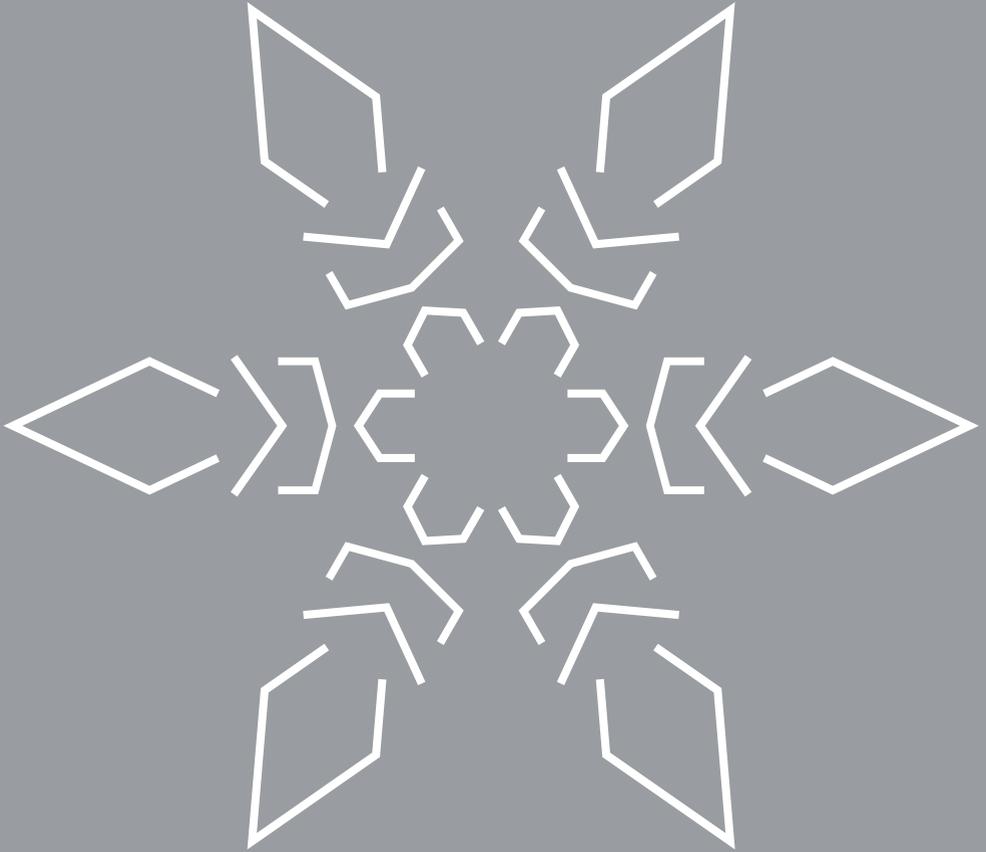


# KANGIATA ILLORSUA – ILULISSAT ICEFJORD CENTRE

An extraordinary building  
in an extraordinary setting











# A FOCAL POINT IN THE MAGNIFICENT NATURE OF GREENLAND



The Icefjord Centre has free access to the rooftop boardwalk, which offers stunning views of the mountains and the fjord.

At the mouth of the spectacular Ilulissat Icefjord lies Kangiata Illorsua – Ilulissat Icefjord Centre as a gateway between fjord and city, nature and civilization.

The centre was realized after Kangaia – Ilulissat Icefjord was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004. With this designation came an obligation to establish a visitor centre in order to promote this exceptional place. The promotion of Greenland's unique natural and cultural history is part of the overall development of tourism in Greenland. The Icefjord Centre in Ilulissat is the first of six new visitor centres to be built around the country as part of this initiative, which aims to drive positive development in

society and inspire tourists around the world to come to this unique Arctic destination.

In 2015, the Government of Greenland, Avannaata Municipality and the Danish philanthropic association Realdania established a partnership to build a visitor centre in Ilulissat that would match the magnificent setting without dominating it. After an architectural competition, the choice fell on Dorte Mandrup's project, and in the summer of 2019, the ground-breaking ceremony took place for the now completed Kangiata Illorsua – Ilulissat Icefjord Centre.

‘We look forward to welcoming  
visitors to Kangiata Illorsua.  
Now, tourists and locals can meet  
in this unique location and learn  
about the area's natural and  
cultural history, as nature unfolds  
in front of their eyes.’

