locally based, addressing global issues, giving way to new learning, and working across disciplines, cultures and sectors. We invite anyone who might see themselves as part of the ecosystems of Amager, to participate. We invite guests to join and contribute to the enhancement of knowledge and ideas for Eco Island Amager. We include companies, citizens, associations, public services alike. We base the the project on co-creative partnerships on all relevant levels and formats. Partners must agree to commit, share, and learn. From April to November, a series of interventions are run, to further the process:

- *a vision workshop*, on April 24th-25th, where we entangle with the ecosystems, streams, and habitats of the island, enabling us to identify trigger points and crucial areas to explore in the next phase
- *9 transects*: site-specific explorations, in particular areas of the island, that will engage us in the question of the eco-island; with maps at hand and investing hatfuls of creative and knowing skills, in early June, late August, and mid-September

- and finally, the *Eco Creation Amager Camp*, on October 31st – November 1st, where we will draw the knowledge and foundations from the two first phases and forge new alliances and new project propositions, for the eco-island of the future, in the city of the future

The method aims at working in ways that engage as much as possible with a multiplicity of participants; that use a panoply of approaches to include the sensuous and sensitivities in understanding issues of site-specific ecologies (human and non-human); that look for trigger points where an action may have more important impact on deteriorating ecosystems; and that allow for the simultaneity of highly local, trans-local, and global perspectives to the issues at stake.

## **Call for participation: reflection, action, presentation, publication**

We invite scholars, artists, and activists with an interest in sustainability in mapping, culture, and transdisciplinary urban renewal processes, to present us with their interest and suggestions for participation.

Given the multiple form of the process, we invite you to participate in a few possible ways, and to combine them as this might fit best within your availabilities. From the organizers' side, the goal is to bring in inspiration, knowledge, and experience from the world on to the processes on Amager. Furthermore, we will invite those interested to enter in the work for a publication reflecting on the process, and the theories and methods at play within it.

We invite you to participate as you may wish to combine it, in the following activities:

### *Transects: participation, symposium, artistic intervention*

In connection to the 6 transects in August and September, we ask for interventions for a symposium following the transect itself. As every transect focuses on a number of themes and trigger points, we invite you to study the calendar of the transects and decide, which one would fit best with your interests and area of focus. It is possible to participate in all 6 transects, but we ask you to prepare an intervention for only one of them. Please send us your suggestions, indicating the transect, and the theme that you wish to bring in, as well as an outline of a 15-minute talk reflecting on the issues at stake in this particular transect, from your perspective and experience. You will be taking part in the

transect before giving the reflection. Please send us no more than 100 words, by **June 15<sup>th</sup> 2014**.

Besides the more scholarly reflections, we also encourage artists and others to suggest art-based interventions that might take place during the transect itself. Again, this should reflect the focus of the transect, but offering an oblique or alternative viewpoint, or the possibility to see the issues in another way; we encourage intervention forms that strengthen sensitivity, sense of place, people, and texture, and collective intuitive presence. The organizers will be at your assistance in supporting your understanding of the place in which the transect will take place. Please send us your suggestions in no more than 100 words, by **June 15<sup>th</sup> 2014**. Images, sound, or other formats may be included as support. For both forms of intervention, we invite you to be not only visitors to the project, but also to take part in the process, entering the dynamics and nature of the places, and to become yourselves bridges between the areas, sites, institutions, islands or cities in which you work.

#### *The Eco-Creation Camp Amager: presentations, workshop interventions*

As a continuation of participating in the transects or participation independently, we invite you to suggest contributions to the Eco-Creation Camp that will take place on October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be very pleased to have participants that are able to join one of the transect as well as returning for the eco-creation camp. But if this is not possible, we also accept participation in the last event as well. The camp will mark the transition from the exploring part of the project, to the iteration of a number of specific projects. Therefore, we call for interventions that will give inspiration to project holders and everyone involved in the process, for the first day of the camp. As this event will be cross-local, you may consult the full list of themes relevant to one or more of the specific transect zones. The external interventions are asked to provide reflection, inspiration, and disturbance for the participants in the camp, who are invited to develop new projects for the eco-island. As the case for the transects, we invite to scholarly or artistic interventions, or ones that transcend the limits between the two. If mutual inspiration arises, the project holders and the external interveners may form alliances to develop their projects. Please send us your proposals for talks or other forms of scholarly or artistic interventions, by **June 15<sup>th</sup> 2014** at the latest, no more than 100 words (and images, video, sound etc). Between June and November, the [ecoislandamager](http://ecoislandamager.com) website will offer on-line interaction for everyone involved in preparations for the project; with sharing of reflections, observations, maps, data, trigger

point approaches. We invite participation in any one of the 6 transects, as well as the Eco-Creation Camp. You may wish to combine your interventions as you see fit and possible for you; please find practical info and fees below.

