

# THE LUXURY COLLECTION®

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IN CONVERSATION WITH  
CHITRANGDA SINGH  
AT FAIRMONT, JAIPUR

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF  
AMSTERDAM

GREAT EXPECTATIONS-  
VOLVO XC90  
EXCELLENCE HYBRID

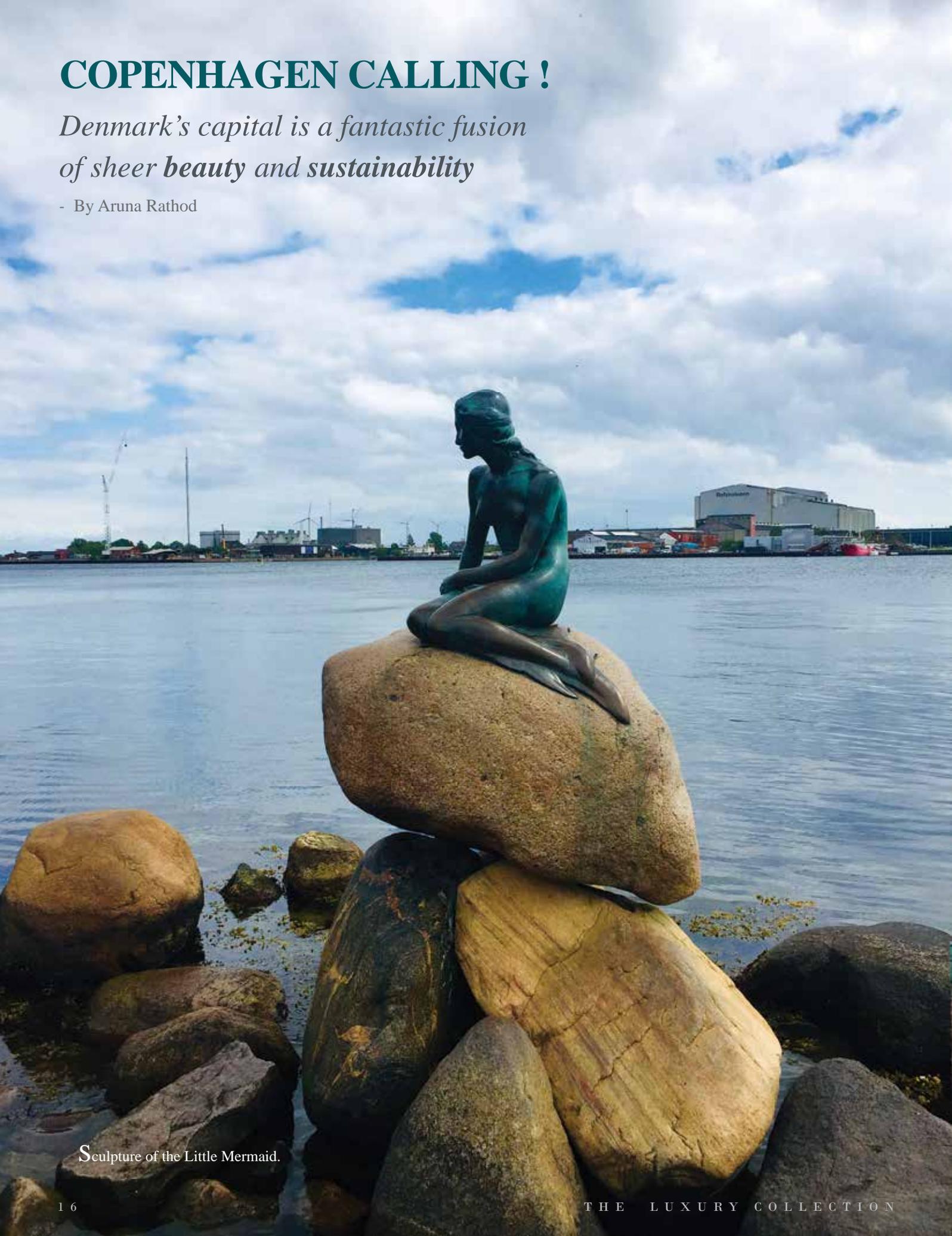
THE IMPERIAL -  
AN ART TOUR OF THE  
COLONIAL HOTEL

the magazine for the connoisseur of luxury

# COPENHAGEN CALLING !

*Denmark's capital is a fantastic fusion  
of sheer beauty and sustainability*

- By Aruna Rathod



Sculpture of the Little Mermaid.

