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MAY 2024



A love letter to...

Danish designer Oliver Gustav explains why Copenhagen holds a special place in his heart

I **HAVE** always been drawn to artist Vilhelm Hammershøi's minimal and theatrical work, which radiates a sense of peace thanks to his approach to space, colour, shadow and light. For years, he worked in a street called Strandgade in Christianshavn. I live just a few minutes' walk from his former home and atelier. My own studio, housed in a former art museum, still retains its original skylights and wooden floorboards, and is a daily reminder of how history and modernity collide in this compact and creative city.

- I love strolling along Strandgade with my dog, Lille, admiring its beautiful 18th-century houses and courtyards. From there, I often continue past the Opera House and enjoy the sparkle from the three magnificent light sculptures by contemporary artist Olafur Eliasson.
- I recommend heading over the bridge to Krudtløbsvej, where charming houseboats are moored. If you walk a bit further, you'll find vegetarian and seafood restaurant La Banchina (top middle), located in Refshaleøen, a former shipyard. I am a pescatarian, so I appreciate its focus on fresh

greens and delicious seafood. You can enjoy a meal, lounge by the water, and even take a swim in the dock. I love the laid-back atmosphere.

- Christianshavn (top left) is known for its canals, and FriendShips (self-drive electric boats) offer a fantastic way to explore Copenhagen from the waterside. I highly recommend renting one so that you can experience the canals at your own pace.
- I love going to Rosforth & Rosforth, an importer of natural wine that has a store below the Knippelsbro (Knippel Bridge). Every summer, it offers family style social dining, serving wine and food outside its shop along the canal, and sometimes special guest chefs take the reins. It's truly special to sit under the bridge enjoying good food and wine.
- Across the bridge from Christianshavn, is a favourite of mine: just behind the Nyhavn Canal, Hotel Sanders (top right) is a stroll away from Amalienborg Palace, the Royal Theatre, Christiansborg Palace and the Royal Danish Opera. Its bar, TATA, serves the best classic cocktails in town. The perfect way to end the day.
- olivergustav.com

FEATURE: DANAJ FAJAL PHOTOGRAPHS (CHRISTIANSHAVN); GUSEPPE LIVERING, VISIT COPENHAGEN; (LA BANCHINA) DANIEL RASMUSSEN, VISIT COPENHAGEN; (HOTEL SANDERS) MICHAEL MANN + BENJAMIN PHOTOGRAPHY

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