

Mirjam Gelfer-Jørgensen

The Joining of the Arts

Danish Art and Design
1880–1910

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During the time of *Skønvirke*, Danish applied arts established itself among the very best in the world

When Danish artists from the 1880s onwards started working with all kinds of artistic media and materials, this became the making of Danish art. It laid down the foundations for developments that have continued to this day, helping to make Danish design a brand. However, architects and artists were not only concerned with the artistic aspects of things; by injecting new life into form and decoration while raising the general level of craftsmanship they offered an alternative to contemporary international trends and the growing mass production of commodities.

The movement was very much motivated by a national, artistic commitment that, together with the socio-educational goal to improve people's visual surroundings, stirred industry and crafts to active involvement. Danish art quickly became known in the wider world – a fact that is reflected in the acquisitions of foreign museums and collectors from the 1890s. A number of these hitherto unpublished works are featured among the 350 illustrations in this book. And neither the ideology nor the debate it sparked are without interest from a modern perspective.

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About the author

Following her career as associate professor at University of Copenhagen, Mirjam Gelfer-Jørgensen served as chief librarian at the Danish Museum of Decorative Art, now Designmuseum Danmark, in Copenhagen. Besides her writings on Islamic and Jewish art, she has published a large number of books and articles on Danish applied arts and design, including *Toulouse-Lautrec Posters*, *The Dream of a Golden Age*, *Danish Neo-Antique Furniture: From Abildgaard to Kaare Klint*, *Furniture with Meaning: Danish Furniture 1840–1920*, *Influences from Japan in Danish Art and Design 1870–2010* and *Thorvald Binsedbøll: Inventing Modernism*. Mirjam Gelfer-Jørgensen has published and edited the *Scandinavian Journal of Design History* and is a member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

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Martin Nyrup, Copenhagen City Hall, 1903



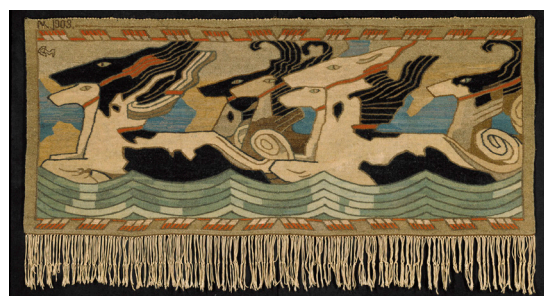
P.V. Jensen-Klint, 1893



Martin Nyrup, Copenhagen City Hall, 1903



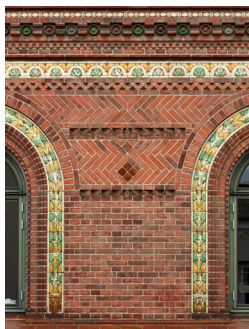
Richard Riemerschmid, 1905



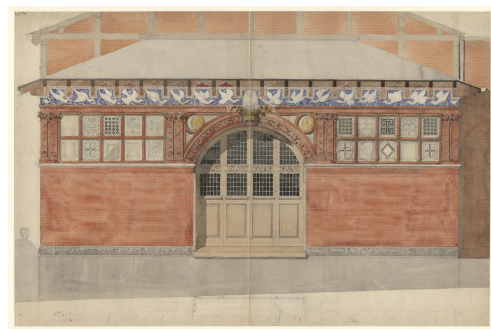
Gerhard Munthe, 1899



Thorvald Binsedbøll, 1892



Andreas Clemmensen, 1885



Hack Kampmann, 1895