

URBiNAT



**HØJE TAASTRUP
URBiNAT Booklet**

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a product from an URBiNAT field trip to Høje-Taastrup Municipality, the 10th of May 2022. The field trip was part of the Consortium Meeting in Høje-Taastrup the 9th–11th of May 2022.

The field trip was divided into a morning and an afternoon program. In the morning, all participants went together to the social housing area Gadehavegård, and in the afternoon they were divided into three separate groups that visited three different locations in the municipality. The three locations, Hedehusene, Taastrupgård and Høje-Taastrup C, represent the diverse strategic Urban regeneration directions, Høje-Taastrup Municipality are working on in their urban development process. URBiNAT methods and activities are integrated into these programs at local and community level in Høje Taastrup.

Participants were asked to take photos and write down their reflections in terms of challenges, thoughts, and ideas. Therefore, the field trip has resulted in interesting reflections and photo-documentation from the visit for the benefit of the URBiNAT-project in Høje Taastrup, but also to benefit other urban development projects. To document this knowledge, DTI and Høje-Taastrup Municipality decided to produce this booklet to show the results and communicate the ideas to all in URBiNAT and other interested parties. We hope you will enjoy the booklet and wish for it to stimulate further discussion on the future of co-creation of nature-based solutions.

NATURE FOR AND INNOVATIVE INCLUSIVE URBAN REGENERATION



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WALKING TOUR TO HØJE TAASTRUP C:

- The Yellow City
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- Åbenheden Park (Openness) – A new green city area



BIKING TOUR TO TAASTRUPGAARD: THE STREET OF CULTURE

- Selsmosen (Sels bog): Managing rainwater as a resource
- Kulturstroøget – The street of culture
- The children and culture house
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BUS TOUR TO HEDEHUSENE: THE GREEN LOOP

- Sisters Hopes Home: Performance piece & laboratory
- The house of learning: School for the future
- Nærheden Area: Development company
- The Park of Culture

GADEHAVEGAARD

WALKING TOUR

Ole Rømer School:

- School of the future
- Makers space and cooperation with other educational institutions
- Vision for Knowledge campus in Gadehavegård

The grounds of the community house:

- Domea (local housing association) presents the development plan for Gadehavegård and the co-creation of the community house
- The Royal Danish Academy of Architecture presents the educational project in Gadehavegård

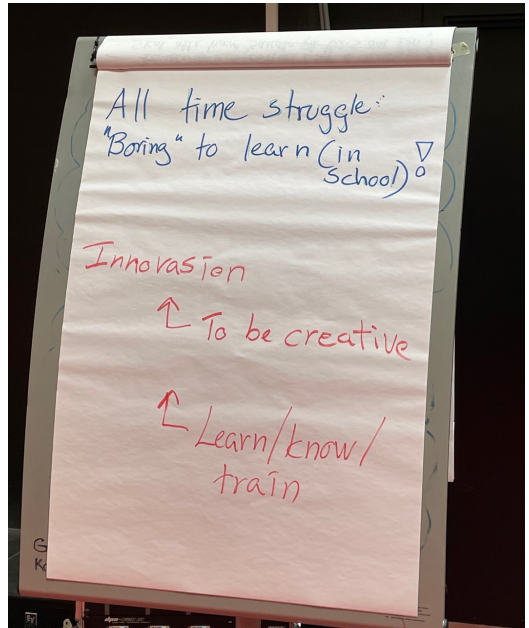
The social housing plan at the barbeque hut

- The communities and gathering points of the area
- Conversations with inhabitants
- The Gadehave festival

WALKING TOUR MAP: GADEHAVEGAARD



MEMORIES FROM GADEHAVEGAARD



Presentation of project based learning at school.
Presentation of redevelopment plan in Gadehavegaard.





PARTICIPATION CONTRIBUTIONS

A) WHAT WOULD BE GOOD WAYS TO CREATE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBOURHOODS IN THE INTERVENTION AREA?

