

Atlas of
VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE



Anna Ohmsen



Smokeries

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Round churches and ruins

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On Bornholm, the smokehouses were particularly affected by the fishing villages and the smaller towns. Herring smoking has provided a good extra income for the fishing families. The herring fishery has deep roots and long traditions on Bornholm. Most fishing villages and towns were built in the 14th centuries. A very large part of the herring was salted for winter storage, some was dried as a form of preservation and others were eaten fresh. Herring smoking took place in the fishermen's house in small kitchen chimneys, which could hold 600-1300 herring in one smoke. There has been a total of approx. 135 smokehouses and today about 60 are preserved. Technical conditions, requirements for staff rooms, and tiles on the walls according to hygiene made many smokehouses close. The approximately 60 smokehouses today still help to draw the profile and history of the fishing villages, but the smell of smoke that previously left its mark on the small settlements has now almost completely disappeared.

The herring smokehouses worked by catching the herrings from open boats with sails and oars. Then the herring is cleaned, hung up and dried. The cleaned herring stored, ready for smoking. The actual smoking process lasted about 4 hours. It first consisted of heating under an open fire, where the herrings were almost boiled and after an hour the fire subsided and smoke hatches were closed to form a smoke chamber. Next, they had to be packed, in which there were 160 herring in each box which weighed 20-25 kg. The work has always consisted of needlework and caring for the fire. Over time, improvements were made to the work, where the herrings were spear-hung on a wagon that could be transported around the production.

The chimney could have different size, shape, and construction. The smoke chimneys consist of open fireplaces with one large room, where one side is open for working. The first chimneys were often built into one gable of a house, but later they were built independently by joining a building where different processes could take place. Many smokehouses have only one chimney. Some very large double chimneys were built in Sandvig, which are still preserved. They were usually bricked up in bricks, often on cast vertical beams, whereupon the pipe continued vertically further up. The chimney varies a lot in shape and size, from low to high slender pipes. The side over the large opening is usually carried by a strong arch in iron and held together with external anchors.

"Silderøgerierne ved hasle" by Niels Holger Larsen (1991)

