

# Klithuset i Dronningmølle – landlig idyl og historiske vingesus/ Klithuset in Dronningmølle – idyllic setting with a touch of history



Legesyge unger fra hovedstadens menighedsbørnehaver, sårede tyske soldater fra Østfronten, tapre frihedskæmpere, udhungrede koncentrationslejr fanger, ungarske koldkrigsflygtninge og minder om tjenestefolk undered hos den russiske zar. Klithuset har tjent mange formål siden skibsreder Knud Lauritzen i 1944 købte stedet for den nette sum af 95.250 kr. og de logerende har hver haft deres andel i verdenshistorien.

Den driftige grosserer Ferdinand Andersen havde en mani med at opkøbe aflagte ting. Da det gamle hotel i Humlebæk blev revet ned for at give plads til bedre infrastruktur, fandt han på at genbruge døre, vinduer, gulve og meget af det øvrige træværk til at opføre Klithusets hovedbygning. Også det skulle blive et hotel. Materialerne blev transporteret til Dronningmølle, og den ca. 1.000 m<sup>2</sup> store ejendom skulle i de næste mange år herefter komme til at lægge grund og vægge til et broget galleri af gæster – et galleri der afspejler en lige så broget og omskiftelig historie.

## Lauritzens sociale engagement

I 1944 blev Klithuset – eller Dronningmølle Klithotel som det dengang hed – købt af nu afdøde skibsreder Knud Lauritzen. Familien Lauritzen havde allerede nogle år forinden forelsktsig i området omkring Dronningmølle og fået lov til at anbringe campingvogne og telte på en strandgrund, som de havde lånt af Ferdinand Andersen. Grosserereren var imellem-tiden gået bort, og det var arvingerne til ham, der solgte Klithuset for 95.250 kr. Lauritzen familien havde helt andre planer med huset, der hurtigt blev stillet til rådighed for menighedsbørnehaver og siden anvendt til forskellige andre sociale formål. Fru Kirsten Lauritzen lånte således også huset ud til husmødre med børn gennem Mødrehjælpen.

## Værnemagt, KZ-fanger og modstandsfolk

Alt det blev der sat en brat stopper for en tidlig forårsdag i marts 1945, da den tyske værnemagt beslaglagde huset, i hvad der skulle vise sig at være krigens døende timer. Efter sigende var der tale om soldater, der forsøgte at komme til hægterne efter kampe på Østfronten. Få måneder senere var krigen slut, og med skæbnens for en gangs skyld passende ironi blev Klithuset i stedet stillet til disposition som rekreationshjem for tidligere koncentrationslejr fanger gennem Frihedsfonden. Samme og efterfølgende år fungerede det også som rekreativt sted for modstandsfolk.

Playful children from the capital's church kindergartens, wounded German soldiers from the Eastern Front, courageous resistance fighters, starving concentration camp prisoners, Hungarian Cold War refugees and memories of the Russian Tsar's servants. Klithuset has served many purposes since shipowner Knud Lauritzen acquired the place in 1944 for the net sum of DKK 95,250. And the lodgers have all of them played their part in world history.

The Industrious wholesaler, Ferdinand Andersen, had an obsession with buying up discarded items. When the old hotel in Humlebæk was pulled down to make room for better infrastructure, the recycled doors, windows, flooring and much of the other woodwork was used to build Klithuset's main wing. It was also to become a hotel. The materials were freighted to Dronningmølle and over the following many years, the approximately 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> building was to form the backdrop for a mixed gallery of guests – a gallery that reflected an equally multifaceted and fluctuating history.

## Lauritzen's social involvement

In 1944, Klithuset – or the Dronningmølle Klithotel as it was then called - was bought by the now deceased shipowner, Knud Lauritzen. But several years before that, the Lauritzen family had fallen in love with the area around Dronningmølle and had got permission to put a caravan and tent on a beach site that they had borrowed from Ferdinand Andersen. Meanwhile, the owner had died and it was his heirs who sold Klithuset for DKK 95,250. The Lauritzen family had very different plans for the house which was quickly made available to church kindergartens and then used for various other social purposes. Mrs Kirsten Lauritzen also let mothers with children use the house through the National Council of the Unmarried Mother and Child.

## Occupation, concentration camp prisoners and the resistance

All this came to an abrupt halt one early spring day in March 1945 when the German Occupation Forces took over the house for what would turn out to be the closing days of the war. Apparently, it was for soldiers recovering from the fighting on the Eastern Front. The war ended a few months later and with Destiny's for once suitable irony, Klithuset was instead made available as a convalescent home for former concentration camp prisoners through Frihedsfonden. That same year and subsequently, it also served as a convalescent home for resistance fighters.



