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## LISBON

**2008 ranking: 24**

**Lisbon comes last but we're looking forward to seeing how plans develop**

Lisbon has raised its cultural credentials by inaugurating art galleries, two film festivals and think-tanks such as the LX Factory. Of course, becoming edgier has its downside – burglaries are up 25 per cent.

Officials have also begun tastefully restoring kiosks in the city's parks and squares, which provide a sharp contrast to the city's air-conditioned malls. Greens have something to cheer about as bike sharing is on the agenda and cycle paths are set for the waterfront.

Even more promising is the redevelopment of Parque Mayer theatre district. A local architect is planning pedestrianised streets and lifts to link to the Príncipe Real neighbourhood (*see Monocle June 2009*) and its independent shopkeepers. — IC