

# History of Asia House



## Background

Asia House is the last bastion of the East Asiatic Company, which for more than 100 years was one of the most successful and influential international enterprises in Denmark's history and which paved the way for cooperation, trade and partnerships between Denmark and the Asia Pacific region.

Located at India quay in Copenhagen, Asia House was built as the first headquarters of the East Asiatic Company (EAC), founded in 1897 by captain H. N. Andersen. At its inception, the EAC's organization consisted of offices in Copenhagen, focused on shipping and shipbuilding, and in the Far East, where the main business was teak forest concessions and timber exports – as well as the import and export of various Asian and European commodities.

Asia House served as the EAC's headquarters until 1907. In the years that followed, the building was used as a hiring office for sailors, a ticket office for passenger ships, a laboratory and administration complex for a pharmaceutical group, an international wool trading center, a customs office, an exhibition center and more.

## Asia House Today

Asia House is owned by [the EAC Foundation](#) which was established in 1988, and which today serves as a focal point for its work to preserve knowledge of the EAC's

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From the outside, Asia House looks much the same today as it did when it was erected in 1898: the rustic red brick on its strong foundation is well-preserved, in keeping with the style of the then newly constructed harbor of India Quay in Copenhagen at the Southern Freeport. Most of the original interior has been impeccably preserved, in part innovatively renovated to respect the building's origins. Some of the rooms contain historic pieces from the EAC's rich history in Denmark and abroad, while others have been furnished with exquisite modern Danish design classics.