### *Publications – call for editorial co-creation*

We invite all those who participate in the event and project, to enter with proposals for a coming publication. The working title for this is *Atlas Amager and the Eco Island*. We will gather reflections on the potential creation of Eco Island Amager; similar initiatives in other cities, or other islands; theoretical considerations and strategic action plans; visualizations of scientifically based data; sociological or communication based input on the feasibility of the project, and much more. We invite written contributions in the form of reflections, articles, poems, and short prose pieces; visual elements such as maps and photos, and call for co-creation. We will develop the exact publishing plan, over the course of the project, with the participants. Please send us your thoughts along with your other input, by June 15<sup>th</sup>. We may also include a collaboration with an academically oriented journal.

## Calendar

This is the calendar for the events in the project for which we ask for contributions. Prior to these events, the project will already have undertaken a mapping and vision workshop, as well as the three first transects, in April and June 2014.

| PLACE                             | THEMES   | DATE  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Islands Brygge/Havnestaden</b> | Housing, harbor, shopping street<br>The old and the new // The local school, role and significance // Green and urban activists // Urban gardens and kitchens // Culture harbor // Role of the cultural institutions // Integrating old and new? | <b>Transect No. 4<br/>August 20th, 2014</b> |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Urbanplanen/ Sundholmsvej</b>  | Social inclusion // Urban gardens<br>Integration of cultures //<br>Significance of culture //<br>Planning, physical change and<br>citizenship // Ecology & economy<br>// Possibilities for socially<br>responsible business //<br>Generating new life // Preserving<br>what is generated | <b>Transect No. 5<br/>         August 21st, 2014</b>               |
| <b>Ørestad city</b>   | Habitation // Building a new city<br>New buildings // Commerce //<br>School, Gymnasium // Urban<br>gardens // Business areas // Life<br>between the blocks // Reviving<br>culture  | <b>Transect No. 6<br/>         August 22nd, 2014</b>               |
| <b>Kilerne</b>  | Nature park // Pioneer<br>municipality in relation to<br>climate plan // Housing + green<br>areas // Rethinking Dragør //<br>Sustainable innovative<br>businesses? // Bridging to the<br>island, the Baltic and the city   | <b>Transect No. 7<br/>         September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b> |
| <b>Refshaleøen</b>  | Industry → cultural zone //<br>Connection and community //<br>Possible symbioses // Branding of<br>local areas // Connection to<br>citizens // Sustainable<br>reconstruction // Trigger points<br>for reestablishing ecosystems  | <b>Transect No. 8<br/>         September 18th, 2014</b>            |
| <b>Nature park Amager</b>   | Nature reserve/Natural area -<br>protection or use // Relation<br>between nature and city // Role<br>of cultures // Sustainable<br>business development //<br>Education // Connection to the<br>surrounding local communities  | <b>Transect No. 9<br/>         September 19th, 2014</b>            |
| <i>Bryggergården</i><br><br><b>Eco-creation Amager<br/>         Innovation Camp</b> | Crystallizing of projects //<br>Creation of alliances //<br>Innovation height // Developing<br>partnerships // Anchoring //<br>View to the world outside<br>Shaping an Amager Atlas  | <b>October 31st -<br/>         November 1st, 2014</b>              |

## Practical information

### *Submitting proposals*

Please submit proposals, reflections, and suggestions for collaboration by June 15<sup>h</sup>, 2014. All notifications of acceptance will be given by June 25<sup>h</sup> at the latest.

Submit by e-mail to [ecoamager@cultura21.dk](mailto:ecoamager@cultura21.dk). More information can be found on the [project website](#).

### *Venues and timing*

The transects will take place in the field, with evening seminars and base camp in a chosen site, in proximity of the transect area. *The Eco Creation Amager Camp* will take place in Bryggergården, an 18<sup>th</sup> century old farming development building, located by the newly reconstructed area of Scanport, between the airport of Kastrup, recreational zones and beach parks, post-industrial areas, and old suburban-style zones of Tårnby. *Transect days* will follow a schedule from app 12 to 21 each day, with seminar activity in the evenings, and intervention possibilities in the day hours. Detailed program will follow after acceptance of proposals. *The Camp* will run over two full days on October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Detailed program will follow after acceptance of proposals. Registration will take place through the Ecoislandamager and Cultura21 Nordic websites.

### *Fees*

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Transect participation 1 day, incl dinner         | 100 € |
| Transect participation 3 days, incl dinner        | 200 € |
| Eco-Creation Innovation Camp, incl dinner         | 250 € |
| Transect participation 1 day + Eco-Creation Camp  | 300 € |
| Transect participation 3 days + Eco-Creation Camp | 350 € |

(Students and participants without an institution to cover their costs: 50% off. A few free spots will be available, please apply if relevant)



### *Practical assistance/contacts*

For assistance and questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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### *Sponsors*

The project is possible thanks to support and help from Sharing Copenhagen; Amager East and Amager West Local Councils; Dome of Visions & NCC; Skanska; Urban Help; Amager Environment Point; Technical and Environmental Department of Copenhagen; PB43; The Environment Festival; Nordisk Korthandel; Meyers Madhus; COOP, and a great number of collaboration partners, read more on the website. We are deeply thankful for all the help we get.