– Palle Jerimiassen, Mayor of Avannaata Municipality

‘Kangiata Illorsua is more than a visitor centre. It is a world-class attraction and a meeting place for tourists and locals alike. Like the rest of Greenland, the area around Ilulissat is currently seeing significant urban and tourism development. The Icefjord Centre aims to support this.’

– Hjörtur Smáráson, CEO of Visit Greenland

Up to 25,000 visitors per year are expected to come to the new Kangiata Illorsua – Ilulissat Icefjord Centre. The primary role of the centre is to offer a beautiful, instructive and unique introduction to Greenlandic nature and culture. The centre's permanent exhibition, 'The Story of Ice', offers insights into the life cycle of ice, the rich life on the Icefjord, the human presence here over thousands of years and the impact of climate change on the area's fragile ecosystems. Meanwhile, they can take in the stunning

view of the Icefjord, hear the sound of the calving Sermeq Kujalleq glacier and immerse themselves in the natural landscape as they are learning about it.

In addition to the permanent exhibition, the Icefjord Centre also includes an art installation, a cinema, a museum shop and a café, where visitors can make new discoveries and enjoy a bite while gazing over the Icefjord and letting the many impressions sink in.



Mayor Palle Jeremiassen speaks at the opening of the Icefjord Centre.



Coffee break with a view of Ilulissat Icefjord.

With its exceptional location, Ilulissat Icefjord Centre forms a natural connection between the town of Ilulissat and the stunning Icefjord. It links up with the area's rambling trails, and its open-access rooftop offers one of Greenland's most stunning scenic views. The centre also provides a front-row seat to the undeniable impact of climate changes on the area. Thus, it may help to put climate change on the agenda for visitors, professionals and opinion leaders.

Tourism in Greenland is currently seeing rapid development, and in recent years, the country has become an increasingly attractive destination to tourists all over the world. The coronavirus pandemic put a damper on the Icefjord Centre's first season. Today, the Icefjord Centre stands ready to welcome travellers and local visitors with open arms, offering a stunningly beautiful attraction, a meeting place and a learning space for guests of all ages.

‘With its unique location on the front line of climate change, the new Kangiata Illorsua – Ilulissat Icefjord Centre will play an important role in conveying the effect of climate change on the ice sheet. It is also an area with great potential for local development, which we aim to promote by building the new Icefjord Centre.’

– Jesper Nygård, CEO of Realdania

# ARCHITECTURE IN TUNE WITH NATURE



The form of the building was inspired by the flight of a snowy owl over the landscape.

Ilulissat Icefjord Centre was designed by the Danish architecture firm Dorte Mandrup A/S, which has created a string of award-winning projects. The firm was chosen after an international architecture competition in 2016 following an in-depth preliminary analysis with the participation of architecture

firms from around the world, from Japan to Norway and Iceland. Dorte Mandrup was chosen because the firm presented the jury with a poetic and forward-looking project with an architectural expression that beautifully frames and supports the larger vision for the Icefjord Centre.



In recent years, Dorte Mandrup has created a number of projects that, like Ilulissat Icefjord Centre, are located at UNESCO World Heritage Sites and aim to frame the encounter between people and nature. The basic concept behind the Icefjord Centre was to design a building in tune with the magnificent but fragile nature that surrounds it. The building is shaped as a twisted structure resembling the wings of a bird extended over the terrain. Dorte Mandrup poetically describes the source of inspiration for the building as ‘the flight of a snowy owl over the landscape’. With its light expression, the construction almost seems to float above the

landscape – as if to underscore that as human beings, we are subordinate to nature and are merely passing through. The expansive glazed sections on the sides of the building minimize the separation between the exhibition and its surroundings – between people and nature.

The Icefjord Centre is situated as a hub for the rambling trails in the area and also connects Ilulissat with the open Icefjord. When visitors arrive to the centre from Ilulissat, they are greeted by the wood-clad building encircled by mountains. From here, they can either continue to the covered arrival terrace and into the centre or walk up on and across the roof.



The twisted construction offers new perspectives for visitors.



A direct view of the landscape from the reception area.



The Icefjord Centre has a total floor space of just under 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 900 m<sup>2</sup> is heated and 400 m<sup>2</sup> is dedicated to the exhibition.



The Icefjord Centre is situated as a hub for the rambling trails in the area.

