

FLUGT

REFUGEE MUSEUM OF DENMARK





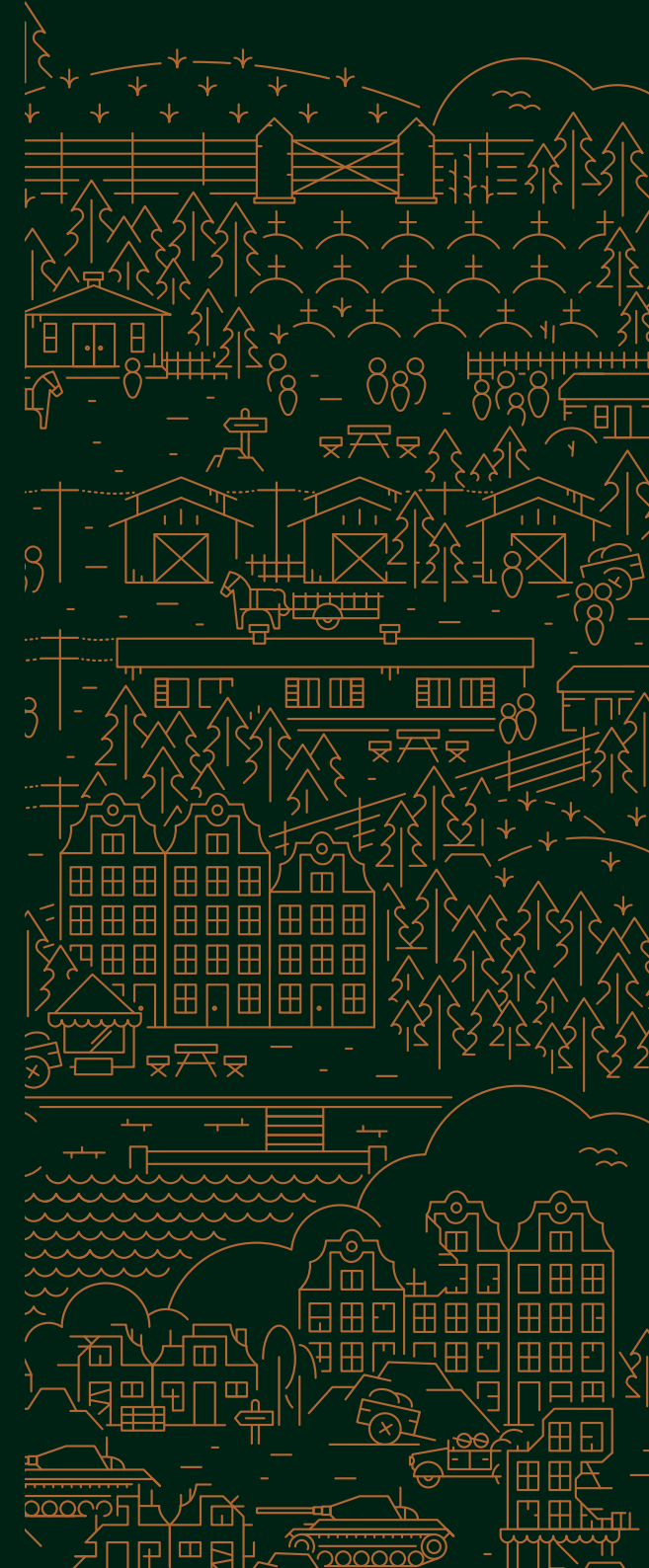
DENMARK'S NEW INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF REFUGEE STORIES

Summer 2022 will see the opening of *FLUGT – Refugee Museum of Denmark*, the first ever museum in the world devoted to refugees' stories.

FLUGT – Refugee Museum of Denmark is created by Vardemuseerne, who is also behind TIRPITZ, the international tourist attraction in Blåvand. FLUGT is situated in Oksbøl on the west coast of Jutland. After World War II, the site of the museum housed the largest refugee camp for German civilians in Denmark. The museum is designed by BIG – *Bjarke Ingels Group*.