- Creation of bars and a local cultural centre.
- Perhaps a small enterprise incubator to encourage local innovation/entrepreneurship, and explore the potential of the local society as well as a solidarity economy?
- The Danish law to mix social groups by force is very harsh, but it is the only solution to the problem that I know. Maybe it needs some exceptions to relax the pressure on elderly or other people that do not want to move.
- Public Greenhouse to have gardening activities also during winter
- Events and activities on topics of interest to the residents.
- The planned development of the café and kitchen gardens.
- Perspective of people living in the houses through sketching and story-telling.
- Intensify collaboration with businesses – standardize scheme for these partnerships
- School of the future – Project based learning – pupils trying to solve real problems in society.
- Employment opportunities – introducing young people to future jobs in demand – create a consistent scheme for practical training for pupils with craftsman talents.
- Practical drop-in workshops to experiences trades at regular intervals perhaps building NBS
- Architectural students talking to potential end-users. Many inhabitants framed the posters that was the result of the students' work as an artistic version of their lives.
- Architectural students spend three weeks with one inhabitant in the neighbourhood and created sketches of this person's life which was presented in an exhibition at the town Hall.
- Social masterplan is necessary to help the progression of people.
- A group of young kids initiated by a girl in Høje Taastrup produced a book attempting to signal that Høje Taastrup and other ghetto areas are more than Ghetto Projects. The book holds More than 35 personal stories of young people living in such conditions around Denmark.
- Maybe some cafes, bars, and ice-cream sellers maybe would help to connect the neighborhood.

B) WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DID YOU SEE TO CREATE ATTRACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES IN THE INTERVENTION AREA?

- There are many green spaces and some of them are already being used for sports facilities and meeting areas. But there is surely room for more developments. Perhaps more community gardens? Spaces to stimulate artistic creativity? Exhibit works of art..

- A lot of green spaces where to have open air cultural events involving local young artists.
- See green space more as a local green finger masterplan from the train station to the neighborhoods
- The educational campus can contribute a lot to the attractiveness of the place.
- Collaborations between students and companies to develop attractive public spaces.
- The school has a central role in creating a safe environment for students; a sense of safety, security and belonging is the fundament for learning, innovation and creativity.
- Parking area converted to green park area.
- Establishing temporary learning Projects in pop-ups and taking advantage of makerspace (also DTI FabLab and Environment and energy center in the yellow city which is a repair shop and environmental action group). Linking these projects to technical College and developing the interest of young people in different manual skills.
- Barbecue hut was High on the wish list. Communication and avoiding fake news are important in these uncertain periods. The S-shape of the barbecue hut was chosen to facilitate as a meeting point.
- We met, and it seems that there are lots of young people with bright ideas about the future of their community. Do they have the opportunities to transform their ideas into actual projects or small businesses for their communities?
- Make sure that pathways are crossing each other. At the moment there are too many different possibilities. Distance between buildings should be narrower.
- Make sure that there are common destinations in this narrow public area, so that the people meet by chance. Don't force communication between social groups
- Demolish 200 houses and creating new mix of rented and owned homes.

C) WHAT SURPRISED YOU DURING THE WALK AND WHY?

- So, the first round in the morning was surprising for me the playground near the school with the stairs and a map of the world behind the basketball field. Also, the train near the football field.
- If anything I was surprised by how pleasant, calm, clean and green, the area was, especially considering it has been described as a "ghetto". In France our "ghettos" are much more challenging and degraded neighbourhoods it seems.
- The wide open spaces and deep buildings with few light
- The centralized parking in its dimension
- The strict approach of the Danish government to tear down 60% of social housing.
- I was happily surprised by the strong community spirit in the neighbourhood, and that people in the neighbourhood actually feel very safe; they have strong networks of neighbours and friends which are very important to them.

- Education campus
- School of the future with possible articulation with Healthy Corridor
- The project-based learning model is Not for All teachers, and some decide to find teaching work elsewhere.
- Wonderful to see that there is a focus on what kids are good at and what really interest them
- All Projects are doing the same and it is difficult to rehouse everybody. 400 must be rehoused in Gadehavegård.
- An elderly lady was really attached to the Area. She did not feel unsafe in the Area. Family is close and she moves around in the Area without a worry. She shops with her son who would drive her to the shop and back. She is not interested in change, but change is inevitable.
- Høje Taastrup image from outside is not good – and movement is difficult without car to shops. The neighbourhood is zoned and isolated.
- Densification, especially in terms of mix of uses
- Very inspiring day!

GENERAL NOTES FOR THE DAY

- Fluid world – it is good to go to school. pupils innovate with businesses – sell and idea for 1000 EURO (Demonstrate creativity).



