

ON THE SHORES

Seduced by nostalgia and a longing to detach from the weighty pressures of the outside world, a young family were drawn to the serene shores of Fanø in Denmark

Words Eleanor Rice Photography Richard Gooding



"I WANTED THE EXTERIOR TO FLOW INTO THE INTERIOR AS EFFORTLESSLY AS POSSIBLE"



The magnetic pull of memories of childhood spent unapologetically free from the noise of adult life can be hard to ignore. For a Danish-born mother, these precious recollections transport her back to the tranquil island of Fanø where she spent long summers as a young girl. Keen to replicate this experience for her own children, the family return to the secluded island every year. Its hypnotic allure lies not only in the coastal surroundings, but also in the remote privacy it offers in abundance. Combine this with the comforting familiarity and warmth of the local community and it is easy to see why this family wanted to build their second home here. To ensure the holiday retreat truly encapsulated the needs of the family and served

to honour the landscape, architect Knud Holscher united forces with the creatives at Tollgård Design Group. In particular, Staffan Tollgard was all too familiar with the enchantment of a summer house, "I take my children back to our family's summer house on the lake as often I can," he reflects. This shared appreciation proved to translate into the design as the architecture thoughtfully considers how the family can live their best lives together. With this in mind, the collaborators produced a floor plan that utilises a series of open spaces, creating divisions with functional sculptures and furniture pieces rather than obstructive walls. For a getaway home, this is the ideal environment as the family can still feel connected without the need to constantly be in the same room as each other. The quietly confident form and calm interiors are without doubt a sure route to victory. However, the true success of this project can be accredited to its physical embodiment of Fanø's unparalleled charisma.

Amid the natural grasses and sandy paths native to Fanø, this family home sits stark on the landscape, thanks to its bold black timber-clad exterior façade

Pale, neutral colours have been used inside the home, including the kitchen. These welcome a calming atmosphere into the retreat and also pay tribute to the natural hues of the surroundings. "The neutral palette of the interior mirrors that of the exterior," says Tollgård Design Group





“CREATING A FAMILY SPACE IS ALL ABOUT ALLOWING CONNECTION”

Further blurring the lines between the indoors and outside is this intriguing black timber cladding. It forms the main exterior walls and has been seamlessly extended inside to create a feature in the dining area



HOME PROFILE

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

A black timber-clad holiday home covers 273 sq. m of ground and features floor-to-ceiling windows which offer uninterrupted vistas to the beautiful landscape outside. Arranged around a series of interconnected spaces, the interior utilises neutral tones and a natural material palette that effortlessly reflects the surroundings.

LOCATION

The island of Fanø located to the southwest of Denmark

BUILD TIME

12 months

ARCHITECTURAL BRIEF

A family who split their time between London and Denmark wanted a second home in their favourite holiday destination, the island of Fanø. Specifically, the structure needed to act as a refuge where the clients could truly switch off and escape the pressures of the outside world as well as offering functional interior spaces that still suited their minimalist taste.

Furniture items and sculptures have been carefully positioned to segment the main open-plan living spaces. In the living room area, a bespoke cabinet has been produced to discreetly conceal the television and promote social interaction between family members

Using a palette of neutral tones for the design scheme also ensured that the interior never fought with or drew focus from the external environment. "We knew the natural setting had to be the star of the show," shares Tollgård Design Group

"THE SAND DUNES OF FANØ AND THE SEASCAPE ARE THE HEROES OF THIS STORY"





Nature played an important role in the design and this is constantly referenced by the continued use of wood, texture and natural colours



"THE NEUTRAL PALETTE OF THE INTERIOR MIRRORS THAT OF THE EXTERIOR"



"WE WERE DETERMINED TO CONNECT THIS FAMILY TO THE LANDSCAPE"

"TEXTURE IS ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS"



Before the project began, the family were fans of the striking, simple lines that define Knud Holscher's architectural portfolio. So it seems somewhat serendipitous that this is his final project before his retirement



"SPATIAL PLANNING AND FURNITURE LAYOUTS ENCOURAGED THESE SPACES TO CONNECT"



MEET THE DESIGNER

Staffan and Monique Tollgard
Since opening in 2005, Tollgård Design Group have been causing a stir with their bold contemporary designs that can be found across the globe.

How would you describe your collaboration with Knud Holscher?
Working with Knud Holscher was a truly special moment for us at Tollgård Studio. Holscher's projects include Copenhagen's Airport and the Bahrain National Museum. While the Fanø project is obviously a much more modest undertaking, its simplicity is deceptive, with each element thoughtfully aligned in a structure which coexists in a tranquil coastal environment.

What role did texture play in the design? Texture is one of the most important ingredients in the design palette that runs through the interior. We knew that the natural setting had to be the star of the show, so the material palette within couldn't fight it. The transition between textured ceramic floor, ribbed and smooth wood, tiles, linens and

woven wools creates interest and interplay throughout the interior.

How does the interior space foster family living? Increasingly our studio has become interested in how to help families; we design to create more meaningful, balanced and connected lives. Fanø is all about spending time together and the spatial planning and furniture layouts encourage these spaces to connect. The layouts of the open-plan living room form a place where people can sit down together, enjoy the view, play board games or cards, or just to chat.

Is there anything different to consider when designing a holiday home?
Generally, people won't spend all their time in a holiday home unless they are very lucky and permanently on vacation! Therefore, you have a home that is there to serve a few, often very specific, needs and desires. Our everyday lives are often so fraught with admin that we struggle to be our ideal selves. This summer home is an example of architecture helping a family live their very best lives.

PROJECT NOTES

ARCHITECT
Knud Holscher

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Tollgård Design Group
tollgard.com

BUILDER
Kvadrat Bygg

LIGHTING
Holscher and Tollgård Design Group

KITCHEN
Københavns Møbelsnedkeri (KBH)

BATHROOM
Cabinets, KBH;
Taps, Vola

FLOORING
Minoli Ceramics

NOTABLE FURNITURE
Bespoke-made dining table, KBH; Modular sofa, Living Divani; Armchairs, Carl Hansen & Søn

