

TREDIVE KVADRATMETER
THIRTY SQUARE METERS

Keld Jensen

Nr. 11, marts 2019

No. 11, March 2019

Tredive kvadratmeter

Grønlands sydligste by, Nanortalik, er kendt for sine små huse. I dag er det vanskeligt at forestille sig, at der bor mennesker i så små boliger. Men lys i vinduerne og gardinerne viser, at de er beboet.

De mindste huse er på tredive kvadratmeter. Mange er standardhuse, der blev udviklet i midten af 1950'erne. Bygningsdelene blev udskibet til mange bosætninger i Grønland. For mange familier betød det, at de kunne flytte fra de oprindelige tørvehuse til de nye huse.

De få kvadratmeter skulle huse hele familier med flere børn. Husene var spartansk indrettet. Opvarmningen skete med kulkomfur eller med kakkelovn. Der var ikke indlagt vand: Det kom først flere årtier senere.

Men maleriske er de. De små huse i forskellige farver gør byen langt mod syd til et pittoresk sted og et godt besøg for turister på krydstogtskibene.

At bo i Nanortalik er ikke altid for sarte sjæle. Byen oplever gang på gang mægtige storme og orkaner fra syd og sydvest. Vejsystemerne kommer buldrende hen over Labradorstrædet med mægtig styrke. Men dette vejrlig har de små huse overlevet i mange årtier.

Jeg har flere gange vandret rundt i den lille by. Jeg ved, at der er store, sociale problemer hos mange af byens borgere, men alligevel findes der i mellem de små huse en ro, som jeg sjældent har oplevet andre steder.

Thirty square meters

The southernmost town of Greenland, Nanortalik, is well-known for its small houses. Today, it is difficult to imagine people living in the small houses. But the lights in the windows and the curtains show that they are inhabited.

The smallest houses are the size of only thirty square metres. Many of these houses are standard houses, developed in the mid-1950s. The building parts were shipped to the settlements in Greenland. For a lot of families, this meant that they could move from the original peat huts to these new houses.

The few square metres were meant for whole families with several children. The houses were austere furnished homes. A charcoal stove and a tiled stove heated the house. No running water. The houses had water laid on several decades later.

But picturesque they are. The small houses in different colours make this town far south to a picturesque place and a great visit for tourists on the cruise ships.

Living in Nanortalik is not always for sensitive people. The town experiences over and over again mighty storms and hurricanes from south and southwest. The weather systems come rumbling across the Labrador Strait with a mighty strength. But the small houses have survived this weather for many decades.

Several times, I have walked around in the small town. I know a lot of citizens experience social problems, yet, I find a peacefulness between the small houses, which I rarely experienced elsewhere.



Nanortalik, september 2014

Nanortalik, September 2014



Nanortalik, oktober 2006

Nanortalik, October 2006



Nanortalik, oktober 2006

Nanortalik, October 2006



Nanortalik, april 2014

Nanortalik, April 2014



Nanortalik, april 2014

Nanortalik, April 2014



Nanortalik, april 2014

Nanortalik, April 2014



Nanortalik, oktober 2006

Nanortalik, October 2006



Nanortalik, oktober 2006

Nanortalik, October 2006



Nanortalik, oktober 2006

Nanortalik, October 2006



Nanortalik, november 2006

Nanortalik, November 2006

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Tredive kvadratmeter
Af Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Oprindeligt publiceret marts 2019*

Alle billeder og tekst © 2019 Keld Jensen

COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Thirty square meters
By Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Originally Published March 2019*

All images and text © 2019 Keld Jensen