THE SMOKERY







Detail

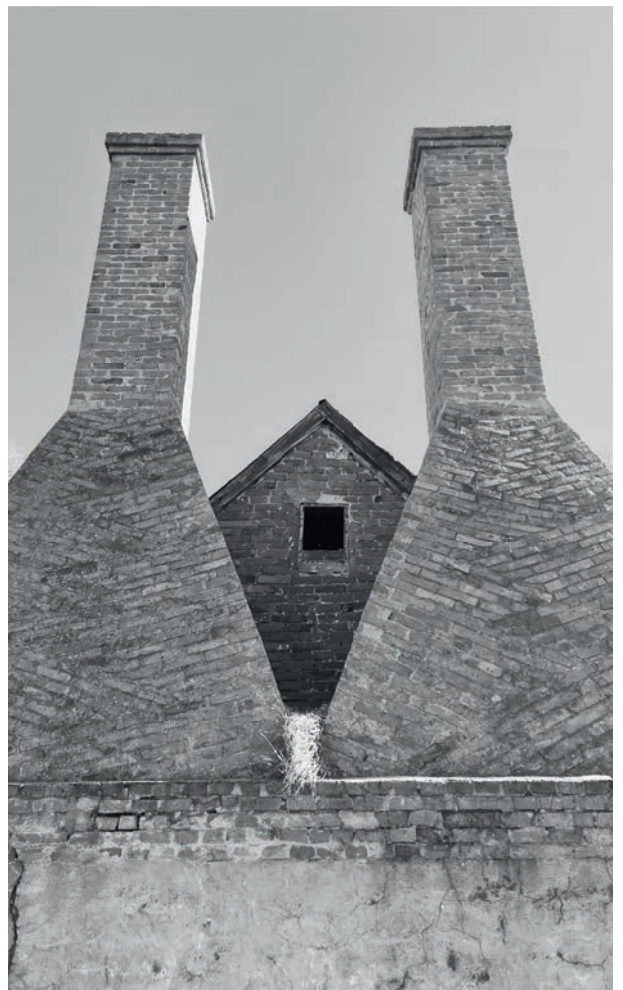


transition



Inside chimney

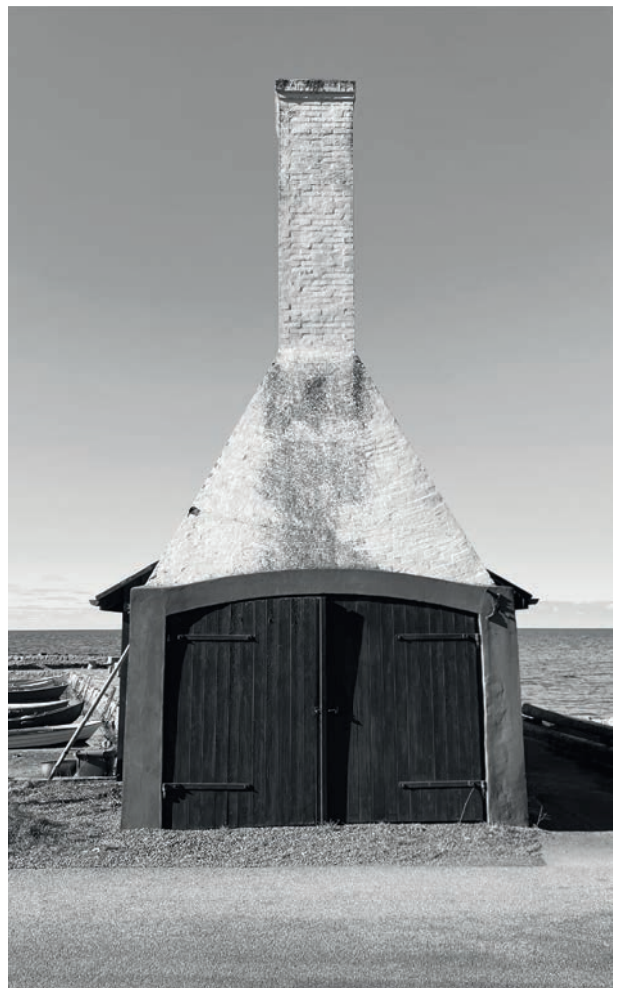




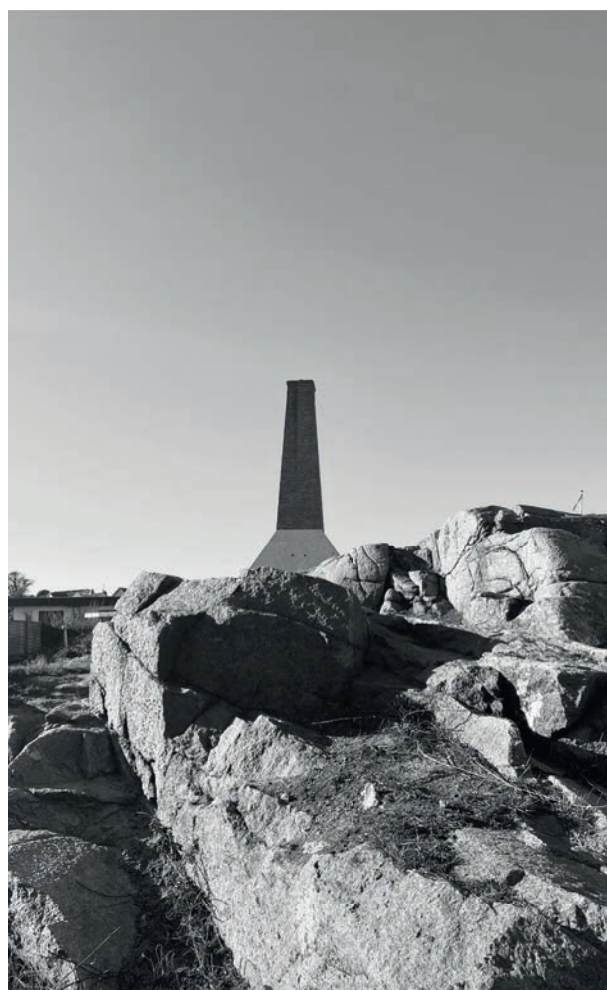
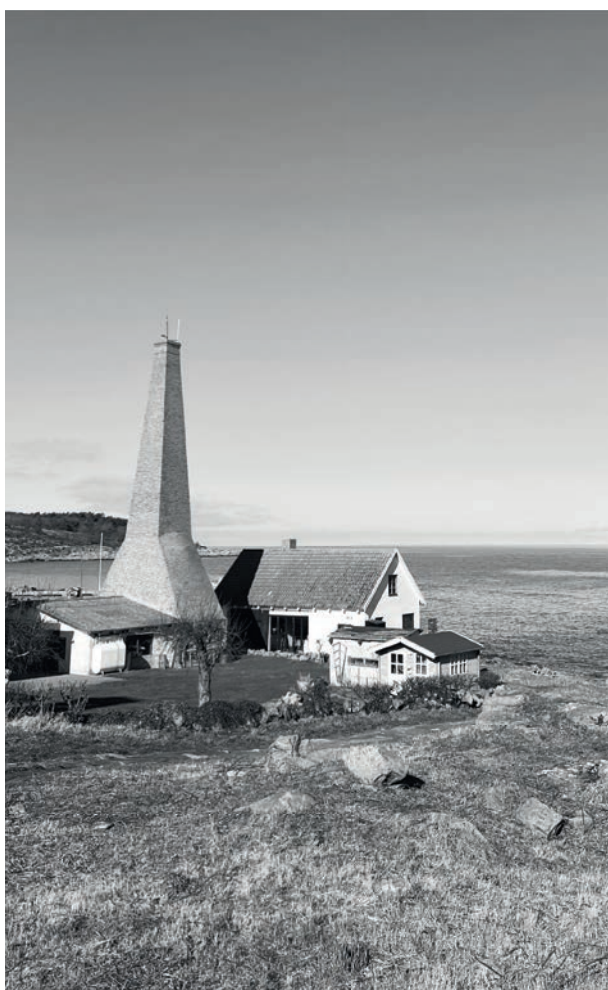
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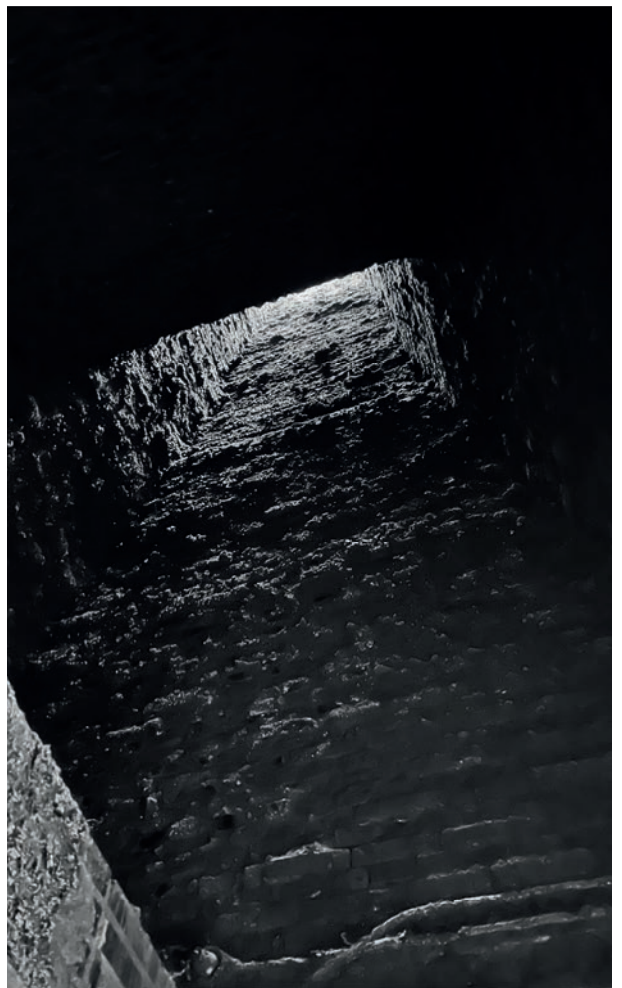
Color shift



