

Enriched Simplicity

Japanese influx on Danish Architecture 1950-2020

Royal Danish Embassy in Japan Tokyo 2021

Exhibition curated and designed by Christoffer Harlang

Danish architecture and design is strongly influenced by the Japanese tradition and the inspiration from Japan is both indirectly and directly. Single-family houses designed by American architects with inspiration from traditional Japanese architecture, became in the 1950ies a very important inspiration for a young generation of Danish architects.

What they saw and what they later designed themselves, were refined houses in delicate constructions with open plans and fine proportions, where glass from floor to ceiling connected the indoor and the outdoor spaces.

Gone was the foundation-walled house like a lump and gone was the white cubism of functionalism. And buildings, large and small, became elegant structures inspired by growth principles and variation through addition.

The inspiration from Japan came both from the American role models like Frank Lloyd Wright and Charles Eames and directly from the Japanese sources that comprises both the traditional Japanese architecture like the Katsura Imperial Villa and its contemporary protagonists like Kenzo Tange.

The Japanese architecture was very simple yet extremely sophisticated, often in wood and concrete with refined detailing of all joints and materials, and the clear and pure Japanese aesthetics resonated with great effect on the Danish architects like Jørn Utzon and Erik Christian Sørensen. In recent years, these principles of design have been rediscovered and it has again become the subject of renewal and development as it is seen in Dorte Mandrup's Wadden Sea Center and in Cecilie Manz furniture art. And contemporary Japanese architects like Atelier Bow-Wow and Hiroshi Sambuichi are among the most important sources of inspiration for many danish architects.

Enriched simplification and clarification of ideas, well-cultivated details and mastery of material aesthetics are Japanese values that yet again are seen in the works of the best contemporary Danish designers.

The exhibition shows twenty-five examples of how Danish architects and designers in the period 1950-2020 have been inspired by the impulses from Japan, and how they in both the city, the garden, the house and the objects have worked with the inspiration from Japan. The exhibition consists of reproduced drawings, sketches and photographs presented on wooden 25 boards with in 48 panels in the size 50 x 70 cm and 6 in 100 x 70 cm and supplemented with 6-8 models in scale on podiums. Panels are equipped with English and Japanese texts.

Preliminary Selection January 2021

Low Table and Bench Finn Juhl 1953
Single family house Erik Christians Sørensen 1955
Single family house Jørn Utzon 1955
Single family house Halldor Gunnløgsson 1958
Guest House Tisvilde Vilhelm Wohlert 1958
Louisiana Museum Jørgen Bo & Vilhelm Wohlert 1958
Table PK54 Poul Kjærholm 1962
Cottage Erik Korshagen 1962
Odense University Competition Plan Knud Holscher/KHR 1966
Barbecue set Nils Fagerholt 1967
Bowl Snorre Stephensen 1967
Viking Hall Erik Christians Sørensen 1967
Warp carpet with geometric pattern Vibeke Klint 1970
Danmarks National Bank Arne Jacobsen/Dissing Weitling 1972
Uglegårdsskolen Halldor Gunnløgsson & Jørn Nielsen 1974
Cottage Gerdt Bornebusch 1985
B&O Headset Anders Hermansen 2004
SEB Bank The City Dune SLA Landscape 2011
New Nordic Exhibition Louisiana Museum Lene Tranberg 2012
Pulsen Community Centre Leth & Gori 2013
The Wadden Sea Centre Dorte Mandrup 2017
Tipperne Tower Johansen & Skovsted 2017
Competition Project Exhibition Building Victor Boye Julebæk 2018
Hammershus Visitors Centre Christoffer Harlang & Arkitema 2018
House Fanø Lenschow & Pihlmann 2020
Table for Takt Cecilie Manz 2020