## Asyl for koldkrigsflygtninge

Den kolde krig, der fulgte i kølvandet på 2. verdenskrig, bragte som bekendt nye ulykker med sig. Blot 10 år senere kom Klithuset til ved Red Barnets og Ungarnshjælpens mellemkomst at fungere som asyl for omkring 120 ungarske flygtninge. De idylliske rammer ud mod det rolige Kattegat må have været en voldsom, men kærdkommen kontrast til de bølger af vold og politisk uro, som opstanden i Ungarn førte med sig.

## Spejderlejr, børnepension og zarens tjenestefolk

Langt fredeligere har det været i de perioder, hvor huset har fungeret som sommerlejr for spejdere, københavnske fritidsklubber og børnehaver, til ferieophold for "aldersrentenydere" samt til børne-pension. J. Lauritzen A/S (JL) var et af de første rederier, der indførte hustrusejers, og medarbejdernes børn fik mulighed for at slå sommerferielejr i Dronningmølle, mens forældrene var til søs. Siden har huset også været benyttet til ferie- og weekendophold for Lauritzen-Gruppens medarbejdere

samt til personalefestivitater, runde fødselsdage, fætterkusinefester, fejring af Sankt Hans aften og bryllupper. Selvom huset nu er blevet ført up-to-date af Engstrøm arkitekter og udstyret med nye installationer, badeværelser, anretterkøkkener og meget andet, så er historien stadig levende. Indtil for nylig talte to blyindfattede glasruder i vindfanget foran Klithuset med. De stammede fra en bygning, der anvendtes som bolig for den russiske zars tjenestefolk, når der var besøg på Fredensborg. Nu hænger tegningerne ridset i glas i Klithusets hall og der er stadig plads til at indskrive sig i historiens gæstebog.

## Asylum for Cold War refugees

The Cold War that followed World War II also brought upheavals in its wake. Just ten years later, and with the involvement of the Save the Children Fund and Hungarian Aid, Klithuset provided asylum for about 120 Hungarian refugees. The idyllic environment facing out across the calm Kattegat must have been a dramatic but welcoming contrast to the waves of violence and political unrest that accompany the Hungarian revolution.

## Scouts and children's camp and the Tsar's servants

It was much more peaceful at the times when the house served as a summer camp for scouts, recreational centre for playgroups and kindergartens from Copenhagen, for holidays for old age pensioners and as a children's home. J. Lauritzen A/S (JL) was one of the first ship-owners to allow wives to sail aboard, and to give employees' children the chance to go on summer holiday camps in Dronningmølle whilst their parents were at sea. Since then, the house has also been used for holiday and weekend stays for Lauritzen Group employees and for their private events, special birthdays, family get-togethers, mid-summer parties and weddings. Even though the house has been modernized by Engstrøm Architects with new installations, bathrooms, kitchenettes and much else, it still reflects its history. Until recently, the porch at Klithuset had two leaded windows. They came from a building used to home the Russian Tsar's servants when they visited Fredensborg. Pictures scratched into the glass are now in the hall at Klithuset and there is still space to sign in the visitors' book.

## Klithuset – de vigtigste årstal/Klithuset – Key dates

**1932-1933** Grosserer Ferdinand Andersen opfører Klithuset af aflagte materialer fra Humlebæk hotel. Også Klithuset anvendes som hotel/Ferdinand Andersen, a wholesaler, built Klithuset from reclaimed materials from Humlebæk hotel. Klithuset was also used as a hotel.

**1944** Knud Lauritzen køber Klithuset af Ferdinand Andersens arvinger og stiller det til rådighed for bl.a. menighedsbørnehaver og andre sociale formål/Knud Lauritzen bought Klithuset from Ferdinand Andersen's heirs and made it available for use by church kindergartens and other social gatherings.

**1945** Klithuset beslaglægges i marts måned af den tyske værnemagt. Få måneder senere, efter tyskernes kapitulation, stilles det i stedet til disposition som rekreationshjem for tidligere KZ-fanger gennem Frihedsfonden/Klithuset was taken over in March by the German occupation forces. A few months later after the German capitulation, it was used as a convalescent home for former concentration camp prisoners through Frihedsfonden.

**1946** Knud Lauritzen sælger ejendommen til A/S D/S Vesterhavet. Klithuset fungerer i en periode som rekreativt sted for tidligere modstandsfolk/Knud Lauritzen sold the property to D/S A/S Vesterhavet. Klithuset served for the period as a convalescent home for former resistance fighters.