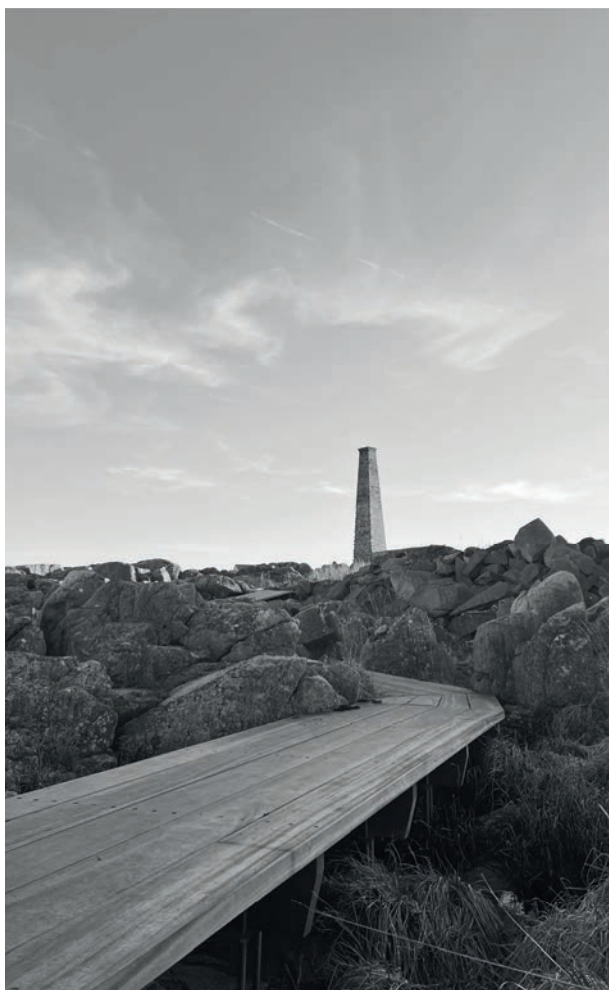
Chimney

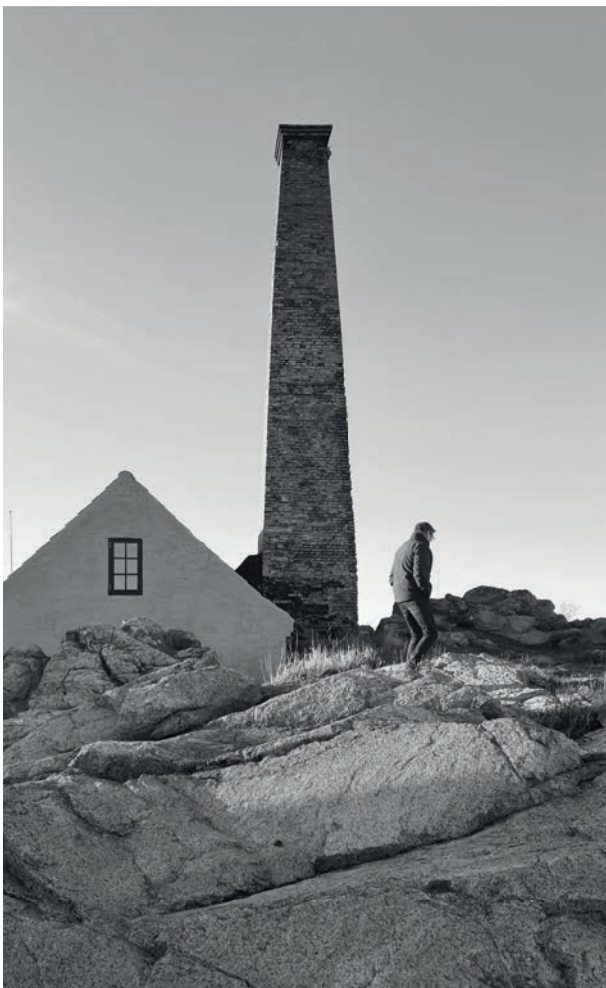


Rises from the rock



Inside chimney





Coastal path and monolith in landscape





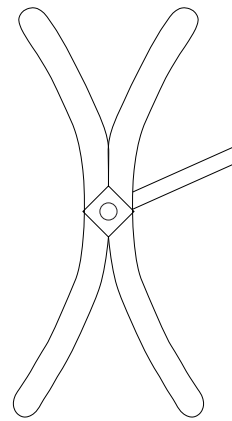
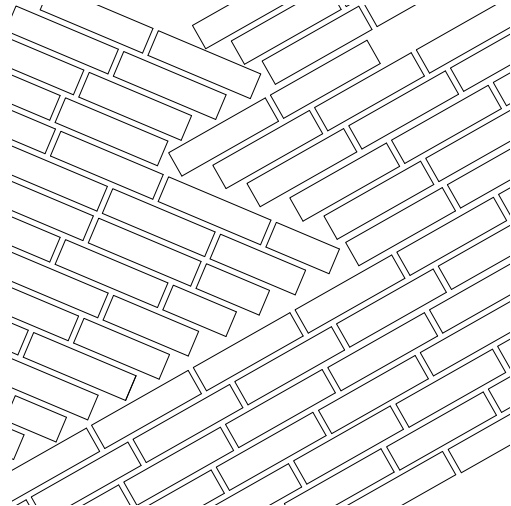


