



Solid as granite and sustainable

Steenberg Architects is taking the green ethos of Bornholm into the process of building new holiday homes on the Danish island known for sunny days, stunning nature and much more.

By Thomas Bech Hansen | Photos: Steenberg Architects

"Bornholm, you my wonderful holiday island!" So goes a popular Danish showtune from the 1950s. Today, that is still true for many. But now, the 'sunny island' has extra badges to wear proudly. World-class gastronomy, exciting arts and crafts and cutting-edge sustainability projects are just some of them.

Bornholm's local experts

Steenberg Architects is Bornholm's local architecture firm. It has already projected a number of new and sustainable summer houses for entrepreneurs excited by Bornholm's charms and possibilities. This spans from small houses for private use to rental houses and individualised luxury class houses. The architects handle all aspects of the planning and building projects but are open to include clients whenever they wish.

"We can handle sketches, idea development, projection, contacts with authorities and contractors. Of course, we have a set of values that we like to put into a design process. But the clients' wishes and budgets are paramount, and we work around that. It's a dialogue, really, to the extent that our clients wish to be

involved," says Anna Gotha, designer at Steenberg.

The approach falls in line with Bornholm's recent reinvention as Denmark's 'green island', which is formally organised under the 'Bright Green Island' project. This initiative is backed by local businesses and authorities in a bid to create a "completely green and sustainable island community which leads the way in showing that the future belongs to those who invent it".

"One of our strengths is that we know this island so well. We believe that a summer house here must fit in with island life and nature. So we pick locally sourced materials like granite, sandstone and wood to work with on the design side. Plus, we take this into account when building on the intricate soil," Gotha explains.

Nature rules

Indeed, Steenberg has played a central part in establishing Bornholm as a green island. For instance, the company worked on Green Solution House – a hotel and conference centre built solely from materials that are either fully recyclable or biodegradable.

When visiting Bornholm, many will probably realise why the islanders have committed themselves to taking care of and incorporating nature while working in buildings designed for modern purposes. The island is characterised by white sandy beaches, rugged coastlines, marshland, forests and dramatic cliff formations. Popularly speaking, Bornholm comprises all of Scandinavia's nature within just 600 square kilometres.



HOUSE OWNERSHIP RULES

The law in Denmark stipulates that non-Danish residents cannot own a house in Denmark. This means all summer houses in Denmark must be owned by people spending the majority of the year there. However, many summer house owners rent to foreign travellers – and this market is freely accessible.

For more information, please visit:
www.steenberg.dk