European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards (2025)
1173-Heritage Champions 5. Heritage Champions

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Inge Bisgaard - a strong voice for cultural heritage in Greenland

Entry details

General information

Main country of application	Denmark
Name of nominated individual, group of people or organisation.	Inge Bisgaard, Nationalmuseum of Greenland
Nominator	Europa Nostra Denmark
Is the nominee an individual, group of people or an organisation?	Individual
Website(s) of the project/nominee	https://independent.academia.edu/IngeBisgaard/CurriculumVitae

Brief description of the nominee

> Inge Bisgaard has worked a lifetime for the preservation of cultural heritage in Greenland. She has carried out building evaluations in the entire country, and has travelled the whole of Northeast Greenland to register and classify the cabins of expeditions and hunters from the nineteenth and twentieth century to secure these important traces of grenlandic cultural heritage for the future.

Contact details - Heritage Champions

Name of the nominee (or contact person for the nominee in case the nominee is an organisation)	Inge Bisgaard
Nominee's position	Department manager at the National museum of Greenland

Organisation of the nominee	National museum of Greenland
Address of the nominee	
> Hans Egedesvej 8, Nuuk, Greenland	
Email address of the nominee	inge@natmus.gl
Confirm email address of the nominee	inge@natmus.gl
Telephone of the nominee (fixed line)	+299382230
Telephone of the nominee (mobile number)	+299382230
Name of the nominator	Ettie Castenskiold, Europa Nostra Denmark
Nominator's position	Chairman of Europa Nostra Denmark
Organisation of the nominator	Europa Nostra Denmark
Email of the nominator	ettie@castenskiold.dk
Confirm email address of the nominator	ettie@castenskiold.dk

Concise summary - Heritage Champions

Concise Summary

> Inge Bisgaard has worked a lifetime for the preservation of cultural heritage in Greenland. Since 2011, she worked at Nunatta Katersugaasivia Allagaateqarfialu, The National Museum and Archive of Greenland, where her work to preserve the building heritage of Greenland has been truly impressive.
>
> Inge Bisgaard played a decisive role in defining a clear direction in the building conservation in Greenland and she has been deeply committed in later years to the work of listing and preserving Greenlands building heritage. This work is to be followed by guidelines, to secure that all parts of Greenlands building heritage will survive into the future.
>
> Inge Bisgaard has carried out building evaluations in the entire country. She travelled the whole of Northeast Greenland to register and classify the cabins of expeditions and hunters from the nineteenth and twentieth century, a very important part of Greenlands history. And she has also worked on more recent cultural heritage, f. i. the earlier American bases at Ikateq and Marrak from WW2.
>
> Building restoration is a part of Inge Bisgaards large field of work. Unique wooden houses from the eighteenth century is one focus of her expertice. Another is the highly appreciated development project of Ilimanaq.
>
> Inge Bisgaards research has covered building culture from Nuuk to Northeast Greenland. She has investigated and registrated, mediated and guided. She has emphasized the importence of developing correct methods of conservation of Greenlands building heritage, and to pass them on. The dialogue with carpenters, architects, developers and citizens

> in towns and countryside is essential in her work with conservation and mediation. It is a contribution that rely both on overview and an understanding of details – both science and practical knowledge.

Detailed description - Heritage Champions

History and description of the nominee's dedication and civic engagement in favour of the safeguard and enhancement of cultural heritage in Europe

> Inge Bisgaard works as an inspector (department manager) at the Greenland National Museum, where her task is to support the development and building of knowledge and not least widespread familiarity with methods and tools for handling the built cultural heritage throughout Greenland.
> Inge Bisgaard has also been conducting a systematic review of all protected
> buildings in the country since 2011, where the task is to get clarity on what is at the basis for conservation and whether the building still has conservation value.
> Subsequently, a forward-looking action plan is drawn up for each building.

Time span of nominee's dedicated service to heritage.

> A lifetime!

Results and impact achieved

> List of projects:
>
> 1. Systematic conservation value review of all Greenland's listed buildings
> 2. Condition registration, reconnaissance and dissemination of Cold War facilities in Greenland, Report on 6 designated Cold War facilities in Greenland
> 3. Advice and supervision of the north-east Greenlandic cabins and stations below recovery/renovation instructions and general dissemination
> 4. The Ilimanaq houses, Ilulissat, in collaboration with Realdania Byg + Conveyance of the restoration work
> 5. Dissemination and advice regarding the building culture - including preparation of instructions for restoration work on cultural-historical buildings for advisers,
> craftsmen and private individuals.
> 6. Preparation of application materials for Unesco about Kujataa Arctic agricultural landscape in Greenland including conservation of 57 buildings in Qassiarsuk, Igaliku, Municipality of Kujalleq
> 7. Preservation review and registrations of cultural-historical buildings i
> Northeast Greenland
> 8. Contribution to Trap Greenland, Greenlandic building customs over thousands of years
> 9. Special exhibition at Greenland's National Museum about Northeast Greenlandic cabins and stations

Official recognitions received, if any

> 1. Prince Henrik Europa Nostra Award
> 2. Ridder af Dannebrog recieved 26. Juni 2024 of His Royal Highness King Frederik X

Difficulties encountered and how these obstacles were overcome

> The vast distances, impassable areas, and very cold weather!

Measures taken to ensure the sustainability or viability of the nominee's work.

> The building traditions of Greenland making houses in pure wood is one of the most sustanable ways of building

Contribution of the nominee towards sustainability (environmental, social, cultural and economic) and any climate action related activities.

> Preserving the buiding heritage of Greenland is very important for the pride of the Grenlandic people, and could help build a tradition for craftsmanship which is highly needed a the greenlandic society with many social problems

Innovative aspects (economic, social, technological, environmental or legal) of the nominee's activities.

> Preserving the buiding heritage of Greenland is very important for the pride of the Grenlandic people, and could help build a tradition for craftsmanship which is highly needed a the greenlandic society with many social problems

Nominee's interaction with the community and the urban or landscape context.

> Inge Bisgaard is part of the community, born and raised in Greenland, but educated i Copenhagen, which is described in this article

Knowledge gained by the nominee and how it has been shared and disseminated with both the heritage community and non-traditional audiences.

> Research projects:
>
> 1. The spread of aggressive wood fungi in Greenlandic cultural-historical buildings in areas where the permafrost has begun to thaw.
> 2. The special Greenlandic culture in Greenlandic architecture

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European and international dimension

European significance of the project/initiative/nominee.

> Preserving the cultural heritage of Greenland is important for the people in Greenland, which is also of european significance.

Additional information

How would winning the European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award benefit you, your project and/or your organisation?

> It would give more attention to the cultural heritage of Greenland and make it easier for the National museum to raise awarenes and funding for the buildings

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, what will the monetary award be used for?

> National heritage projects in Greenland

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, who will be the recipient of the monetary award?

> The Nationalmuseum in Greenland

How did you find out about the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra

Europa Nostra website

Nostra Awards?

Is this the first time that this entry has been submitted to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Yes
On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied are you with this online submission form?	✓ 7
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Log in to european-heritage.awardsplatform.com to see complete entry attachments.



Indvielse Iliman... 1.0 MiB



Inge med opma... 2.3 MiB



Portr├at-Inge-B... 160 KiB



villaen_danmar... 66 KiB



fangsthytteopm... 94 KiB



Qeqertarsuaq K... 2.7 MiB



Bygningssyn.jpeg 2.5 MiB

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Photo Captions ... 17 KiB

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Inge Bisgaard r... 272 KiB

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Inge Bisgaard.pdf 979 KiB

PDF

Entrant Declara... 268 KiB

Co-funded by the European Union