‘The Icefjord Centre is defined by the unique conditions that characterize this exceptional landscape 250 km north of the Arctic Circle. We hope that Ilulissat Icefjord Centre will become a part of life here – a gathering place that can be used as a lookout hill, a shelter in the landscape, a space that offers cover from the wind towards the rock on your way to the fjord. Here you can experience, first-hand, the infinite scale of the landscape and the transition between darkness and light that is so characteristic of the Arctic climate.’

– Dorte Mandrup, architect, founder and creative director

Inside the building, visitors find the centre's permanent exhibition, which includes two art installations and a cinema, as well as a café and a shop. The exhibition, which was created by JAC studios, is constructed around floating islands with ice core samples that the visitors can move among. In extension of the exhibition, visitors can continue onto the covered exit terrace, which overlooks the Icefjord and transitions naturally into the UNESCO-protected landscape. The twisted building volume makes dimensions and perspectives vary as one moves through it.

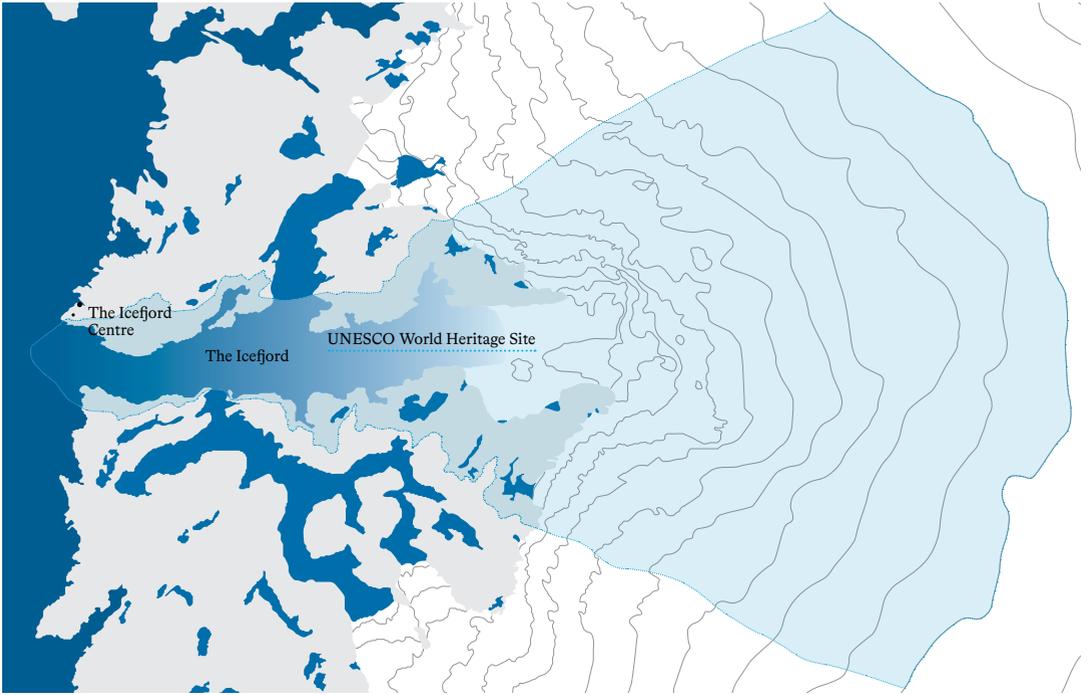
From the rooftop, visitors can take in the stunning view of the spectacular Icefjord and

continue into the landscape via the network of rambling trails.

The Icefjord Centre is intended as a meeting place. That purpose is reflected in the architecture. With its twisted form, the building creates covered spaces at both ends of the structure that provide shelter from the elements. The free access to the rooftop during spring, summer and autumn lets locals and outside visitors use the centre whenever they want and offers a natural gathering place and a vantage point for taking in the impressive panoramic view of the Icefjord and the huge icebergs gliding by.



Visitors can walk across the building's roof and continue into the natural area along the rambling trails.



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## KANGIA – ILULISSAT ICEFJORD

Kangia – Ilulissat Icefjord is the first location in Greenland to be included on UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage List. The designation, which was awarded by the World Heritage Committee in 2004, comes with a special obligation to raise awareness of the area's unique history and significance.





