

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

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# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

The model for single-family house as we know it today, which is Danish the most preferred way of living, has been developed over the last approximately 100 years

## The romantic bourgeois villa, approx. 1860 - 1920

At the end of the 1800s it was the wealthy part of the population, who built large residential houses, "**bourgeois houses**," on large grounds on the edge of or outside the polluted cities. Houses plan was most often convoluted to yield nooks and niches with space to create, storeroom, etc., but also with large living - and sleeping quarters, as well as toilets and bathrooms.

The houses were usually equipped with several bay windows and balconies.

The roof structure was pitched roof or mansard roof with dormers and large chimney pots.

The houses were clean craftsmanship in the top, but using the best materials that could be provided, floors oregon pine etc.

There was also not spared inventory as skirting boards, wall panels, and gerikter, and ceilings were provided with beautiful stucco work.

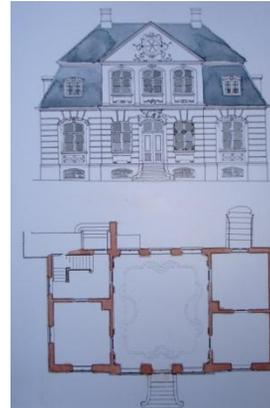
The stairs from the hall was often done with brick steps and railing work with meticulous detail.

## Farm worker Housing

The more humble farm worker houses and village houses have also been taken as a model for the contemporary single-family house.

## Inspiration from England

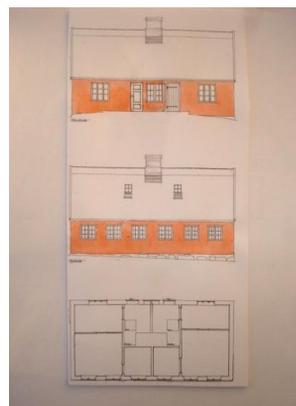
It is only inspired by Ebenezer Howard's English garden cities from the beginning of 1900 - the figure we see the first residential neighborhoods in Denmark.



Friboes Hvile 1756-58.  
Plan and elevation.



Perspective of Friboes Hvile.  
Akvarel by Ole Sand Olesen



Worker house for two families.



Farmhouse from Sydjylland country.  
Note the symmetry of the facade.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE



Brick house in classical style, 1850, Anst.



Bernstorff Castle, 1759 - architect N.-H. Jardin.



House in classical style 1890.



Single family house in classical style, built 1920

Watercolour by Ole Sand Olesen.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## Historicism approx. 1850 - 1930

The historicist, late classical villa is from the period mid 1800s to early 1900s. It is also called the period of style imitation period or style "confusion" period. Historicism expressed in many ways the spirit, and was leading the bourgeois liberal and romantic culture.

The architecture was influenced by the various classical symbols, there was a kind of Catalogue - architecture.



Family house with funny decorations and details.



Note the Neo-Gothic window.



Roof overhang supported by 'knægte'.



Open balcony and bay window



Roof overhang detail.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

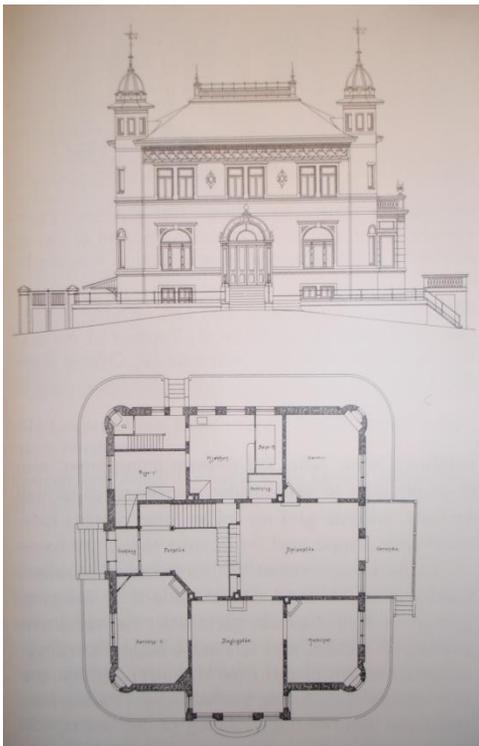
## National Romance 1850 - 1920

National Romanticism is an after run of historicism. They were preoccupied with the Nordic architectural heritage, which traditionally workmanship performed constructions and the use of brick, granite, limestone and wood was particularly pronounced.