Famous for its colourful buildings dating back to the 1600s, Nyhavn is also renowned as writer Hans Christian Andersen's living space. Adding to the charm of the harbour-promenade, Nyhavn (New Harbour) is probably the most photographed spot in Copenhagen, as are the traditional wooden ships that are moored here on both sides.

On a sunny day, it's a good idea to walk around, have a coffee or indulge in a fancy seafood meal (fish and chips are a speciality here) or take a canal tour that begins here and goes under more than 15 bridges, through some of the most gorgeous sights of the city, gliding along the gentle waters. Copenhagen has unique buildings, with red brick or yellow brick exteriors. The old stock exchange in the heart of the town dates back to 1625 and is one of the oldest buildings in Copenhagen built by King Christian IV who valued the importance of increased trade and commerce. Initially the building had around 40 market stalls. Since it was surrounded by water on three sides, ships could unload their cargo directly at the wharf in front. The building has a tower that was supposed to represent four intertwined dragon tails. The spire is

topped by three crowns, symbolizing the three key centres of the Scandinavian empire - Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

A walk through the Royal Palaces takes one to the Royal Library, which has an enchanting garden in full bloom during spring. Across the road is the Black Pearl, the modern library famous for its black glass and granite exteriors. For a picture postcard photo, shoot the Little Mermaid sculpture, which is a representation of the mermaid from a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. A graceful figure, she sits while hundreds of tourists make a beeline for photos with this instantly recognisable statue! Make it a point to visit the Gefion Fountain and St. Alban's, an Anglican church in the same neighbourhood.

Another must-visit destination in Copenhagen are the Botanical Gardens, spread over a lush 10 hectares right in the middle of the city. The gardens have impressive glasshouses from the 1870s, and a conservatory complex built in 1874. Stroll or just sit on a bench looking at the picture-postcard landscapes, with mandarin ducks walking past you.





## Sustainable Luxury

True to the Danish penchant for sustainability and responsible living, the Crowne Plaza at Copenhagen Towers sets the benchmark in sustainable luxury. The hotel has a magnificent atrium with black olive trees, 60 in all, especially imported from Miami for their evergreen canopy in all seasons. Adding to the feel of the Amazon forest are the dark green variegated leaves of the money plant at the base of the trees. A panoramic view greeted me when I checked in – over the tops of the green trees of the suburbs, I could spot aeroplanes taking off from the Kastrup airport, which is just about 15 minutes away. As I looked further into the horizon,

I spotted the Oresund Strait, and the gigantic Royal Arena is just a few metres away.

Bright white interiors, a luxurious bathroom with a shower cubicle and tub, fine toiletries and room furniture by Danish designer Paustian - with a chic lounge to sink into - allowed me to enjoy the views. While at breakfast, the most interesting piece of news I heard was that the hotel has taken a unique initiative to process all left over food into bio-gas fuel for the city's hybrid public buses.



In 2010, the hotel won the EcoTourism Award as the ‘*World’s Greenest Hotel*’. With its innovative technology, the hotel uses energy from renewable sources. The facades facing south, east and west are covered with solar panels, thus harnessing solar energy while providing a chic cover. The stylish-looking wooden slats in some parts of the atrium are re-cycled window frames, originally from a farm, cut into strips, polished and fixed into the wall adding

a totally refreshing dimension to the area. Other innovative design features are ceilings partly made from recycled plastic bottles, floors from recycled rubber and concrete, and sails from a boat converted into an art work. Everything at Crowne Plaza is built around the philosophy of sustainability. Even the coffee shop Orango supports the Orang Utan Coffee Project in Sumatra and has even adopted an orangutan named Cece.