

Colours

The Greenland settlements have some common characteristics. All the towns and the villages have a small cluster of older buildings from the colonial era. It is typically a series of stone houses and houses with timber near the port area.

Additionally, the cities are characterized by apartment buildings. These buildings of flats were started in the 1960s and in the recent years, the number of this type of buildings have increased in the major towns.

But there are also a lot of single-family houses. Before the colonization began the accommodation typically consisted of turf huts built of turf, rocks and driftwood. After the Second World War there was a great need for contemporary homes. This resulted in the development of a new standard house.

In the end of the colonial period in 1953 the Danish State established a subsidy scheme for house-building. The purpose of the housing scheme was to improve the conditions for the living and housing standards of the population. Later this system was extended to include housing loans for self-builders. Today, The Greenland Self-government has taken over the system of these subsidies.

The housing subsidy scheme, which is still in operation, meant that people could take over single-family or semi-detached houses built by local craftsmen or a state organization. The state granted the family a loan at 100 percent of the construction costs.

The Single-family houses varied in size from 32 square meters to 68 square meters. Large families could get loans for the construction of a type of house on 108 square meters. The houses were established in many technical variations, and over the years many owners chose to build extensions to the houses. Today, a modern approach of the standard house is developed. The new model is called Illorput 2000.

The houses offer many towns and small settlements a distinctive touch of wooden houses with a wealth of bright colours.



Houses in Narsaq, August 2009