

## The blind house

The windows are like the eyes of the house. Inside the house, we can observe the surroundings and the life outside our home. From the outside the windows radiate life, light and warmth.

We undergo a period when more and more houses in the small settlements in southern Greenland lose their radiance of life from the once pleasant rooms in the small wooden houses. We will no longer experience the light, the happy shouts and the TV flicker from the windows of the house. Instead, the eyes of the house are hidden behind bare wooden boards.

This house is abandoned. There are many abandoned houses in Greenland's southernmost town Nanortalik. These houses with wooden boards on the windows make me think of the concept of a ghost town. The locals are worried about the development.

Every time a family leaves the settlement to

find a new life in a bigger town in Greenland or in Denmark the risk that the local school had to cut down and the local store had to reduce its already limited supply efforts increases. The health service already is reduced to a minimum.

As Nanortalik became a residence the opportunity for hunting in the sea off the coast was good. The field ice was a good hunting ground for hunting of polar bears and the hooded seals. The name of the town means 'the place with polar bears'. All this is history, and a gold mine nearby, which for a period gave good revenue to Nanortalik, is now closed.

Up to 1995 the town went through a population growth, but then the trend reversed. Since 1995, one-sixth of the population has left the town. Today the town has fewer than 1,300 inhabitants.



Nanortalik, South Greenland, September 2014

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