

Liselund

The Romantic Garden on Møn

Free admission to the park



Nationalmuseet
National Museum of Denmark





Guide to the garden

The Liselund that Antoine and Lisa Calmette lived to see in its finished form had an area of about 33 hectares and was divided into four sections: the central clearing, an area of lake, forest and orchard to the south, a production area to the north west, and the cliff and the cleft area to the east. The cliff continues to the south, developing into the great, exposed chalk cliff formations of 'High Møn'.

During the long lifetime of the park there have of course been changes, not least in the form of the cliff subsidence and the growth of the forest. However, one can still find exotic plants and animals such as peacocks and edible snails. A more recent addition to the park is the burial ground of the Rosenkrantz family.

Guide to the buildings

At Liselund the functions of the aristocratic household were not concentrated in one building, but spread over many small, independent ones. They were all built by the architect Andreas Kirkerup and have decorations and furnishings designed by the court decorator J.C. Lillie.

The Palace (1), which was completed in 1793, is centrally situated. It is on two floors with a basement and with its T-shaped plan and large thatched roof it looks smaller than it is. The whitewashed walls and small-barred doors and windows at the same time produce a very Danish impression.

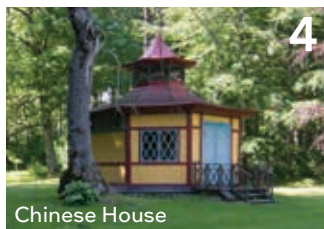
The Swiss House (2), closest to the entrance to the garden, was built around 1795. From the beginning this house has had an apartment for the superintendent and a guest apartment.

The contemporary wooden-walled Norwegian House (3), located in the northernmost part of the clearing in an area made to look like a Norwegian landscape, was also built as a guest house. Special consideration was given here to the tired guest, in the form of a window shutter with a carved-out half-moon.

The pagoda-shaped Chinese House (4) in the northwesternmost part of the park has beechwood furniture painted so it looks as if it is made of bamboo.

The practical buildings include two old privies (5), one by the palace and one by the Norwegian House. They are clad in wood so they look like stacks of firewood. A round, thatched building by the Swiss House is an icehouse (6).

A four-winged home farm north of the Norwegian House is also from Antoine's and Lisa's time, but this part of the grounds is not open to the public. Finally, the original gardens had a bathhouse, a chapel, a fisherman's house, and an artificial fortress ruin. These buildings have disappeared in the course of time. The so-called Devil's Bridge over the largest cleft in the place and the cross at the top of the cliff have been renewed.





Welcome to Liselund - the Romantic garden

Liselund is Denmark's best preserved Romantic garden. Every year it attracts thousands of visitors. The garden lies out towards the cliffs of eastern Møn in a highly varied landscape. Here lawns, hills and lakes alternate with deep clefts and waterfalls. Buildings in Danish, Norwegian, Swiss and Chinese style underscore the changing character of nature with a variety of moods: gentle, rugged and exotic.

The clearing in the middle of the garden is like a secure oasis where only a cross on a faraway cliff top reminds you of the world of life and death. Towards the outskirts of the garden the idealized landscape merges with the surrounding forest. After this comes the uncultivated and wild: the slopes down to the great, open sea.



Entrée



Garden

Lisa's garden

Liselund was laid out for the prefect of Møn, Antoine Bosc de la Calmette, and his wife Elisabeth Iselin, also called Lisa. They owned Marienborg in western Møn, but in 1784 bought the property in eastern Møn that they called after Lisa. They were a far-travelled couple and their travel diaries reflect their curiosity and feeling for details. Liselund was well thought out.

The creators of Liselund were only granted a few years to enjoy the place. Antoine died in 1803 and Lisa in 1805, and Liselund was inherited by their only child, Charles. He died childless in 1820, and Liselund was sold to his friend Frederik Raben-Huitfeldt-Levetzau. In 1843 it passed to the nephew of the latter's wife, Gottlob Rosenkrantz.

