Danish bike design [1]

Bikes are not just bikes in Denmark – they are a way of life. Their central importance in the lives of everyday Danes has meant that bike design has evolved rapidly. As a result, Denmark is often one step ahead of the rest of the world in terms of bicycle design and innovation.

The Pedersen Bicycle

The classic bike as we know it took shape in the 1800s and has not changed much since. There have been alternative designs however and the Danish Pedersen Bicycle [2] from 1893 is one which is still sought-after today. With its unusual high cantilever frame and its hammock-style seat which absorbs bumps, the Pedersen bicycle is a truly unique creation, still produced today.

Christiania Bike

The Freetown of Christiania in Copenhagen has been a car-free zone since the 70s and this meant the need for locals to creatively look for alternative transport methods. The classic bike with a trailer on the front, perfect for transporting kids, friends, goods and even post, was first produced in Christiania in the 80s. They were such a hit that the company grew and moved, but the name remained and you'll see Christiania Bikes [3] being used by all sorts of Danes all over the country.

Dolphin

Dolphin bike trailers [4] are ingenious attachments to carry up to two children and a little luggage behind your bike. Designed by young Danish design student Leif Hagerup, in collaboration with the company A. Winther, this trailer has a small wheel you can attach to the front to convert it into a pushchair (stroller).

Bicycles as pure design objects

Sögreni Bicycles [5], located in the heart of Copenhagen, creates hand-built bikes of great beauty and simplicity. Another company leading the way in terms of bike design is Biomega [6]. This Danish company often employs international designers from outside the bike world to bring a new perspective and fresh models to the market.

Further reading

Read more about Cycling in Denmark [7].

Read more about Danish design [8].