**Low Table and Bench
Finn Juhl 1954**



**Single family house
Erik Christian Sørensen 1955**



**Single family house
Jørn Utzon 1955**



**Single family house
Halldor Gunnløgsson 1958**



Guest House Tisvilde
Vilhelm Wohlert 1958



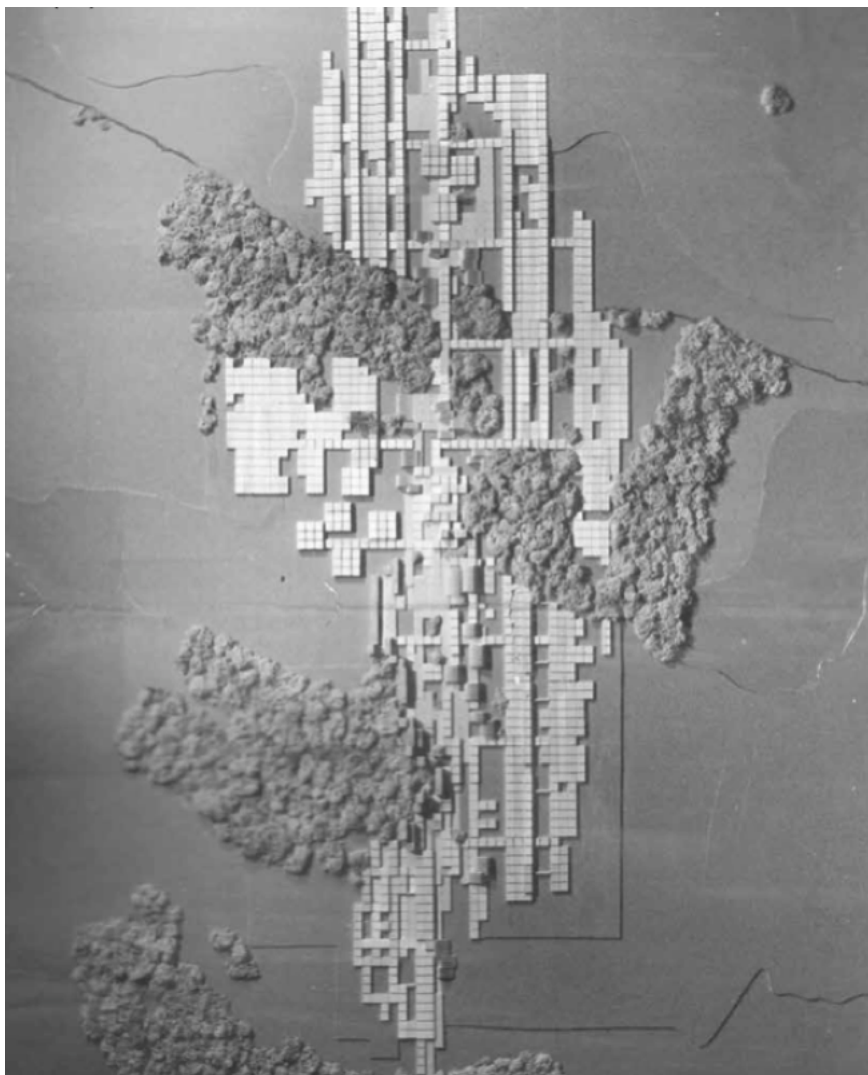
**Louisiana Museum
Jørgen Bo & Vilhelm Wohlert 1958**