HØJE TAASTRUP C

WALKING TOUR: THE YELLOW CITY

'How to create city life and communities in the connecting of old and new':

- The new town hall as a gathering point for citizens
- Åbenheden Park (Openess) as a green opening of a new city area
- How can a district citizens association contribute to city life and community?
- How to create a good connection to the yellow city – a part of Høje Taastrup that lacks urban life?

WALKING TOUR MAP: HØJE TAASTRUP C



MEMORIES FROM HØJE TAASTRUP C



New skatepark in city center.
View from top of new town hall.
Walking park in city centre.

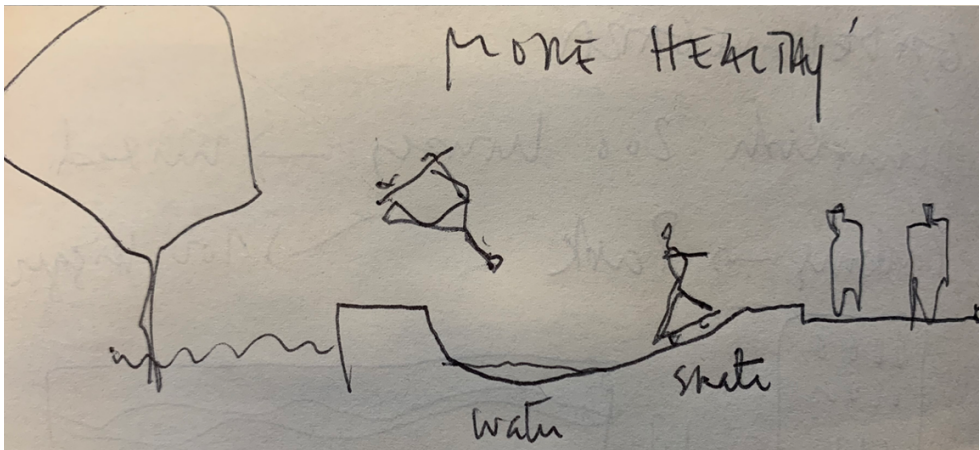




PARTICIPATION CONTRIBUTIONS

A) WHAT WOULD BE GOOD WAYS TO CREATE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS?

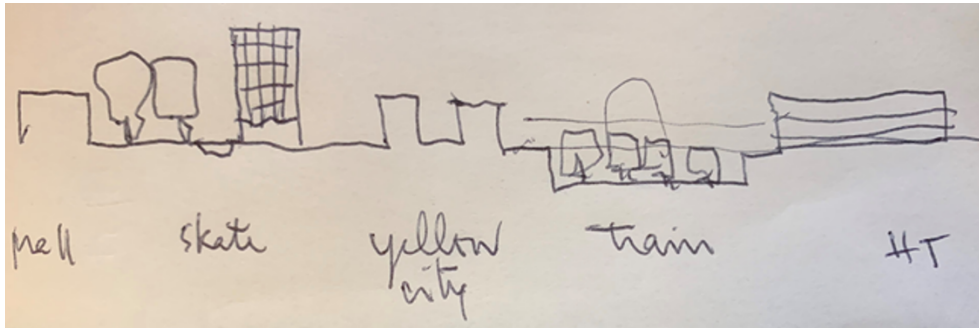
- Reducing barriers of railways by a green cover (money seems no problem in HT ☺)
- The park by the city hall with the skater park, climbing wall, kissing hill and commercial facilities (cafés, etc.) offers possibilities to connect people and neighborhoods.
- The park can probably attract people from the neighboring Taastrup.



Sketch of link between skatepark and other facilities.

B) WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DID YOU SEE TO CREATE ATTRACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES IN THE AREA?

- Decide for the city Centre as a destination. At the moment it seems that the shopping mall and the new district will draw all the attention. Which would not be good.
- I think safety is key around Høje Taastrup station. The planned development of the station area offers opportunities to develop a safer environment, e.g. with better street lights and more activity/people in circulation. Presence by the police and the taskforce for preventing crime is also important aspects in continuing creating an attractive place.
- The park by the city hall offers great opportunities to develop an attractive public space for a variety of people, from young to old. Maybe there could be additional opportunities to explore how girls can benefit from and use the area.



Sketch of the healthy corridor connection through the Yellow City.

C) WHAT SURPRISED YOU DURING THE WALK AND WHY?

