

Aarhus School of Architecture // Design School Kolding // Royal Danish Academy

KA GPS Drawing Club

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Contribution to exhibition

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Title: KA GPS Drawing Club

Author: Joost Grootens

Design: SJG / Joost Grootens, Philipp Doring, Julie da Silva

Installation consisting of A2 posters, screen with an animation, custom designed cycling shirt.

Exhibition: 'Adfærd Velfærd. How can architecture and design improve health and welfare?'

Venue, dates: Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen, 15.09.'22–23.03.'23

Selection Panel: Christian Bason (Director of the Danish Design Center), Stinus Lindgren, PhD, MP (Danish Social Liberal Party), Silje Alberthe Kamille Friis (Associate Professor), Thomas Chevalier Bøjstrup (PhD Fellow in Public Health), Susanne Jøker Johnsen (Curator).

Exhibition text:

How can GPS drawing improve physical and mental health?

Self-tracking technologies have become an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. In addition to their health monitoring function, the visualizations generated by fitness technologies are used by individuals to express themselves through so-called GPS drawings.

During the corona pandemic, when it was no longer possible to exercise in groups, GPS drawing gained popularity. Making a drawing through a sporting activity and sharing it online became a substitute social activity, improving not only physical but also mental health. The Kongelige Akademi GPS Drawing Club consists of students and staff of the Royal Danish Academy who consider their fitness activities an artistic practice as well. They go out exercising to create 'drawings' using satellite navigation and self-tracking tools, and at the same time improving their health.

Exhibition 'Adfærd Velfærd'