# THE STORY OF ICE IS THE STORY OF US

In the heart of Ilulissat Icefjord Centre, visitors can go on a journey through time in the exhibition 'Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq – The Story of Ice'. The exhibition, which covers 400 m<sup>2</sup>, including a cinema and art installations, takes the visitors back in time and into the future as it tells the story of ice. The ice has witnessed major events in the past, from volcanic eruptions and meteor strikes to the rise and fall of great civilizations, all of which have left their mark inside the ice sheet. The ice remembers when we forget. The story of ice is the story of us.

The exhibition was developed and created by JAC studios and uses digital and audio-visual

elements to stimulate the senses and invite reflection – both during and after the visit to the Icefjord Centre. The architecture framing the exhibition engages in a direct dialogue with the spectacular scenery just outside the building. The exceptional architecture is also reflected in the exhibition elements, which follow its form.

Interweaving the story of Greenland and Ilulissat into the presentation, the exhibition contains three themes that describe the unique landscape around the Icefjord – the more than 4,000-year-old cultural heritage and the climate changes that are leaving their visible impact on the UNESCO-protected Icefjord.

‘The exhibition takes you on the journey of the ice crystal from its initial formation and its passage through the atmosphere to its encounter with Greenland, where it becomes part of the ice sheet and eventually makes its way to the glacier. On a major scale, it shows the drama as the iceberg is calved and continues its journey into the sea where it is transformed into water.’

– Elisabeth Momme, director of Kangiata Illorsua – Ilulissat Icefjord Centre



The exhibition consists of a landscape of icefloes, where archaeological objects and films are shown inside ice prisms in mouth-blown glass.





Visitors exploring the exhibition 'Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq – The Story of Ice.'

## THE LIFE CYCLE OF ICE – THE TRANSFORMATION FROM A SNOWFLAKE ON THE ICE CAP TO ICEBERGS IN THE FJORD

How much does an iceberg weigh? How fast does it travel? And how many types of ice are there? Those are some of the many questions that are addressed in the exhibition's first theme, the life cycle of ice.

Here, visitors can learn about one of the world's most productive glaciers, Sermeq Kujalleq, and the transformation of ice from a tiny snowflake on the vast plain of the ice cap to a particle in one of the giant icebergs floating in the fjord at Ilulissat.

THE RICH LIFE ON THE ICEFJORD  
– THE IMPACT OF ICE ON THE MORE  
THAN 4,000-YEAR-OLD  
INUIT CULTURES ON THE FJORD

The story of ice is also the story of life in Qeqertarsuup Tunua – Disko Bay. In the second exhibition theme, the visitors can learn about the life-changing force of ice. The unique ecosystem in and around the Icefjord has profound importance, not only for wildlife but also for the people who live here.

The unique conditions in Ilulissat and the area around the Icefjord have made the place home to a number of settlements throughout history. Looking back in time, the exhibition describes the role of the Icefjord in shaping the more than 4,000-year-old settlement of Sermermiut. But it also highlights contemporary parallels, showing how today's inhabitants of Ilulissat innovate and adapt to the ice during a time of climate change. All of these perspectives are brought to life with personal stories and accounts from the local community.



Ice prism made of mouth-blown glass.

CLIMATE CHANGE  
– ABOUT THE PROFOUND AND  
LIFE-CHANGING CLIMATE IMPACT  
OF THE MELTING ICE

The third exhibition theme offers a close look at the climate changes leaving their marks on the magnificent landscape around the centre. This theme visualizes the impact of rising temperatures on Ilulissat Icefjord and the dramatic shrinking of the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier over the past 150 years. The exhibition will also form a setting for future climate debates, providing a space for tourists, locals and experts to meet and discuss climate and nature and develop new knowledge together.

LEARNING PLATFORM WITH A FOCUS  
ON NATURE, ICE AND CLIMATE

In addition to taking visitors on a beautiful and instructive journey, Ilulissat Icefjord Centre will also offer a physical and online learning platform for schools and schoolchildren around the world. The service will make the exhibition's extensive material about ice, climate, nature and Inuit culture available to primary and lower secondary school students in Greenland and around the world. The learning platform will give teachers free access to the centre's teaching materials, either in connection with a physical visit or for online use at their school. The goal is to build awareness among young people and provide insight into climate changes and this unique area, which has been included in UNESCO's World Heritage List for good reason.



The Icefjord Centre also includes a cinema.



Children learning about life in the early settlements in Sermermiut valley.



Some of the oldest ice in  
the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier  
is estimated to be about  
250,000 years old.





