

Løvehuset (The Lion House)

When you walk through Hovedgaden in Billund you pass an old house build in red bricks (opposite the pizzeria). The house celebrates its 100 years anniversary in 2024. The house is in Danish called Løvehuset meaning The Lion House. It has got its name from two concrete lions placed in front of the old entrance to the house. The lions were by the way renewed in 2019.

The house was built by carpenter (and later founder of the LEGO company) Ole Kirk Christiansen. The story behind it is that a day in April 1924 the adults got a midday nap. Their kids (among them Godfred Kirk Christiansen) were playing in the workshop. It was a cold day so the kids turned on an oven with the result that some planer shavings went into fire. The consequence was that the workshop and also the living house burned down. And Ole Kirk had just extended his workshop and house the year before.



Ole Kirk contacted architect Jesper Jespersen (1868-1926) from Fredericia. The architect was well known from many buildings in Fredericia and also as architect for building of many dairies in Denmark. The reason why Ole Kirk contacted him was that he at that time was architect for building a new dairy in Billund (where Ole acted as carpenter). Picture: Building Løvehuset in 1924.

The house (Løvehuset) had a small apartment, an office and a showroom. The house was built after the best principles of that time and using the best materials. However, Ole Kirk was short of money and to finance his new house he had to ask the dairy, where he was working, for a pre-payment of DKK 2000. But the house turned out to be more expensive than expected, so Ole Kirk had to rent out the upper level of the house.

Løvehuset was built at what was the most western part of the village. But already a few years later the still existing bakery was built.

In 1942 a new fire hit the LEGO company. The workshop burned down, but Løvehuset was rescued.

Løvehuset was home for Ole Kirk until he died in 1958. Picture: Ole Kirks desk. His wife Sofie lived there until 1962, when she moved back to Sjælland where she originally came from.



When Sofie left for Sjælland, Løvehuset was included as one of the ordinary LEGO facilities. It gave meaning as it was connected to the factory and to Systemhuset (today placed at the corner between Hovedgaden and Systemvej). Systemhuset got its 2nd floor in 1962 and was at that time the headquarter for the LEGO company.

Løvehuset is today used for offices and meeting facilities. But most of it is used as showroom and internal museum. Here LEGO employees and external guests can learn more about the company and its history and development.

Pictures below: In front of Løvehuset (1950-52) and Løvehuset as it looks 2024