The red hand-molded bricks were diligently used in facades which should be seen as special national. Canopy and roof endings could be added ornaments from the Nordic mythology.



Double house in national romantic style 1909.

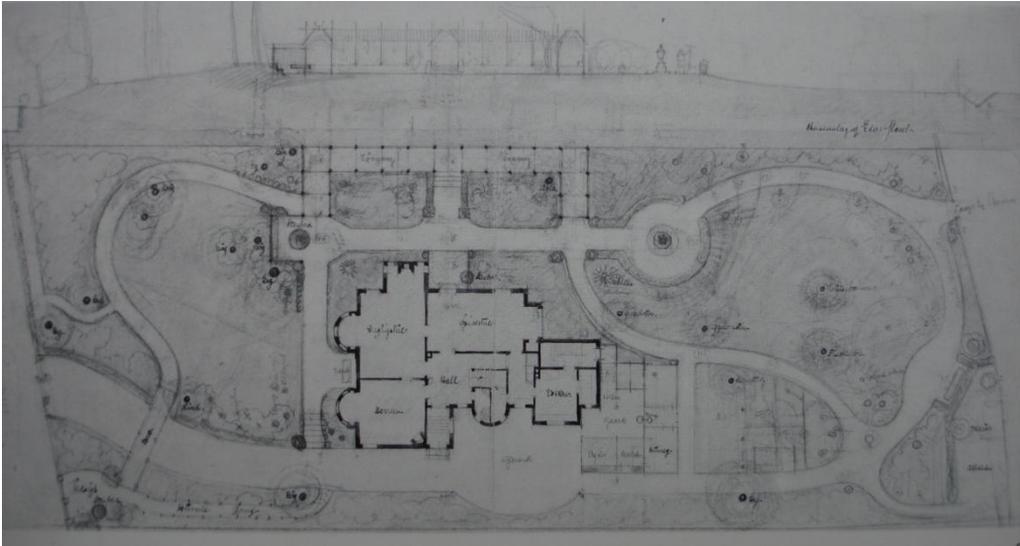


Architect Vilhelm Dahlerup  
Brandts villa, Odense, built 1904.



Single family house.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE



Architect Hack Kampmann, Villa Kampen, 1901 Plan view of the romantic garden.



West facade, villa Kampen.



Chimney detail.



Single family house.  
Watercolor by Hack Kampmann, Villa Kampen.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## Master mason house, approx. 1913 - 1930

Master mason villa and association "Better Building" from around 1915 sat right time in the development of detached single-family house. Association "Better Building Practices" published books and booklets with drawings and descriptions of houses that lived up to good building practice with simple thoughtful layouts, well proportioned facades and detail that was not flashy, but made the best of craft principles.

"Better building practices" occurred after a campaign by the Architects Association. The purpose of the campaign was to influence people in the country to realize the existing architectural values existed.

The architect Martin Nyrop, who had drawn the Copenhagen City Hall, was chairman of the the committee which organized the signs help, so even people with modest means could sign cheap, functional and healthy homes, built by the best traditions of craftsmanship.

After the 1910 National Romanticism was replaced by a neo-baroque flow, which simplified the house details, overhang disappeared and was replaced by a brick cornice, and the roof was usually completed with a halvvalm.

