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Since December 2010, the disused Sadolin paint factory located on Prags Boulevard 43 (PB43) in central Copenhagen has continuously been transformed into a creative, user-driven environment with workshops, offices, studios, galleries, café, urban laboratory and urban farm. This conversion has entailed a rethinking of the functions of the buildings and open spaces at the site. In this process a strong emphasis has been placed on the active involvement of tenants and local residents, together with an open dialogue with the municipality and the landowner.

The 6400m² site and the four buildings located on it have been made available free of charge by the Dutch landowner AkzoNobel for use up until the end of 2016. The original deal was mediated by Givrum (www.givrum.nu), but in recent months PB43 officially registered as a cooperative with a focus on non-profit activities, formalized a new board of directors, and has taken over the legal responsibility for the lease. These new arrangements were negotiated collectively between all the tenants at PB43 and AkzoNobel ushering in a new, more user-orientated form of organisation.

The first two years of activity at PB43 have seen the establishment of a diverse array of projects. There are a number of workshops, including two groups of woodworkers and carpenters, several groups of architects and urban planners, a non-profit exhibition space, a circus, a group of studio spaces, a record label and recording studios, office spaces for a creative bureau, plus the urban garden project Prags Have. Many of these projects have been successful in bringing life to PB43 and the local community and establishing strong bonds with local and international creative partners.

To name just a few examples: One of the workshops, Wood Couture (woodcouture.dk) has amongst other projects constructed a mobile bicycle circuit for children, which is touring Denmark. Prags Have has involved many people from the surrounding area, and further afield, in the garden at PB43, effectively creating an environment for city dwellers of all ages to engage in urban farming on a regular basis. Their success has been recognized through a number of prestigious awards, invitations to conferences and offers to act as consultants for other similar projects in Copenhagen.

The circus, Ny Cirkus (tincancompany.dk), has been actively involved in the Metropolis festival, a biennial international theatre and performance festival organized by the well-respected Copenhagen International Theatre, as well as entertaining us on the grounds of PB43.

The non-profit exhibition space 68 Square Metres Art Space (68squaremetres.org) has put on a number of well-received exhibitions and events involving local and international artists. 68m² have also established an alliance with other independent galleries and studios in the local area, to found the First Friday's event (www.firstfridays.dk). These monthly public openings have played a big role in strengthening the ties with other exhibition spaces and galleries in the area, and for advancing PB43 as the flagship project of a new creative neighbourhood in Copenhagen.

The PB43 Tower has been filled with workshops, university tutorials, talks (including the School of Critical Engagement's lecture series), and a pop-up cinema. It has also been host to a number of book releases from PB43's own publishing house (www.forlagetpb43.dk). In a single year PB43 Publishing has produced three original books and has become the distributor for three other publications, solidifying its role as an important outlet for the voices of independent, project groups, artists, and writers that operate in the urban realm.

In the early autumn of 2012 PB43 hosted the first LAK sound art festival (www.lakfestival.dk) that transformed the old factory grounds at PB43 into an event sizzling with experimental sound. Musicians and sound artists joined forces with architects and designers to turn the site into a music and sound installation that attracted some 1,500 guests over the course of four days. We cannot wait to see what they come up with this year. Also joining LAK, the international interactive arts festival Re-new (www.re-new.org) will be held at in the late autumn of 2013.

PB43 has also participated in other festivals, and was proud to be part of the Dream City at Roskilde 2012, where we organized seven different art projects for the 100,000+ visitors of the festival. Again, we look forward to this year's event where we have yet again been invited to take part in building an even bigger and more ambitious Dream City.

One of the latest developments at PB43 has been the public opening of the two main factory halls, which are planned to become Copenhagen's new leading independent music and culture venue. With space for a pop-up restaurant, a bar and performance stage, the venue has already been host to an unforgettable Russian New Years party, and the CityLink (www.city-link.dk) conference in December 2012 that saw 50 collaborators from Hamburg, Germany come to Copenhagen and PB43 to establish a formal link between the creative environments of the two cities.