- The excessive use of concrete and asphalt instead of more natural materials. Even with the clay soil it should be possible to not seal so much of the space.
- The main development seems to be south of the railways and drawing all money and people. This will disconnect the city more from the north. I am surprised that not all energy is put into the center to connect the whole HT
- My fear is that the spread of the development and the new destinations being built are too far away to create a vibrant urban city life. But maybe all the new people coming in will be enough. Hard to say.
- I was fascinated by the development of the park by the city hall. It is smart and creative to combine a skater park with water management adapted to 1000-year storm event.
- I was impressed by the fact that the building materials of the city hall are all reusable.
- Real estate owner: "I want to demolish the sculpture and replace it with a new." That might be what you want – but do people want?

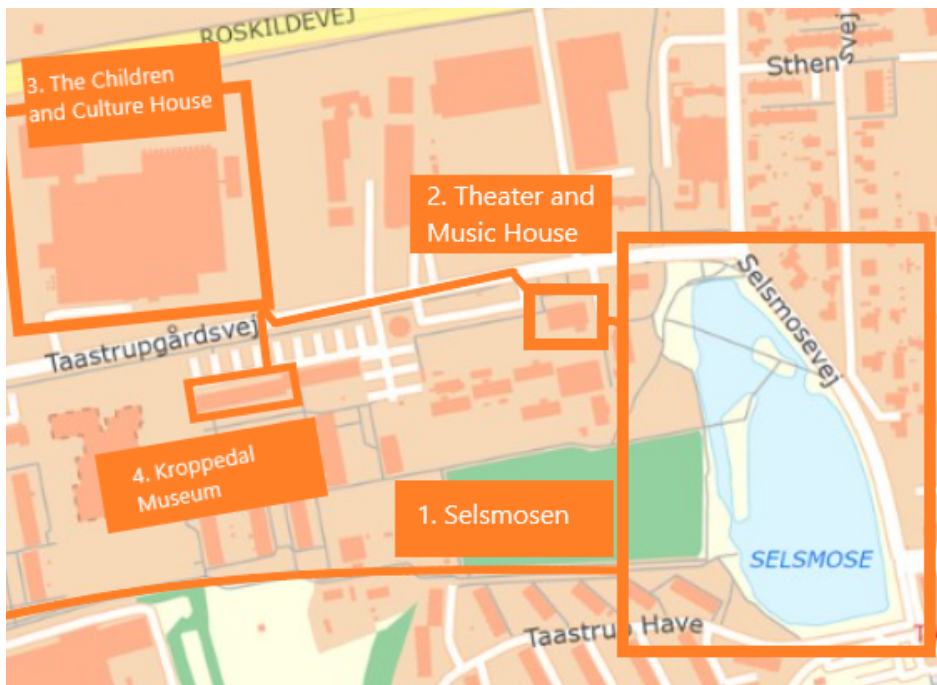
" *...It is smart and creative to combine a skatepark with water management adapted to 1000-year storm event.*

TAASTRUPGAARD

BIKING TOUR: THE STREET OF CULTURE

- Selsmosen (Sels bog) – managing rainwater as a resource in urban development
- Kulturstrøget – the street of culture – presentation of the values program for the future connection.
- The Children and Culture house – the culture schools as an engine to transform a district to a district of culture.
- Kroppedal Museum – citizens engagement in the dissemination of the local history

BIKING TOUR MAP: TAASTRUPGAARD



MEMORIES FROM TAASTRUPGAARD



Picture of music instrument at water playground.
Walking through neighborhood to be repurposed.
Visiting museum.





PARTICIPATION CONTRIBUTIONS

A) WHICH PERSPECTIVES DO YOU SEE FOR OTHER URBINAT CITIES FROM THE LOCAL INITIATIVES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD?

- Water is amazing as a recreational base. And quickly becomes attractive to local citizens.
- Cultural basis for a regeneration. Create attraction to get People From outside to use it.
- Which shops to attract and which shops to build for! Multifunctional buildings.
- A water park – even simple – is amazing as a recreational base. And quickly becomes attractive to local citizens.
- Culture (music, theatre, sports) as a basis for a regeneration. A way of creating attractions to get people from outside to use the area and mix the different population groups.
- Not competing with existing high-street shops.
- Museum with stories of citizens From the Area.
- Difficult to attract people.

B) DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON HOW ART COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE AREA?

- AND DO YOU KNOW OF ANY ART PROJECTS THAT COULD INSPIRE ON HOW TO INCLUDE ART IN THE STREET OF CULTURE?