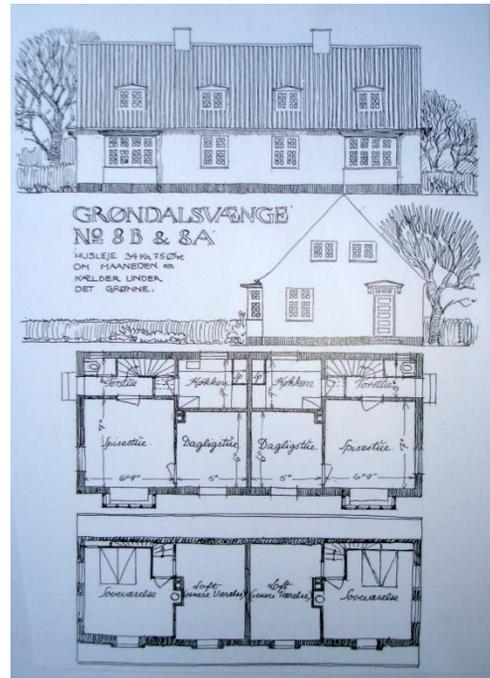
The layout was rather simple and logical. The kvadratiske form was divided by a main partition and cross wall, and where they met had the chimney.

The house was usually full advantage basement and attic utilized.

Single-family house was interesting for architects with the increasing democratization and old cottages were built up to approx.1940.



Situation plan with the romantic curved paths inspired by Camillo Sitte, the leading architect at that time.



Grøndalsvænge built 1914-20.

A garden city with traditional houses designed by architect Jesper Tvede and Poul Holsøe.



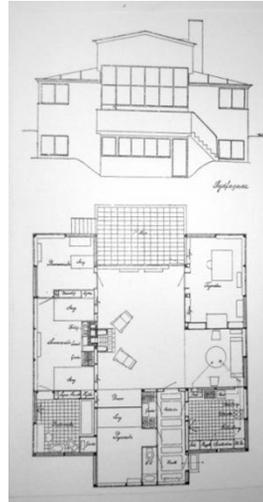
Typisk murermesterbygget enfamiliehus.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## Functionalism

In 1930, there was a modernization and upheaval in the construction industry in Denmark. The International Modernism emerged in the 20`s inspired by the architect Walter Gropius and art school "Bauhaus "Dessau in Germany as well as in the writings and works of architect Le Corbusier. In Denmark, the Norwegian architect Edvard Heiberg was one of the pioneers.

Functionalism was a break with the past architecture, where the classical architectural ideals had played a prominent role. Functionalism houses should be placed with the full application of the ground for sun and views from the rooms. Building form was cubist, and the building could be divided into sharply cut clean shapes cube - or circular volume. The architecture was simple and clean, cleansed of past "ornaments". Flat roofs and window and door profiles in steel sharp placed almost flush with the outer wall was typical of the architectural style



Architect Edvard Heiberg

Single family house. Plan and facade.



Functionalism house for two families.



Functionalism house in two storeys.



Typical entrance with wind-screens and canopy.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## The functional villa

The Danish functional villa is inspired by the international functionalism from 30 - s. The villa was designed functional so that it came to this a natural framework for everyday life and adapted the Danish tradition.

With the ideas of functionalism, they created a simplified style of cubist form, which failed eaves, gutters formed cornice, or the house had a modest brick cornice. In some houses you see a horizontal molded cornice or it could be made of wood.

The house could be composed of 2 or 3 building carcasses in different sizes adapted to the site. The functional villa was ambitious, was to retain it simple. Past ornaments were removed, and the windows and balconies were placed for light and views, and was not symmetrical. Characteristic of the functional villa's corner window. Exterior walls were red or yellow sand-faced bricks, made with scraped or sanded whitewashed surface.

Roof pitch could be different, and roofs were usually yellow or red wing tiles.

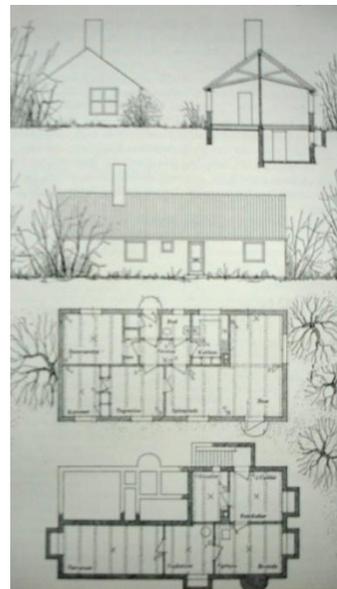
For the functional villa also includes Bungaloven (1930 - 1940). The plan is square, a 'floor with high basement. Low roof with fall to 4 pages from the chimney. roofing tarred. The house has often corner windows. Bungaloven can be plastered and whitewashed, or clad with red or yellow brick, or yellow brick with horizontal changes in red brick..



