

The spectacular development of a town

As in other countries the migration from rural areas to the towns continues in Greenland. Nuuk is the largest town in Greenland. The city now houses a fifth of the population, and if the current trend continues, Nuuk will within the next few decades be hometown for forty to fifty per cent of the Greenlandic population.

In these years new apartment buildings are raised in all parts in the town, but the construction activities can not keep up with the accelerating population growth; a lot of older apartment buildings have been renovated insufficiently, and these buildings has to be demolished.

The construction materials have a limited life. When the materials are too old, the surfaces and the assembling are leaking, and in the harsh climate the rain and the snow penetrate far into the construction.

The moisture results in mould fungus and rot in the construction. The bearing structures are damaged and the indoor climate becomes unhealthy because of the mould fungus. Decades of lacking renovation today has the result that it is often cheaper to build new than to renovate.

A lot of the new apartment buildings must replace the demolished buildings. At the same time, there are other settlements on the coast, where there are vacant homes, but in these settlements there are no economic bases for employment to keep the population in these local areas.

The buildings at the old port in the oldest part of Nuuk are now being surrounded by new tower block with modern flats.



New apartment buildings in Nuuk, April 2012

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[Go to the Text](#)

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