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TRAVEL

text Leana Schoeman



Copenhagen architecture

#### **GETTING AROUND**

- 1. Buy a Copenhagen
  Card at the
  airport. You get
  transport for 48
  hours, free access
  to 87 tourist
  attractions,
  galleries, and
  museums, and a
  nifty guidebook
- 2. Bike if you're (very) brave
- 3. The city's official tourism website, visitcopenhagen. com is always up to date, with great tips on what to do and where to go

# DANISH DELIGHTS

With her exacting eye, Wanted's décor director Leana Schoeman is the person to take tips from if you've got Copenhagen on your mind

LEAN AIR AND WATER, pristine inner-city parks, i m m a c u l a t e public transport, gender and income equality, and free higher education — no wonder Denmark's capital was voted the happiest in the world. Or that I jumped at the chance to visit this urban utopia for its annual 3daysofdesign celebration.

Copenhagen continuously reflects the Danes' complete commitment to looking after and beautifying their surrounds. Something we could all aspire to, don't you think? Here's my guide to its standout spots.



The Audo

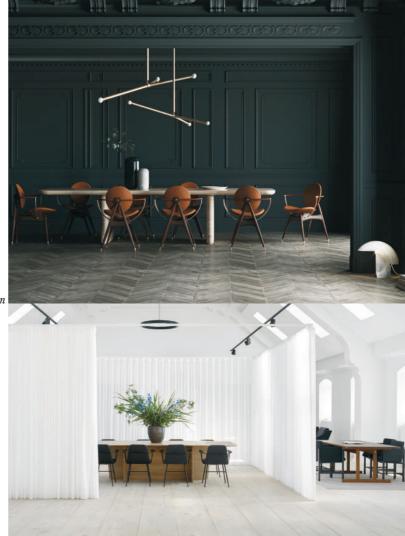
#### THE AUDO

This brand-new hotel is staggeringly beautiful. The uber-chic lobby and concept store consist of vast architectural interior spaces with soft industrial accents, filled with exquisite pieces from famous Danish design brand Menu. Rooms have contemporary barn-like aesthetics and large windows overlooking the city, which allow soft daylight to stream in. From beautiful books, sculptures, and art to iconic furniture pieces — it's a sensory feast and an exquisite exercise in attention to detail.

### ALOUETTE

Alouette is a sublime new restaurant that recently notched up its first Michelin star. There's a strong focus on seasonal food and sustainability. It's not easy to find but is absolutely worth a visit





## FREDERIKSGADE 1

This large building on Frederiksgade street is a perfect introduction to the world of Danish design, offering a diverse collection of incredible showrooms stylishly stacked into one address. The tenants range from iconic design brands like Finn Juhl and Hans J Wegner to up-and-coming names like Overgaard & Dyrman, &Shufl, and New Works. The outfit was established to create a healthy synergy between design brands and to serve as a window into the world of Danish design and various other creative media.

#### **FREDERICIA FURNITURE**

I've always been a bit of a Børge Mogensen groupie (it's pronounced Beau Monsen by the way), and a visit to this stronghold of the Scandi designer's work exceeded all expectations. This Danish design house prides itself on its heritage of unfaltering dedication to the perfection and development of the craft. This is entirely evident across the multiple floors that display a beautifully curated collection of carefully considered and renowned furniture designs.



#### KØBENHAVNS MØBELSNEDKERI

This charming little family of "cabinet makers", as they prefer to call themselves, are situated in the ultra-cool and gritty Islands Brygge. Their premises are hidden away in a wonderful industrial courtyard of several workshops, a showroom, and factory spaces, among many other hidden treasures.

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I'm an avid park flopper, especially when travelling. After all, green spaces serve as the perfect respite in-between exploring. In the heart of København (that's Copenhagen in Danish), you'll find one such enclave — the King's Garden. It's adjacent to the famed Rosenborg Castle, and it being early spring, was all kitted out in new greens and florals. It's immaculate and a real joy.

