

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press release

Feeling the City – city making for and with people

A lecture by Tina Saaby / Director of Danish Town Planning Institute, Copenhagen, on June 29, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oskar von Miller Forum and via livestream on ovmf.de

"Feeling the city" is about the physical framework and layout of our cities and homes. How we can understand humans, the way we live our lives, how we can affect our quality of life, creating better frameworks for joy, relationships, coexistence, communities and physical well-being. City makers of tomorrow know that daylight releases endorphins, that fresh air makes us think more clearly, that high ceilings create greater creativity, that relationships trigger dopamine and that eye contact, touch, smiles create feelings of happiness and caring.

In her lecture Tina Saaby will share some of her learnings from being city architect in Copenhagen and Gladsaxe, designing the city as partner in WITRAZ architects and from conversations with city makers, politicians and citizens around the world. She will reflect on element as climate change, placemaking, bike culture, nature in the city and how to create cities for and with people.

Being the Chief City Architect in Copenhagen from 2010 to 2019, Tina Saaby has been involved in developing new neighbourhoods, existing neighbourhoods, deprived areas and a lot of strategies for big areas like the harbour, the inner city, wild nature area etc. Places for people to live, work and visit. She had a leading role in developing a new vision for the city, called Co-Create Copenhagen, an architectural policy which supports the visions, and a strategy for urban nature. Parallel with that she was a part of developing strategies for dealing with climate change especially how to take care of cloudburst, strategies for more bikes, city life, waste, more pedestrians, CO2 neutrality, urban renewal, design-codes etc..

She has insisted in the value of place making, creating cities for humans and for both social and technical sustainability in everything built and developed in the city.

About

Tina Saaby graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture and has more than 20 years of professional experience designing and managing projects partly as partner of Witraz Architects and as Vice President of the Danish Architects' Association.

From 2020 to 2023 she built up the position as city architect in Gladsaxe, a part of greater Copenhagen. Here she created and implemented an architecture policy, together with the politician and administration. A policy which addresses the challenges and special characteristics a suburb faces today.

Today she is sharing her learnings as director of The Danish Town Planning Institute, an independent institution that aims to showcase urban and regional planning in Denmark. The Institute addresses town planners, students, public authorities and interested citizens who wish to know more about town planning.

In 2019 she received the honorary membership of the Association of German Architects (BDA).