FLUGT – Refugee Museum of Denmark will be an international museum, providing a totally unique experience. BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group have created a stunningly beautiful architectural setting, and Tinker Imagineers have brought the exhibits to life in a highly innovative experiential design. FLUGT tells the story not only of the approximately 250,000 German civilian refugees who arrived in Denmark at the end of World War II, but also of the numerous refugees who have come to the country more recently. FLUGT will turn numbers into faces and convey all the universal issues, emotions and countless subtle details associated with the plight of being a refugee. I cannot express how much I am looking forward to the opening in the summer of 2022.

– *Claus Kjeld Jensen, Museum Director*



FROM THE REFUGEE CAMP IN OKSBØL TO THE REFUGEES OF THE WORLD

Between February and May 1945, after a dramatic and terrifying escape, more than 250,000 German civilians arrived in occupied Denmark. The Red Army's attacks on Nazi Germany during the final months of World War II made a huge impact on the civilian population, displacing millions of Germans from their homes.

In 1945, Denmark's largest refugee camp was created in Aal Plantation in Oksbøl. After World War II, 35,000 German refugees lived here. But large refugee flows are not merely a historical phenomenon. On the contrary. Currently, the world is witnessing the largest refugee flows ever. War and persecution force people to flee. To safety. To survival. To new homes. The media are packed with powerful images, politicians argue this way and that, and the debate affects our everyday lives. That is why at FLUGT visitors will encounter more than just refugees from history. They will also encounter the refugees of today – the refugees who recently arrived in Denmark from the likes of Vietnam, Hungary and Syria.

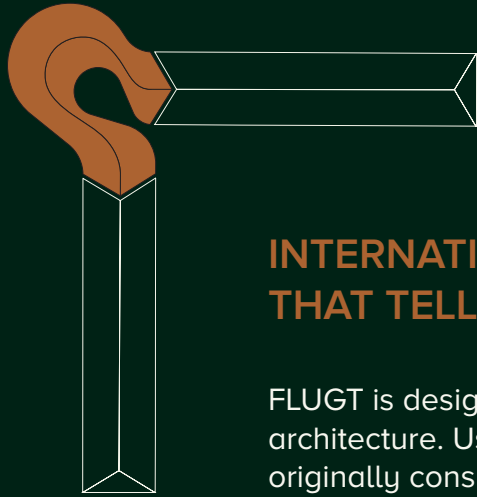
FLUGT puts faces on all these refugees, making the startling numbers and statistics relevant and portraying the plights of individuals with their families, friends, jobs and hobbies and – most of all – telling their personal stories. By providing insight into one of the most difficult and controversial topics of our time, FLUGT uses personal stories that teach us something about ourselves, each other and the world in which we live.



FLUGT IS SUPPORTED BY THE STATE OF GERMANY

The story of the 250,000 German civilians who fled to Denmark at the end of World War II is an important chapter in the history of Denmark. But it is equally part of the history of Germany. In Germany, there are still many descendants of the German refugees who came to Denmark during the final months of World War II. Every year, up to 20,000 of them visit the refugee cemetery in Oksbøl. That is why, in an extraordinary gesture, Germany donated approximately DKK 10 million towards the creation of FLUGT, while Schleswig-Holstein donated approximately DKK 750,000. Because our common history is important. The mission of FLUGT is to tell the important stories of hopes, dreams, budding insights, understanding and, above all, reconciliation between nations.