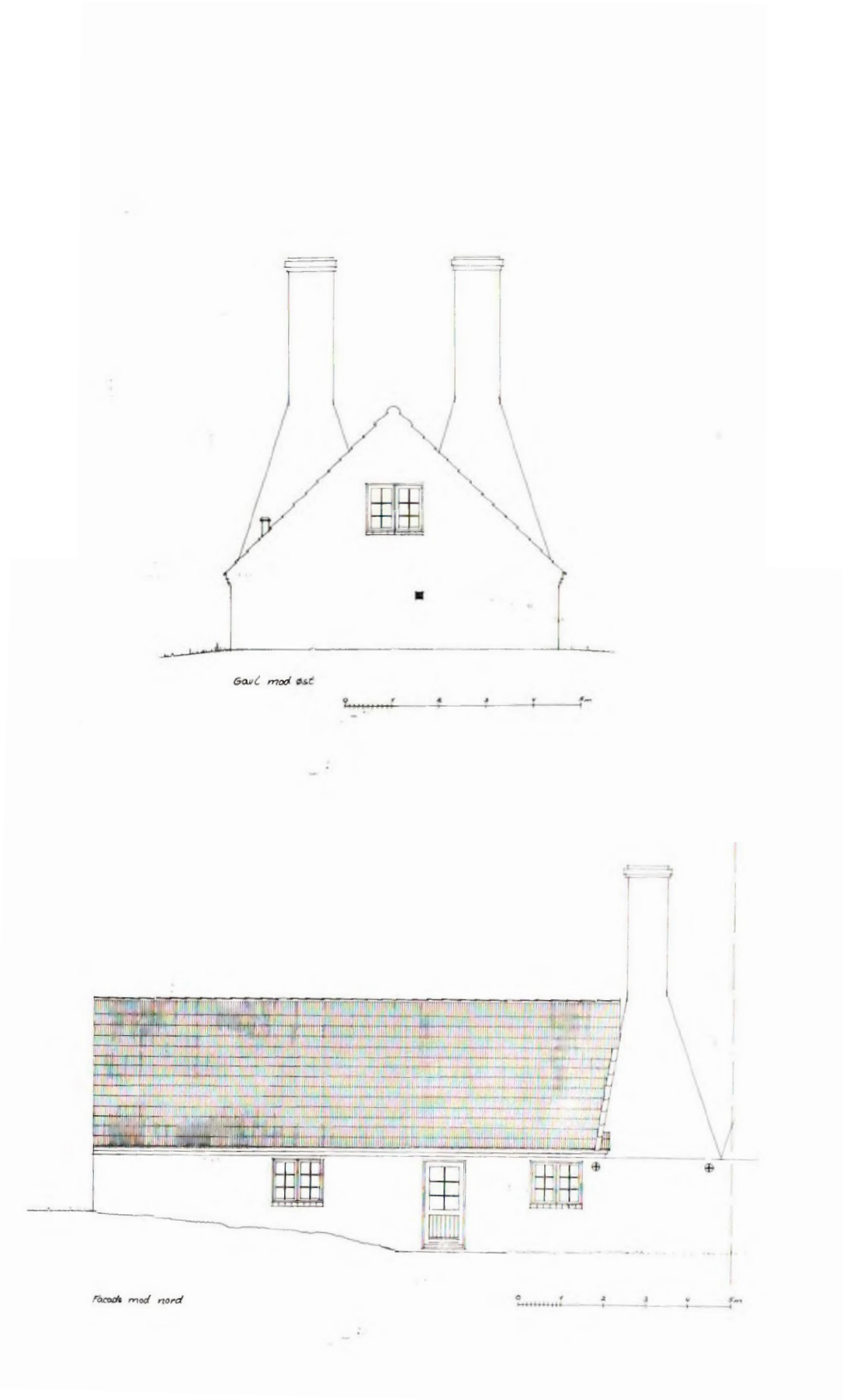






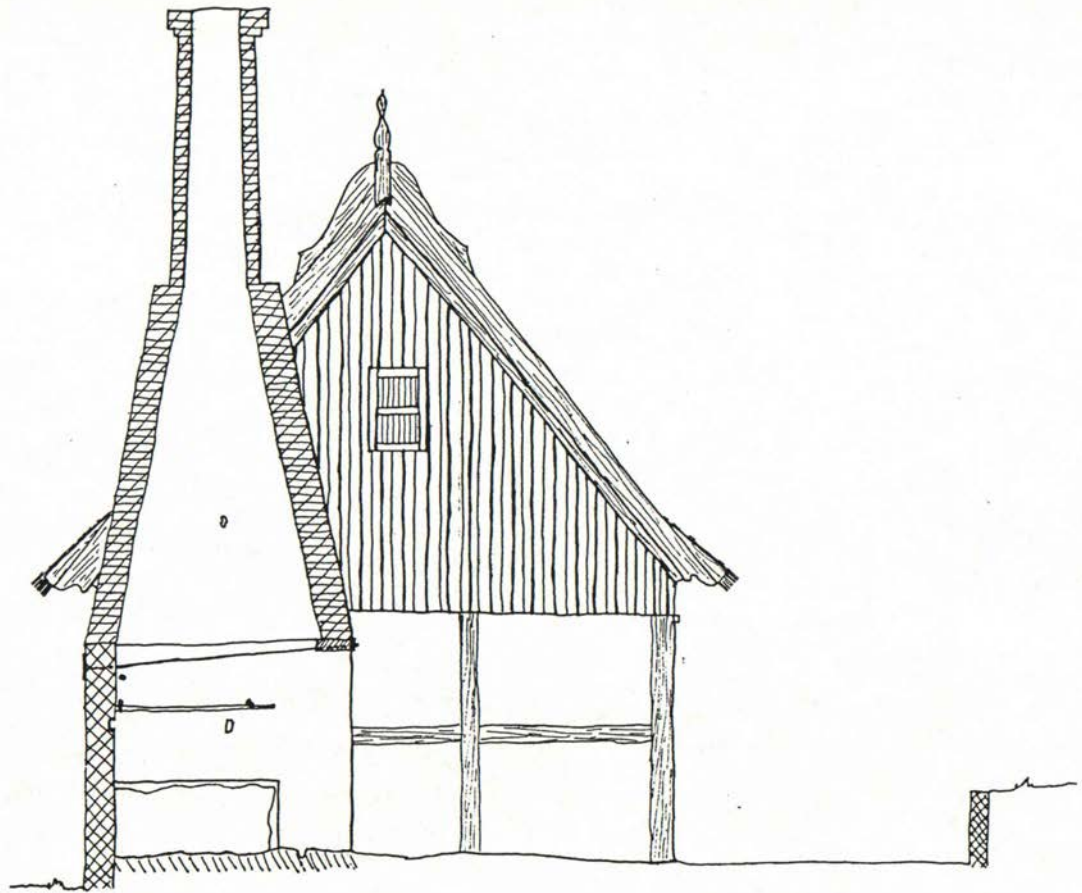
Existing details



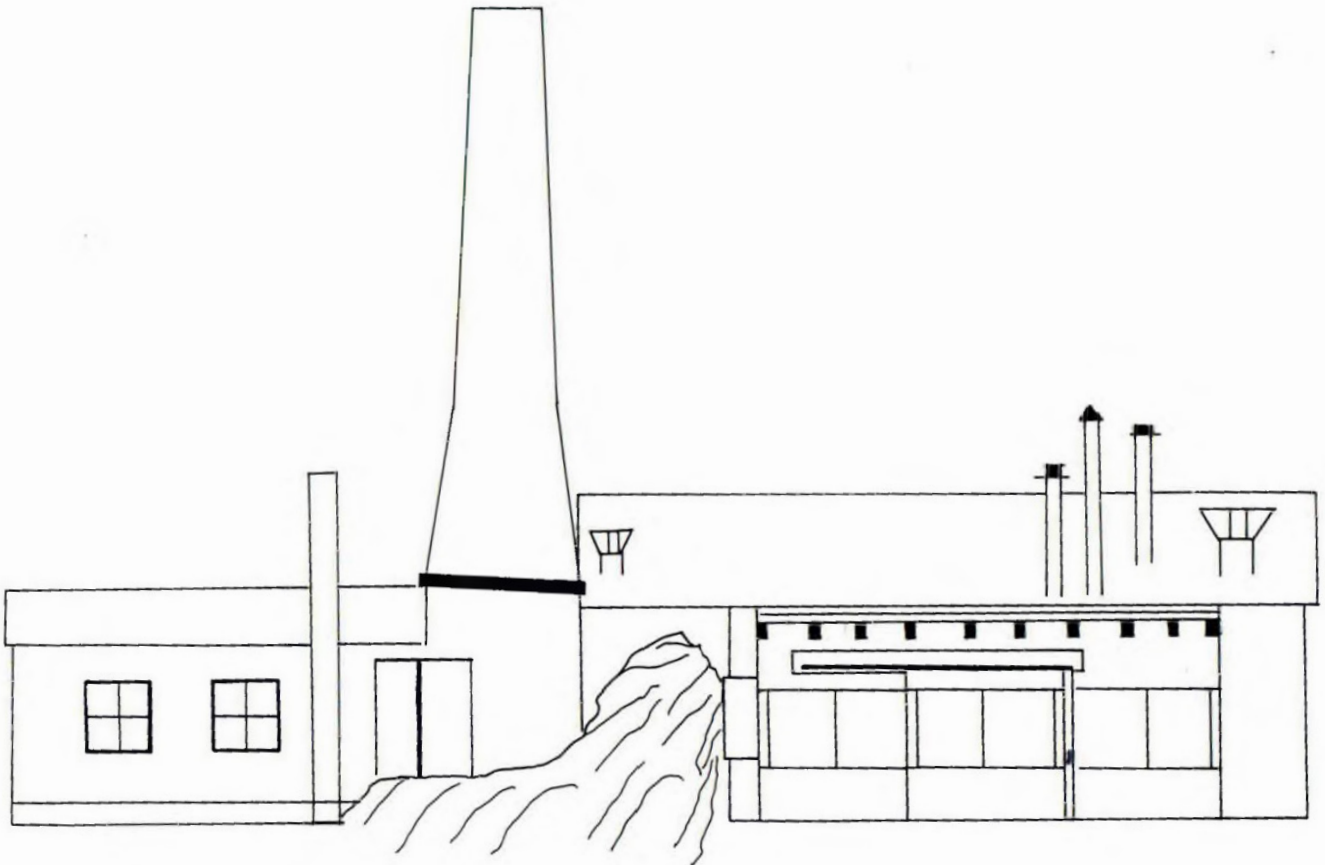


Building case archive, Bornholm

Drawing of smokery
In Melsted



'Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen'

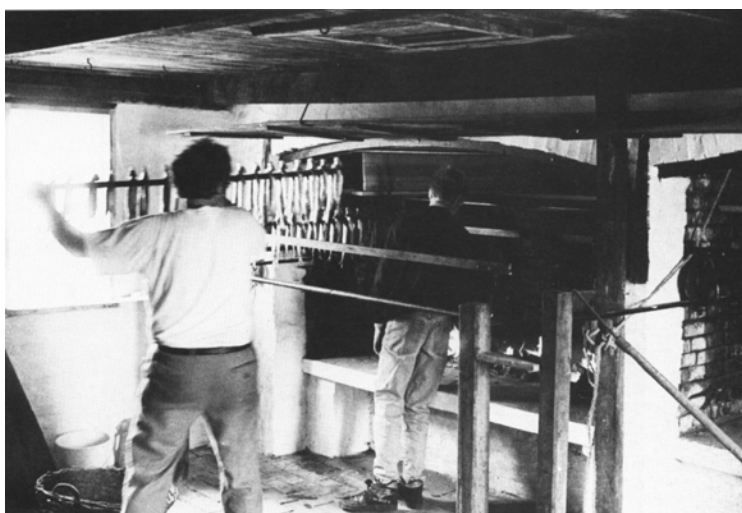


Historical fragments

Links from 'Silderøgerierne ved Hasle' (1991), by Niels Holger Larsen









Buildings before 175

The Archbishop of Lund and the king built from the Middle Ages until about 1700 large, solid, monumental buildings in boulders and bricks. There has hardly been the big difference between the houses in the cities and in the countryside. In the towns there were many real farms, and there were several farmers who had merchant ships in the lake and had their agricultural lands in the town. Therefore, the cities of Bornholm could have the character of a 'village by the sea'.