In 1886-87, during the ownership of the Rosenkrantzes, a new main building, Liselund New Palace, was built. In addition the gardens suffered two cliff collapses, one in 1905, when 6½ hectares of the grounds subsided into the sea, and one in 1920, when about two more hectares went the same way.

In 1938 the central part of the complex was rented out to an independent museum institution. Liselund became a protected property in 2000 and since 2005 has been part of the National Museum of Denmark.



Monkey Room

The idea of the garden

The 18th century was an age of transitions from an old to a new world. People began to believe in their own abilities. They freed themselves from the time-honoured structures – and discovered that they were thus also losing a secure safety net. So they looked back to their origins and to nature.

Many of the aristocrats of the time turned their gardens into a Paradise on earth. Some referred to faraway regions, others emphasized the past of the place with artificial ruins as if to defy fate: if one's history went back a long way it would probably not be over in the near future. Antoine and Lisa did both.



Monument

The garden of love

Over 200 years after the death of Antoine and Lisa, their garden still bears the traces of their love for each other. By Lisa's favourite bench Antoine had a memorial column set up with an image of two of the Three Graces, the Greek goddesses of beauty and joy. The third, missing one is Lisa. Lisa had a monument dedicated to Antoine showing a woman consecrating an altar to pure friendship.

The enchantment that suffuses Liselund is also due to the way Antoine and Lisa allowed for the spirit of the place.

A good example is the water in the area. The original marsh was dammed up and transformed into one of Liselund's most important attractions: life-giving water in a variety of forms – from lakes and brooks to waterfalls and sea, from still, calm surfaces to wild nature.



Palace

The garden and people today

In Antoine's and Lisa's time only people of high status could spend time dreaming. In the western world of our own day we all have leisure time – that is, time we can spend the way we ourselves want to. Today too, many people spend a lot of time in the garden. We go out into the landscape we all share to relax and absorb new impressions, and very many people like places where we can find both the experience of nature and spiritual rewards. Whether we are fondest of gentle or wild nature, Liselund offers a space for dreaming. Here we can play Antoine and Lisa and feel we are in harmony with nature, love and ourselves.

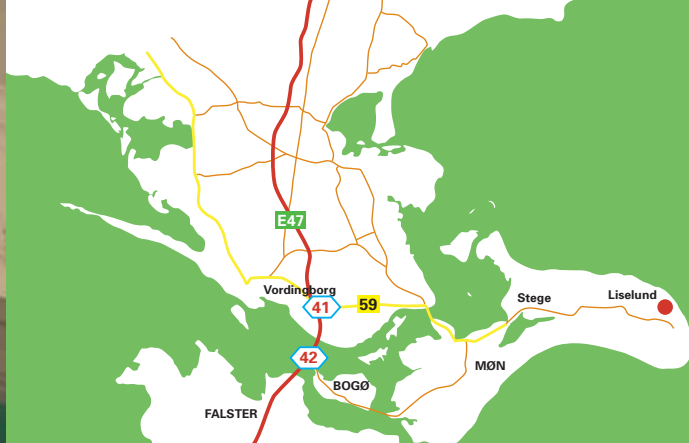


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The White Lady of Liselund

Antoine and Lisa were the main figures in the history of Liselund, but their daughter-in-law Martha has also acquired a special status. Although Liselund was sold after the death of her husband in 1820, she was allowed to live in the palace until her death in 1877. She liked to dress in white and surrounded herself with white animals, and became a living legend, a sister of the benevolent spirit the “White Lady”, who haunts the Liselund cliff.

During Martha's time Liselund was visited by leading cultural figures like the sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen and the writers Adam Oehlenschläger, Hans Christian Andersen and Christian Winther.



Opening hours

Admission to the palace only in connection with guided tours
Wednesday-Sunday
10.30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1.30 p.m.
and 2 p.m. from May through
September

Ticket prices

Adults Dkr 50.
Children under 18 free
Pensioners, students
and groups Dkr 50.
Guided tours for groups
(minimum 10) can be ordered
by phone at +45 5581 2178 or
museetliselund@natmus.dk
Free admission to the park all
year round

For additional information see
natmus.dk

Liselund

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Nature Agency

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