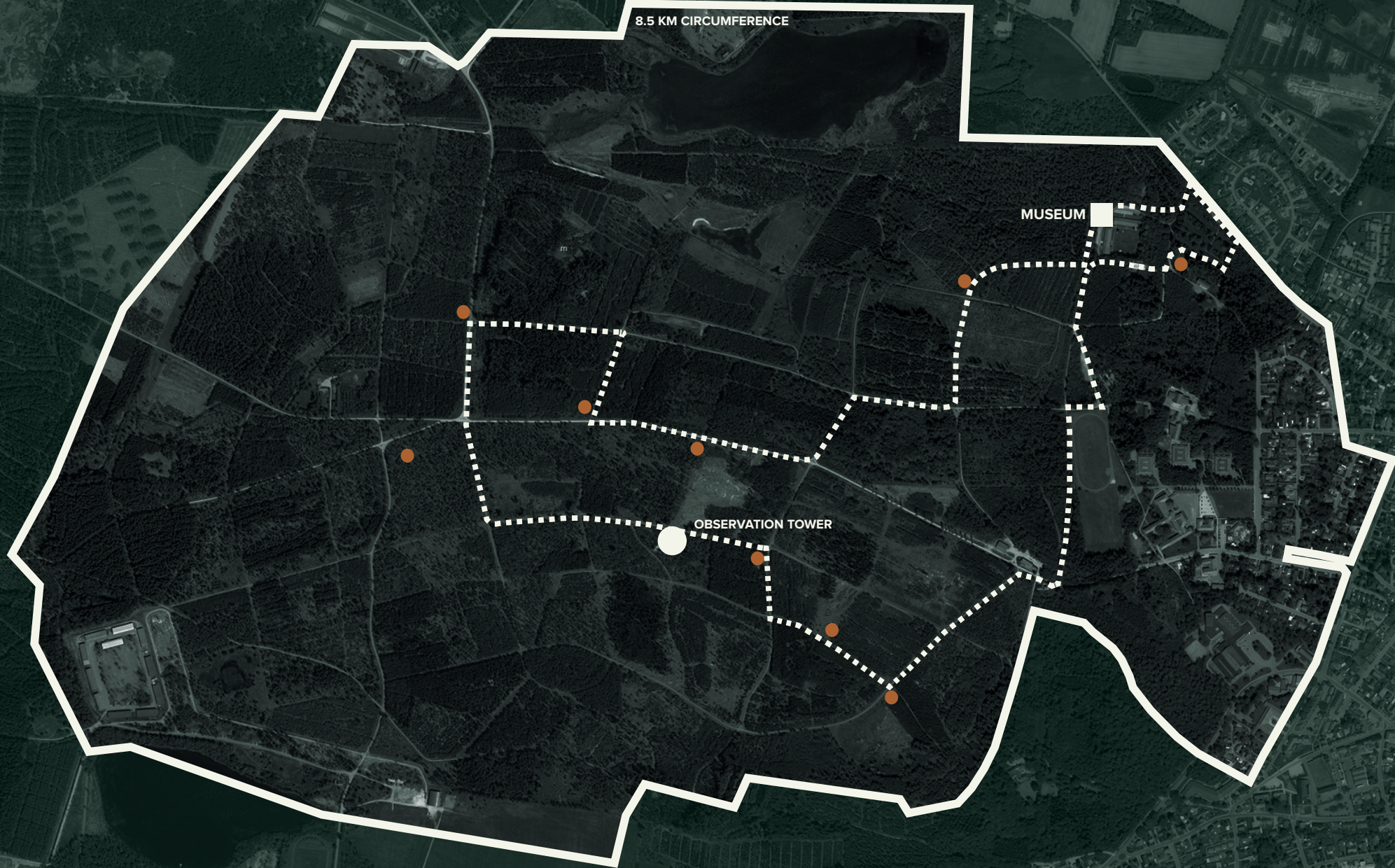


INTERNATIONAL-GRADE ARCHITECTURE THAT TELLS STORIES

FLUGT is designed by *BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group*, and is world-class architecture. Using as a basis the refugee camp hospital, which originally consisted of 40 small wards and operating rooms, the architects created a brand new museum with eight large exhibition spaces. A beautiful, curved, 500 m², new building unites the original wings. The architecture connects the present with the past, creating the perfect setting for the refugees' stories. From the outside, the extension looks like a closed Corten steel wall. But, once you step inside, you find yourself in a cathedral of wood and glass. Beneath the arches are public facilities such as foyer, cloakroom, ticket office and museum shop. The two original hospital wings retain their exterior, with red bricks, small mullioned windows and red-tiled roofs. Inside, there are the new exhibition spaces, a cinema, a café, teaching and conference facilities and a catering kitchen.







EXHIBITION DESIGN

– WHERE NUMBERS BECOME PEOPLE

The exhibitions in FLUGT are the creation of the award-winning Dutch company Tinker Imagineers. Their innovative, vibrant, experiential design introduces visitors to the stories using sound, images and interactive elements.