The houses were only in a half-timbered house, they were clay-lined and had thatched roofs. There were lined or braided gable triangles, but often also wooden gables on the better houses.

Half-timbered houses 1750 – 1800

It is from this period that the solid timber frame in oak with foot timber, gable brackets and board gables became characteristic. It was built on strong boulder plinths, which at the high end had a basement under the hall. As it is often built on sloping terrain, plinths have the function of lifting the farmhouse so it stays horizontal and dry. Inside there is two chimneys, one for cooking and heating and one for baking, roasting brandy and brewing beer.

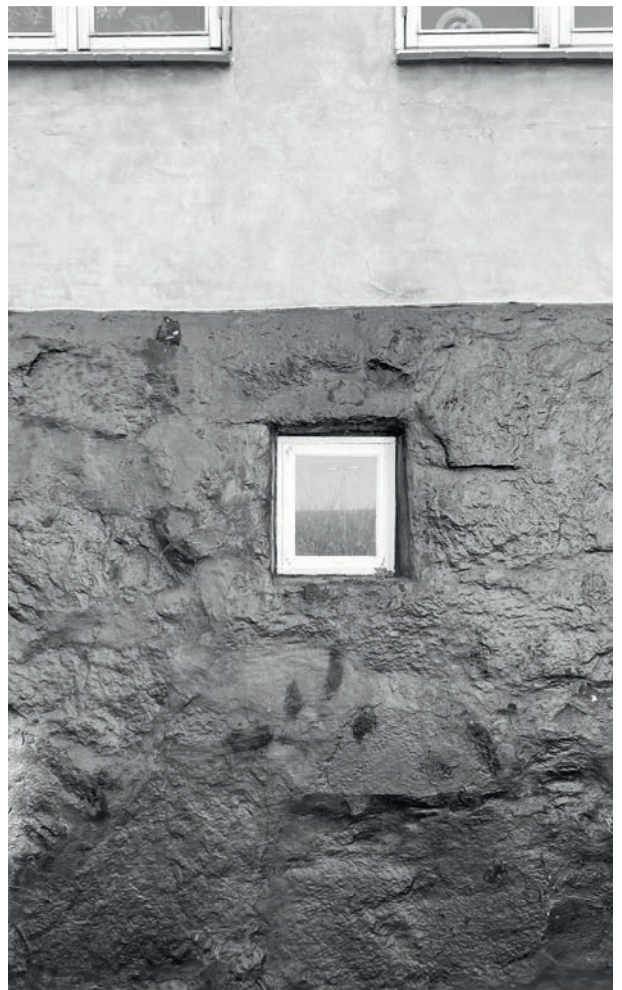
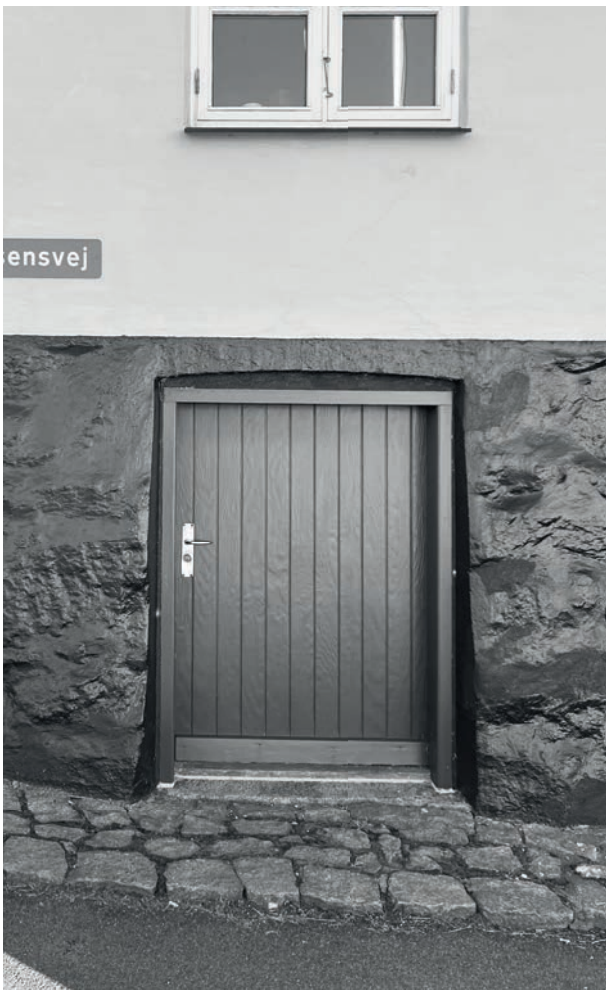
The typical farmhouse gables from the 1700s with the high house fire and weather wing on the hall gable, where there was a basement entrance in the high plinth. The farmhouses often lay on sloping terrain, and the utility gable then had a low plinth. From the middle of the 1700s until around 1800, many solid and beautiful half-timbered buildings were built, which got a very uniform feel. The Baroque characterized these buildings in the details and it was the 'golden age' that customized the building of Bornholm.

<https://kma.brk.dk/byggeskik.htm>

THE FOUNDATION AND TIMBER FRAMES



High entrance



Low entrance





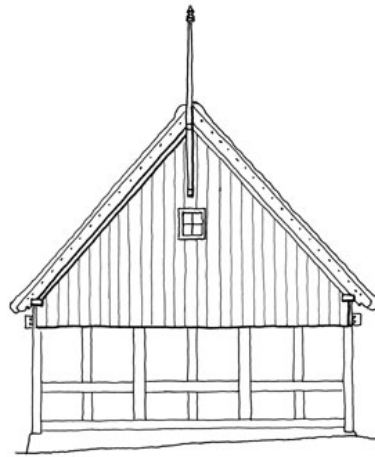
Details and timber frames



High wall









Bornholm does not clearly have its own architecture and building customs. The round churches, the gables of the farms and house fires are also found elsewhere and must be assumed to have been introduced to Bornholm. As for other Danish islands, the influences have come over the water with trade and shipping, and they have come with those in power - the church and the king. The building that the king's officials were to use and live in was to be good, solid and it usually was built under the direction of architects and builders 'from above'.

