

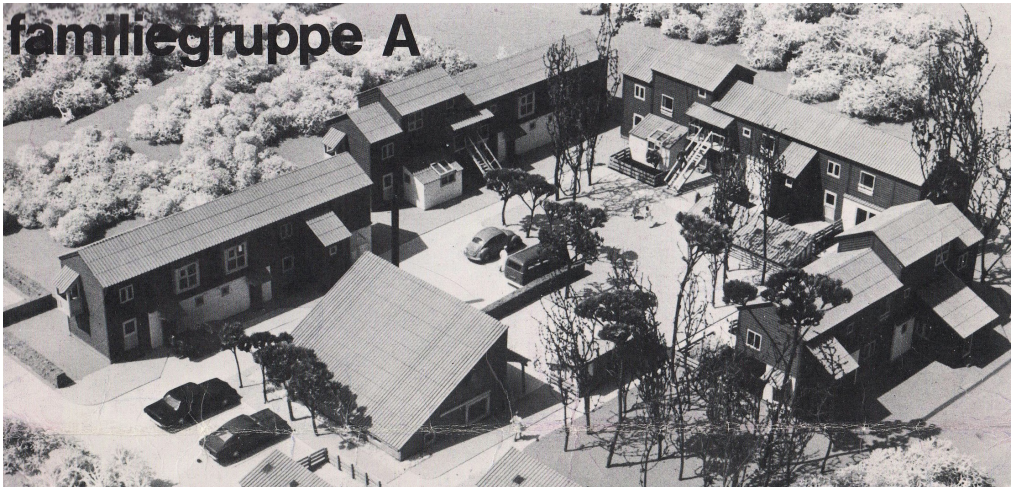
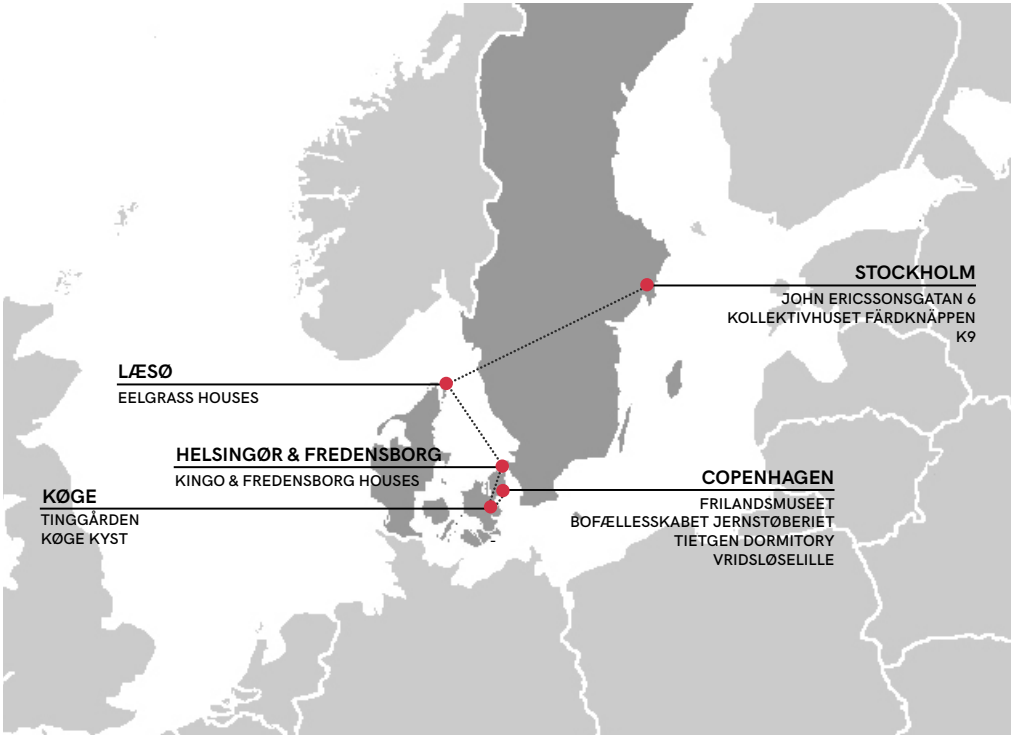
TOWARDS A NEW COMMUNAL TRADITION IN SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Scandinavia has been at the forefront of collective housing for nearly a century. Recent demographic and economic changes—as well as growing concern over climate change—has led many to eschew individual homeownership for a more communal, and affordable, way of living. Yet despite the movement’s longevity and increasing popularity, there is limited English-language scholarship on Scandinavian co-housing, and virtually no research on the relationship between contemporary projects and the vernacular architecture of the region. **“Towards a New Communal” addresses this gap by investigating how the designs of co-houses in Sweden and Denmark are informed by traditional forms, spatial organization, and materials.**