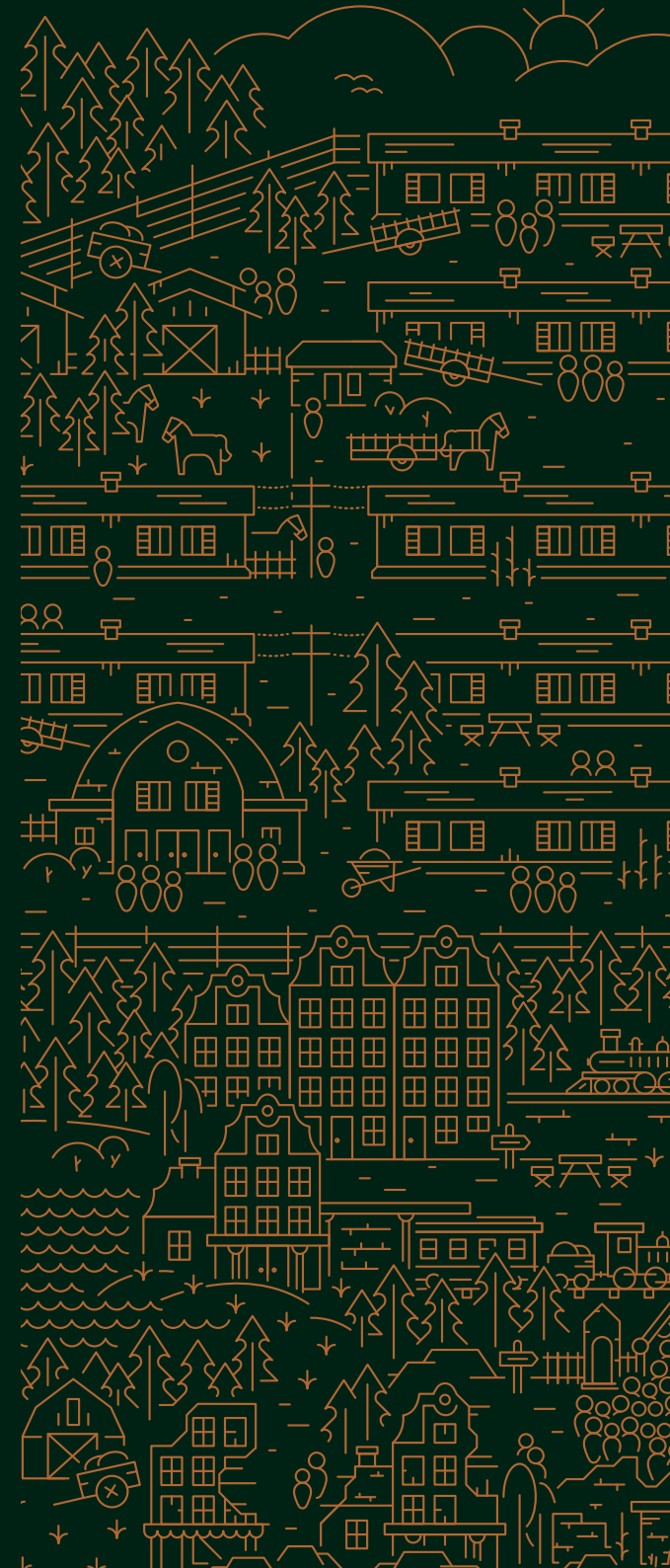
As the visitors pass through the various exhibitions, they move from themes of war and flight to possible safety and everyday life and finally, maybe (to a new) home. All stories take place across time and place. The exhibitions also shed light on history from the point of view of the recipient country.

After experiencing the museum's many, hugely varied exhibition rooms, visitors move out into the refugee cemetery and on to the actual plantation. Here we tell the story of the Oksbøl refugee camp on the very site on which it was located. The plantation is an experience zone where guests listen and are transported back in time to when this area was a 'town' with 36,000 inhabitants enclosed by barbed wire.