**1947** Klithuset anvendes i mange år frem til ferie- og weekendopholdstid for rederiets medarbejdere samt til sommerlejr for spejdere, københavnske fritidsklubber og børnehaver samt ferieophold for "aldersrentenydere"/Klithuset was in the years to come used for holiday and weekend stays for the company's employees and as a summer camp for scouts, recreational centre for playgroups and kindergartens from Copenhagen, and for holidays for old age pensioners.

**1948** Klithuset stilles til disposition som asyl for børn af tyske koncentrationslejr fanger/Klithuset was made available as a refuge for children of German concentration camp prisoners.

**1949** Klithuset benyttes fremadrettet bl.a. som rederiets børnepension – et sted hvor børn af sejlede medarbejdere og kontorfunktionærer kan tilbringe tiden, mens forældrene er til havs/Klithuset was also used as a children's home, a place where the children of employees on duty could spend time while their parents were at sea. This arrangement went on well into the future.

**1950-55** Klithuset fungerer fortsat med 1940'ernes aktiviteter, og nu også som folkekøkken for de medarbejdere, der lejer de tilliggende sommerhuse, og som her kan hente deres måltider (så mor har helt fri)/Klithuset still functioning as it did in the 1940s now also served as the community kitchen for employees renting the nearby holiday chalets. The families could go and get their meals there (so that mothers had time off too).

**1956** Klithuset stilles til rådighed for Red Barnets aktion til fordel for Ungarnshjælpen, og der indkvarteres omkring 120 flygtninge/Klithuset was made available for the Save the Children project to provide aid to Hungary and thus provided accommodation for about 120 refugees.

**1960-70** Klithuset danner ramme om de første kurser for ansatte i JL. Der afholdes desuden Sankt Hans aftener for de ansatte med pølser og snobrød på strandgrundens grillplads – grundstenen til en årelang tradition er lagt/Klithuset formed the setting for the first training courses for JL employees. There were also midsummer parties for employees with sausages and twist-bread by the beach barbecue place – a year-long tradition has been established.

**1970-80** I en tid med økonomisk klavkonjunktur henlægges Lauritzen-Gruppens personalefester til Klithuset af sparehensyn/At a time of poor trading conditions, Lauritzen Group staff parties were held at Klithuset to save money.

**1980-90** Efter Ivar og Knud Lauritzens død lukker børnepensionen, og man forsøger at få huset solgt/After Knud and Ivar Lauritzen passed away the children's home was closed and attempts were made to sell the house.

**1992** Knud Lauritzens døtre får, med støtte af JL-fondet (nu Lauritzen Fonden) og JL, atter gang i Klithuset efter,

det har stået ubrugt i en årrække. En af de første lejere er en DFDS kaptajn, som holder sit bryllup og til lejligheden maler træværket. Et hold DFDS-medarbejdere melder sig på frivillig og ubetalt basis til årlige arbejdsweekends med vedligeholdelse af huset/With the support from JL Foundation (now the Lauritzen Foundation) and JL, Knud Lauritzen's daughters got Klithuset up and running again after it had been unused for some years. One of the first people to hire it was a DFDS captain who held his wedding there and took the opportunity to paint the woodwork. A team of DFDS employees volunteered for an annual unpaid working weekend to maintain the house.

**1994** Lauritzen Fonden køber Klithuset af JL/The Lauritzen Foundation acquired Klithuset from JL.

**2006** Klithuset ombygges og renoveres og bliver en tidsvarende ramme for medarbejderne i Lauritzen-Gruppen – et ideelt sted til fester og andre arrangementer, hvor der er brug for store lokaler og overnatning til mange. Huset indrettes, så virksomhederne og Lauritzen Fondens øvrige støtteprojekter kan bruge det på hverdage til møder, konferencer o.l./Klithuset was converted and modernized to become an up-to-date framework for the employees at Lauritzen Group - the perfect spot for parties and other events requiring big rooms and space for many people to spend the night. The house was fitted out so that companies and the other projects supported by the Lauritzen Foundation could use it on weekdays for meetings, conferences etc.

**2007** Det nye Klithuset tages i brug med gæstfrit, professionelt og engageret personale, hvis fornemste opgave er at sikre, at huset er indbydende, friskt og rent, så alle brugere får en god oplevelse./The new Klithuset entered service with hospitable, professional, committed staff whose whole aim is to ensure the house is inviting, fresh and clean, in order to give all users a great experience.

**2010** Tropehuset står nyrenoveret med 8 dobbeltværelser, så kapaciteten i højere grad svarer til den stadig stigende efterspørgsel./Tropet huset refurbished with eight double rooms to provide capacity more in line with the ever increasing demand.