- Using art with the community to design playgrounds
- There was a street art festival taking place in Zaragoza, Spain in its first editions in deprived urban neighbourhoods and in particular in abandoned courtyards of the district.
<https://www.festivalasalto.com/>
- Mix museum and art including theatre to awaken reaction and discussion.
- Museum Needs more of a story, more display and more to show.
- Get volunteers involved to display life at different times
- Interesting angle with a museum that portraits stories of ordinary citizens from the area. Although the museum needs more stories and events to attract more visitors.
- Suggest mixing museum and art including theatre/music to stimulate, participation, reaction, and discussion.
- The Museum needs more stories, more displays and generally more to show. Suggest getting volunteers involved to display life at different times in Høje Taastrup.

C) WHAT SURPRISED YOU DURING THE BIKE TOUR AND WHY?

- The playground was just amazing and so inspiring. Liked the connection with the theatre and using the water playground as a scene for art projects.
- During the afternoon field trip, it was taken me by surprise the number of very nice kid playgrounds in the neighborhood, without kids.
- The "island" of the lake with barbecues, music tools, mini boats, etc. They're public, good maintained and smart, fostering aggregation.
- The project-based learning model is Not for All teachers, and some decide to find teaching work elsewhere.
- Wonderful to see that there is a focus on what kids are good at and what really interest them
- All Projects are doing the same and it is difficult to rehouse everybody. 400 must be rehoused in Gadehavegård.
- An elderly lady was really attached to the Area. She did not feel unsafe in the Area. Family is close and she moves around in the Area without a worry. She shops with her son who would drive her to the shop and back. She is not interested in change, but change is inevitable.
- Høje Taastrup image from outside is not good – Movement is difficult without car to shops and the neighbourhood is zoned and isolated.

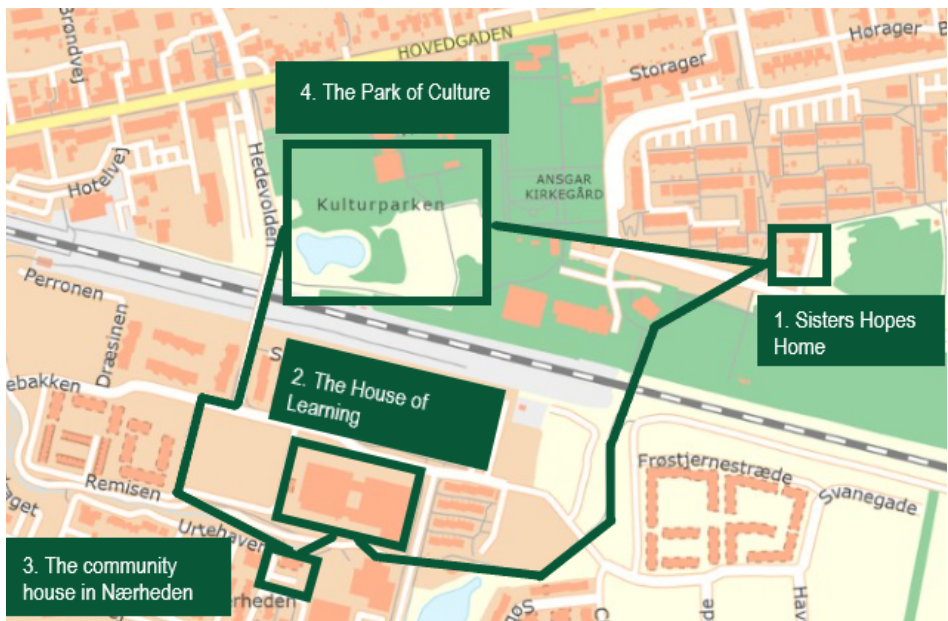
" *Wonderful to see that there is a focus on what kids are good at and what really interest them.*

HEDEHUSENE

BUS TOUR: THE GREEN LOOP

- Visit at Sisters Hopes Home – A five-year long performance piece and laboratory for artistic research to explore inhabitation of a Sensuous Society.
- The house of learning – School of the future on collaboration with local stakeholders.
- Nærheden Area development company – How to co-create gathering points and communities in a new city district.
- The Park of Culture