The gutter is the cornice.



Typically functionalism villa with low roof pitch, narrow balcony and canopy above the entrance door.



Example of a well-designed house. Architect Karen and Mogens Black-Pedersen



Bungalow with corner windows and cantilevered balconies.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## State loan house

Master mason villa and "Better Building" held up to 1950 - were, and cheap government loans during the years from about 1938 to 1958 started the construction of small cheap houses, the so-called government houses. In particular, in the years following the second World War I it went into real in the small house buildings.

Government loans houses were built according to building regulations that requirements for building decor. In order to take part in government, would house meet a number of requirements:

- 1) Strict requirements for economy
- 2) Separate kitchen and bathroom with water closet
- 3) Requirements for insulation of external walls
- 4) The insulation in the roof / ceiling min. 20 mm mineral wool

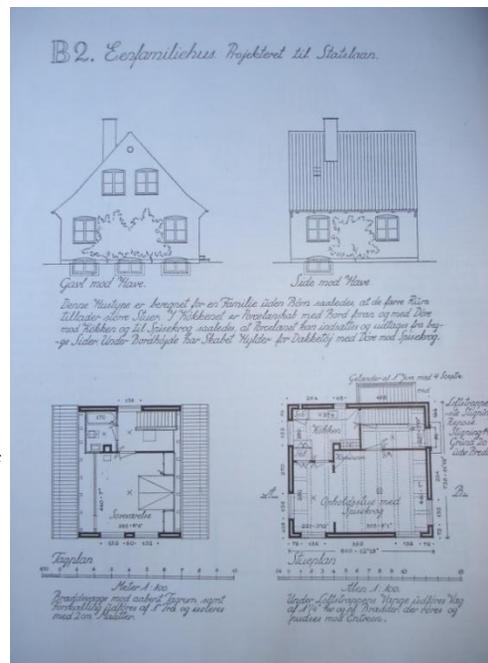
The requirements helped to raise the general standard of comfort, and it was especially true in rural areas.

The architects worked diligently to develop a safe house approx. 85 m<sup>2</sup> on one level, the steep tiled roof was replaced by a lattice truss roof where roofing usually consisted of cheap corrugated asbestos cement. The basement was also saved away, or was designed with semi-basement.

Government debt requirements were relaxed gradually, so you could obtain larger loans and thus higher standard in the houses. State loans were abolished in 1958.



State loan house.



Example of a page from the National Association for better building practices.



State loan house in good condition.  
Architect Knud Krøll.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## The modernist villa, 1950 - 1968

After the Second World War, interest and what was going on in the world, and particularly strong interest in Danish architects, was what happened in the United States.

The German architect Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius fled to the United States, and had created a whole new modernist architecture, buildings with open floor plans, flat roofs and large windows from floor to roof was characteristic of the new direction.

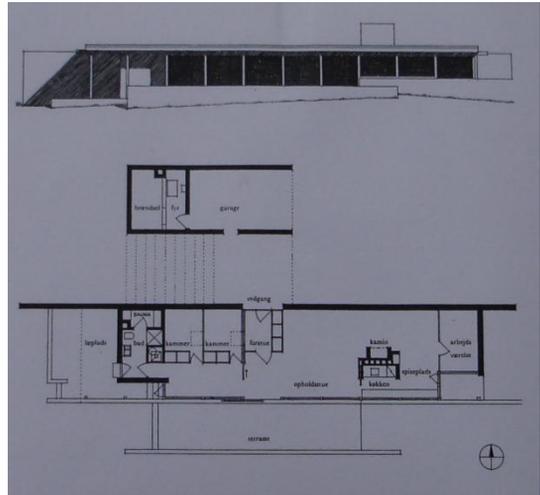
At home were the pioneers of the new architecture architects Jørn Utzon, Erik Christian Sørensen and Friis & Moltke, who built the first houses in the 1950-s.

