



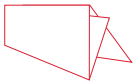
25 FANTASTIC INDUSTRIES

EXPLORING

06 RUD. RASMUSSENS SNEDKERIER

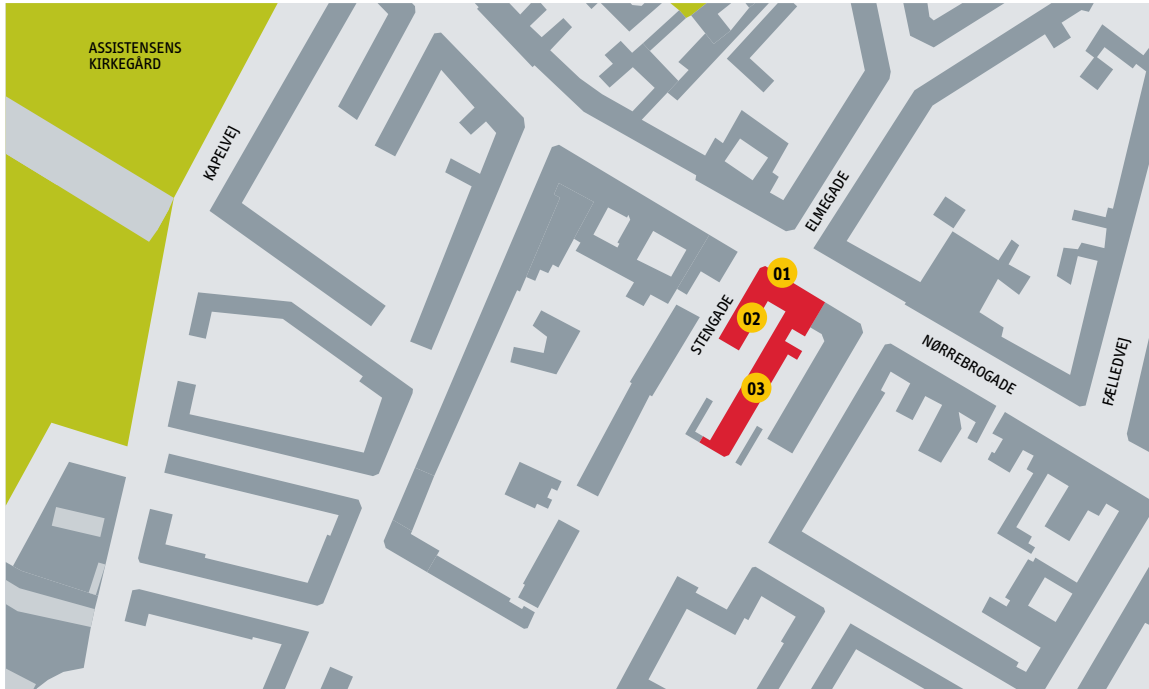
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Only the green sign, designed by famous furniture designer Kaare Klint with its two back-to-back 'R's, and two safari chairs in a display window hint at the gems hidden away inside the back yard of no. 45 Nørrebrogade. Here Rud. Rasmussens Snedkerier has manufactured and sold furniture since 1876. Inside, the visitor is met by a world of craftsmanship steeped in the finest traditions. This is one of the last active factory environments in the 'black square' of the Nørrebro district. The business was originally established on Store Kongensgade, but following a devastating fire, the founder and master cabinet maker, Rudolph Rasmussen (1838-1904) moved the establishment away from the inner city, beyond the former city ramparts to what was then the new district of Nørrebro.



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06 // RUD. RASMUSSENS SNEDKERIER



RUD. RASMUSSENS
SNEDKERIER
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01 FRONT BUILDING

The business is housed in two buildings at right-angles to the front building facing Nørrebrogade. The front building, an ordinary, 5-storey residential property, was built in 1894-95. The buildings face each other across a yard with space for parking and goods transport, forming a partially closed complex. The half basement contained the steam engine, in operation from 1895.

02 SHOWROOM

The building facing Stengade is the oldest, dating from 1876. Built from yellow brick, it was designed by the architect Alfred Thomsen. The four-storey building has a half basement and black slate roof. In this building, the Rasmussen family lived in a flat when the business was started; now the 4th generation lives here. Today the building also serves as a showroom.

03 FACTORY BUILDING IN THE YARD

The building in the yard is from 1911. Like the other building, it is in yellow brick, with red-brick banding beneath the windows. Facing the yard is a through-gate, stair and elevator and various loading ramps. A steam boiler was installed in the basement to power the woodworking machines on the 1st floor. The surplus heat was used both to heat the building and dry the wood stored in the basement. The furniture production process, still in use today, thus proceeds vertically, from the bottom up. The wood is dried in the basement; the machines

are on the ground and 1st floors; the cabinet makers work on the 2nd and 3rd floors, and finally, the upholstery is done on the 4th floor. In this way, the business also exemplifies optimum use of space in inner Copenhagen. Rud. Rasmussens Snedkerier is an important part of the history and Danish tradition of quality hand-made furniture.

DANISH DESIGN

From the start, Rudolph Rasmussen specialised in making limited ranges of exclusive furniture. His business made a name for itself when Rasmussen, from the 1890s, started working with the leading designers of the time, such as Thorvald Bindsbøll, Kaare Klint and Mogens Koch, and the fame of Danish furniture design is due not least to the craftsmanship of the company. Today, Rud. Rasmussen mainly makes furniture designed by Kaare Klint, Mogens Koch and Mogens Lassen, but also sells furniture from other manufacturers. Common to them all is that they are part of the Danish furniture tradition, ranging from the greats such as Børge Mogensen, Hans J. Wegner and Bernt, to recent stars such as Kasper Salto.

FAMILY TRADITIONS

Rud. Rasmussens Snedkerier upholds its staunch family traditions. The present director Jørgen Rud. Rasmussen is a fourth generation master cabinet maker. His wife is the house upholsterer and their two daughters are responsible for the company's PR.

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www.kunstindustrimuseet.dk

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