



Svenstrup Gård

From Canteen to Café – A Healing Space at Svenstrupgård A collaboration between an artist and a designer creates calm, dignity, and Nordic harmony – with Forbo as an active partner. When you step into the new café at Svenstrupgård Care Home, you immediately feel a change. Where there was once a traditional canteen, a warm and serene gathering place has now been created – a space where aesthetics, functionality, and care go hand in hand. The project is part of Aalborg Municipality's initiative aimed at improving residents' well-being and quality of life through enhanced physical surroundings. The café is intended to function as both a workplace, a retreat, and the heart of the house – a place where people can meet, withdraw, and find calm. The new interior was designed by architect and spatial designer Christine Just and artist, psychologist, and photographer Maria Ellermann. Through close collaboration, they have combined functional design with artistic decoration to create a holistic, rehabilitative environment. A Space Designed for Calm and Presence When Christine Just and Maria Ellermann first entered the old canteen space, their goal was clear: to create an environment that supports both daily operations and human well-being. "We wanted to transform the canteen into a place people want to be – a place that radiates warmth and familiarity," says Christine Just. With custom-designed benches and room dividers, an integrated water station, and soft materials, Christine created a design that structures the space without confining it. Small zones and cozy corners provide opportunities for both social interaction and introspection – an essential element in an environment where calm and clarity are crucial for the residents' daily lives. Nordic Harmony – Nature as a Healing Motif Running as a visual thread throughout the café is the artistic floor design "Nordic Harmony", created by Maria Ellermann in collaboration with Forbo Flooring. The decoration is a fusion of Danish and Greenlandic nature and wildlife – an interpretation of the colors, light, and movements of the North. "I wanted to create a floor surface that feels like a patchwork of nature, animals, and Nordic patterns inspired by historical garments, animal skins, jewelry, and weapons," explains Maria Ellermann. "A space you can move through and find calm in – like a gentle rhythm under your feet. It's about creating a sense of well-being, the possibility of connection, and a sense of belonging."

Floor Designer Maria Ellermann & Christine Just

Installation by Total Gulve

Photographer Maria Ellermann

Location Aalborg, Denmark