From prehistoric times is it only the medieval castles and churches that are preserved visible remains of. For the castles, it is Gamleborg, Lilleborg and Hammershus. In the case of the churches, it is clearly the round churches that are remarkable and distinctive, but they are also accompanied by other types with wide west towers. The church of Østerlars is the largest of the four round churches from the early Middle Ages. They are listed as defense and magazine churches. They have different sizes and slightly varying shapes. The church, Østerlars consists of many details in limestone. The churches are built of boulders. For profiled plinths, corners, cornices, door and window edges, the local limestone from South Bornholm was mostly used.

<https://kma.brk.dk/byggeskik.htm>

ROUND CHURCHES AND RUINS

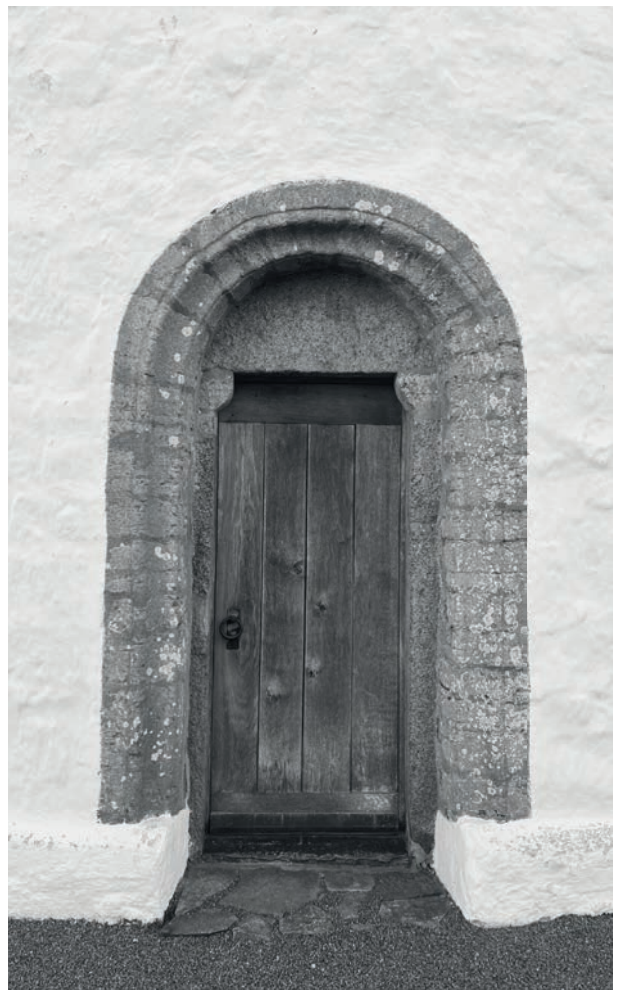


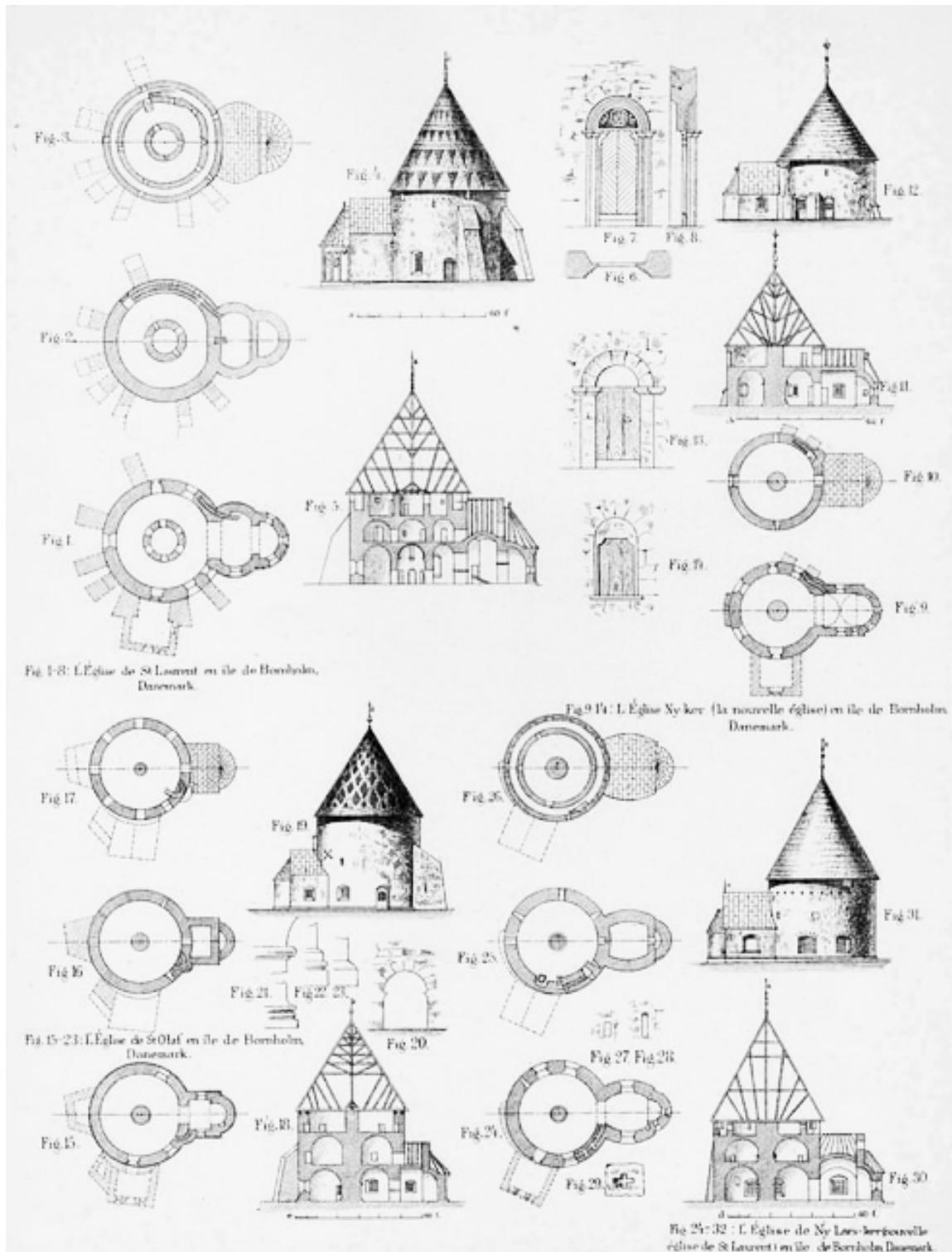




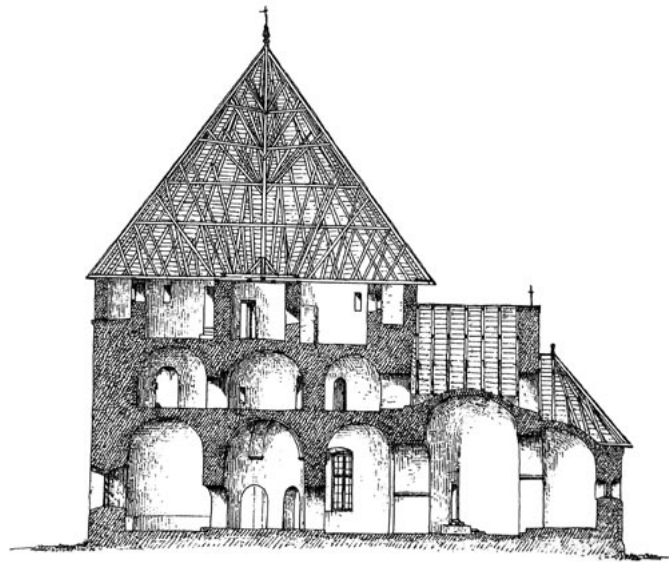




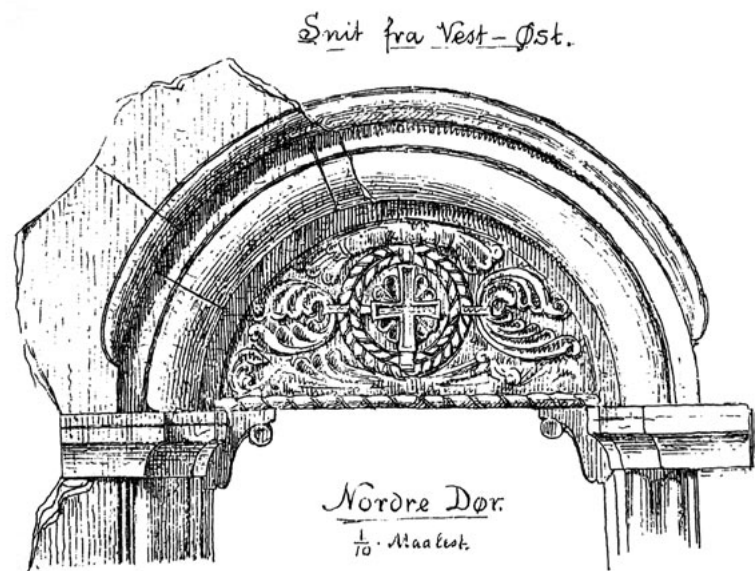




Nils Månsson Mandelgren, "Monuments Scandinaves du Moyen-âge"

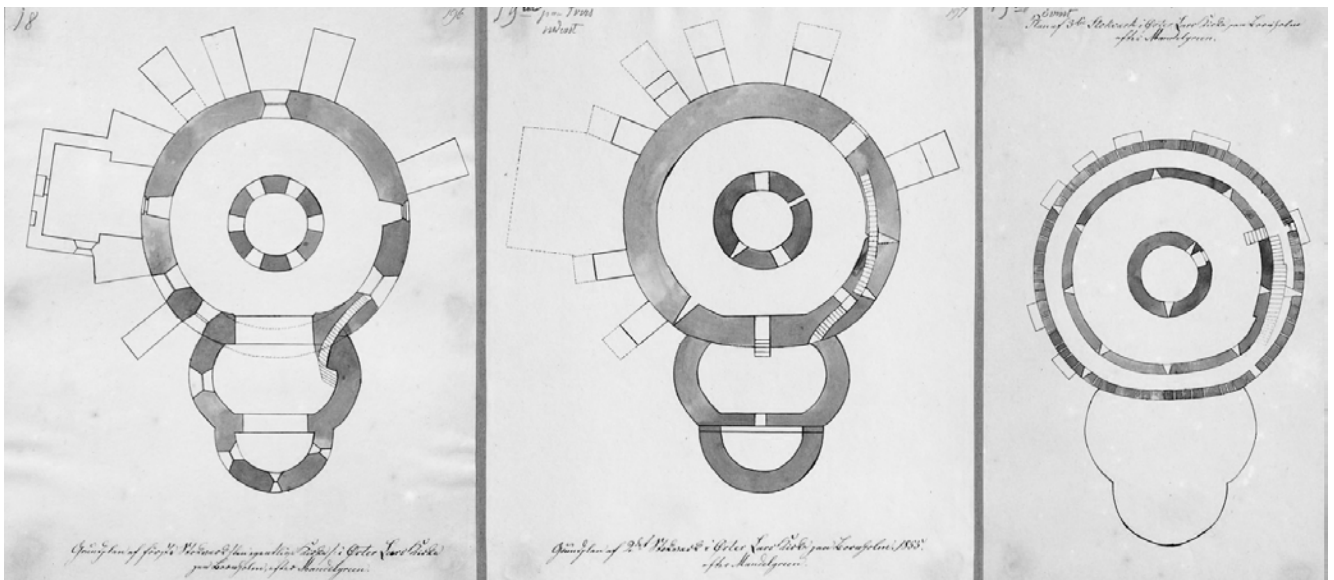


Section of Østerlars Church,
Drawing by J.G. Burman Becker



Detail drawing by J.G. Burman Becker







Nylars o. 1900, photo Chr. A. Møller, Bornholms Ø-arkiv