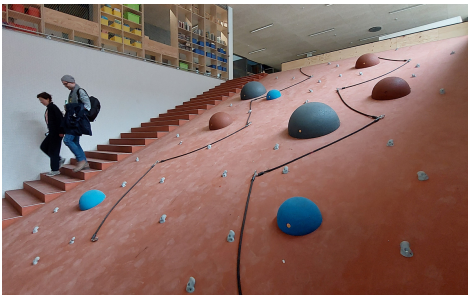
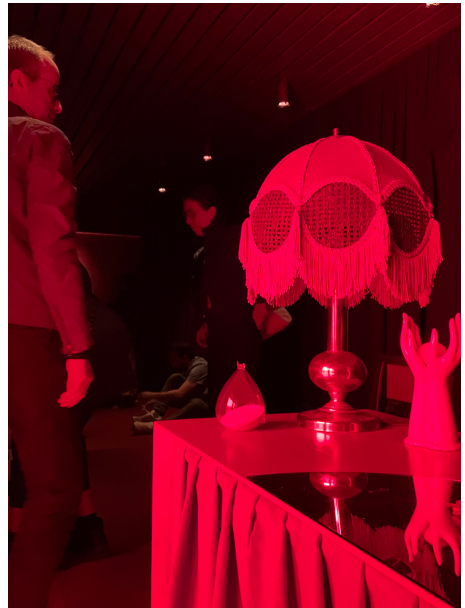
BUS TOUR MAP: HEDEHUSENE



MEMORIES FROM HEDEHUSENE



Visiting Sister Hope Home.
Visiting park in Hedehusene.
Visiting school of future.







PARTICIPATION CONTRIBUTIONS

A) WHICH PERSPECTIVES DO YOU SEE FOR OTHER URBINAT CITIES FROM THE LOCAL NBS AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD?

- I discovered also some typical Scandinavian ways of living and thinking that are important condition sine qua non for successful NBS AND PROJECTS
- Sometimes there is a need for top-down persuasion (pressure from the national government on the local government to do something about the social ghettos.
- Many takeaways are from the visit to the school. Absolutely inspiring to see how the traditional organization and planning of the school have been profoundly rethought. Teachers and pupils look very fulfilled. The teaching of children in this way, giving them plenty of opportunities to think creatively, in a hands on manner about problem-solving, is surely the basis for building more vibrant, sustainable urban communities.
- The new school (difficult replicability as it needs a change in mindsets and before that policy directions have to be changed) and the playgrounds around it, the municipal community centre, Sisters hope home

B) WHAT IDEAS CAN YOU OFFER TO ENHANCE AND SCALE UP THE INITIATIVES YOU EXPERIENCED IN HEDEHUSENE?

- New schools and district development plans need an underlying layer of shared culture and values like trust, confidence and a collective awareness
- The home of the sisters of hope fulfills a growing need for mental health. Urban life with all its involvement and participation, hectic pace etc... needs also harmonious moments of rest, silence and going back to oneself
- Difficult as they have already achieved so much in such a short space of time.
- But again, perhaps the creation of a social enterprise incubator or hub? Something along the lines of the Solilab (<http://www.ecosolies.fr/Informations-pratiques>) in URBiNAT city Nantes, France?
- Perhaps the creation of more spaces for social interactions and meetings? Bars. A cultural centre?

C) WHAT SURPRISED YOU DURING THE BUS TOUR AND WHY?

- The visit to the Sister Home was a surprising contemplative and enchanting moment. The immersion in this hushed, spiritual sanctuary, took a few moments to adjust to, but such a peculiar, shrine-like space was perfect to disconnect and reflect. Hard to tell what the value / contribution to the wider community of such a space is, but can easily imagine potential benefits. Modern life in a secular Western society doesn't provide enough spaces for quiet contemplation!
- The quick refreshment and relaxation at Sisters hope.

“...Absolutely inspiring to see how the traditional organization and planning of the school have been profoundly rethought.



CONCLUSIVE NOTES

With this booklet, we want to document, the experiences and reflections of our consortium partners during the May visit to Høje-Taastrup.

We hope the pictures and participants' notes will help participants in remembering their experiences and connecting ideas with their ongoing projects in other cities, projects and studies.

The thoughts and recommendation provided by participants will also be distributed to relevant people within the Høje-Taastrup Municipality for consideration in further development in urban spaces and communities.

Thank you to all, for making this a special day and taking actively part in the tours arranged.

“

A very inspiring day!

**NATURE FOR
AND INNOVATIVE
INCLUSIVE URBAN
REGENERATION**

YOUR NOTES

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YOUR NOTES

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HØJE TAASTRUP

URBiNAT Booklet

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