The project will begin in Stockholm, the birthplace of the Scandinavian co-housing movement, and end in Copenhagen, a city that is experiencing a rapid proliferation of co-housing projects. Time in Sweden will be spent studying traditional urban and rural architecture, as well as tracing the trajectory of the *kollektivhus* typology over the past 90 years. These co-houses were traditionally top-down in organization and employed a staff to provide meals and childcare services, granting female inhabitants the freedom to enter the workforce.

In Denmark, I will focus on the *bofaellesskab* typology, whose plan form typically follows the traditional courtyard schemes of Danish farms. I will combine trips to open air museums and locations known for vernacular architecture with visits to 20th and 21st century co-housing projects. I am particularly interested in seeing how the influence of traditional architecture plays into the more bottom-up management of the *bofaellesskab*, where participants cook and maintain communal spaces and gardens together. I also plan to investigate how the emphasis on natural materials in traditional Scandinavian architecture helps co-house organizers design sustainable projects.

Analysis and documentation for this project will take the form of transcribed oral histories conducted with residents, some of whom participated in the design process of their co-house; photographs showcasing the materials and tectonics of each co-house; as well as drawings and diagrams of the spatial organization of the projects, particularly the division between public and private spaces. By studying Scandinavian co-housing through the lens of tradition, I expect to gain a better understanding of what makes these projects successful. What cultural norms and values are embedded in the architecture, and how can these models be adopted in countries where co-housing has had a rockier history? In the US in particular, co-housing may be a solution to a wide range of issues, from the lack of affordable housing and childcare to climate change and the “loneliness epidemic.” This research will set the stage for a larger investigation into alternative housing, a typology I plan to focus on both in my academic work and in my practice as an architect.



A courtyard of co-houses at Tinggård, Vandkunsten Architects (1978). An early example of a Danish *bofaellesskab*.

ITINERARY

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Stockholm | Days 1-8 |
| Læsø Island | Days 9-11 |
| Helsingør & Fredensborg | Days 12-15 |
| Køge | Days 16-18 |
| Copenhagen | Days 19-31 |

BUDGET

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Airfare | \$1,400 |
| Lodging (\$130/day) | \$4,030 |
| Food (\$50/day) | \$1,550 |
| Transportation | \$2,000 |
| Admission Fees | \$200 |
| Contingency | \$820 |
| TOTAL | \$10,000 |

1. Dick Urban Vestbro compiled a catalogue of Scandinavian co-housing up until the late 1990s in “From Collective Housing to Cohousing—a Summary of Research,” Journal of Architectural and Planning Research 17, no. 2 (2000): 164-178. For a more recent overview of co-housing in Europe, see Tummers, Lidewij, “The Re-Emergence of Self-Managed Co-Housing in Europe,” Urban Studies 53, No. 10 (2016): 2023-2040.



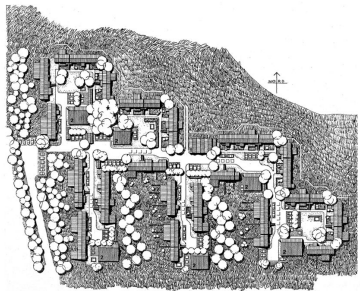
Kingo Houses, Jørn Utzon (1953). A series of courtyard houses inspired by traditional Danish farms.



Traditional eelgrass house, Læsø Island.



Traditional Danish farm, Frilandsmuseet.



Original plan of Tinggård, which has since been expanded.



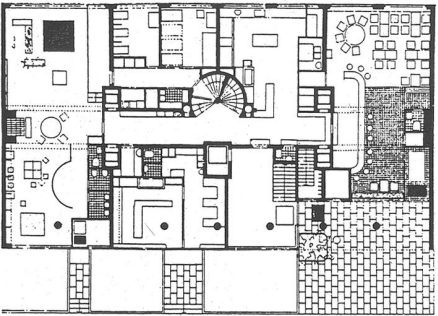
Courtyard of traditional Danish farmhouse.



Kollektivhuset Färdknäppen (1993), designed by participants to house those “in the second half of life.”



Traditional materials and forms at Tinggård.



John Ericssonsgatan 6, Sven Marakelius (1935), the first Swedish kollektivhus, with shared services and an employed staff.



Bofaellesskabet Jernstøberiet (1981)



John Ericssonsgatan 6