# ON THE FRONT LINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE



Towering icebergs in the fjord.

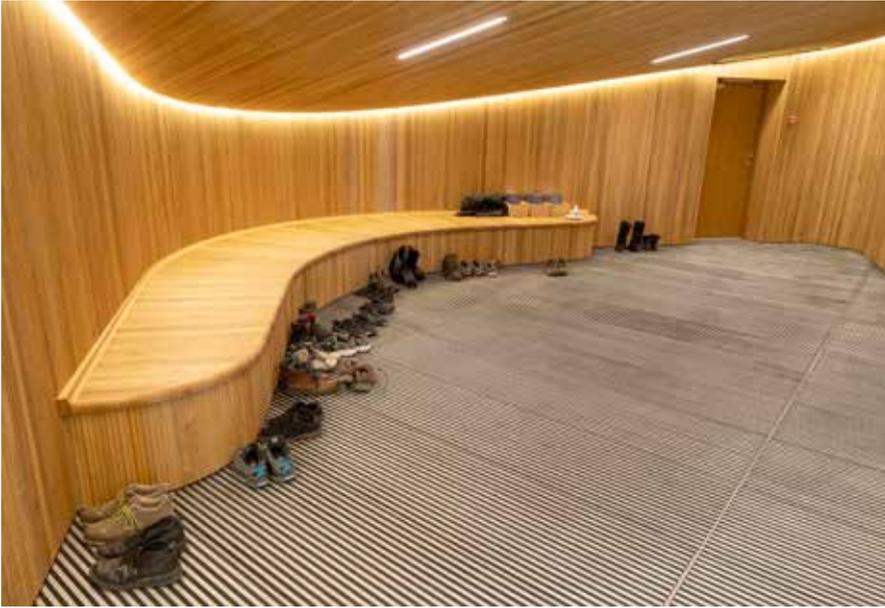
Kangia – Ilulissat Icefjord is breathtakingly large and majestic. It reminds us of our place as tiny human beings in the grand story of nature and Planet Earth. Here, icebergs are tossed out of the biggest and most actively calving glacier in the northern hemisphere, Sermeq Kujalleq. Every year, the 7-kilometre-wide glacier produces about 46 cubic kilometres of ice.

However, the Icefjord also sparks reflection on the indelible marks that man-made climate change is leaving on nature and, thus, the conditions for life on earth. The melt-off from Sermeq Kujalleq is accelerating, and as a

consequence, the majestic glacier has retreated several kilometres inland. This development is characteristic of the Arctic, where since 1850, temperatures have risen at twice the rate of the rest of the planet. Thus, for the past 250 years, the Ilulissat area has been of special interest to glaciologists and, more recently, to modern climate researchers. Here, at the front line of climate change, scientists can study how the rising temperatures melt the ice and influence the fragile ecosystems that are conditioned by the icy Arctic temperatures.



Sermeq Kujalleq is one of the world's fastest-moving glaciers with a pace of up to 40 metres a day.



The interior walls at the Icefjord Centre are lined with custom-made timber battens.

The construction of the Icefjord Centre is an occasion to maintain focus on climate change and the impact of Arctic developments on the rest of the planet. The accelerating melt-off of Greenland's ice cap, as a result of climate change, accounts for about one third of the total rise in sea levels.

One of the principal tasks of the Icefjord Centre is to communicate these changes, which visitors can now learn about first-hand, not only by experiencing the breathtaking scenery but also by taking in the Icefjord Centre's exhibition, 'Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq – The Story of Ice'.

# THE RICH LIFE ON KANGIA – ILULISSAT ICEFJORD



Diving humpback whale.

In traditional Inuit culture, the Mother of the Sea is a mythical being to be treated with deep respect. If the hunters returned empty-handed from the sea, their bad fortune was attributed to the people's wicked ways. As punishment, the Mother of the Sea was believed to hide the seals and other marine animals in her tangled hair. The nature around Ilulissat Icefjord has always played a crucial role for the people living on Disko Bay – from the earliest Stone Age settlers came to Ilulissat about 4,400 years ago to the present day, when the town is home to 4,670 people.

The local population has always relied on their unique knowledge of ice and the glacier, Sermeq Kujalleq, for their survival. Changing

seasons shaped hunting at Ilulissat. In the summer, when the ice retreated, and the animals moved closer to the coast, the Inuit travelled to their summer camps to catch reindeer, trout and halibut. In winter, when the sea ice covered the fjord, they travelled to their winter homes, such as Sermermiut.