The new modern times demand more of a detached house. Lifestyles are changing, people have televisions and car in the garage, and in general think people in the future.

The architecture becomes more refined, the housing plan was open, and long unbroken walls with small windows, and large window areas in living rooms were the norm.

The roof structure was built-up roof, located on visible wall plates and with large eaves.

The open fireplace in the living room was also a fad for these houses.



Architect Jørn Utzons own house, Hellebæk 1952



Architect Friis & Moltke.



Architect Friis og Moltke, Skåde bakker.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## The standard house, approx.1960

In 1960s large areas are parceled out to single-family homes. Many architects and construction companies "invented" standard houses.

It was often the small sound houses which today we would call boring, but people with a ordinary income got their own house. In many cases, the developer strongly involved as an assistant at the building in order to keep the construction cost of a reasonable level.

The style was simple and stripped down, often with low-pitched roofs, eaves and inexpensive corrugated asbestos cement as roofing.

The layout was often called a "pistol entrance", living room, kitchen, toilet / bath, bedrooms and two young children rooms.

To make all these many houses similar, there has in recent years been several architectural competitions for the optimization of these type of houses.



Standard house, 1960.



Standard house with low pitch of the roof.

## The standard house approx. 1968 -1980

At the beginning of the seventies people got afford to build larger houses, which led to a new type of houses in 1 1/2 floor. In principle, a long house, where the roof structure via laminated wall plates led down the loads to the longitudinal parallel walls.

A large horizontal roof overhang protects masonry, windows and doors.

Scheduled house was also a rethinking, taking separated adults and children, the oldest child was living in the basement. The living room could be divided into two floors often with large windows in the gables.



Standard house, normal roof pitch is 40 gr.



Standard house connected to the garage. Note the horizontal roof overhang and the roof covered balcony.

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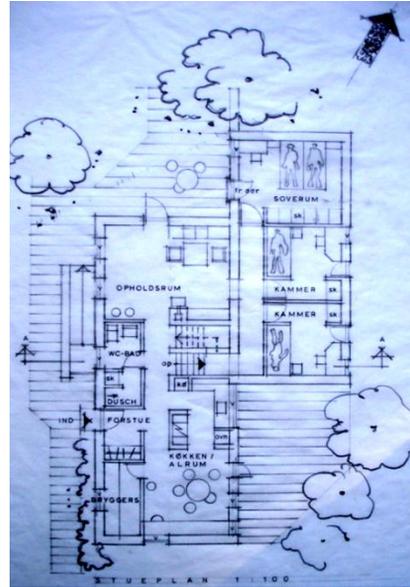
## The energy-efficient house 1973 - 1985

The oil crisis in 1973 changed in some way people's mentality to the building and stay. Collectives and group homes were modern, and as a result of the oil crisis, there was a consequent decline in construction.

The flat roofs, "built-up" roof which was a result of modernism was replaced for roofs with roof pitch, partly because there often was water intrusion in the substructures, and the low insulation thickness. The energy-efficient house required thicker walls, leading to better insulation and smaller window holes to better retain heat.

The choice of material was rough and rustic. Mortar-brushed walls, rough wooden ceilings and brick tile on floors had become fashionable, like the stove had been in.

The overall plan for the house was often two parallel construction bodies with sided roof.



Plan view of a energy-efficient house with small window openings.



Perspective.



Example of an energy-efficient single-family house. Note the roof without overhang and the small windows.



Main entrance and garage.

# THE DANISH SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

## The post-modern villa

The post-modern villa is based on past architectural ideals. The architecture was a rebellion against modernism, against the horizontal and vertical lines. Postmodernism work from a compact core, which "hooked" room with crooked forms.

The geometric volumes are common to:

classicism

- Gravity, with baseplate, masonry, cornice, roof and plastic designs.

Functionalism

- Ease (with thin screens, not visible roof ornament line, surface, etc.).

postmodernism

- Heaviness / lightness (with free displays, deformation, ornament abstraction of classical motifs).



Example of a single family house in two storeys.  
Ole Sand Olesen, architect.