

# TRÆSTUBBEN

- Vesterbro nature- & environment workshop -  
*an urban space in transformation*

before  
(2007)



A public toilet house, which had been locked for 18 years, because it had become a hotspot for drug abuse, Saxopark was known as “hash park” and “dog park”.

now  
(2008 - )



A good working nature workshop with environment- and urban nature propagation coordinated by “Vesterbro Lokaludvalg”, volunteer gardeners, and user agreements with local institutions, schools, and other organisations. Naturværkstedet TRÆSTUBBEN /Treestump is in continuous transformation collaborating with neighbours and user groups.

- TRÆSTUBBEN allows local children to get an attachment to a unique urban oasis. Here they can explore nature and environmental issues using all of their senses forming the foundation of urban nature and environmental conscience. The connection between nature and environment topics is shown by propagating an understanding of natural cycles and how we as human beings interfere and can establish living conditions in harmony with these cycles to beware and re-establish biological diversity. For examples: we have rainwater tanks to water the garden, compost, and garbage separation. We work using a combination of methods such as: storytelling, music, dialogue and games.
- The workshop center and park is located in between 4-story buildings in a central area of Copenhagen. In this area / Vesterbro there is only about 2-3m<sup>2</sup> green space per inhabitant. The propagation of nature- and environmental issues is specially important in highly populated urban areas, where a basic connection to nature is missing.
- As a result of the workshop, new crossover networks form. Different user groups interact and help to maintain the workshop and garden: pensioners, unemployed people, local krolf players, different ethnicities collaborate keeping the place.
- TRÆSTUBBEN is administrated by Vesterbro Lokaludvalg in collaboration with institutions and neighbours. Vesterbro Lokaludvalg has an agreement with the city of CPH that owns the place. It has been a win win situation for all the parts involved in the project. The park has a new image, more people come across and help to keep the place. Although some local people expected the place to be vandalized, there has been no serious vandalism since the establishment of the workshop in 2008. We think it is due the high engagement, involvement, and collaboration with local neighbours.
- The transformation of the old toilet building to an environmental- and nature workshop is also a demonstration of sustainable building. We installed solar panels for electricity and all the building materials come from recycling or local factories.



Bamboo water track: children built tracks and small rotating mills with nature & recycled materials and experience the power and characteristics of water.

## Objective

The primary purpose of Vesterbro nature workshop is to give children a conscience and knowledge, that we and all the things around of us are a part of nature. We believe that we with this in mind contribute to the development of a new generation of children with a sense for nature- and environmental issues.

Another concrete objective is to create a green and sustainable place in a public park, where people from Vesterbro can relax and get their hands into the in the earth and collaborate in the creation of a sustainable urban oasis.



Childrens "climate forest": children plant trees in collaboration with communal gardeners and sing "we dance around our new planted tree". Beforehand - in the schools and institutions - we propagated the role of trees in nature cycles and their importance concerning the climate.

### Selection of results:

- Around 3000 kindergarden and primary school children yearly have since the opening in 2008 directly taken part in our nature- and environment sessions. And much more - we estimate around 5000/yearly - get indirectly in touch with the garden and workshop via signs, information materials, or bigger arrangements as "climate festival" etc..
- 500 m2 public park in a worn area have been transformed into a sustainable demonstration garden with water accumulation, compost, raised bed and recycled brickstones, "insecthotel", herb beds, plants for crèmes, eatable wild plants, fruits and berries.
- A group from the local community maintains the sustainable garden, which spreads the principles of sustainable gardening inspired by Permaculture.
- An evaluation of the project in spring 2009 gave positive feedback for the nature and environmental propagation sessions.
- In autumn 2009 60 trees and bushes there were planted in urban spaces of Vesterbro in collaboration with children groups.
- We published 5 pixi books with a review of our propagation sessions as a follow-up for the childrens.

### Target groups:

- Kindergarten and primary school children from Vesterbro.
- Families and neighbours.
- Ethnic and other minorities.



Ants' topic: the children have collected, touched, looked, and heard stories about ants and their role as great recyclers in nature. At the end of the session the children became "human ants" and sorted and collected different types of garbage into recycling baskets.

### Collaboration partners:

- Local schools and children institutions.
- ByhaveNetværket
- Center for Park & Kultur CPH
- Sustainable Development CPH
- CPH school gardens
- Vesterbro local committee
- Apostel church
- Apostelgården - a social housing complex
- Culture house
- Radio Vesterbro
- Vesterbro TV
- Sydhavnscompagniet
- Boys & girls clubs
- Local artists
- Local workshops, shops and factories
- Beekeepers
- Non profit and grassroot organisations and initiatives

You are welcome to contact us for further information!

Links:

<http://vesterbrolokaludvalg.kk.dk/category/miljo-og-naturvaerksted/>

<http://www.facebook.com/vesterbrolokaludvalg>

<http://www.facebook.com/VesterbroJuletraesfest>



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