Fishing also played an important role during early colonial times at Disko Bay (Qeqertarsuup Tunua), where fishermen flocked to the rich waters. The most skilled and successful hunters were known as 'great hunters'. Their taking was so rich that in addition to feeding their families they had a surplus they could trade for European goods as a way of showing off their good fortune.



The UNESCO-protected landscape of Ilulissat Icefjord.



The small brightly coloured wooden houses are iconic elements of Greenlandic architecture.



Dinghy fishing in the fjord.

Fishing and the fishing industry remain one of the most important trades in Ilulissat, and the port is a lively and bustling place. In the past, hunting big marine mammals, such as seals and whales, were the main source of food and income. Back then, life revolved around optimizing the conditions for the hunt, for example by performing certain rituals. Today, the main catch is halibut and shrimp, but many of the old fishing and hunting methods have been preserved and are continually refined.

# A UNIQUE ARCTIC DESTINATION



Headed for the fjord.

The spectacular landscape and unique cultural history make the area around Ilulissat an authentic and unforgettable tourist attraction. The town of Ilulissat is located on Greenland's west coast, at the head of Kangia – Ilulissat Icefjord. In Greenlandic, Ilulissat means 'icebergs', and the huge icebergs and glaciers give the area an almost otherworldly character and have made Ilulissat one of the most popular Arctic destinations.

Every year, about 30,000 visitors come to Ilulissat, and in the future, most of them will

include a visit to the new Icefjord Centre. By presenting the area's natural and cultural history, the Icefjord Centre supports the growing tourism in the area and in Greenland in general. The Arctic is becoming an increasingly popular destination. This represents a current trend, with the rise of a form of tourism that is focused on destinations that offer authentic experiences. With its unique landscapes and thousand-year-old cultural environments, Greenland is an exceptional destination for both current and future tourists.

‘We have a very exciting time ahead of us. The new centre will help promote tourism, not just in Ilulissat but in Greenland overall. Locally, we need to manage this increase in activity in a responsible way, so that it doesn't become a burden on nature and the environment.’

– Palle Jerimiassen, Mayor of Avannaata Municipality



Seat with a view.



Everyday life in Ilulissat.

In order to accommodate the many new visitors, there are plans to enhance the quality of the experiences Greenland offers tourists. The Government of Greenland plans to establish six visitor centres over the coming years, of which Realdania has supported the first: Kangiata Illorsua – Ilulissat Icefjord Centre. In addition to promoting the story of Greenland, the Icefjord Centre and the future visitor centres are also intended to contribute to a positive development of the Greenlandic economy and ultimately add jobs and promote growth in Greenlandic society.

This is not the first time that a partnership between the philanthropic association Realdania and Greenland has focused on the unique cultural and natural history of

Greenland. Realdania has previously engaged in the area around the Icefjord through its subsidiary Realdania By & Byg, which partnered up with the then Qaasuitsup Municipality – now Avannaata Municipality – and World of Greenland to restore two heritage houses in Ilimanaq from the 18th century. This project too was aimed at promoting the area's natural and cultural heritage and ultimately lay a sustainable foundation for growth and progress for local tourism and business. The development of Ilimanaq in combination with the Icefjord Centre will help develop the area around Disko Bay (Qeqertarsuup Tunua) further as a tourist attraction that offers many days of unforgettable experiences.

# ARCTIC CONSTRUCTION WITH LOCAL EXPERTISE



The twisted building structure of the Icefjord Centre resembles a boomerang when seen from above.





‘Local partners played a crucial role for a successful construction process in this challenging climate. The construction was complex and complicated to execute, but throughout, it was characterized by good and constructive collaboration among the builders and contractors, the developer and the consulting architects and engineers.’

– Frants Frandsen, Realdania By & Byg’s project manager  
for the construction process

A complex and unique project such as Kangiata Illorsua – Ilulissat Icefjord Centre will always require a special effort. Add the unforgiving Arctic climate, and you have a building process that places huge demands on the developer, contractors, engineers and builders, from start to finish.

In Greenland, summer is brief, and winter is cold, dark and long. The changing seasons place high demands on logistics and on the team – developer, consultants, contractors and builders – which has to work quickly and

intensely during the bright summer months, before frost and dark set in and make outdoor construction work virtually impossible. The Realdania subsidiary Realdania By & Byg was the developer and, as such, responsible for the construction process with the support of a strong team of experienced architects, engineers and local contractors and builders who know the area inside out. This local knowledge and experience with building in the unforgiving climate were crucial in making sure Ilulissat Icefjord Centre was completed on time.