My introverted ways tend to steer me towards solitary activities, and a canal tour with a small group of random strangers cooped up in cold, drizzly weather seemed like a bad idea. However, thanks to good weather, I felt inclined to join in the fun. Welcomed by the easygoing Hey Captain crew (onto chic little eightseater boats), all resistance dissipated. The excursion was casual and non-touristy, with our charming skipper/tour guide sharing his knowledge of the surrounds while we slowly cut through waters and took in the picturesque cityscapes.

&Tradition

Designmuseum Danmark



Copenhagen is Valhalla for Danish design devotees. My favourite stops included &Tradition, with exquisite pieces beautifully displayed over a few floors and a lovely little café downstairs in a leafy courtyard—ideal for a quick coffee or light lunch. The Paustian's brand-new, grand location is a knockout. Located in the heart of the city, it houses a vast collection of iconic local and international design objects and furniture within a palazzo-inspired interior. Magnum, an extensive department store, is grand when you have limited time and are looking for leading design and lifestyle brands all under one roof, or want to grab a fresh and healthy snack on the go. I thoroughly enjoyed Frama and its minimal yet exquisite collection, complete with state-of-the-art cabinetry displaying fragrances and skincare products.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO:

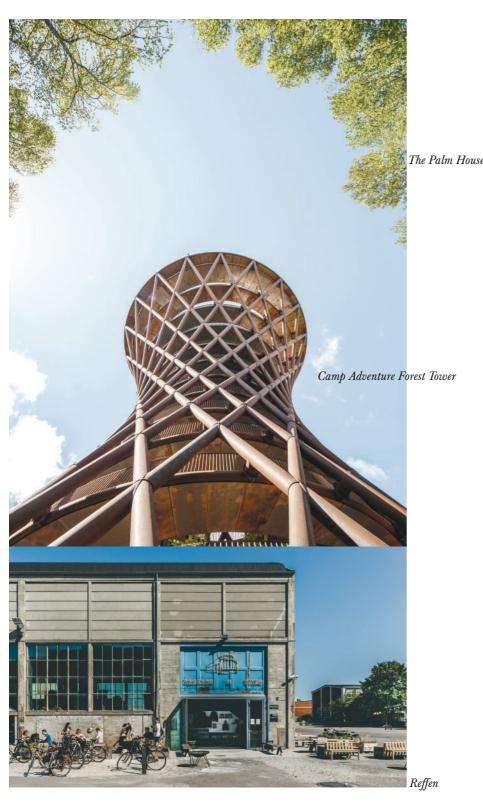
#### **MUSEUM HOPPING**

The Designmuseum Danmark offers an astonishing collection of iconic furniture and product design pieces displayed in creative ways. It's very popular, so get there early to avoid the queues. The National Gallery is also worth a visit. It's an architectural marvel filled with works by masters including Matisse and Picasso, and boasts a selection of modern-art installations. The museum café is a winner — serving up simple, wholesome food such as freshly baked rye bread and cheese with exceptional coffee.



Frama

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view of the landscape once you

## PLACES TO STAY AND PLAY:

reach the top.

#### REFFEN

This food market opened about a year ago in one of Copenhagen's hippest districts and is already one of the city's most popular playgrounds. It hosts over 50 food stalls across 900m<sup>2</sup> which offer flavours from all over the world.

#### MANON LES SUITES

This brand new, and unusual, hotel is taking the five-star experience to a whole new level. Inspired by Balinese bohemia, it features a huge pool at the centre of a courtyard, covered by a five-storey high skylight, and decorated with tropical plants and traditional Balinese decorations. The rooms all lead out onto this area, which tends to be popular throughout the day and well into the wee hours too - it's definitely the heart of the house. Rooms are boho-esque and there's a strong emphasis on sustainability.

#### SKT. PETRI

Not a new hotel, but a recent renovation means a classy, cool, and fresh experience — with exceptional views of Copenhagen. The rooms are well-designed, comfortable, and come with luxurious Frama skincare products as bathroom amenities. Plus, I was able to have breakfast in a secluded, darkish corner within its sleek restaurant rather than the usual crowded and overly bright breakfast experience, which I loathe.



Skt. Petri