Table PK54
Poul Kjærholm 1962



Cottage
Erik Korshagen 1962



**Odense University Competition Plan
Knud Holscher/KHR 1966**



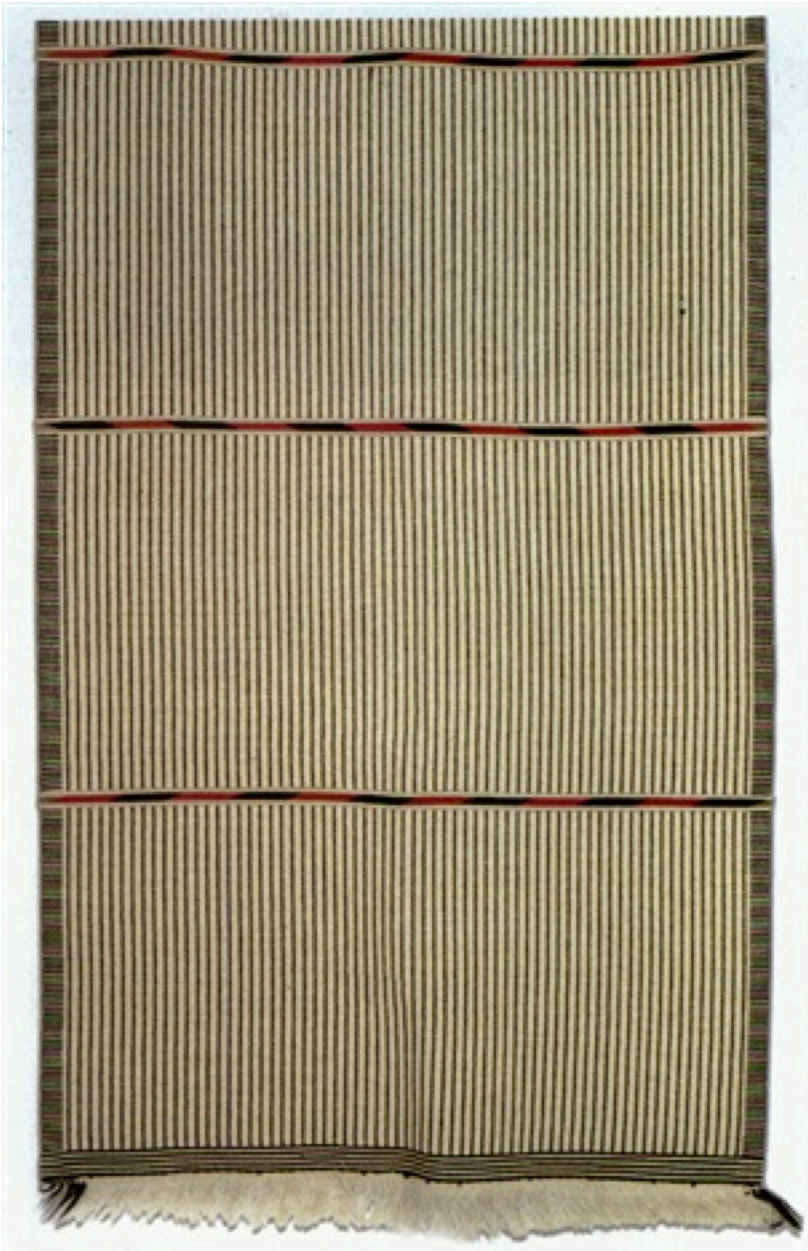
Barbecue set
Nils Fagerholt 1967



Bowl
Snorre Stephensen 1967



Viking Hall
Erik Christian Sørensen 1967



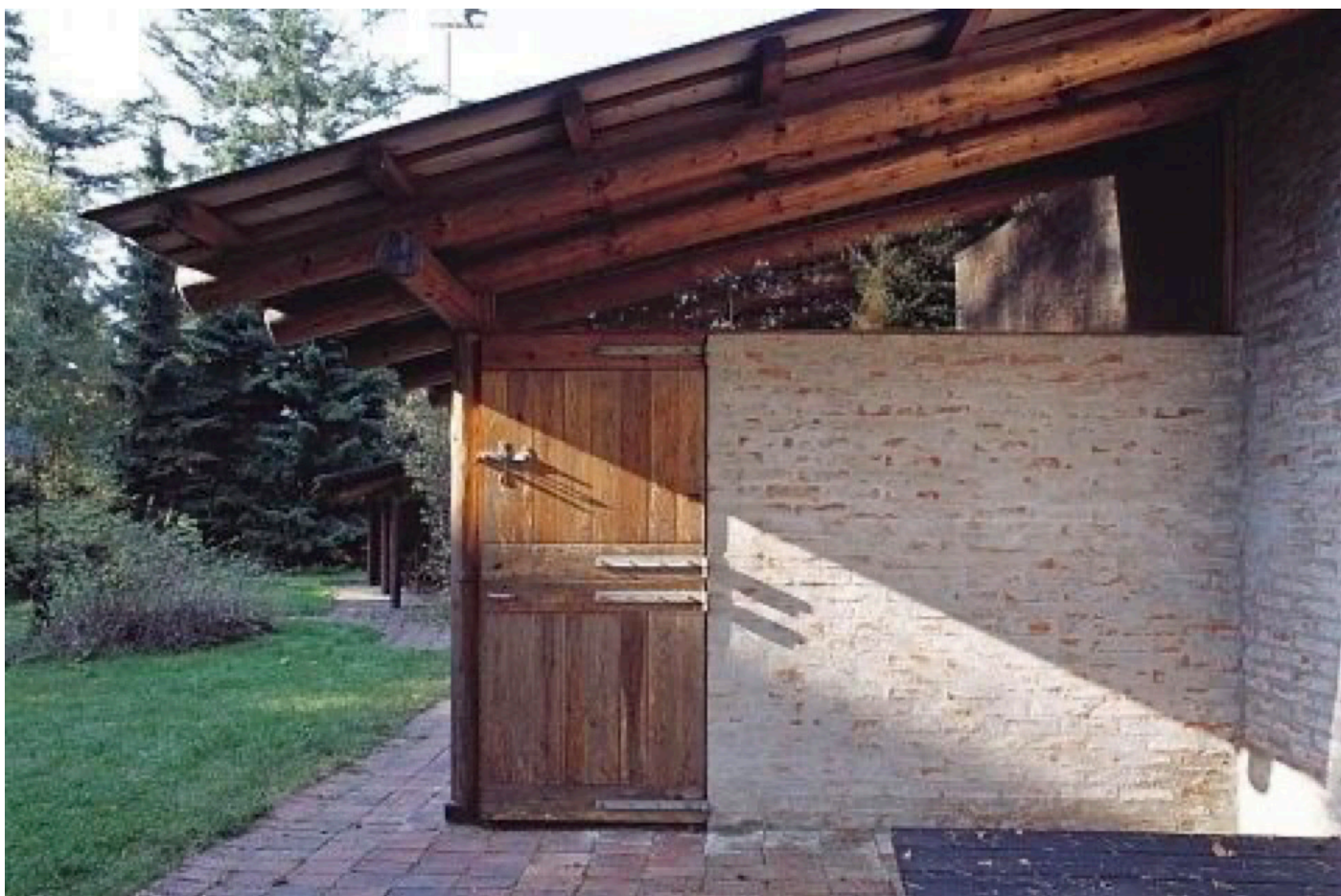
**Warp carpet with geometric pattern
Vibeke Klint 1970**



Danmarks National Bank
Arne Jacobsen/Dissing Weitling 1972



**Uglegårdsskolen
Halldor Gunnløgsson & Jørn Nielsen 1974**



**Sommerhus i Odsherred
Gerdt Bornebusch 1985**



B&O Headset
Anders Hermansen 2004



SEB Bank The City Dune SLA Landscape 2011



**New Nordic Exhibition Louisiana Museum
Lene Tranberg 2012**



**Pulsen Community Centre
Leth & Gori 2013**



The Wadden Sea Centre Dorte Mandrup 2017



**Tipperne Tower
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House Fanø
Lenschow & Pihlmann 2020



Table for Takt
Cecilie Manz 2020