The Icefjord Centre's steel-frame skeleton.

To make a strong and stable building on the rock in the tough Arctic climate, the structure was constructed of steel, about 80% of it recycled. This makes for a durable and weather-resistant building, to the benefit of both current and future generations. The frame of the building consists of 52 steel sections. Each section has a unique geometric form, and together they define the building's distinctive curved body. Throughout the construction process, the curvature required extreme precision in the creation of the building components. If a single drilling for the steel foundation were off by just one centimetre, it would make the entire construction off-kilter. Similarly, the building materials had to be delivered without the slightest aberration in measurements. Even a minor deviation had the potential to make assembly impossible and delay the entire building process, as all the materials were

imported and transported from Denmark by ship across the Atlantic during the ice-free months.

No fewer than 300 windows in different sizes are installed in the building, requiring more than 600 fittings. The glazed facade lets the visitors take in the scenic view. The building is insulated throughout to ensure a pleasant indoor climate. The roof, for example, is covered with heavy insulation boards that are glued down and sealed with asphalt coating to bring the centre safely through the long Arctic winters for many years to come.

Floors, ceilings, exterior patios and decks and some of the interior surfaces are covered with wood. The primary wood type is European oak, a hard-wearing and durable material in the Arctic climate. The wood adds a warm expression to the giant steel construction and is also a nod to the nature around the centre.



The Icefjord Centre under construction.



The building has 300 windows in many different sizes.



All the imported  
building materials had  
to fit inside a container  
module for shipping.



View of the town of Ilulissat and the icebergs



# THE PARTNERSHIP BEHIND ILULISSAT ICEFJORD CENTRE



The Icefjord Center seen from the perspective of a flying snowy owl.

Ilulissat Icefjord Centre was developed and funded by a partnership consisting of the Government of Greenland, Avannaata Municipality and the philanthropic association Realdania. The three partners worked together to establish the centre with the goal of supporting the local community and promoting tourism in Greenland. Realdania's subsidiary Realdania By & Byg was responsible for the construction process.

#### GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND

In 2009, Greenland Self-Government replaced Greenland Home Rule, which was established in 1979. Naalakkersuisut is the Government of Greenland, elected by Inatsisartut (Greenland's legislative body). The current Naalakkersuisut consists of nine members, led by the Premier.

#### AVANNAATA MUNICIPALITY

Avannaata is the northernmost municipality in Greenland and consists of four towns and twenty-three villages. It covers an area the size of Spain and is home to about 10,600 people.

#### REALDANIA

Realdania is a Danish philanthropic association with about 170,000 members. The association's goal is to improve the quality of life through the built environment – the physical settings of our everyday life. Its focus includes urban development, construction and the conservation of important cultural environments. Sustainability is a key issue in much of Realdania's work. Since 2000, Realdania has donated more than DKK 20 billion in total to approximately 4,300 projects. Membership of Realdania is free of charge and open to anyone who owns real estate in Denmark.

#### OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

The exhibition 'Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq – The Story of Ice' at the Icefjord Centre was created with funding from Nordea-fonden, Augustinus Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies and OAK Foundation.

‘The Icefjord Centre is going to play a major role for the area – also in terms of jobs. Even during the construction phase, the project created new jobs in the municipality, and we are delighted with the increased attention the centre will bring to Ilulissat and Disko Bay – Qeqertarsuup Tunua.’

– Palle Jerimiassen, Mayor, Avannaata Municipality

‘The Icefjord Centre aims to contribute to the development of Ilulissat and Greenland as a tourist destination and as a society, in addition to raising awareness of climate issues. Now, there is an amazing but understated building which supports that vision, respectfully positioned on the edge of this unique World Heritage Site. We look forward to seeing the local community and the rest of the world make the centre their own.’

– Jesper Nygård, CEO of Realdania

## FACTS ABOUT KANGIATA ILLORSUA – ILULISSAT ICEFJORD CENTRE

The Icefjord Centre is much more than a building. It is a vehicle for presenting Greenland's unique natural and cultural history. The centre is part of the efforts to develop tourism in Greenland with the aim of benefiting both the local and the national economy. Most importantly, the Icefjord Centre is a gateway between town and nature that aims to connect locals and visitors with the amazing and UNESCO-protected Kangia – Ilulissat Icefjord.

