

LOST AND LIVABLE PLACES

The two sides of Nakskov



LOST NAKSKOV

Walking through Nakskov can make you feel like you're in a ghost town. Reminiscences from the past lurk in every corner and let you dream of a bustling city full of life. With the shipyard closing down in the 1980s, Nakskov lost its biggest employer, providing work for up to 2,000 people in its prime. Since then, the city has been in decline for more than 20 years. The former town hall is a prime example of the feeling and fear of abandonment. Once the representative house of the local government, it's now just another facade, leaving you uncertain about what's happening behind the walls.

While the municipality is doing a lot to refurbish the inner city, restore houses, improve walkways, and the main square, we can't help but ask ourselves:

Is this what makes Nakskov livable?



Leave or stay?

Are you sure you want to get off here?





Former Townhall

„Now the
people with
power are from
other cities, they
don't know
Nakskov.“

„What I fear most for
the future is that we are
left alone.“



Can you actually drink something here?



Is there anything happening in Nakskov?



What a place to go fishing

„I still have a big heart
for my city.“

LIVABLE NAKSKOV

Or is it the people? Despite the economic decline and social tensions, many hold a deep-rooted affection for their hometown. Especially those who grew up in Nakskov are taking action and fighting for a vibrant city, just like Brian.

Brian and his wife own "Bowl & Thai," a unique combination of a bowling center and a Thai restaurant. As you walk into the bowling center, the sounds of laughter and cheers from young and old fill the air. School classes, birthday parties, senior bowling, and the local bowling club with its youth team make Bowl & Thai a valuable place for social life and community in Nakskov.

But there are several other places as well. Walking through the neighborhood, you hear kids playing football, shouting and laughing with great excitement. If you drive a few minutes out of the city, you reach Hestehovedet, a place of calm and tremendous beauty right at the fjord. A long footbridge extends out over the water, where you can find a tiny cabin with a sauna and a shower. During the summer, the people of Nakskov often come out here but you can imagine people dipping into the cold sea in winter too.

In the end, it's the people of Nakskov who make this place livable. Thanks to those who voluntarily coach the youth, create gathering spaces, and take action in other ways, Nakskov is not a lost city, but a city fighting for a vibrant future.

Bowl & Thai



„People called me crazy when I build a house in 2001, after me more than 50 people followed. Someone needs to start.“

„The bowling center was built in 1996 and it went bankrupt two times. It had two or three different owners and it was empty. And every time we drove by, we saw this magnificent center just standing there, empty. [...] I said to my wife, maybe we should go to the bank. [...] And now we´ve been running since five and a half years.“



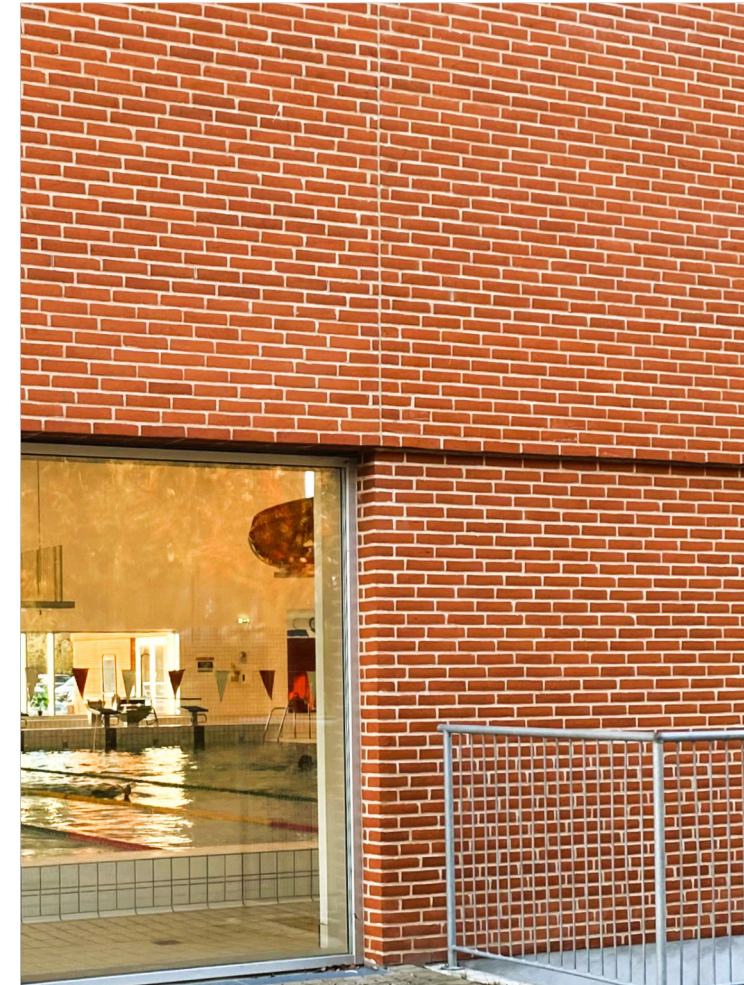
„It's in our DNA to help other people. I think that's a part that you don't see in Copenhagen. That's the part I like to live in this city.“



Idaeskcenter



„I think a lot of of the offers we have down here, cultural and sports and so on. It will die because you don't have anybody who wants to be involved in doing something.“



„We had to fight for a new swimming pool.“

Hestehovedet



„In the summertime we go a lot out there. We can go and have an ice cream, go to the beach, go walking and see the ships and so on. I think this is our best space in Nakskov.“



The BELT Project // Studio #4

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