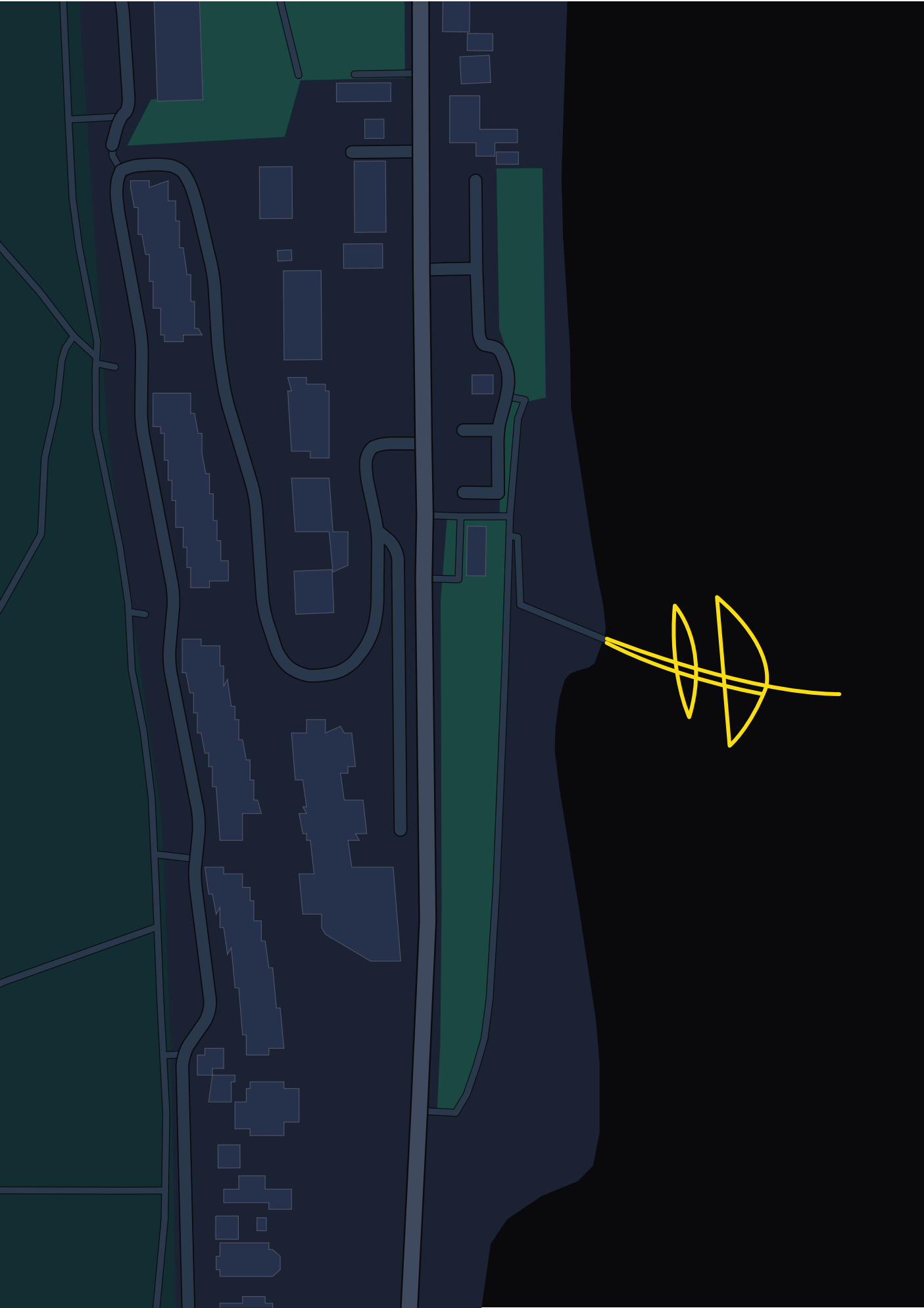


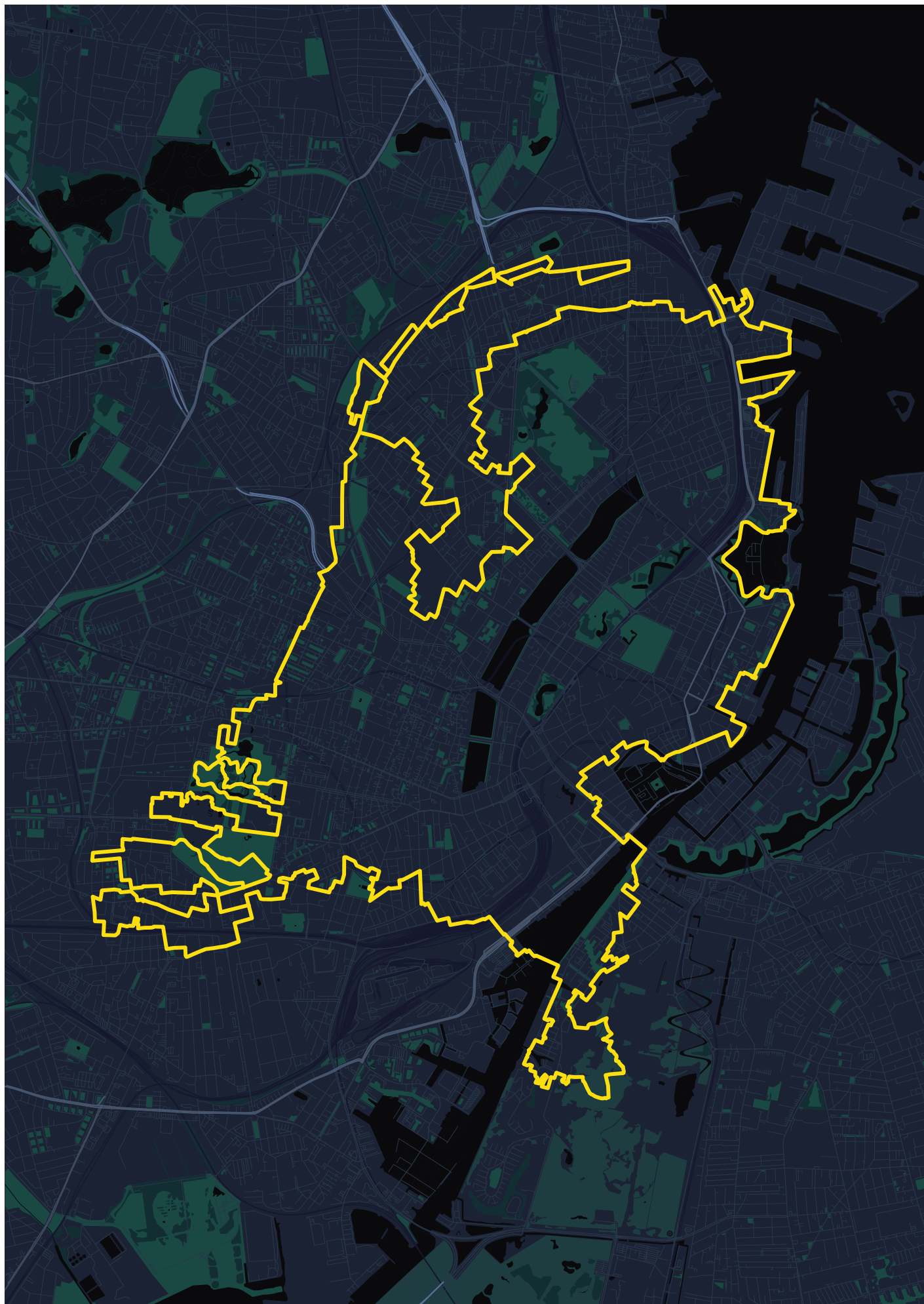






Selection of the A2 posters shown at the 'Adfærd Velfærd'
exhibition

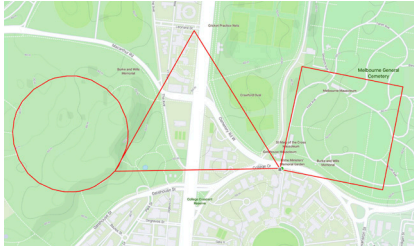






'Call for members' distributed among staff of the Institute of
Visual Design of the Royal Danish Academy

Call for members



<https://www.strava.com/activities/5719290205>

The Kongelige Akademi GPS Drawing Club that will be founded this summer is looking for club members among staff and students of the Royal Danish Academy. The premise of the club is that sports activities can simultaneously be an artistic practice. Members are asked to design the route of their bike rides, hikes, runs and swims to result in expressive GPS drawings and then share them with others.

The establishment of the club is a response to the upcoming academy exhibition entitled 'BEHAVIOUR/WELFARE: how can architecture and design improve health and welfare?' The exhibition looks for solutions 'that prevent the transmission of infection and disease, support faster recovery, and promote health in Denmark and around the world.'

The pursuit of solutions may not be the most interesting or relevant model for designers. But perhaps there are practices imaginable that question contemporary fitness culture and, by combining sport and creativity, stimulate both physical and mental health, while at the same time using satellite navigation and self-tracking¹ as artistic means to enrich the standard set of design tools.

Aspiring members can send a proposal for a GPS drawing² to Joost Grootens³ (IVD). A selection of the drawings will be shown at the academy exhibition in September. Members of the Kongelige Akademi GPS Drawing Club will receive a club jersey in return for their drawing.



Club jersey of the GPS Drawing Club

¹ Self-tracking technologies measure, record and visualize body informatics and fitness activities. In addition to their health monitoring function, the visualizations generated by fitness technologies and satellite navigation are used by individuals to express themselves through so-called GPS drawings. During the corona pandemic, when it was no longer possible to exercise in groups, GPS drawing gained popularity. Making a drawing through a sporting activity and sharing it online became a substitute social activity.

² For inspiration see the Strav.art website: <https://www.strav.art>, and on Instagram: @strav.art or #gpsdrawing.

³ E-mail: jgro@kglakademi.dk