- The Icefjord Centre was created by a partnership between the Government of Greenland, Avannaata Municipality and the Danish philanthropic association Realdania.
- Ilulissat Icefjord Centre is the first of six visitor centres to be established in Greenland over the coming years.
- The building is functional throughout. The roof offers an open public vantage point overlooking the Icefjord during spring, summer and autumn. The building houses the exhibition 'Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq – The Story of Ice'.
- The exhibition 'Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq – The Story of ice' describes the unique landscape around the Icefjord, the area's more than 4,000-year-old cultural heritage and the climate changes that are now leaving their clear mark on the surroundings of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The exhibition concept was created and developed by JAC studios.
- As part of the exhibition, the Icefjord Centre also contains two art installations and a cinema as well as a shop and a café.
- The demands of the unforgiving Arctic climate is reflected in everything from the construction process to the choice of materials. More than 400 tons of steel was used to create a strong and stable structure on the mountain, and the roof is covered with heavy insulation boards to bring the building safely through the long Arctic winters for many years to come.
- The Icefjord Centre has a total floor space of just under 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>, 900 m<sup>2</sup> of it heated. The exhibition covers 400 m<sup>2</sup>, including the art installations and cinema.
- The operation of the centre is handled by Greenland Visitor Centre, an independent institution under the Government of Greenland. Elisabeth Momme is director of the Icefjord Centre and in charge of day-to-day operations.
- Annually, 25,000–27,000 visitors are expected to come to the centre.

## THE PARTNERS WHO DESIGNED AND BUILT KANGIATA ILLORSUA – ILULISSAT ICEFJORD CENTRE

Developer: Realdania By & Byg, a Realdania subsidiary  
Architect and full-service consultant: Dorte Mandrup A/S  
Consulting engineers: Søren Jensen Rådgivende Ingeniørfirma A/S  
Developer consultant: Rambøll (Denmark)  
Construction management and site supervision: Rambøll Grønland A/S  
General contractor: KJ Greenland A/S / consultant engineer Torben Melgaard  
Subcontractors:

- Painter Niels Erik Bro, Jensens Malerforretning ApS, Ilulissat
- VVS Firmaet A/S and electrician, Ilulissat
- Kai Andersen A/S, engineers and contractors, Aalborg
- Landscape architect: Kristine Jensen Landskab & Arkitektur ApS
- Preliminary analyses and project development: BARK

## ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition 'Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq – The Story of Ice' was created with assistance from an advisory group consisting of:

- Klaus Nygaard, director of the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- Olav Orheim, glaciologist and climate researcher, Norway
- Kirsten Hastrup, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen
- Erik Bjerregaard, former general manager at Hotel Arctic in Ilulissat and a former board member of Visit Greenland
- Ólafur Örn Haraldsson, former director of Thingvellir Visitor Centre, Iceland

## THE EXHIBITION WAS CREATED BY JAC STUDIOS

Johan Carlsson, founder architect/designer  
MA, MDD

## TIMELINE

2004: Ilulissat Icefjord is designated a UNESCO's World Heritage Site.  
2014: The Government of Greenland, Avannaata Municipality and the philanthropic association Realdania establish a partnership to construct Ilulissat Icefjord Centre.  
2016: Dorte Mandrup wins the international architecture competition for the centre in 2016.  
2019: Construction begins.  
2019: The topping-off ceremony is held in October.  
2021: The Icefjord Centre opens its doors to the first visitors on 3 July.

## BUDGET

The total budget for the project was approximately DKK 152 million.

## CONTRIBUTORS

The Government of Greenland and Avannaata Municipality contributed with a total of DKK 23 million. Realdania contributed with DKK 108 million.

## THE EXHIBITION AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES INSIDE THE ICEFJORD CENTRE ARE FUNDED BY:

Nordea-fonden: DKK 16.45 million  
Augustinus Foundation: DKK 3.8 million  
Bloomberg Philanthropies: DKK 750,000  
OAK Foundation: DKK 350,000

Part of the grant from Nordea-fonden is earmarked for a physical and online learning platform for schools and schoolchildren all over the world.



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Realdania: 30, 45  
Visit Greenland/Filip Gieda: 35  
Visit Greenland/Julie Skotte: 33

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