FLUGT – PARTNERS

In 2019, Vardemuseerne launched a network of museums that tackle the story of the German refugees. Aiming to tell the full story in as much detail as possible, the museum also collaborates with several German organisations, including Stiftung Flucht Vertreibung Versöhnung (SFVV) in Berlin, Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge in Kassel and, most importantly, with the German Embassy in Copenhagen and Danish Embassy in Berlin. But this collaboration is not merely pragmatic. It is also symbolic. It is a common processing of the aftermath of the war.



FLUGT – FACTS

FLUGT – Refugee Museum of Denmark is created by Vardemuseerne.

The museum is designed by *BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group*.

The exhibition design is the creation of *Tinker Imagineers*.

In the museum's entrance there are 110 rafters, no two of which are alike.

80,000 yellow tiles were used for the museum's floor.

The entrance area is clad with 50 tons of Corten steel.

We expect 100,000 guests to visit the museum each year.

THE MUSEUM IS FUNDED BY

The State of Denmark

The State of Germany

Land Schleswig-Holstein

Varde Municipality

Nordea-fonden

Augustinus Fonden

Dronning Margrethe og Prins Henriks Fond

Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge

Michael Jebsen Fonden

Herman Niermann Stiftung

William Demant Fonden

ABOUT VARDEMUSEERNE

Vardemuseerne is behind a total of 10 museums with varying themes such as art, history and archeology.

There are also departments in charge of public engagement related to nature and educational activities for schools. 2017 saw the opening of Vardemuseernes first major international attraction, TIRPITZ, also designed by *BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group*. Located in Blåvand, TIRPITZ has already received more than 900,000 visitors.

CONTACT

Museum Director

Claus Kjeld Jensen

ckj@vardemuseum.dk

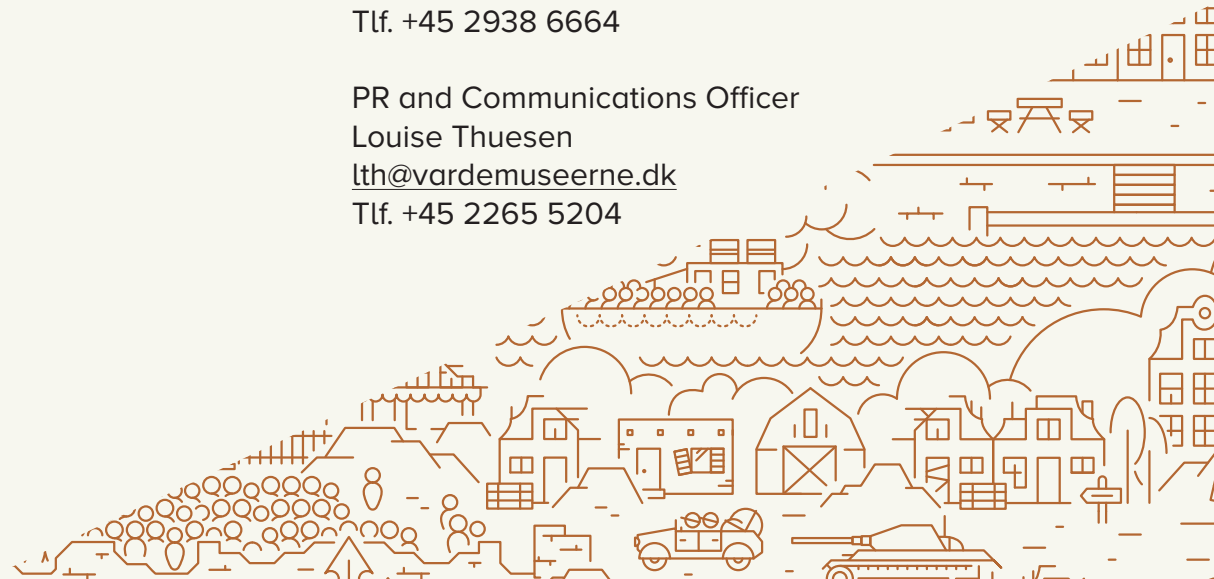
Tlf. +45 2938 6664

PR and Communications Officer

Louise Thuesen

lth@vardemuseerne.dk

Tlf. +45 2265 5204



FLUGT – Refugee Museum of Denmark
Præstegårdsvej 21
6840 Oksbøl



Vardemuseerne